

SHORT-HORN REGISTRATION.

SIR,—Thanks for publishing my questions on pedigrees. I hardly expected that you would answer them, as I might appropriately have asked the Revisory Committee of the new herd book to decide upon them, but they probably would have been returned marked "Not up to standard." I suppose that I may interpret your silence by the old adage, *i. e.*, it gives consent that they are all imperfect. In your remarks on "Agricultural Expenditure," you say "Fair Play" would not have caused such loss to the farmers by the vacillating management of the herdbook." I asked the question relating to the increased value of each cross from four to six, with a view of ascertaining the pedigree value of all this class that they resolved to exclude from future registration. A friend has kindly furnished me with catalogues of public sales of an eminent breeder for the years 1872, 1873 and 1874, at which a number of this class were sold in connection with others with pedigrees tracing to importations and the price of each animal is marked. In 1872 there were five sold, of from three to four crosses, at an average of \$115; in 1873 ten, at an average of \$163, and in 1874 twenty-two cows and heifers, some with six crosses, that averaged \$183. The lowest price, a four cross, at \$100, and the highest, \$245, for a two-year-old heifer with five crosses. These sales show an increased value in pedigree of \$20 in each cross. At the discussion by the Board of Agriculture it was stated that 4,000 grades were registered in the 5th volume, and 3,200 would be excluded by this rule, leaving 800 with seven crosses. The Board have recorded pedigrees sufficient in number to complete the 6th volume, and we may safely conclude that 4,000 of six crosses and less will be excluded, leaving 1,000 with seven crosses. Now I would ask the breeders of this class of Short-horns if they are going to submit to this exclusion without protesting strongly against it? If I were a breeder of this class to be excluded, I should consider it one of the grossest acts of injustice. The Board have received, as fees for registry, at least two thousand dollars, and the breeders are defrauded of this amount, but it is small in comparison with the pedigree value, which it will destroy. If I am correct in my estimated value of each cross at \$20, it will destroy pedigree value of \$60 on each animal, and on the four thousand it will amount to the sum of \$240,000. Not having experience in breeding Short-horns, I may have placed too high or too low a pedigree value. I will, with pleasure, be corrected by any breeder of this class of Short-horns. No doubt the first Board of Agriculture adopted the system of registering from crosses, as being based on the most intelligent understanding of public policy, they considered the practice of keeping written pedigrees, and their public registration would have a marked influence in stimulating improvement with care and management of stock, and it was obviously important that as large a proportion of breeders as possible should be encouraged to record their pedigrees; but the present board has destroyed their interest and blasted the expectations of this class of breeders. Will the owners of the seven crosses and those that can register in the new H. B. be benefited by compelling those that wish to purchase pedigreed Short-horns to resort to their herds. Above all, will it not be a detriment to the great majority of farmers in Canada, who are at present availing themselves of this class of animals to feed for the British market. It is very evident that the present Board of Agriculture does not possess the capacity to deal with the important agricultural interest entrusted to them, for some of the cities will not allow them to hold their annual exhibition in them, and the most eminent of Short-horn breeders have withdrawn their patronage from their Herd Book. I would suggest that the Board reconsider their proceedings at the last meeting, and publish the fifth and sixth volumes by registering all animals that the owners have paid fees for. If they then consider that their dignity will be affected by keeping a registry for imperfect pedigrees, let them give up the registry to Short-horn breeders to manage as they deem best for their interest. From the proceedings that have taken place by those Short-horn breeders that considered that their interest is damaged by associating their herds with a class of grades and imperfect pedigrees, it has become impossible to register in Canada without two herd books. This difficulty must be dealt with by breeders themselves. Short-horn breeders will expect the Revisory Committee of the new herd book to give a pure, reliable and accurate registry. Let there be

no seventeen importations; none ending in the American woods; none where three of the cows have dropped into darkness and a convenient imported pedigree attached; none with a stigma of an asterisk, and continued to the third or fourth generation; no Canada grades even if they have seven crosses. Let them take for their motto, "Hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may." See to it that every animal they register has its ancestors registered in the English herd book—the home of the Short-horns. Then if a farmer wishes to engage in breeding pure Short-horns, and is unacquainted with pedigrees, he may rely upon the book. MEOHI, Falkland, Ont.

HOW TO RAISE POTATOES.

SIR—Having been asked by your agent to contribute an article on raising potatoes, I will do so in as few words as possible. First, have good dry soil; second, good seed of some of the newer varieties, as the older varieties keep running out, then put all the manure you can afford on the land, say fifty loads to the acre; if sod or stubble, plow four inches deep early in May, planting every fourth furrow the sets 12 to 14 inches apart, then harrow thoroughly till the plants are above the ground, then cultivate with horse hoe every week till the tubers are as large as hens' eggs, keep the bugs off by dusting with 100 parts of plaster and one part green thoroughly mixed; pull out all the weeds as they appear, and you will succeed sure. SUBSCRIBER, Oxford.

SIR—I wish that some of your correspondents would tell us how best to raise calves without new milk. I see in the January ADVOCATE that a prominent member of the Markham Farmers' Club, says he raised a calf and made it fit for the butcher at a large price, on dishwater. Will that gentleman kindly give us the particulars, as, if it can be done, it would be a boon to us who send our milk to the cheese factory. DAIRYMAN, Ingersoll, Ont.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

SIR,—The above is a subject in which I have taken a considerable interest, and I have noticed with pleasure the closeness with which you have been watching the agricultural interests of this country. There is on the part of the U. S. authorities a disposition and tendency to deny the existence of contagious diseases in their country, but in such cases their statements have been shown to be unreliable and untrustworthy. I do not consider anything is gained by concealment or prevarication of the truth, and such a course must result in more damage to the farming interests than the full, accurate announcement of the existence of the disease, and the prompt establishment of measures for its eradication. The *Hamilton Times*, speaking of the importation of cattle for breeding purposes into Canada from the U. S. and the recent order in council relating thereto, says: "Of course the imported stock will be examined by a qualified inspector at the frontier, and every precaution taken to protect the Dominion against the importation of diseased animals." Quoting which, the *Michigan Farmer* in retaliation replies: "In not a single instance can the Canadian authorities point to a diseased animal having been imported from this country into the Provinces. There has never been even a complaint of such a thing. But we know, and know it for an indisputable fact, that in more than one instance breeders in the States have suffered severely from importing breeding animals from that country. We also know that at least one large herd of cattle there is in a diseased condition, and that the only safe thing our breeders can do is to keep entirely away from the Provinces until the disease is rooted out. We can furnish ocular demonstration of the truth of this assertion. What our Government should do is to at once institute quarantine regulations on this side of the line, and protect American breeders from contagious diseases which have already cost this State a good many dollars."

What I would like to know is whether the above statements of the *Michigan Farmer* are correct. I have been informed by reliable parties, though I did not ascertain the particulars, that diseased cattle have been imported into Canada from the United States, and that the cold weather was the effective means in those cases for the prevention of the spread of the diseases. The *Farmer* makes the serious charge that there is at present one large herd in Canada in a diseased condition; will it

please particularize? Who is responsible in Canada for this? If there is disease in Canada as stated, let us have the facts. I am informed through secondary sources that anthrax exists in Nova Scotia. The subject needs, and must have, thorough ventilation; these matters should not be kept in the dark to suit the views and objects of speculators and others interested more in personal gains than in the public agricultural interests. Prof. Law, a member of the U. S. Commission on the cattle plague, says "the area of the disease is confined to the country between Putnam county, N. Y. and the district of Columbia, including New York city, Philadelphia and Baltimore. The disease is sometimes carried west by calves bought in the east, but it is always promptly checked." I would draw attention to the words I have italicized. The Canadian government before passing the order in council permitting the importation of American cattle subject to a ninety days quarantine, were in a somewhat anomalous position, as they permitted English and European cattle to be imported, subject to a ninety days quarantine, while that of American cattle was entirely prohibited; how could this be justified? I do not see the consistency of this former position held by our government, except the means taken for the stamping out of the disease in Britain and Europe are much more effectual than those taken in the United States; one thing, at least, is certain, no denial of the existence of the disease is ever made, as in in the United States, and a district is at once "proclaimed" or "prohibited," and the infected cattle at once killed.

I have jotted down these few notes on the subject with the desire of ascertaining the following points: Have infected cattle been imported into Canada from the United States? Does it, as stated by the *Michigan Farmer*, exist at present? Is it to be found in the Maritime Provinces, in one or another of them? Is not the quantity and quality of high bred stock in Canada at present sufficient to properly supply the demand? Let the subject be thoroughly ventilated. S. J.

SIR,—I have an ox that has a rash; it comes out in a rash and then gets sore. I will be greatly obliged if you will tell me what it is and a cure for it in your next number. H. C., Baker's Settlement, Lunenburg Co.

[Wash the part well with castile soap and warm water, and dress the part every second day with corrosive sublimate, one dram; alcohol, four ounces. This will, be applied with a feather or small brush.]

SIR,—I would like if you would let me know through your paper, what to do for a mare when her milk has left her bag and gone up along her belly; there has been a lump there all summer and she has lost her colt by it. Will she be any more use to raise colts? SUBSCRIBER, Riverbank, Ont.

[Give her a purgative drench once every two weeks; and it would be well to give nitrate of potash in dram doses every night. Have the swelling fomented well every day with hot water, and dress it afterwards with some sharp stimulating liniment.]

SIR,—Please let me know what Orchard Grass is, as I think I have never seen it. T. M. C., Williamston, Carleton Co., N.B.

[In our March number, 1875, we gave a cut and particulars relating to Orchard Grass. It grows well in the shade, should be cut before it is ripe and should be cropped closely. It grows in stools or tussocks and furnishes several crops throughout the season.]

SIR,—I have a horse which is troubled with itching all over; he bites the hair of his ribs and back; there is no sore to be seen; he is worse in winter than in summer; he has had it now two years; he appears well enough. What can I do for him? T. R. M. Bridgenorth, Ont.

[Give a dose of purgative medicine made as follows: Barbadoes aloes, 6 drams; carbonate soda, 2 drams; ginger, 1 dram; water, 1 pint. This you might repeat once every two or three weeks. Give a powder every night of sulphur, 2 drams; nitrate potash, 1 dram; in soft feed. Curry the animal well with a sharp curry comb every day, and apply the following mixture twice a week after a brisk rubbing with a sharp curry comb—carbolic acid, one part; water sixteen parts, to be applied with sponge.]