

LIVE STOCK

An Inviting Field.

Prof. Andrew M. Soule, of the Virginia agricultural college, has compiled statistics of the live-stock industry in the United States which will be a revelation to many. Under the heading of live stock he includes fowls as well as cattle. In his view, no vocation offers greater opportunities than the breeding of stock. In 1899, according to his statement, there were 215,822,238 domestic animals in the United States, of which 17,339,673 were classed as dairy cows, which returned a yearly profit of at least \$170,000,000 to their owners. This amount, it is estimated, might be almost doubled by scientific feeding. Here, in Professor Soule's opinion, is a good field for young men who are looking for a chance to establish themselves in a profitable business. The professor is an earnest advocate of a return to the simple life—the life of the farm. But he considers agriculture a profession and advises no one to try it without preparation. To the man who is in earnest and who is fitted for agricultural work the professor suggests that there should be an inspiration in our bumper crops of corn and wheat.

Reverting to the live stock industry, Professor Soule states that Chicago, the metropolis of the middle west, would sink into insignificance commercially if it were not for its trade in live stock and its manufactures, among which are included the packing and curing of meats. The wholesale trade of Chicago in 1904 was \$1,781,000,000. The live-stock transactions aggregated \$200,000,000; poultry products, butter and eggs, \$261,000,000, slaughtering and packing, \$390,000,000. The aggregate is \$951,000,000, and if Chicago were deprived of this trade its commercial importance would dwindle greatly.

Americans are prone to think that their country owes its greatness and prosperity chiefly to its manufactures. Professor Soule gives some figures concerning this which are suggestive. In 1899 there were 10,381,756 persons engaged in agriculture and 7,985,992 engaged in manufactures. There were 512,329 manufacturing establishments with a total capitalization of \$9,835,986,000, a large proportion of which was watered. The net value of the manufacturers, deducting the cost of crude materials, was \$5,981,545,000. The value of farm products and live stock in 1899 was \$4,733,118,000. The manufacturer would have enjoyed little prosperity if the farm products had been reduced by 50 per cent. The moral of Professor Soule's article is that the United States needs more farmers, and that the right man in agriculture is sure of his reward.

Who, in Reality, is a Breeder?

Who is a breeder? Does this mean any man who is interested in the production and vending of pure bred stock? In a general sense any man who mates a pure bred sire with a pure bred dam, both of which belong to him, makes him a breeder, or at

least so as soon as he offers the offspring for sale from this mating. But in the great, broad, literal sense, this man is not a breeder, and it is gravely misleading to call him such, says the Nebraska Farmer.

What then constitutes a breeder? In a sense that lends dignity and value to the calling; a breeder is one who devotes his time, means and labor to the purpose of mating pure bred sires and dams with sufficient care, judgment and purpose that the progeny from the mating will mark a step forward in individual and breed character.

This being true, how many real breeders are there in the business today as compared with speculators, "feelers," those who are in today and out tomorrow, depending upon the signs of the times, the limit of their credit, etc., others who are in the business simply because they have attained a start and though unpropelled by sufficient energy and pride to measure advancement, they plod along antiquated lines and succeed in eking out an existence. Permit us to say that of all those who pose as breeders, there are but few in the front rank, deserving of the appellation and a credit to the business. In days of yore there were breeders of Shorthorn cattle—men who made themselves and their achievements worthy of the name. The works of Thos. Bates, the Colling brothers, the Booths, Amos Cruickshank, and others, live on and on, and as a monument to their names greater than any monument possible to be built of worldly gains, are tribes and strains of cattle that are peers of the breed. These men were breeders. They studied the business from a point of achieving something of value to the breed rather than to lining their pockets with shekles, though pecuniary profit will come when once success in the business is attained.

For us to plead to a man who has been in the business (or thinks he has been in the business) for a score or even a half-score years without having made any progress, would be a waste of time and energy. We make our plea to the beginner—he who has just launched in the business or who is yet young in the business.

That success may be achieved in mating and breeding pure bred stock, the breeder must have an ideal. He must have fully developed in his mind an idea of a perfect animal and to that end he should strive unceasingly. To be sure, there has not yet been the beginner in the business who could form the proper idea of a perfect animal of any breed, but by a study of the daily works of the business, not only in one's own herd but wherever opportunity is offered for learning, the ideas of the beginner will be materially altered and strengthened. First, ascertain for what purpose your favorite breed is maintained. Make matings to the end of developing to the fullest extent an animal that will meet those requirements. For the sake of fancy pedigree do not lose sight of individuality or type as conforms to breed character and worth. Those who have made the greatest success in the business are men who have had in mind a distinct type, and regardless of pedigree have maintained sufficient courage to breed to that type.

But as alluded to in the beginning it is really sickening and disheartening to hear the name breeder applied to a host of men who are in the business for the mere purpose of bearing a little higher rating in the eyes of the public, because they think it a short road to success and profit, but do not commit a single deed nor execute a single task that makes them worthy of the name. There are a great many farmers and stockmen breeding grades, who are more studious of producing high-class market stock than are those sub-standard breeders who are selling seed stock to the public.

Once a man produces stock that has drawn the attention of the public through merit alone, then let him be known as a breeder, and until then let him not live off a reputation made by some other man who has had the experience and judgment to make a mating that produced something good in the hands of the would-be breeder.

Save the Good Sows.

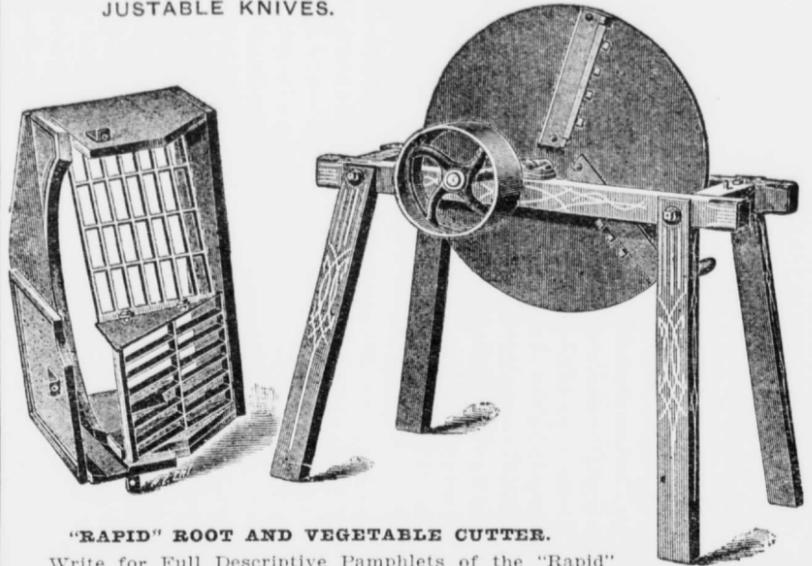
Too many farmers and breeders of pedigreed hogs as well, delay selecting the brood sows for their next year's pig crop until almost time to breed them. There is no better time

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to select the brood sow than right before the pigs are weaned. This applies to both old sows and young ones. In the case of the old sows, mark those which had good-sized litters last spring and take care of them. Breeding in the spring has a lot to do with the size of the litter, and the manner in which it is raised as well. Some sows farrow good-sized litters of strong pigs but are naturally cross or nervous and kill a large percentage of the litter during the first week or ten days. These are good sows to get rid of and the sooner they are pushed for market the better. Other sows seem to be natural mothers, good milkers and raise their litters with practically no loss. These are the ones to keep and the thing to do is to mark them right before the pigs are weaned.

In selecting the young sows select those from large, fine litters. Careful selection over a period of years will, we feel confident, have a marked influence both on the size of the litter and the milk yield as well as the motherly qualities of the sow.

Who Legally Owns the Manure.

A Sunnyside subscriber writes The Ranch as follows: "Will you please give me legal advice on the following question in the columns of The Ranch: Is manure real or personal property? If A buys a farm from B, to whom does the manure already accumulated belong, if nothing is said regarding it? Has B a lawful right to remove any or all of said accumulated manure?"

Manure, under certain circumstances, and as between some parties, is personal property, while in other cases it is a part of the realty. As between B, the vendor or seller, and A, the vendee or buyer, it passes by a conveyance of the farm to A, the vendee, where the manure is made upon the farm in the ordinary course of husbandry, and which is upon the premises at the time of the sale and conveyance of the farm, whether lying scattered about in heaps in the barnyard, or in heaps at the stable windows or whether it is lying in and around the barnyard. B, the vendor, has no right to remove it.

Age of the Profitable Feeding Steer.

It requires about one-half as much grain to produce a hundred pounds of gain on calves as on two-year-olds. The work of the Missouri agricultural college has definitely demonstrated that the most profitable age to fatten cattle is while they are still young. The older the animal the more food is required to produce a given gain. Other stations have also investigated this question and have arrived at the same result.

The Central experiment station at Ottawa, Canada, found by comparing one thousand pounds live weight in the case of calves, yearlings and two- and three-year-olds, that the profit for

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