The Dominion Postmaster-General's Farm--An Important Steer Feeding Test.

The farm of the Hon. Wm. Mulock, M.P., which is situated three miles north of Aurora, Ont., was visited by a representative of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE last week, who found it a very complete establishment in every respect. The farm of 200 fertile acres presents a fine appearance and is well equipped with substantial buildings, built with the special view of feeding a large number of beef cattle every year. Some interesting and important experiments have been conducted that merit very careful study. There are a very small percentage of feeders who have undertaken such extensive experimental work, in one particular direction at least, as has Mr. Murlock. The results are certainly noteworthy. His system of feeding has been as follows: The animals (steers) are purchased at two and three years old under the personal supervision of Mr. Wm. Linton, the well-known breeder of Shorthorn cattle, of Aurora, Ont., who, we may add, is Mr. Mulock's manager, and who pays frequent visits to the farm, being only some three miles distant. Only such animals as show good beefing qualities, with as much Shorthorn breeding as is possible to obtain, are bought, and we may say that the country might be gone over and a smoother, more likely lot would be hard to obtain than the present stock—some eighty head which Mr. Linton purchased at the Toronto market last fall.

The animals are bought the latter part of October and first of November. They are run on or fed the turnip tops as long as they last, during which period they are dehorned and allowed sufficient time to heal before being housed. They are placed in a large, loose stable or pen, 116 x 36 feet, having good sanitary arrangements, well lighted on all sides by windows twelve feet apart, ventilated by three large spouts running to the roof of the barn, and having a cement floor. The ceiling is over twelve feet high and the feeding troughs are located around the outside, and when completed will be so arranged as to be raised to the barn floor above, the feed placed in and lowered at the proper time, thus not taking up any room whatever only during feeding time. The feed consists of ensilage, pulped roots, cut oat straw, bran, ground corn, and oil meal, all mixed. A trough at the end of the stable is supplied with running spring water, as is also every stall about the place.

Last year a number, some 38 head, were purchased, 20 of which were dehorned and turned loose as above described, the balance being tied up in stalls. All were fed exactly the same mixture and same weight per animal, and from November 5th until May 5th, 1896, when they were sold, the animals that were tied up made an average gain per head of 235 to 240 lbs., while those in the loose stall gained a little over 400 lbs. It has been noticed that those animals which bled freely at dehorning made the greatest gain, and further experiments are anticipated along this line later. They were weighed individually when put in, every month after and at the close, and were a very even lot to start with.

The grain is all ground on the farm by wind power, which also pulps the turnips, cuts the straw, as well as the marsh hay which is used for bedding The manure is removed from the stalls three times during the winter and piled up in the field and in pits to rot.

The ventilators are used also to throw down the bedding, having a door level with the barn floor—an idea of Mr. Linton's.

The farm implements are all stored in a building for the purpose as soon as the season's work is over, carried to the third floor by an elevator, insuring dryness. Provision is to be made for feeding an additional 100 head next season.

Mr. Mulock takes an active interest in all subjects pertaining to advancement in agriculture, and improving and beautifying the homes. He has planted on his own farm several groves of walnuts, in various stages of development, from young sprouts to bearing trees, and has encouraged others in similar commendable work; also in fruit growing he feels interested, as he donates annually prizes amounting to $200, to be divided among the most successful producer of young orchards in North York, of not less than one acre and 50 trees, of any hardy winter variety. The judges are chosen by and from the Farmers' Institute members. Last year we were informed that he (Mr. Mulock) also compensated the judges for their work apart from the $200 in prizes; this he has been doing for six years.

We were greatly interested in the operations carried on so carefully and successfully at this farm, and incidentally it should be of no little advantage to the live stock and agricultural interests of Canada to have Mr. Mulock in the Dominion Cabinet to ably second the efforts of Mr. Fisher, the farmer Minister of Agriculture.

Sheep Raising on P. E. Island.

I believe in the old saying, "Where there's a will there's a way." If the farmers of P. E. Island would pay more attention to their sheep they would find a great increase in their returns. Generally speaking, the sheep receive the best attention of any of our farm stock; some farmers think that they can live anywhere, with any kind of usage. How often do we see the poor animals huddled together by the shelter side of a barn or stack, or chasing an armful of hay blown around by the wind? I believe sheep are admirably suited for our cold climate, as they can stand almost any amount of cold if kept dry, sometimes preferring to lie out all night in the frost. Farmers should always aim to secure the breed which is best suited to their farms, and by always keeping a pure-bred sire among their ewes, and also by securing a few pure-bred ewes from some successful sheep breeder, they will in time have a flock of sheep worth looking at and caring for. The number of farmers who breed pure-bred sheep on the Island are very few, but of late years the sheep industry has taken great strides. I have always found it necessary to winter lambs separate from the ewes, as they are apt to be crowded out and will not get their share, and another reason is that they will have purer air, which is very necessary. I always let the shearlings run with the ewes. Before going into winter quarters the flock should be dressed with some reliable dip; this is necessary, especially with lambs, as ticks and lice will eat the life out of them faster than it can be kept in. I do not believe in feeding too much grain, especially to lambs, as it injures their digestion, and consequently they will not make as healthy sheep; especially is this to be guarded against in feeding rams intended for breeders. I think one pint of oats for each lamb and one-half pint for store sheep every day, with three pounds of roots and all the clover hay they will eat up clean, with a daily feed of coarse fodder, such as wheat or pea straw, all the salt they want to eat, which should be put in narrow troughs nailed around the sides of the house, about one foot from the floor, also free access to pure water every day, should bring them through the winter in good condition. Indoor feeding in racks, with trough underneath and a gangway in front, so that the feeder may walk without being crowded by the sheep, is preferable to feeding under foot, which wastes a part of the feed. If plenty of bedding is given it is not necessary to clean the house till spring, say about the 1st of April, when the manure may be drawn to the field, composted with swamp muck or spread on the land. As the lambs begin to come, the ewes having lambs should be put in a pen separate from the flock, and fed a greater ration; the lambs may be given a little crushed oats as soon as they will eat. Above all, sheep require careful handling, and if not worried or frightened the shepherd may walk among them any time without disturbing them. In conclusion, I am very much pleased with the improvements made in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE in the new year, and believe it the best farm journal I ever read, and the farmer who invests $1.00 in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE will receive a greater interest than by any other investment.

Prince Co., P. E. I. JAMES STAVERT, JR.

FARM.

A Visit to Mr. Macpherson's Farm.

A member of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE staff recently had the pleasure of visiting the farm of Mr. D. M. Macpherson, M. P. P., which is beautifully situated some six miles east of Lancaster, in the fertile county of Glengarry. The farm comprises some one hundred and twenty-five acres of excellent soil, of a somewhat level nature, fronting the St. Lawrence River, which widens out here into a lake of nearly four miles in width. We might mention here that this part of Glengarry naturally has a very fine, productive soil, which, when properly cultivated and kept in a good state of fertility, is probably as well adapted to grazing and the raising of feeding cereals as any part of Ontario. We also find that this part does not suffer so much from seasons of drouth which many other parts have experienced the last few years. Therefore the clover and other grass catches are generally pretty sure, thereby insuring usually a heavy yield of grass and hay.

Mr. Macpherson's farm is, therefore, happily situated for the purposes to which he is devoting it and giving his especial attention.

On being conducted through the stables, butter factory, and other parts of the farm buildings, we found things presenting a businesslike and well-ordered appearance. The stables contained about one hundred and forty-five head of cattle in all at the time of our visit, seventy-two of which are milch cows, twenty-five giving milk, the remainder being now dry and coming in this spring. We found the cows in fine form, and a large per cent. of them presented the appearance of being heavy milkers. The feeding cattle numbered some sixty-six head, now being fed for export to the English market. These comprised some ten county bulls, the remainder being mostly two-year-old steers. These stockers had been purchased in Toronto and Montreal markets, and had been domiciled in their present quarters about six weeks when we saw them. They are an even, smooth lot, and are in fine, healthy form, and apparently gaining well on the rations allowed them. Each animal is furnished water in the stalls, and is not let loose again after being put in the stables. The system of feeding practised is ensilage and meal morning and night, with six pounds of hay to each animal at noon. The following is the rations and allowances:

For Beef Cattle.—Steers—60 lbs. ensilage per head per day in two feeds, 6 lbs. hay per head at noon; 5 lbs. meal per head daily in two feeds (morning and night), the meal fed being a mixture of *starch feed*, shorts and bran—proportions: 3 parts starch feed, 2 parts shorts, and one part bran. The meal feed is changed somewhat every month or two, starting in the early stages of fattening with more bran and less heavy feed and ending with no bran and mainly heavy feeds, particularly shorts and germ meal, the increase being mainly in the meal.

Bulls—60 lbs. ensilage per head per day in two feeds, 6 lbs. hay per head at noon, with 7 lbs. meal per head per day in two feeds (morning and night), same mixture and proportions as above.

Dry Cows—40 lbs. ensilage per head per day in two feeds, 6 lbs. hay at noon; 2 lbs. meal per head per day in two feeds (morning and night).

Milch Cows—40 lbs. ensilage per head per day in two feeds, 6 lbs. hay per head at noon; 7 lbs. meal per head per day in two feeds.

A compartment is partitioned off in one corner of the main barn and fitted out for the manufacture of cheese and butter, milk being supplied by patrons in the vicinity as well as from their own stables, power being supplied by an 8-horse power engine, which is also utilized for grinding grain and cutting feed when necessary. Butter is manufactured in winter and disposed of in Montreal at top prices, while the summer milk is manufactured into cheese; the separated sweet milk being fed to the swine in winter, and the whey in summer.

The veal calves, of which there are some sixty or seventy during the year, are disposed of in Montreal market at $2.50 to $4.00. These are fed new milk for two or three weeks before being sold, and are half-bred Shorthorn. The cows are selected grade native stock.

The Manure from the cattle is shoved through an opening at the drop behind the cattle into a car or dump beneath. We might mention here that the stables are on the main floor of the barn, while the basement is utilized for manure and the hog pens. The stalls of the cattle, and also the dumps beneath, are arranged so as to drain the unabsorbed liquids into a trough which leads to a large cistern in the center of the basement, this liquid being utilized by drawing out to the fields and spraying it on the corn hills after the corn is up. The manure, as stated above, is shoved through an opening between the floor of the stalls and the floor of the stables onto the car beneath, and this in turn is dumped on the wagons and drawn direct to the fields every week or two, and spread from the wagon or sleigh, providing the snow is not too deep, in which case it is put in small piles and spread in the spring. The ground on which the manure is used is principally the pasture and that intended for corn.

Swine.—About one hundred head are now in the pens (comprising seventeen brood sows), twenty-five now being finished for the market, and sixty fall pigs which will be finished in June. As stated above, the swine are kept in the basement of the barn on either side, and the milk and whey is conveyed from the factory by pipes to a large vat. Starch feed and shorts are then mixed in it previous to feeding. This mixture is fed three times per day, the ration being:

To small, growing pigs, 2 to 4 lbs. meal each per day, equal parts starch feed and shorts mixed with milk. Larger hogs, 4 to 6 lbs. meal each per day, parts ⅔ starch feed and ⅓ shorts. The breeding sows are a cross of Yorkshire and Berkshire, and these are invariably mated with a Berkshire boar.

Farm Accounts.—An inventory is taken once each year of everything in connection with the farm, and all farm expenses, purchased stock, feed, labor, etc., are charged up to the farm, and everything sold from the farm is credited to the farm, and after an inventory is taken the sheets are balanced up, thereby showing a dividend or a deficit as the case may be. The summer management and other details not mentioned here may be found in Mr. Macpherson's letters in the February 1st and March 1st issues of the ADVOCATE.

Successful Lamb Adoption.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—As the season is on hand when the lambs arrive, I thought I would describe, for the benefit of your numerous subscribers, the way I have managed with ewes that would not take up with their lambs, and if any of your readers have a better plan it would please me very much to hear from them through your valuable paper, as I always try to avoid having pet lambs around the place. Since I have been farming on my own account we have had ewes four different times refuse to take lambs, the first of which I gave away rather than have to raise it as a pet. The next year another ewe—a good milker—had one lamb, and the next day another ewe had two. She was not such a good milker, and would only take one lamb and refused to take the other. After bothering with her she got worse. I then took ewe with the one lamb and tied her up to the manger, with only room to move her head about four inches, so that she could not bunt, and I got the lamb which the other ewe would not take and put it to her. I used her kindly, and while holding her for the lamb to suck always gave her a handful of oats. After two days I did not have to hold her, and the third day I cut off both lambs' tails and let the one which was her favorite bleed all over the back of the other, and let her loose, which ended all trouble, as she took to each equally well. I have tried the same plan twice since with the same result, and I believe it can be done with any sheep all right, as it is less bother than raising them by hand. The reason for tying the ewe up so short is to prevent her from discouraging the lamb by bunting, and she will submit much sooner. Never abuse them, but treat them kindly.

JAMES HAYDEN.

Huron Co., Ont.