

## STOCK

*Discussions on live-stock subjects welcomed*

### The Milking-Shorthorn Movement in Britain.

It is none to the credit of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association that it should be so tardily lagging behind in the matter of establishing a Record of Dairy Performance in connection with its herdbook. The English breeders have taken up this matter in earnest, and the following letter, in the Irish Agricultural Gazette, by A. T. Matthews, who writes, if we mistake not, from across the Channel, shows that the Old Country breeders are away ahead of ours in comprehending the economics of milk and beef production. After paying a gracious compliment to the Jersey breed, Mr. Matthews says that the Shorthorn must in the main be the (British) milk-seller's cow, and then proceeds:

"One of the best of recent movements has been, in my view, that which commenced about seven years ago, for the restoration of the Shorthorn to its old pre-eminence as a yielder of milk. The success of the dairy farmer depends on whether his cows are really good at the pail, and during much of last century, Shorthorns, as a breed, were losing ground in this respect. The fault lay, as usual, with the leaders of the Shorthorn interest, i. e., the pedigree breeders, who bred persistently for beef points, the result of which policy was so evident in the loss of milking capacity that farmers became afraid to buy a pedigree bull in case he should ruin the dairy. Yet few will deny the value of purity of descent in a sire, provided that the line of that descent leads directly to whatever characteristic is desired. In other words, the dairy farmer or milk-seller wants his bulls bred, on both sides, from strains of abundant milkers, and the more of these crosses a sire possesses, the more certain he will be to produce profitable dairy cows. A good milking pedigree is just as desirable for the breeder of first-class dairy stock as one which registers descent from animals of symmetrical shape is for the would-be winner of prizes in the show-ring.

"Now, ten years ago there were no such bulls to be had. Show-yard judges had shown such preference for beef points for so many years that the ancient renown of the Shorthorn as a milking breed was becoming only a memory. Happily, the magnitude of the loss thereby incurred was seen before it was too late, and a few well-known breeders agitated the Councils of the 'Royal' and other big societies for special prizes, to be given for pedigree milking Shorthorns. They succeeded in this, and a good deal more. They founded the Dairy Shorthorn Society, which has since given a wonderful impetus to the cultivation of the deep-milking properties. In the very few years which have since passed, a number of owners of valuable pedigree herds have resolutely made an abundant milk yield their chief study, and already a marked success is attending their efforts.

"The consumption of fresh milk in this country, vast as it is, is still rapidly increasing, and likely to do so. There is, therefore, a future for its production worth providing for, and I submit that the best way of doing this is for the dairy farmer to rear his own stock, to use no sires but such as can show a milking ancestry for at least two or three generations on both male and female sides, and to weigh and register every drop of milk given by each cow. In selecting a sire, it is the worst possible form of economy to miss the right animal for the sake of a few pounds, and the proper weeding out of poor milkers can only be done by aid of a well-kept register. Finally, I make bold to say that there is no reason whatever why any farmer's herd should not, in the course of time, be brought up by skillful management, to an average of 800 gallons per annum. There are many pedigree cows on record which have given over 1,000 gallons."

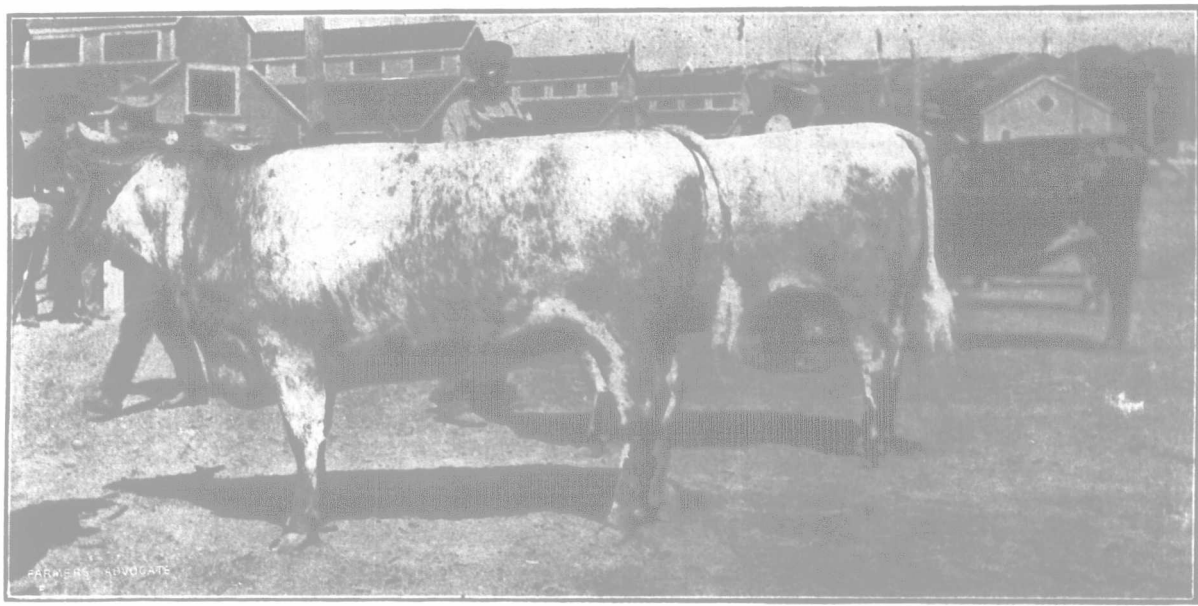
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An English-Australian Company has purchased a tract of land fifty miles square in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico, and will embark at once in the business of growing sheep. Stock will be imported from Australia, and the flocks built up by breeding and inter-breeding with native ewes. Mexican native sheep are small sized animals, poor in quality. The best rams procurable in Australia will be imported. This is the first time any effort has been made to carry on the sheep business in Mexico on anything like scientific basis.

### Urge for a Municipal Stock Market.

A deputation representing the Western Live Stock Shippers' Association, consisting of Glen Campbell, M. P. P., J. Baird, M. P. P., J. H. Houck and G. Hamilton, waited upon the Winnipeg council on July 7th, to discuss the question of establishing a municipal market and stock yards in this city. This organization represents the independent shippers in the West, the ones who suffer most under the present selling system in this market. Messrs. Baird and Campbell speaking on behalf of the deputation explained the situation to the aldermen. The C. P. R. yards do not furnish accommodation required. These yards are operated simply as feeding and transfer yards for the export trade. There were no sales yards in connection with them, and competition among buyers was thus practically eliminated. Cattle could not be held in the yards and fed. They suggested that the city acquire ten or fifteen acres of land, easily accessible to the railroads as a public cattle market. The establishment of such a market would very probably lead to a cheaper meat to consumers in the city, and also better prices to the producers.

It was pointed out that at Toronto and Montreal, markets of this kind were in successful operation. In the former city it was paying a good revenue. An abattoir would be necessary in connection with such yards. At the close of the discussion Mr. Baird and a committee from the council were appointed to interview Wm. Whyte of the C. P. R. at an early date, to look into the question of a suitable site for the proposed market, in the meantime full information will be secured as to the operation of public cattle markets in Toronto and Montreal.



SHORT LEET OF THE TWO YEAR OLD SHORTHORN HEIFER CLASS AT THE DOMINION EXHIBITION, CALGARY.

1st—Roan Beauty ; 2nd—Daisy ; 3rd—Lady Sunshine.

### Dipping the Flock

The external parasites of sheep are not very numerous nor difficult to combat. Most trouble comes to the average flock from ticks and scab, both of which can be very readily kept under control. Ticks are indigenous, but are easily disposed of. On account of their universality, ticks are a great annoyance and a serious menace to the whole sum of one's profits. At this season of the year, the warm weather and clipping causes the ticks to leave the ewes and take up their abode upon the lambs. If there is any considerable number of ticks, they will keep both the ewes and the lambs from thriving. It, therefore, behoves any man desiring to prosper with his sheep to rid them of these pests. This is done best and easiest by dipping.

There are many reliable dips in the market, of which there is none easier, cheaper, pleasanter, or more effective to work with, than the coal-tar dips. It will not pay a man to take time to manufacture his own remedy. A 2-per-cent. solution—i. e., 2 parts of the coal-tar product in 100 parts of water, gives a sufficiently strong mixture. These dips can be obtained from your druggist, or ordered directly from the manufacturer.

If a man has a very few sheep and lambs, he may apply the solution from a tub with a brush, or by pouring from a coffee pot, but this method is not absolutely sure in its results. For a flock of twenty or more sheep, it will pay to obtain or build a dipping tank. Except for very large flocks, a tank measuring 12 feet long, 4 feet deep, and 20 inches wide, is sufficient. Make one end perpendicular and the other end sloping, thus making the bottom but 6 feet long. These tanks may be purchased, or may be built of cement or of wood, and set in the ground. The sloping surface may be cleated, to enable the ani-

mal to walk out of the tank. Leading to the perpendicular end of the vat, have a narrow runway from a small pen. At the other end build an inclined platform large enough to hold a dozen sheep, and arranged that the drippings from the sheep upon it will run back into the tank. A small tank for dipping lambs may be made of matched plank, lined with zinc, and need not be of larger dimensions than 4 feet long by 2 feet 6 inches high, 18 inches wide at bottom, and 2 feet at top.

Fill the tank two-thirds full of the two per cent. solution, having it as hot as you care to keep your arm in continually. It is especially essential for sheep-dipping that the solution be hot. From the enclosed pen at the perpendicular end of the vat, the sheep are driven along the narrow alleyway and jumped into the vat, care being taken to put them below the surface. If one is dipping for ticks, they need not be held in any length of time; if for scab, they must be held in two minutes, and put beneath the surface two or three times, thoroughly soaking the scabs about the head with a brush. The lambs must be put through also. Let the sheep stand on the draining platform until they are crowded, then turn them into their shed. Their damp fleeces will help disinfect the shed.

Weak, thin sheep, if unclipped, often require help in coming from the tank, since the added weight of water in their fleeces makes too heavy a

load for them. Care must be taken with the lambs and smaller sheep that they do not get turned around in the vat and exhaust themselves in trying to get out at the perpendicular end.

A sheep that is heavy in lamb should never be dipped. The rough handling incident to jumping into the vat and climbing out is altogether too likely to cause abortion, and should not be permitted. This indicates that the proper time for dipping is after all have lambed, and preferably after all are clipped.

If there are only a few ticks upon the sheep, one dipping is sufficient; if the ticks are numerous, wait ten days from the first dipping for any eggs to hatch, and dip again. This second dipping will clean the flock.

The sheep should, in the fall, before coming to winter quarters, be run through the vat again or treated by pouring. There is no pest which can be so easily eradicated as the tick, and yet cause so much loss. Let the man who has sheep annihilate these parasites, if he hopes for profit from his labor.

J. A. McLEAN,  
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Between 1903 and 1907, sheep decreased in the United States by 10,724,876 head. The decrease for 1908 is placed at 1,000,000 head. In the same time the wool clip has decreased by 25,812,712 pounds.

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Care should be taken not to overheat cattle in driving them to the cars. Put them in the cars full of feed but with as little water in them as possible. A steer full of water at the beginning of the shipment, is likely to show up badly in the stock yards, as a result of loose bowels. Have the cars well bedded down with hay or sand. Either of these is better than wheat or oat straw. Cattle should arrive at the yards dry behind and ready for a good fill of water.