

The Trade in Pure Bred Stock

There is an acknowledged lack in various parts of Ontario, and a greater lack in other provinces of the Dominion, of high class breeding animals with which to improve the quality of the grade stock as more generally known on the farms. There are many localities even in our older settled provinces where it is a difficult matter for farmers to obtain satisfactory sires for their herds at reasonable prices. If we will but consider these facts, it becomes apparent that perhaps something can be done to advantage to encourage more interprovincial trade in pure bred live stock and to create a better trade between various sections of a province.

When the better class of individuals of farm stock is not available, farmers persistently continue to use scrub males. The results of their use are well known and are only too apparent at every hand. My experience has been that when really good animals are placed before farmers for purchase they will pay fairly remunerative prices. Is there not some better way than now prevails whereby the pure bred stock that is being produced in this country can be, at a reasonable price, placed before those who would and could use it on their herds to advantage?

DIFFICULTIES OF SMALL BREEDERS

Under prevailing conditions, there is not too much encouragement for any one to embark in the business of producing pure bred live stock. The average man does not understand or appreciate how to sell his stock through advertising. He probably has not the courage to advertise it. Supposing a farmer goes in for Shropshire sheep. At the end of a couple of years he finds himself heavily stocked with pure breeds for which he must have a market. Where is he to sell them at anything better than a local butcher's price? The same thing applies, probably not to so great an extent, in the case of pure bred dairy cattle, Canadian bred Clydesdale colts, and other stock.

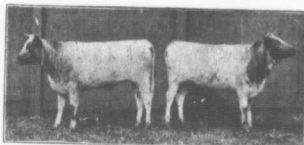
There is a market for this stuff. The trick is to reach it. When we see large sales being conducted and the stock selling at most satisfactory prices, as for instance the sale of Holstein cattle by Mr. J. A. Caskey last March, the recent sale of Mr. Higginson's and others that might be mentioned, I for one am inclined to ask, can sales not be conducted with a fair degree of success by aggregations of smaller breeders? Might not it be possible for a number of breeders to organize, perhaps by co-operative methods, public sales much more generally than has been undertaken in the past? These would afford a more certain market than now prevails for any particular kind of pure

bred stock and they should encourage many more men to embark in the pure bred business.

WELL KNOWN ANNUAL SALES

In England and in Scotland they have the great ram sales during the latter part of August and early in September. Then there is the Birmingham bull sale. These have become annual events and local breeders have learned to depend upon them for their supplies. In Ontario during recent years, sales such as I have in mind have been conducted at Guelph, Ottawa and last spring I believe there was one at Port Perry. These have not been all the success that their promoters would have liked. Perhaps a greater number of sales organized on a smaller scale would be more advantageous. I call to mind in this connection, an annual sale of stock which is held by some local association each year in the town of Lindsay, Ont. This particular event I understand to have been always a success.

Surely something more can be done to en-



Baby Beef

Specialties paid in beef production as they do in other lines. Read Mr. Garbutt's article on this page, in which he tells how he produces baby beef.

couage the more general breeding of pure bred stock and at least place pure bred males at the disposal of the farmers of this country who might be inclined to buy if they could get them at a reasonable price. I should like to see this matter discussed in the columns of your journal by some other readers of Farm and Dairy. If we could encourage by some practical means the development of our own Canadian trade in pure bred live stock, I believe that it would operate toward the development of our breeding industry generally and would at the same time render much assistance to those who are now engaged in the trade.—"Middlesex."

Slow Feed Mangers.—It sounds old fashioned, but the best slow feed manger for horses is easy to make by placing a few smooth round cobble stones in the ordinary manger. These the horse noses about in procuring his feed. Salt for horses is as necessary as it is for human beings. The best way to provide it is by purchasing rock salt in quantities at the feed dealers and placing it in the manger.

Beef Cattle as Revenue Producers*

John H. Garbutt, Peterboro Co., Ont.

A stableful of good beef cattle is as good and as profitable from the standpoint of maintaining the fertility of the soil as would be a stableful of dairy cows. The profits from the two, if we figure all items and especially labor, compare favorably, and this last year even better in favor of the beef, than of milk, figuring the cost of milking.

The matter of labor is a serious handicap when it comes to dairying. I cannot find much profit in the business when I have to pay a man \$30 a month and board him. Besides, nowadays a good man who knows how to milk and likes to milk is almost impossible to get. I have been brought up to Leef cattle, and on that account feel quite at home with them.

My methods of handling the cattle reduced the labor item to a minimum. I keep what one might term two sets of cows. The one lot, the pure bred Shorthorns, I never milk, but allow the calves to suck them. The other lot is comprised of grade Shorthorns of a good milking strain. These, numbering six to eight, I milk.

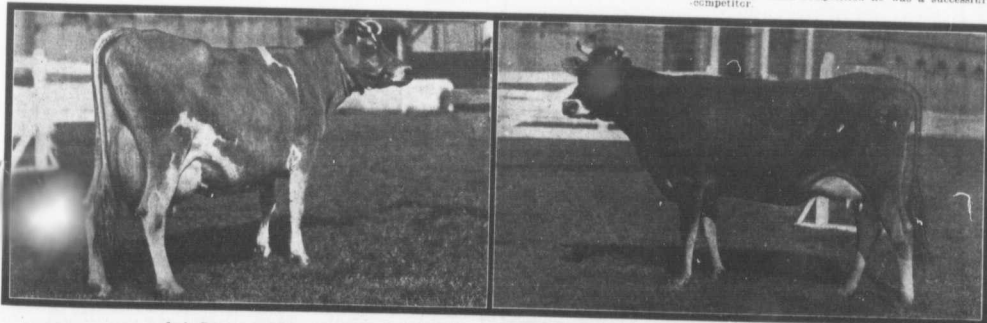
I aim to have the pure bred cows freshen in December and January. The calves run with them until May 1st, when they are weaned. Then two calves are placed with each cow, and these are left with them until September, when the cows are allowed to run dry. Thus we raise three calves to each cow each year in the one lot. These cattle are grazed on a grass farm some miles from home.

SOLD AS BABY BEEF

The first calves of the year are sold for baby beef. These weigh from 850 to 950 pounds, on the average, though some of them have turned the scales at 1,000 pounds. These calves realize, if in proper condition, the topmost price, often from one half to one cent a pound over the ordinary price at the season of the year when marketed. The grade calves, raised on the cows after the first ones are weaned, are kept over until two and a half years old.

My stock, handled in the way indicated, realizes a good price for beef, often better on the average than if sold as pure breeds for breeding purposes. The baby beef on the average realizes over \$50 a head, and this without any particular extra cost for feed except for a short time. Beef prices, of late months, have been improving. They have been much better this past year than ordinarily, and have gone up 30 per cent. and more. Good butcher cattle will bring six cents now and the baby beef considerably more.

*An article furnished by Mr. Garbutt as required by the rules of the Special Peterboro County Farms Competition in which competition he was a successful competitor.



Lady Primrose, of Don

Daisy Bell's Darling

These two Jerseys are representatives from the noted herd owned by H. Dunn, Don, Ont. The aged cow, Lady Primrose, is a noted prize winner at leading fairs. She has given 49 lbs. 12 oz. of milk in a day. She took second prize in Toronto in strong competition this year. Daisy Bell's Darling is a two year old of great promise. She took second and third at Toronto in large classes.