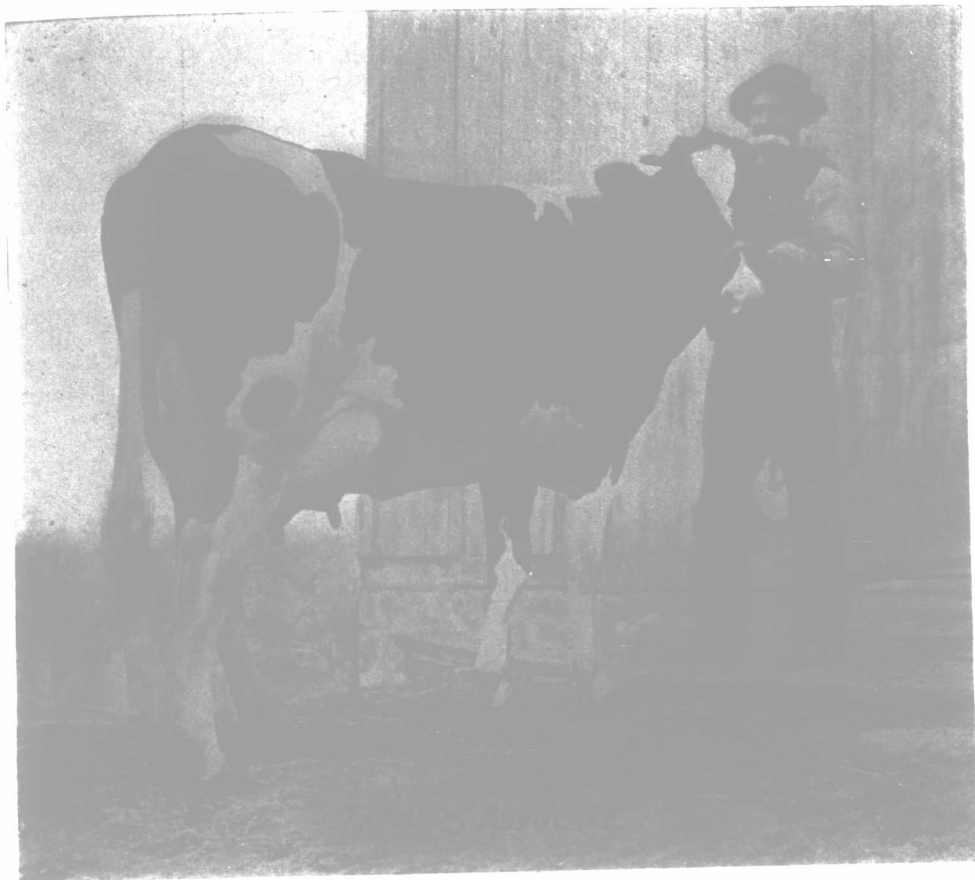




CALAMITY JANE 2ND.

Three-year-old Holstein-Friesian cow.

OWNED BY GEO. RICE, CURRIE'S CROSSING, ONT. (SEE GOSSIP, PAGE 663.)

nish them in steamship cargo lots. Such steers are here now in limited number, and two cents a pound less than Toronto prices is the rule.

As evidence of the urgent need of relief for the Island farmer from unjust discrimination, I submit the actual condition of freight rates for live stock now prevailing.

Taking Kensington, a station on the P. E. Island Railroad, and center of an important cattle district, as the starting place for a car lot of eighteen head of cattle, supposed weight 20,000 lbs., and shipped to the butcher at Halifax, the cost is made on three separate short hauls, no reduced through rate being allowed:

Kensington (P. E. I.) to Charlottetown	39 miles.	\$13.00
Charlottetown to Pictou	41 miles.	27.00
Pictou to Halifax	116 miles.	28.00
	196	\$68.00

Guelph to Halifax, with same load.....1,200 miles..\$70.00

Halifax is the most important Canadian seaport and city on the Atlantic coast. It is a garrison town with great fortifications, is the headquarters for the North Atlantic British Fleet, and requires an enormous quantity of butchers' meat. With such rates, and the absence of every needed facility for transferring stock from train to boat and from boat to Intercolonial cars, both for Halifax at Pictou and at Pointe du Chene for St. John, N. B., another important city, it is not remarkable that stock-feeding for the butcher is at a low ebb. That we have the material to furnish fat stock equal to the best has been proved by shipments of entire steamship cargoes of fat steers to Liverpool, made by Messrs. Blake Bros., Charlottetown, and others by Carvell Bros., each of which were reported as highly satisfactory to the exporter, and also to the feeder. Too much of our oats are sent abroad; its measured bushel frequently weighs thirty-eight and sometimes forty pounds; and both two and six rowed barley produce abundantly. With such resources provided for success, and obstacles in the way of that success removable by Government, is it unreasonable for us to ask the Department of Agriculture to remember that a very considerable proportion of our farmers are not engaged in the dairy business, and never will, and that such deserve consideration as well as the man with the milk cow.

FRED G. BOVVER.

King's County, P. E. I.

Good Agents Wanted.

Farmers or farmers' sons who will undertake to represent the "Farmer's Advocate" at the fairs this fall, and secure new subscriptions, should write us at once for terms, sample copies and outfit. State what fair or fairs, and the dates. It is a pleasure to canvass for a paper that everybody likes. Try it.

I am well pleased with your premium knife: also found the material first-class. My daughter was well pleased with the book, "Flowers, and How to Grow Them." The new subscribers are also well pleased with the "Advocate." Thomasburg, Ont.

A. HARRISON.

Sheep Keeping--Autumn Problems.

BY J. McCATG.

MUTTON-RAISING

There are different ends served in keeping sheep by different shepherds, and corresponding systems of management. Some do not spend much time in caring for sheep stock, do not give any valuable foods and always buy cheap rams. The returns from their business consist generally of a little wool for trading at a low price for blankets at a local mill, a few carcasses of lambs or old ewes for home use and an odd one or two to a local butcher at the time everybody else has surplus stuff, and hence at prices that are low. After this general class, we have special classes of sheepmen, and these are of a higher type. Instead of

having a few lambs to sell in September, when nearly all the lambs of the country might be put on the market, they have an article for the market when prices are good. A lamb is generally worth a half more in June than in August or September. To have it at good killing weight at

of rough food into manure in the pens. Little is done in Ontario in handling yearling wethers. The tendency of demand for meats of all kinds is so favorable to early, tender meats that yearling stuff is generally not worth any more and sometimes not as much as good lambs in summer time, independent of its greater weight. The mutton business in Ontario, then, boils down to spring, fall or winter lamb production. It seems, on the whole, that spring and winter lamb-selling are more profitable than selling in the fall, though each branch depends on the relation of supply and demand for its profit, and it is not to be assumed that any one of these will be always good.

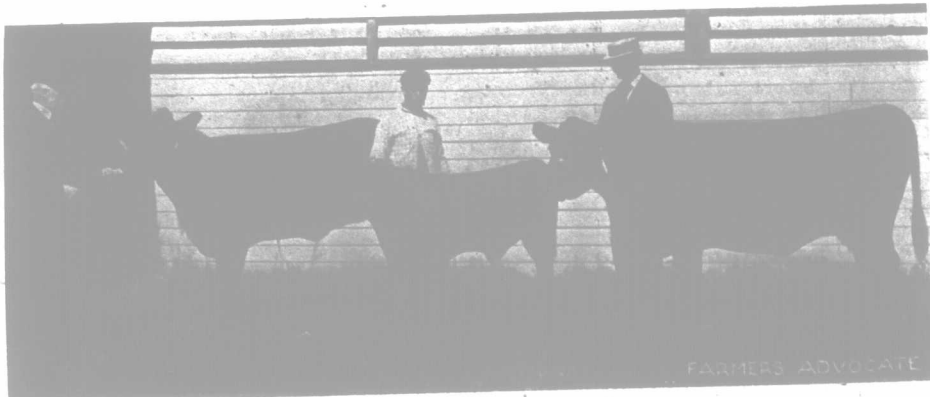
ABOUT WOOL.

Wool in Canada has become an incidental rather than an essential part of the sheep business. Every sheep grows wool, and the improvement of mutton and wool have gone on concurrently even in the English sheep. The improvement of the sheep for mutton has been chiefly in the improvement of blocking qualities—in the putting on of heavy weights in good places; likewise in the improvement of quality by reason of rapid maturity. The improvement in wool can scarcely be called an improvement in quality, for it has become coarser. It has improved in length and strength of staple and in the total weight of fleece. On account of the very low price of Canadian wool, it is better policy to keep the eye chiefly on the fleshing properties of sheep than on the fleece. In a ram, however, a weak fleece may be regarded to some degree as a sign of want of vigor. A ram should show strength in all his externals and form. He is not subject to the burdens in procreation that make ewes light shearers by heavy maternal duties. A ram has every chance to be strong, and it is evidence of an absence of masculinity to be weak in any particular.

THE CULTURE OF BREEDING SHEEP.

A knowledge of good blocking form is valuable and necessary to every sheep-breeder for success. The breeder of pure-bred sheep requires, besides, a knowledge of types and families. Each man conceives an ideal or makes a choice. He has a

fancy, as it is called, for a particular breed. It amounts to more than a fancy, however, as his exercise of choice involves comparison and discrimination among different breeds or families. Knowledge of breeds is made perfect only by comparison, and though a man may be called a Shropshire man or a Cotswold man, it is not to be assumed that he is a narrow man, for the definiteness of the conception of his type depends on his being a



ABERDEEN-ANGUS PRIZEWINNERS

At Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition, 1902.

OWNED BY F. J. COLLYER, WELBYN, ASSA.

this time, more care is necessary in the spring and a little more feed is required for both ewe and lamb, but the profits are higher on the special article. Higher prices still can be commanded at Easter for January and February lambs. The cost of these must necessarily be high, as they are fed entirely on stored foods. This branch of

lamb-raising can best be done with Dorset ewes, as they will take the ram any time. It is a branch of sheep-keeping that is capable of profitable extension around almost any Ontario town. It is a common practice with some farmers to buy up lambs at weaning time when they are plentiful and cheap, run them on rape and grass until fall and then feed for a short time to finish them. It is possible with such stock to wait for a favorable market between December and April, for the stock is always increasing in weight and improving in condition. Their grazing in the fall is a good way of increasing the fertility of the soil, and they convert a great deal

student of breeds. The first qualification of a breeder, then, of pure-bred sheep is the capacity to incorporate and breed to an ideal. It is this property in the owner that gives to his flock of sheep what may be called character or individuality. The first thing noticeable in flocks of pure-breds is that they generally conform to a



FLORA VI.

First-prize two-year-old heifer and champion Shorthorn female at the Royal Show, at Carlisle, 1902.

OWNED BY MR. GEO. HARRISON, GAINFORD HALL, DARLINGTON, ENGLAND.