

## PURE-BRED STOCK

### NOTES AND NEWS FROM THE BREEDERS

These columns are set apart exclusively for the use of breeders of pure-bred stock and poultry. Any information as to importations made, the sale and purchase of stock and the condition of herds and flocks that is not in the nature of an advertisement will be welcomed. Our desire is to make this the medium for conveying information as to the transfer of pure-bred animals and the condition of live stock throughout the country. The co-operation of all breeders is earnestly solicited in making this department as useful and as interesting as possible. The editor reserves the right to eliminate any matter that he may consider better suited to our advertising columns.

#### The Farming World Man on the Wing

Haying time has come round again and the hum of the mower is once more to be heard in the land. The crop in most parts is this year unusually heavy. There has been an abundance of rain and the growth has been very rapid and strong. The fear is ever present that the haying time will be a wet one, and the croaker is still predicting that when the grass is heavy it very seldom happens that it can be cured and stored in good condition. The hard winter has damaged the wheat beyond full recovery in many parts, but in some places exceptionally heavy crops are to be seen, and so far, in very few cases are there any indications of rust. Root crops of all kinds are rather poor, owing not only to the wet spring, but to the coolness of the season as well, and the Farming World Man on the Wing has yet to see a first-class crop of corn. There is still good hopes for the turnip crop, as many are sowing them over again, and good crops of turnips have been grown when sown as late as 12th of July. So, with a light crop of corn, it is probable that the humble "neep" will be counted on to a considerable extent for both fall and winter food, and the zealous cheesemaker will, as he used of old, have to be on his guard against "turnip" milk. Quite a number of farmers are utilizing their silos to store grass in, to feed later in the season, or to keep for winter use as "silage," and should the latter part of the summer prove as dry as the first part has been abundant in rain, this addition to the fall forage will be a welcome one. On all sides the scarcity of labor is proving the worst enemy of the dairying industry, and farmers are turning their attention to beef instead, and the offerings on the bulletin boards from the different cheese factories are as light that the large output of last fall should not long continue to maintain the downward tendency of the market. The oat crop is everywhere exceptionally fine and heavy, though in some cases the season has proved rather wet for peas on low or undrained land. In many parts of Ontario the encroachments of various kinds of weeds is noticeable, despite improved machinery and methods of working. There is no doubt that in the case of many of these pests their rapid encroachment is due to the neglect that has been accorded to one of the most effectual weed killers of all, the too much despised sheep. However, this is a fact that is becoming appreciated, and there are very many known to be met who have for years had no sheep on their farms and are now de-

termined to keep at least a few of them in the future. Much needed and long delayed legislation on the importation of wool and shoddy might give an impetus to this tendency, though, too often, at the present time where sheep are kept, can be seen orchards, lanes and even pasture fields infested with weeds of all kinds, and the sheep that would, if afforded the opportunity, eat these off close first, and then look for grass, are allowed to run at large on the roadsides, and compelled to hustle for their living as best they may. Wire fencing is fast taking the place of the old rail fence, adding much to the appearance of the country, and the writer feels quite like an old timer when he sees, after a stormy night, the farmers calmly pursuing the usual routine of the farm, and remembers how he used to turn out at daylight and start by getting soaking wet chasing the cattle out of the rain-laden wheat, and oat fields, and then take the hired man for half a day digging among tall weeds and bushes for slippery rails, piling them in place and locking the corners carefully so that they would stay in place until the next rainstorm. The writer remembers well a somewhat philosophic character who used to say that the consolation of a wet morning was that the old wooden pump used to work easier, and the cattle drink less on wet mornings, anyway. But the wire fence and the windmill are fast taking the place of both, and with their advent at least half of the temptation for the youth to leave the farm ought to be gone too. What a large percentage of the daily "chores" it was to grab the long wooden handle of the old wooden pump and to oscillate it energetically, and with elbows that ached for three-quarters of an hour or so, to the end that the hot and absorptive internal machinery of forty or fifty head of cattle should be lubricated and cooled. Agricultural conditions are fast changing. The average farm is no longer the mere home of drudgery and solitude, but offers to intelligence and intellect, a life of easy competence, where industry is combined with interest, and where a sufficiency of recreation is within the reach of all. The intelligent city man no longer affects a patronizing air towards the farmer. His advancement has been fast, but not too fast to be assured and solid, and a few generations will undoubtedly see the life of the farmer recognized as the ideal life of the gentleman. \*\*\*\*\*

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