

HEAVY FLEECE.—We are informed that Mr. John Smith, of Burford, clipped from a Merino ram in his possession 254 pounds of wool. His clip last year was 214 pounds. He obtained the first prize in his class at the last Provincial Exhibition.

At the Port Elgin monthly cattle fair on Monday, May 10th, quite a number of cattle were brought in and were all sold. Working oxen brought about \$75 per pair, cows from \$20 to \$30 and young cattle from \$10 to \$15.

The sale of Mr. Bowley's, Saddington shorthorns, near Cirencester, has excited much interest among British cattle breeders. Good prices were realized, fourteen bulls having averaged £35 each, and twenty-five cows brought prices averaging £21. Two of the Saddington cows were bought by Lord Dunsmore for 400 and 370 guineas respectively.

Mr. M. H. Cochrane, of Montreal, has again been a buyer of choice cattle in Ireland. At a sale of Mr. Chaloner, a successful breeder of short horns, at Kingsport, Ireland, Mr. Cochrane purchased Floribunda for 100 guineas, and British Maid for 80 guineas. The cattle were "in good fair condition, without any attempt at pampering; while they handled well, and were covered with an abundance of soft, woolly hair."

The Union Stock Yards at Chicago occupy 345 acres of land. There are 120 acres in pens. These yards will contain, at one time, 25,000 head of cattle, 100,000 hogs, 50,000 sheep, and there are stalls for 350 horses; in all, quarters for 175,350 animals. There are 35 miles of underdrains, 10 miles of streets and alleys, and 2,709 gates. There are two artesian wells, one 1,032 feet deep, yielding 65,000 gallons of water daily, the other 1,190 feet deep, and yielding at the rate of 600,000 gallons of water daily.

GRADE DURHAMS.—The general verdict of the farmers and dairymen, both in England and America, is that grade short-horn cows are the most profitable to raise and keep. They are generally fair milkers, good eaters, hardy enough if taken care of, as cows should be in winter; if put to thoroughbred bulls their offspring is sure to make superior animals, either for the dairy or the butcher; and lastly, when their best days are past they make a large quantity of superior beef at small cost, as they keep in such good condition even while milking, if fed as they ought to be to make them profitable, that they require very little extra feeding to become fat.

SHEEP WASHING.—This operation is usually performed during the last of May or early in June. In no case should it be done till the weather has become settled warm. If the water is decidedly warm, so much the better. So soon as it is done the sheep should be put in a clean pasture, and ought to be sheared

two or three days afterwards. Our long woolled sheep do not require much washing in order to cleanse their wool, but in Australia, where the wool is fine and gummy, it is so hard to get it clean that the operation of washing it has not been generally performed on the back of the sheep; but of late they have taken to using warm water in which some alkali has been put that will combine with the grease in the wool, and make it wash out like soap.

SHEEP REQUIRE WATER.—A correspondent from St. Vincent, county of Grey, writes respecting the importance of allowing sheep a free supply of water to drink, and gives a striking instance of the ill effects of depriving them of it in the case of a neighbour, whose small flock have for several years failed to increase or thrive, in consequence of his acting on the assumption that water is injurious to them, or at all events that they do not require it. We believe that sheep, like all other animals, should be regularly supplied with pure water, and be allowed to drink as much as they will. Still, they will not always drink, especially in winter, as we have found after many years' experience. The same correspondent, who signs himself "An old servant of Mr. Bates," the celebrated short-horn breeder, directs attention to a typographical error in our "History of Short-horns." It is there stated that Mr. Bates lived on the banks of the Tyne, whereas it should have been the banks of the Tees.

SAWDUST FOR BEDDING.—The London Field contains the following account of an experiment with this material. "Having used sawdust as bedding for horses for a length of time, the results of my experience may not be unacceptable to some of your inquiring readers. I litter the horses on it to the depth of six to nine inches, raking off the damp and soiled surface every morning, and spreading evenly a little fresh, removing the whole only four times a year. Its advantages appear to be many, of which I will state a few which give it, in my estimation, its great superiority over straw. It is much cleaner and more easily arranged, and of course much cheaper at first cost, making in the end excellent manure. It is peculiarly beneficial to the feet, affording them a cool, porous stuffing, a substitute for the soil or earth we always find in the hoofs of a horse at grass, and presents the nearest resemblance to a horse's natural footing, the earth. We have never had a diseased foot since the introduction of sawdust in the stable, now some years since. Horses bedded on sawdust are also freer from dust and stains than when on ordinary litter, simply because sawdust is a better absorbent, perhaps, and testify their approval of it by frequently rolling and lying down for hours in the day. It has also the recommendation of being uncatchable, an advantage which all in charge of horses with the habit of eating their litter, will readily admit."

Poultry Yard.

Report on the Fourth Poultry Exhibition under the auspices of the Ontario Poultry Association.

The Exhibition Committee beg to lay before the members of the Association a report of the Exhibition held under their auspices on the 21st and 22nd April, 1869, and in doing so, cannot but congratulate the Society on the marked improvement which has taken place in this over former exhibitions, chiefly conspicuous, however, in the excellence of the specimens shown, and in the number and class of persons who visited the show.

In this latter respect, the observant eye could not but see many of our citizens, who heretofore scarcely gave our exhibitions a passing thought much less a visit, wending their way to the Agricultural Hall; and one case may be mentioned of an aged and honorable gentleman, who after making a tour of the coops, was asked how he liked the show, replied—"I am exceedingly well pleased, and very glad that I have come, as I had no idea so fine a collection of fowl was to be found in Canada," and this answer might be taken as the general feeling which prevailed in the minds of all. The object, too, for which a large number of visitors came to the exhibition is matter of congratulation; this is exemplified in the numerous purchases made, and the many enquiries your Secretary had to answer, as to where hatching eggs of different breeds of fowl could be obtained, and where breeders could be found who had fowls of such and such description for sale at lower prices than those marked on the pens. Notable too among the visitors to the exhibition, was the corresponding Secretary of the New York State Poultry Society, David E. Gavit, Esq., of New York city, who attended in his official capacity, and remained during the two days on which it was open, and was the purchaser of several pens of fowls. Your committee take this opportunity of recording their pleasure in making the acquaintance of this gentleman, an ardent admirer of poultry, and enthusiastic in his endeavours in promoting the raising and breeding of fowl in the highest state of perfection.

In preparing the prize list, your committee, actuated solely by feelings of economy, reduced the number of classes from 45 to 35 as compared with the prize list of last exhibition; always, however, keeping in view the desirability of giving all the recognized varieties a proportionate rate of the prizes to be awarded. Nor did this, in the opinion of your committee, militate against the interests of the show; yet your committee do not desire it to be understood that they wish it to be adopted as a standard for future exhibitions.

The committee are glad to be able to state that the arrangements for the exhibition were very complete, and with one exception