

Crossing in Lamb Production.

Writing on the subject of fat lambs and their production, a correspondent of the Farmer and Stock-breeder deals specially with the benefits derived in this branch of sheep farming from mating representatives of two different breeds, rather than pure breeding from sires and dams of the same breed.

The gains in blending different blood discreetly are several fold, and as follows: (1) Greater weight providing sire and dam are from pretty equal-sized races. Even if one parent be considerably smaller than the other, if the cross hits, there will be bigger offspring than if sire and dam were of larger and the same breed, and that is remarkable. For instance, I have crossed little Mountain Scotch ewes with a tight, fat-natured Leicester ram, and the lambs have proved, when made up for the butcher, heavier than pure Leicesters run on the same land, and bigger, say, than pure Shropshires, although a little more time might be needed for maturing. But the two or three weeks' extra time needed to get cross-breds ready for the butcher must not be considered against them, as they are small consumers, so take not in the end so much virtuals as Leicesters or any other big pure breed. (2) More prolificacy. Many more twins are got by crossing than by adhering to the majority of pure breeds, and that is an advantage. The worst of it is I have found there are triplets too often, which are not desirable. They bring the ewes down so low in condition in days of gestation as to be incapable very often to nurse the couple left with the mothers to be suckled. Of course, this triplet drawback only occurs in some of the more prolific breeds when crossed, and to a degree is confirmatory of my assertion that crossing leads to greater prolificacy. In older and slower-going days, when we were not so much put to it to pay the rent, it was reckoned a single lamb was sufficient, as it was thought twins from young ewes must naturally be somewhat under the mark in size and general value. But the different races of sheep have been improved of late years, and their management has been improved, so the twins are raised for the fat market or for stores almost equal in value to singlets. Wherefore, by getting your ewes to give, say, three-fourths twins, you have a goodly number of lambs to sell, and so the more to bring in the money. I have found fewer barren ewes in crossing, and that is a consideration. (3) Introducing new and change of blood into the flocks appears to ensure, or tend to ensure, health. A cross-bred lamb, as a rule, suffers no illness, but remains until disposed of exceedingly robust, if the right cross is made. And I may incidentally say that I would introduce blood of a hardier race for choice, and from a less genial clime to a more genial district. Every chance should naturally be availed of to make the best of crossing.

Aberdeen-Angus Cattle in Ireland.

There has just been issued in pamphlet form a reprint of a series of articles which recently appeared in the Banffshire Journal, dealing with the subject of "Aberdeen-Angus Cattle; Their Recent History." Referring to the progress of the breed in Ireland, the writer remarks: "From time to time Aberdeen-Angus cattle had found their way to Ireland, but for a good long time the breed was not preserved in its purity. In 1864 purchases were made by Sir Charles Knox-Gore, but in 1876 there were not more than four herds of the breed in the country. Thus the growth of the breed in Ireland has taken place, practically, within the last thirty years, and, looked at from this point of view, its progress in the Emerald Isle must be set down as highly satisfactory. Mr. Ferguson, Kinochtry, was one of the leading pioneers of the breed in Ireland, a large number of cattle being exported by him in the seventies and subsequent years to different breeders. Such names as those of Captain Anketell-Jones, Mr. Coey, Mr. Crawford, Capt. Hamilton, Mr. Nash, Mr. Moore, Major Alexander, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Archdale, Mr. Bland, the Hon. Mr. Bourke, Major Cane, Mr. Carey, Lord Castletown, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Darby, Mr. de Burgh, Mr. de Lacy, Major-Gen. Knox-Gore, the Earl of Longford, Mr. MacGloin, Mr. O'Ferrall, Mr. Owen, Mr. Simms, Captain Sharman-Crawford, Col. Spaight, Mr. Stoney, Mr. Weir, Capt. Weldon, and quite a host of others, recur to the memory, of gentlemen who have collectively and individually been engaged in Ireland for over a decade in propagating the merits of the breed. And the number does not remain stationary, for it is of interest to recall that the recently-issued volume of the Herdbook contained entries from no fewer than eighty different breeders in Ireland, while there are seventy members of the society resident in that country. Another indication of the vitality of the interests of the breed in Ire-

land was the formation in 1894 of the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association, which continues to do yeoman service on its behalf. The agitation that is at present going on for the introduction of Canadian cattle has had the result of bringing forcibly into view the vast improvement that has been seen in recent years in the class of store cattle produced in Ireland. It does not take one with a very long memory to call to mind the big, raw, bony, high-standing cattle that used to be sent over from Ireland—cattle which made very unremunerative feeders and slow growers. Now, however, these are conspicuous by their absence, and the class of store cattle that finds its way into the Scotch and English markets is quite up to the standard of the home product in the majority of cases. To the introduction of Aberdeen-Angus cattle into Ireland, and to their more general use throughout the country, at least some of the credit for this improvement in the store cattle can be traced. It has not been all plain sailing this spread of the breed in Ireland. Many obstacles had to be overcome, and even yet some of the prejudices would seem to remain in some quarters. It has been generally accepted that the breed has no equal for beef-producing purposes; but a slowly-dying prejudice against the milking properties of the breed is still to be seen. It will, accordingly, be for breeders to show the fallacy of this belief, and to show that, for dual purposes, the Aberdeen-Angus breed, as a breed, has at least no superior in the ranks of any breed laying claim to the double merit of the block and the dairy. This was one of the hardest battles to be fought for the breed in the case of America, and now in that country there are more Aberdeen-Angus cattle than there are in the lands of their birth."

The Sheep of the World.

U. S. Consul Williams, of Cardiff, Wales, furnishes a suggestive and interesting report on the sheep industry of the world:

The figures quoted indicate that the flocks of the world have declined at least 93,000,000 head since 1873, an average of more than 3,000,000 head a year. This decline, which must continue while present conditions prevail, is the opportunity of the American farmer, but he has not yet awakened to the fact. America's share of the British trade in 1904 was as follows:

	From U. S.	Total imports.
Sheep, number	294,804	892,240
Mutton, hundredweights	7,420	8,580,659
Wool, pounds	1,087,650	314,468,016

The American farmer secured the bulk of the sheep trade, but he was not a factor in the mutton market, and he furnished only three-tenths per cent. of the wool imports. The latter articles were furnished largely by Argentina, Australia and New Zealand. It would appear that there will be more money in sheep for years to come than in any other agricultural product, and the American farmer will doubtless find it profitable to devote more attention to this domestic animal.—[Live-stock World.]

Doctors Differ.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate:

When I saw the issue of your paper which contained a report of the live stock exhibit at the Canadian National Exhibition, recently held in the City of Toronto, I became interested in the free criticism indulged in regarding the awarding of premiums in the Shorthorn cattle class at that great show, and being one of the Committee responsible for the rating in the said class, I wish to make a few observations in reference to that report. Anyone who has acted as a judge of Shorthorns at a show in Toronto will know how much easier it is to sit in the stand or stand outside of the large ring viewing the animals from a distance and criticise the judging than it is to tie the ribbons properly, or even to his own satisfaction.

The critic starts in quite fiercely at the first section, it being for bulls three years old and over. He writes, "All good bulls and in fine condition, except that two were badly off in their underpinning," which two were placed at the head of the list, and "probably ninety-nine out of a hundred found they had missed their guess when the placing was completed." Now, when these animals were being shown the ninety-nine would be quite a distance from them, and to show how a person will change his mind from looking at a distance and coming close to the animals, I will give you an instance: One of our foremost Shorthorn men who has bred and imported many winners, and is an acknowledged authority on Shorthorn cattle, was freely criticising the placing of Cicely's Pride first. I asked him if he would go over to the stable and inspect them more closely and carefully. I thought he might then change his mind. He said he would be glad to do so. The next time I saw him he hailed me from across the street, and came over and said he had examined the animals and had now come to the conclusion that the judges did right, and it was only fair for him to apologize for the undue criticism he had made. This gentleman would be one of the ninety-nine, and I venture to say not one of the remaining ninety-eight would be a better judge of an up-to-date Shorthorn. This incident shows how easily a man can make a mistake in passing judgment on an animal from a distance. As to Gold Drop, this entry would probably afford a better opportunity for criticism than any other in the whole class, he being lame. The judges debated whether he should have second prize, or be left out of the rating on account of his being lame on the off hind foot, which made him appear uneven behind. Concluding that the temporary lameness would not affect this case as it would that of a horse for road purposes, they gave him second place, and I would ask our critic was there a bull placed under him in that section that had such a wealth of natural flesh so evenly laid on and so free from lumps, with such a true Scotch type? Gold Drop possesses these qualities in a marked degree. It is these qualities that the improvers of the breed in the Old Land have been for years trying to get in their herds, and the more we encourage our breeders



On the Headingly, Man, Road.