

On the Wing.

Not having been in the Province of Quebec for a long time, we concluded to take a trip there, as it is the centre of the

AYRSHIRES,

and Messrs. Dawes were about to sell their whole herd of Ayrshires, without reserve. The sale took place on the 27th of April. We believe this herd to have been the best ever collected together on this continent, taking them as a whole. Not a single cull or inferior animal was to be seen among them. They were all in good thriving and breeding condition. The day was fine and there was a fair gathering of people in regard to numbers, but not as many fancy stockmen as we expected to have seen. The prices realized were low in our estimation, judging from the high standing of this herd. Mr. N. S. Whitney, of Freleighsburg, P. Q., paid the highest price for any animal sold. Mr. E. B. Eddy, of Hull, P. Q., was one of the most extensive purchasers there; he secured many very superior animals. No animal brought \$200, and many valuable animals were secured at less than \$100. Many of these animals had cost and would have brought from \$300 to \$500 four years ago, but there is almost as much change in the fashion of stock as there is in ladies' bonnets. The rush is now for the Jersey, the Polled Aberdeen, and the Hereford. The Ayrshires are now numerous. They are just as good for butter as they ever were. They are more suitable for the majority of farmers east of Kingston than either of the other breeds of cattle mentioned above, and those that keep the best will find increasing prices, as this winter the bottom prices have been reached. At one sale that recently took place near here the prices did not reach half the prices that Mr. Dawes' stock reached, although the herd had cost more money, but the manager said he did not care a — for Canadian purchasers, and expended ten times as much money in advertising in American papers. The result was the animals were literally given away, for they got neither American or Canadian purchasers with spirit to buy. Parties wishing to procure really good Ayrshires have never had such an opportunity to purchase costly and valuable animals as cheap on this continent, and we never expect such opportunities will be had again as have taken place near Montreal this past few months. We heard many regret not having invested at recent sales that have taken place here. We are pleased to state that some of our subscribers have been among those whom we may term the fortunate purchasers. We asked Mr. Dawes why he sold his Ayrshires. He said he disliked to part with them very much. "They are the right kind of stock for this part of the country. I can attend the feeding of stock, but I cannot get suitable people to keep the milk pans clean. I can raise beef and horses without so much trouble as looking after dairy help." The Messrs. Dawes have three fine farms in the vicinity of Lachine, and have for years been breeding Clyde and blood horses. They now intend to devote their attention more particularly to the blood horse, the Hereford cattle—of this class they now have several fine animals—and Polled Aberdeen. Mr. Simon Beattie is now in Europe purchasing a herd for them.

While speaking of the fashions, who ever hears the name of the Longhorn, the Welsh, or the Highland cattle spoken of? Yet if we had plenty of cash to spare, and time to attend to stock, and wished to either make money or do good to the country in which we now live, we would far rather invest in either of the last three named classes than any of the other breeds that fashion now runs after. Some person with means will ere long see and profit by these remarks. It has been our

opinion for many years that the hardy black Welsh and the Highland cattle would be much more suitable to many parts of the Dominion than either the Shorthorn or the Hereford cattle. In fact, we have wondered why either our Government officials or individuals have not ere this given the animals a trial. If some of our Manitoba or Saskatchewan friends were to invest some of their cash in either of these breeds of animals, they would, in our opinion, be much better off and much happier than those who are living in the feverish and dangerous excitement of buying many Winnipeg lots, or even in investing in the prevailing fancy—Shorthorns. We believe it right to encourage breeding, but we have seen too much of this sending cattle all over the world to be bid in at fancy figures that are too seldom paid, and when paid are too often paid by a representative from the buyer at a sale a thousand miles away. There are large tracts of land in our Dominion that are better adapted to Ayrshires than to Shorthorns, and those that keep the best of this class will find an increasing demand for the best. We doubt if any person in this Dominion now has a finer herd of this class than Mr. N. S. Whitney, of Freleighsburg.

BUTTER MAKING.

After having attended Mr. Dawes' sale at Lachine, we visited Mr. Drummond's farm at Petit Cote. This is about four miles from Montreal. The farm consists of 300 acres, most of which is a good clay loam, which Mr. Drummond is able to keep pretty well filled with manure. Living so near the city gives him a great advantage. His fences are all stone, which have been gathered off the land, and every gate post on the farm consists of one good, large, flat stone, to which gates are hung. We consider these the best posts we have ever seen; they all stand in their places properly and require no repairs.

Mr. Drummond's attention is given to the production of milk and raising of grain. He keeps 20 milch cows and supplies the Windsor House (the palace hotel of Canada) with cream. He generally has a surplus, and this he makes into butter. This is the prize farm of this part of the Province; the buildings, orchard, stock, etc., are in good order. When on this farm we saw the churning performed. This was done by a new churn that was being tested. The churn was a square one, and revolves like the old barrel churn; it has no dashers or any wood inside, the falling of the cream being sufficient motion to produce the butter. The churn worked very easily. It had a novel and what we thought to be an excellent appliance to admit air into the churn. This was done by having a hollow in the shaft or crank that enters the churn, and a bent hollow tube placed inside the churn, which remains stationary even when the churn is in motion. This admits of the free passage of the air at all times. After the globules of butter had attained the size of wheat grains, a faucet was put into the bottom of the churn and the buttermilk drawn off. Then water was poured into the churn and the butter washed, and the water run out of the faucet until it became as clear as when put in the churn. The butter was then taken out, but no buttermilk could be pressed out of it. By making butter in this manner it is claimed that the butter cannot become rancid and will keep sweet even for years, and that without salt; but to do this it must be carefully done. It is the buttermilk that is left in the butter that causes it to spoil. Another great advantage in this process is that the globules of butter are not broken, as is too often the case with the smearing process sometimes adopted by our dairy maids. Neither is it turned to grease by

the violent churning that is sometimes performed by those that wish to get butter in too short a time, or overwork it in the churn by being in too much of a hurry to get done. It is very evident to us that we must take more pains with our butter than we have done. We must have cold water or ice in summer to keep our milk at a proper temperature, or we must submit to the bad name we have attained, that is, of making Canada grease; in fact, much of our Canadian butter is neither as palatable nor as wholesome as oleomargarine.

There is some talk in Montreal of forming a company and introducing the best dairy implements to the lower Canadians, and furnish them with instructions how to use them. Mr. Lynch, a young man from the Eastern Townships, has devoted some time to prepare his plans, and is ready with any amount of argument and statistics to show the great gain that would accrue if the farmers' wives could be properly instructed. We highly approve of many of Mr. Lynch's suggestions. He has devoted considerable time and money to the object, and as he has not yet succeeded as well as he could wish in Canada, he was about going to the States to try his luck there. He appears a very conscientious and honorable young man, and entirely wrapped up in the business he has in hand.

Fruit as Food.

While there has been considerable progress made in the last few years in the matter of dietetic reforms and a marked improvement at the tables of many of our farmers, there is yet much to learn. One of the greatest faults in this direction, and one which is the cause of very much illness, is the comparatively small quantity of fruit they consume. The mistaken idea prevails among many, that in some mysterious way, pork and other meats are productive of physical vigor, strength and ability to withstand fatigue, and that fruits, like confectionery, are to be taken between meals, and not to be counted in the work of sustaining life. This is a terribly erroneous view and one that is responsible for countless cases of consumption, scrofula and kindred diseases. We wish we could prevail on every farmer, in fact upon every person in the land, to make a part of the morning meal on fruit. It would only take a short time to demonstrate its advantages, and thereafter they would need no lectures inculcating such a diet from us. Any kind of fruit is good, and if fresh fruit is not at their disposal, dried, evaporated or canned fruit should take its place. We have known obstinate cases of constipation to yield to a diet only changed so that a dish of baked apples was made a part of each breakfast, and chronic headaches and biliousness are often relieved in a similar way. Scientific men have of late been wonderfully profuse in their praise of fruit as an article of diet, and a trial will convince any one of the wisdom of the plan.

Cattle Breeding in Canada.

We learn that special attention is being paid to the improvement of the breeds of cattle in the Dominion, so as to lay a good foundation for future stock, upon which Great Britain must largely depend for one of its chief supplies of food. During the past year, 751 of the best pedigreed cattle were imported, and also 1,179 pure-bred sheep and a number of choice pigs. The importance of exporting none but first-class animals is strongly impressed upon breeders, so as to ensure for Canadian beef a high price in the European markets. So far the reports of the progress made are described as satisfactory, and by next year, as compared with 1881, it is expected that the number of cattle in the Dominion will be greatly increased, so that the supply for the European markets promises to be most abundant. The number of cattle exported from Canada last year was 45,535, and of sheep 62,401; but this was exceptionally low, and a vast increase may be expected during the current year.—[Liverpool Mercury.]

Sheep give back to the farm more, in proportion to what they take from it, than any other animal.