

time for Percheron breeding; several Percheron studs have been recently established in England, and Japan has just recently purchased Percherons for crossing on their native horses. There seems to be something about the Percheron that is highly adaptable to all climates and conditions. He has made many friends on the battle front, and there are three times as many Percherons in the United States as any other draft breed, and they are steadily increasing in number in Western Canada. That the Percheron enjoys its present popularity must be attributed to its suitability to the desires and needs of the people.

In my selling experiences I have made it a practice never to let a buyer go away if he offers me a reasonable price. Here is where many of our small breeders make a mistake; they ask such unreasonable figures that the dealer cannot buy; the small breeder is not well enough known to sell at retail and often holds his stock long enough past the right selling time that the food bill eats up the profits. A satisfied buyer is one of the best advertisers a breeder can have.

LIVE STOCK.

A Constructive Hereford Policy.

BY WARREN J. MCCRAY.

I have been asked to write a short article on "Methods of Breeding and Management Employed in Building up a Pure-bred Herd."

I do not know that I have anything to offer that is particularly new upon this interesting subject, but I am perfectly willing to tell of the methods which have brought success to the breeding establishment of Orchard Lake Stock Farm, and to assure your readers that what has been done there can be done any place where the same principles are put into practice.

From the very beginning I recognized the value of good blood lines, combined with the essential requisite of good individuality as being the corner-stone of every successful herd, and it was upon this sure and stable foundation that the celebrated Orchard Lake herd was built.

For the organization of the herd, I selected blood lines that were popular and recognized as the leading strains in the Hereford family. I had an early appreciation of the fact that the selection of the bull to head the herd is the prime factor entering into and determining the success or failure of every breeding enterprise.

Having determined on my course, I began to look for the bull that was siring the best calves of the breed. In my investigations I concluded that among all the good bulls in the country Perfection Fairfax, then five years old, was siring the most uniform and pleasing calves that had come under my observation after a complete and exhaustive survey of the different herds. I immediately opened negotiations to purchase this bull, but found that in order to possess him I would have to purchase the entire herd. This was in 1908, and at that time the cattle business of the entire country, both pure-bred and market, was at a low ebb, and the price I paid for the herd was considered by many as being exceedingly high.

Some time after the deal was consummated, I was visited by a prominent Hereford breeder who offered me \$8,000 for the bull, and I confess it took a lot of nerve and an abundant faith in the future of the pure-bred Hereford business to refuse this offer, as this amount would by comparison be equal to \$30,000 at the present time under existing conditions.

Subsequent events, however, have justified my faith and demonstrated the fact that the value of a good sire, in a herd of well-bred matrons, can hardly be estimated. The records disclose the astounding facts that since that time I have sold more than \$200,000 worth of the sons and daughters of this famous bull, and have at this time on the farm over fifty head.

Another thing of equal importance in constructing a good herd of cattle is the manner in which the herd is handled. It is the gravest kind of a mistake to expect the blood lines to do it all. Blood lines are essential, but it is also as equally essential that the herd receive the best of care. I do not mean by this they should be pampered and housed and fed beyond their actual requirements but they should have what they need to keep them in good, thrifty breeding condition. Especial care should be given them at the breeding season to see that each cow produces a calf, and every calf should be saved.

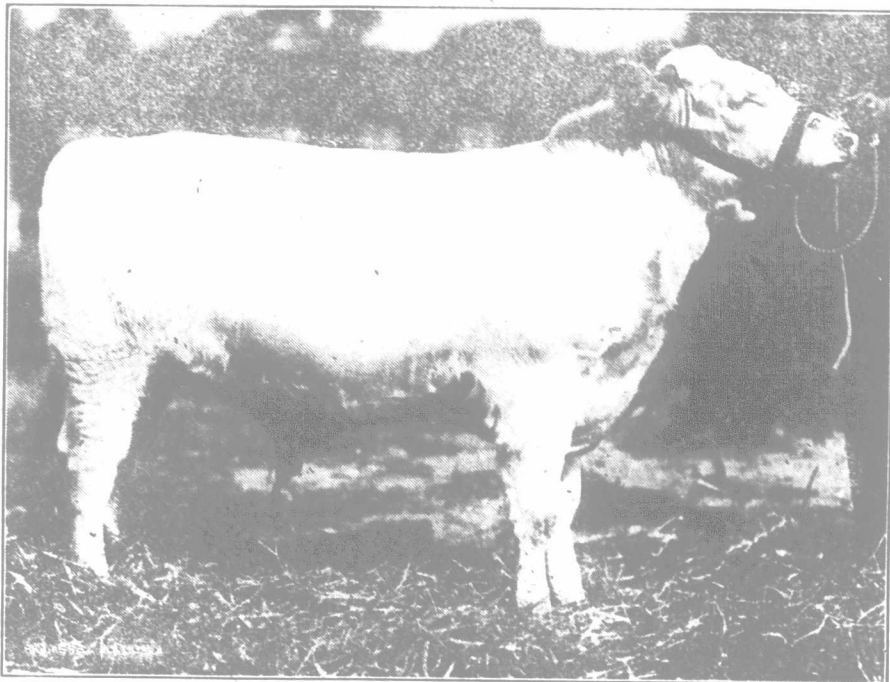
I like to think of my herd as a manufacturing plant, organized in the most efficient manner possible to produce maximum results. Each cow should be considered a unit of the producing machinery of the plant, and if she fails to produce you should ascertain the reason. If her

usefulness cannot be restored, she should be condemned and banished from the herd.

Young stock should receive the most thoughtful care. Their destiny depends in a very large degree upon their care and development during the first eighteen months of their life. One dollar's worth of feed during this period will produce greater results than it ever will again, and will determine the future size and quality of your breeding matrons. See to it that the youngsters are always in condition to do their best. They should be out in the open each day and permitted to get the exercise and fresh air so necessary in developing constitution and vitality. The herd should be handled carefully, prudently and with judgment. A mistake most commonly made is that they are not supplied with enough feed. Too many breeders try to carry too many cattle on their pastures, as well as being too niggardly with feed during the proper feeding period. The Hereford breed, as a class, has been improved during the past few years so carefully and so systematically that there is little more to be done toward making them the perfect beef animal. There has been such marked improvement in the character, the levelness, and quarters, and at the same time all the good qualities have been preserved and developed, until to-day the modern Hereford embodies all that could be expected or desired in a perfect type of beef animal.

College Work in Keeping With the Times.

Down at the Iowa State College of Agriculture a building has been erected where the students will see slaughtered the animals upon which they have passed judgment in their class work. In the majority of cases colleges provide judging pavilions where the students are shown what to look for as exterior evidence of a good carcass, and they must take the instructor's word for it that what lies beneath the skin is as he describes it. The carcass is the finality of all live stock judging, and no better way can be devised whereby the student will be made acquainted with the relationship that exists between the outside and the inside of the animal than by following it to the block. We have judges of



Sultan's Royal.

First-prize junior Shorthorn bull calf and junior champion at Toronto and London. Exhibited by John Gardhouse & Sons, Weston, Ont.

breeds; we have judges of fat bullocks, wethers and hogs, and we have carcass judges. Naturally we would expect them to agree pretty closely in their ideals, for a first-prize, finished bullock, for instance, would, to demonstrate the wisdom of the judge, also hang up the best carcass. This does not always happen, nor does it happen frequently enough to establish a genuine confidence in the present system of making awards. Of course, the bullock, wether or fat-hog judge must take type into consideration more or less, and he must give some thought to the appearance of the animal in regard to the remuneration he might return to his feeder. On the other hand, the carcass judge has only one consideration—is it a good or a poor carcass? He has to look neither backward nor forward; he is concerned only with the present and with what is before him. Herein lies the source of slight difference between the decisions of the various judges of the animal on its way to the block. Any system of education that will enable men to visualize and draw a mental picture of the animal in the stall and later in the slaughter-house is worth inaugurating for it will help exhibitions and, through them, the live-stock industry.

The Iowa State College is also outlining a course that will help young men to qualify as competent and reliable herdsmen. Some may say that the hard school of experience is the best teacher in this line, but a large stock of many breeds is kept at Ames and a student can acquire an experience there in a short time that would entail years of apprenticeship around the farm of an ordinary breeder. In turning out men competent to handle large herds or flocks any college in Canada or the United States would be doing the country a great

benefit, for the lack of reliable herdsmen is one of the greatest drawbacks to the industry. There are plenty of men, with capital and equipment, ready to establish herds and flocks if they could engage a man with whom they could trust a heavy expenditure in the form of pure-bred animals. Trained and qualified herdsmen would find ready and remunerative employment.

Constructive Shorthorn Breeding.

BY DEAN C. F. CURTISS.

The outlook for pure-bred stock interests is highly promising. The conditions never looked better for conservative and constructive breeding. There are comparatively few Shorthorn herds in any country that have been maintained for a long period of years under a definite constructive policy. Such herds, where the policy is sound, and the management right, are the ones that make history and establish standards for the breed. To build up a good herd of Shorthorns is the work not of a few years, but of many years. Men of unlimited means often engage in the breeding of pure-bred stock, and they are of material service to the cause of better stock and better agriculture. Many very superior collections of cattle are brought together in this way. Some of these herds are magnificent in individual excellence, and such a herd when headed by one or more good sires will produce cattle of outstanding excellence.

To undertake to put together in a year or two a strictly high-class breeding herd, even at unlimited expense, is a herculean task. Such a task would tax the genius of the best and most experienced breeders of the world, and it is extremely doubtful if there are many who would succeed. The really great herds are not made in that way. On the whole it is fortunate that they are not. There is always cause for genuine regret at the dispersal of a leading herd that has been built up by years of patient, intelligent work. Such a herd loses much of its potency if divided and broken up, even though it goes into another good herd.

The best herds, those that in the end carry the greatest prestige and exert the greatest influence for breed improvement, are not put together—they are grown or built up by constructive process of breeding and selection. In many cases they come from a limited beginning with a few high-class animals mated with a good sire, and their offspring with other good sires, the breeder having constantly in mind a definite type and standard in such a way that the animals constituting the herd are always a little better than those that preceded them, particularly the sires. And this is not all. Very few good herds have been built up by introducing a new strain of blood every time a new sire is wanted, or by adding practically all of the known or leading strains through the females constituting the herd. A breeder may not seek to create new families. He may better take the best that he can find and strive to improve them in such a way that the stock coming from his herd will carry an added distinction and value. A herd built up in this way without too much in-breeding on one hand or too much infusion of deteriorating blood on the other hand, has greater potency and power for improvement of other herds than any herd made on the put-together plan can ever possess. An old herd made or maintained by the put-together plan is no better than a new one made by the same process.

The great herds of all kinds of stock are made first by the bringing together and second by the concentration of the best lines of blood of the breed. There must first be the purpose—the ideal—the discriminating judgment to select the right ideal, and a high standard of excellence; then the tenacity and adherence to that purpose and ideal, and concentration of good blood until the standard is firmly established. Results do not come quickly by this method, but when attained they are more enduring and of more service to the breed and to the breeder.

A Note Re "The Shepherd's Calendar."

On another page are set down the salient points in sheep husbandry in calendar form, in order to provide a guide for the months which follow. Many shepherds, who are experts in time of trouble or emergency, do not look ahead and provide for droughts and unfavorable conditions that only too frequently affect the flock adversely, in spite of anything the shepherd can do. The sheep raiser has many duties and they are distributed over the year so almost every month has its own special activities. The lambing season, shearing, dipping, wool sales, lamb feeding and other lines must be attended to in order to maintain the revenue from the flock, and only as the producer of wool and mutton looks ahead and makes adequate provision for all these items can he depend on success. Sheep will get along with little care, but it is the flock which is tended by a real shepherd that shows the greatest profit. "The Shepherd's Calendar" does not go into details. Its object is to mention the most important operations only, so the farmer can be prepared to meet any situation that arises, and in a manner quite in keeping with good sheep husbandry. Save the Calendar and read each section, as the particular month comes around with which it deals.