

### WANTS DUAL-PURPOSE SHORTHORNS IN MUSKOKA.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The editorial in your issue of January 9th, re the dual-purpose cow, interested me very much, for the reason that I believe, if acted upon, the result will be of very great benefit to a large number of stock-raisers. Ever since coming to this country, just twenty years since, notwithstanding the opinion of dairymen and speakers at Farmers' Institute meetings, I have held solidly to my opinion, and expressed same, that the Shorthorn cow can fill the dual purpose as a good milker and a beef animal as well, my opinion being based on experience of many years in England, where I had a herd of 26 Shorthorn cows, which filled the bill exactly. It was a sight to see them leaving the pasture field for the milking shed, with their immense udders, that inconvenienced them in their movements. These cows, I might say, were pure-bred, although not registered, the practice being to purchase every year a Shorthorn bull, not registered, but pure-bred, from the Derbyshire district (the cheesemaking district), using him one season and grazing him the next, rearing our heifer calves from the best milkers in the herd. We, as farmers, were not accustomed to weigh or test the milk from these cows, but I am positive that any one of them would have reached the 7,000 pounds a year, and many of them considerably more. The steer calves, and heifers not needed for the dairy, were raised up to first-class beef at two to two and a half years old. In our farm and business here we need, for four months in the summer, as much milk and cream as twelve to fifteen good cows can produce. In that same period we need twenty of the best beef cattle that can be grazed. In the winter we have a good market for butter. I am well sure that, could we procure the milking strain of Shorthorn, or Shorthorn grades, we could meet these requirements. Unfortunately, in the past years, from the standpoint of the dairymen and the judges in the show-ring, the beef type of the Shorthorn animal has crowded out the milking strain. In my opinion, this is to be deplored, as there are many districts—Muskoka one of them—in which the dual-purpose animal would be an advantage, there being so much rough ground for pasturing young cattle. We would like to get a male animal from a dam that has proved herself a good milker, but one does not know where to find that milking strain. The Shorthorn advertisements we read run, I might say, without exception, on the beef type—"heavy-fleshed, deep-set animals," from which we should not expect to produce a dairy cow. On reading your editorial, which coincided so exactly with my own views of the matter, I felt I must express my appreciation of the remarks. I trust those in favor of the milking strain of the Shorthorn cow will have the effect of producing many more of these profitable animals than the farmer has of late years been able to secure.

MUSKOKA FARMER.

### "BLACKS" AT THE BLOCK.

The Aberdeen-Angus breed of cattle and its crosses have won more championships at the fat-stock shows of the United Kingdom and America than any other two pure breeds and their grades put together.

Official reports from Scotland for the Board of Agriculture combine to repeat for the fat-stock markets the old story that the Aberdeen-Angus and their crosses keep the lead for price per live cwt.

As a sample, the mid-December report from Dundee says that the top quotation for an Angus bullock of 12½ cwt. was 42s. 2d. per live cwt., while 11 of the same order fetched 41s. 6d. on the average. At Glasgow, twenty Angus crosses brought 40s. 6d., and three nice, light-weighted ones 42s. 9d. At Perth, the first Angus bullocks were reserved for the local shows, but the fair run of the polled bullocks in the market averaged 40s. per live cwt. The Aberdeen Sales had a consignment of pure-bred polled steers from His Majesty's Abergeldie herd, which brought from 50s. to almost 60s. per live cwt. for the "tops." These were, of course, exceptional animals from a noted herd.

In thirty-eight years, a pure-bred Aberdeen-Angus has been champion at the Smithfield Show eleven times, while a first cross of the breed with the Shorthorn has won twice. A more remarkable fact is that a pure-bred Aberdeen-Angus has taken the heifer championship sixteen times. Then, for best beast at Smithfield, bred by exhibitor, the late Queen Victoria granted a Challenge Cup for this in 1894, and, after a year's interval, the Cup was continued by King Edward. In thirteen years, an Aberdeen-Angus has proved victorious in this contest seven times, a Shorthorn-Aberdeen-Angus cross once, and an Aberdeen-Angus-Shorthorn cross once. Polled blood being thus in the ascendancy nine times out of thirteen trials.

The result of the carcass competition, conducted under the auspices of the Smithfield Club, need only be referred to in passing. In 1904 the London Butchers' Company granted a Challenge Cup for best carcass in the show. The wins in order have gone twice in succession to an Aberdeen-Angus-Shorthorn cross, and once to a pure Aberdeen-Angus. The outcome of the recent carcass competition was that the Aberdeen-Angus took first and championship with a steer under two years; also second; while an Aberdeen-Angus and Shorthorn cross was reserve. In older steers, an animal with two crosses of Angus blood to one of Shorthorn, won, while one of the same breeding came fourth. For the heifer class, an Aberdeen-Angus took second, a Galloway-Aberdeen-Angus cross third, and an Aberdeen-Angus and Shorthorn cross fourth. At the sale, the second-prize heifer carcass fetched 6s. per stone of 8 pounds, against 5s. 2d. made by the first, a Sussex and Shorthorn cross. The champion animal weighed 1,264 pounds alive, and his carcass result was 864 pounds.

At eight International Christmas Shows in Chicago, a pure Aberdeen-Angus has won thrice, and been reserve thrice; a heifer grade of the breed has won once, and an Aberdeen-Angus-Shorthorn cross has been reserve once. For 20 years in succession, the Chicago Christmas Show championship for car lots has gone to the Aberdeen-Angus or their high grades, almost pure-bred Polls. The December carcass competition (1907), at Chicago, was to a great extent a variant on awards made in recent years. In yearlings, first and second went to grade Angus, and fourth to an Angus. In two-year-olds, a grade Angus led, and an Angus came second, fourth and fifth. The leading young steer weighed 1,096 pounds alive, and the carcass was 691 pounds, or 63 per cent. The second dressed 64.8 per cent., and the fourth 65.8 per cent. In the two-year-old class, the winning steer scaled alive 1,310 pounds, and dressed 873 pounds, or 66.6 per cent. The second dressed 65.8 per cent., and fourth 62.8 per cent.

The Smithfield "marvel" was Mr. Clement Stephenson's heifer, *Luxury*, the 1885 champion, which dressed a fraction over 75 per cent. Is it any wonder that the practical Americans class the Aberdeen-Angus as the "breed that beats the record," and the one that provides "market-toppers"? Glasgow, Scotland.

JAS. CAMERON.

### EXPERIMENTS FOR COMPARISON OF FEED VALUES.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I believe in the value of experiments, as opposed to guesswork, and I also believe that many of the experiments that have been conducted at the O. A. C. and the different experimental farms are of great value to the farmers of Canada, especially those that have resulted in the introduction of improved varieties of grain, etc. But one class of experiments that has always impressed me as being "a weariness of the flesh," without corresponding results, is that which seeks to show, through feeding, the comparative value of the different feeds and mixtures for farm stock.

Let us take, as an example, an experiment in feeding swine, with this object in view. In most cases that have come under my notice, the general plan is to select one or more groups of pigs that are supposed to be uniform (?), select anywhere from two to a half-dozen—or even more—different rations of single or mixed feeds, ground or unground, etc., and then extend the period of feeding over the same length of time for each group.

In order to get the necessary uniformity, let us notice the different qualities that enter into the proposition. The following are some of them: Age, size, weight, shape, management previous to test, feeding capacity (which varies greatly in individual animals from the same litter), constitution, and possibly breed. A few questions suggest themselves here:

1. Will experimenters ever get such uniformity?
2. If, by any chance, they should get it, would they know they had it?
3. If they could be sure of this, could they know, at the end of the experiment, that there had been no conditions affecting the health of one or more of the animals in one group, that may have escaped notice?

I need not answer these questions, but will suggest a plan which, I believe, will prove much simpler, and will, at the same time, make it possible to arrive at conclusions that will be more conclusive. I would suggest, first of all, the selection of one group only, of about eight to ten pigs, of a type which would seem to give promise of carrying the test along successfully to the end of the feeding period. Then, two rations only should be used for the first test, one of which should be a standard ration, and which should form the basis for similar tests until each of the likely feeds or mixtures have their comparative values placed upon them.

Now, as to feeding, if we suppose that the

test is to be extended over a period of three months, let the rations be fed alternately in periods of from one to two weeks; but, as the daily gain will likely be either increasing or decreasing during the test, according to the weight of the pigs, let an extra week be added for the ration that began the test, averaging this ration up for seven weeks, and the other for six weeks, the pigs, of course, being weighed at the end of each week or two weeks, as the case may be. Since however, the effects of one ration will extend into the period for feeding the next ration, it might be well to make the weighing a day or two after making the change. This method would require one group less of pigs for a given number of feeds to be tested, as the standard ration would enter into each test; and, since the groups need not be uniform, several feeds could be tested at one time as readily as by the usual method, and more reliable information gained in a much shorter time. If one or more pigs become more or less indisposed during the test, the condition could not continue many days without entering the period for the next ration, so would not materially affect the final results; and if the sudden change of rations show more adverse results in the case of one feed, this would simply help to lower its comparative value, although probably not in exact proportion.

There may be other conditions that affect the relative value of the two methods, and of which I would willingly be reminded, but I think it must be conceded that, with so many groups of animals in one test, the conditions are so far from being uniform that the results obtained will, necessarily, be very unreliable.

N. E. BODY.

Brant Co., Ont.

[Note.—Our correspondent has drawn pointed attention to some sources and elements of error, but we fear his alternate plan would only render confusion worse confounded. To our mind, the only way to minimize error is to average the results of a large number of experiments. There is nothing much more misleading than dogmatic conclusions drawn from a single experiment or from a limited personal experience.—Editor.]

## THE FARM.

### ENGLISHMEN OF THE RIGHT KIND.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

"The Farmer's Advocate" is the most welcome friend of any periodical that enters our home. Congratulations on the Christmas Number, and the masterly way in which it is edited. I take notice, in a recent issue, of a subscriber who has no use for Englishmen. I think it is no more than fair, as a Canadian farmer, to give my experience, which is quite to the contrary. Last winter I made application to Dr. Barnado's Home for a boy. The application was accepted, and the boy proved to be a bright little fellow, with plenty of ambition, which required some control. I wrote to the boy's mother, inquiring if she could give me information where I could get a good honest young man that knew a little about farming and carpentering. I received word by return mail of just the kind of a man I was looking for, who had long wished to come to Canada, but could not get money enough to come out with. After exchanging a few letters, I sent him the required money, and with great promptness he arrived. After the thirty days' trial, I was convinced that I had got the right man. The ways of this country are quite different from what he was used to, but, with a little showing and patience, I had no trouble in getting him into the ways of doing work. Once showing is all that is necessary. I would rather have him now than one-half of the Canadian boys in our neighborhood. He has been here now about three months. He plowed side by side with me last fall, and, in fact, is working side by side with me every day, both on the farm and in the sawmill. He brought his carpenter tools with him, and has put the outbuildings in shape for me to my entire satisfaction. The young people of our church choir have invited him into the choir. He seems to be the favorite of all who have made his acquaintance. I think the emigrant agencies have made a mistake in not making a better selection, sending us out bookkeepers and clerks and young men from the cities who have no knowledge of hard work and the rough-and-tumble of our Canadian farm life, for we, as farmers, certainly have to work hard; and we have the same experience with our young men from our towns and cities, who are not worth their board and lodging, but I know by experience that there are plenty of worthy young men in England of the right kind who would make a good showing if they could only get the chance. I am interested in the future welfare of "The Farmer's Advocate," which has my sincere respect.

Kent Co., Ont.

EASTGATE HUMPHREY.