

## Live Stock.

### A Perfect Sheep.

Mr. W. L. Archer, of Pennsylvania, who is accounted an excellent judge, recently described a perfect sheep as follows to the Washington County Agricultural Society.

1st. Of the form—first, the countenance should indicate docility; the eye of gentle and quiet-like expression; the form of the head broad or wide between the ears, and also between the eyes; the bridge of the nose broad, and wide; the nostrils, with thick lips; the ears large, thick and mellow; the measure should be short from the eye to the muzzle; the neck should be short and thick, carrying the thickness well up to the head; the top of the neck full and rising from the withers to the crown of the head; the withers and back should be in line; the rump or tail drooping but little from the line of the back; the brisket projecting well, heavy and broad enough to spread the shoulders sufficient to admit a large hand between them; the rib should be full rounded; barrel shaped chest; loins short and broad; the hams muscular and heavy; well joined behind and full from the tail down to a line of the belly and brisket; legs should be short, with heavy bone, which will be an index to the bone of the whole animal; the hind legs should present a perpendicular line from the root of the tail to the fetlock; no foot; hook and stifle broad; the foot neat and square under the sheep, and free from trumpet-hoof form.

2nd. Rams when full grown should weigh from 125 to 180 pounds in full fleece. The ewes, when fatted, should average, without wool, 100 pounds.

3rd. Covering.—It is desirable to have a staple three inches long and of uniform length, including the belly, and of sufficient density to form a smooth, even surface, also to prevent the fleeces from parting on the back.

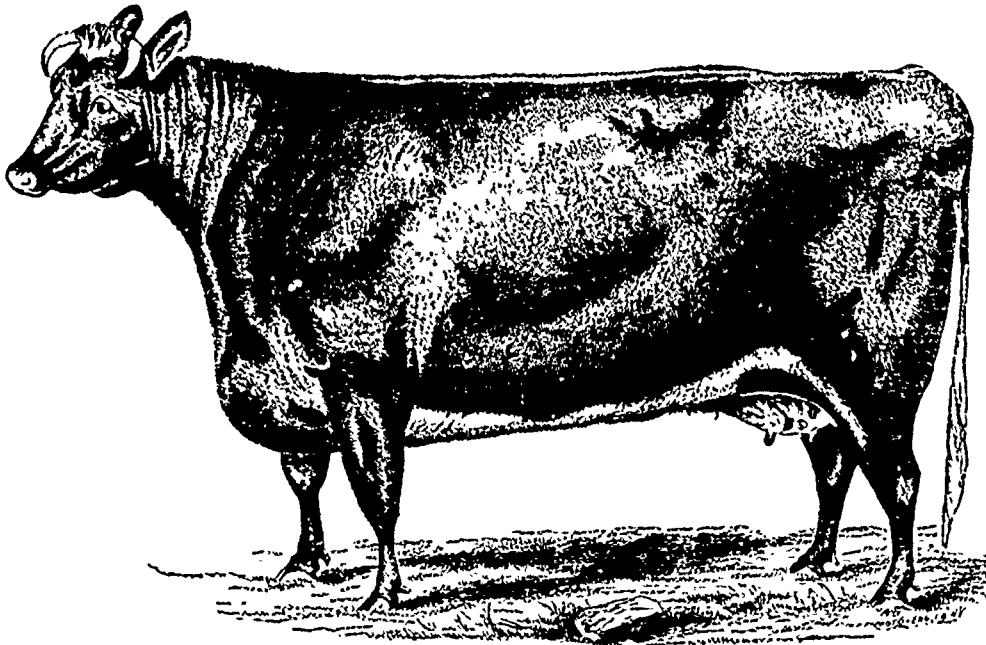
The Committee in announcing this report issue a congratulatory cackle, avowing that the above description is the most wonderful scale of points ever promulgated. To our view scales of points are usually fanciful and of doubtful utility—an attempt to make an exact science of what lies the closest analysis. Fixing the relative value of points is an absurdity. Exceptional excellence in one important point may give the highest value, almost irrespective of minor defects, as men with a decided genius for anything are not judged according to their less exceptional talents. It counts nothing against Dexter, the great trotter, that he has white feet, though thousands of humbler horses are less saleable for this blemish.

In this description of a good sheep, covering is vaunted third in order of importance and character, and texture of wool is made entirely subordinate. For the great majority of sheep the wool is the supremely important point, and their value to the breeder depends almost entirely on its texture, weight and general character. In plain truth, Mr. ARCHER has given a good description of an excellent sheep for some purposes, and for this he deserves credit. To make anything more of this scale of points as a universal standard of value, is only to expose him to undeserved criticism on account of unwise laudations of indiscreet friends.

### Lambs for the U. S. Markets.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER.—It is a well known fact that the main market for the surplus lambs that are raised in Canada, is found in the United States; and the question

arises, which of the different breeds of sheep, that we have in Canada, is best adapted to supply the wants of that market? For my part I have no hesitation in answering that the Leicester comes nearest to perfection in this respect, fulfilling all the requirements that are necessary in a lamb, to supply their wants. The lambs of that breed are noted for their early maturity, that is, their aptitude to lay on fat at any age, and this is a point not only of the greatest importance, but of absolute necessity when we take into consideration the competition they have to withstand in large markets, such as those of Buffalo, Albany, and New York. They are also of good weight; many of them weigh, in the months of October and November, from 100 to 120 pounds live weight, if they have had anything like a fair pasturage during the fall months. And there is still another point in which they are very valuable, that is, that they supply a fine quality of wool for combing purposes. The wool is of good length, uniform texture, and has a fine, silky lustre—qualities which are much sought after by the manufacturers of goods made from the fabric, and, as the most of this class of wool has to be imported into the United States, it is of great importance that Canadian breeders should not only encourage and foster the raising of the Leicester, but also keep the breed up to the high standard it has already attained in the country,



*Mimulus.*

that it may soon compare favorably with those of Great Britain, which is its birthplace, and where it has been held in the highest repute since the days of Bakewell, who first established the breed as a distinct one about the middle of the last century.

A CANADIAN.

N. Dumfries, Ont.

### Short-horn Cow, Mimulus.

The cut on this page represents the Short-horn cow "Mimulus," belonging to Mr. J. Dryden, of Brooklyn, Ont. She was calved Jan. 30th, 1868; got by Champion of England (17526), dam Mistletoe, by Lord Raglan (13244); g. d. Maidstone, by Matadore (11800); g. g. d. Fantassie, by Inkhorn (6091); g. g. g. d., bred by Mr. Renne, of Phantassie, one of the first breeders of his day, but a man who through prejudice or some other cause, would never register his cattle. "Mimulus" received first prizes in 1869 and 1870 at the Royal Northern Exhibition; also in 1874 at the South Ontario Agricultural Society's Show, competing on that occasion with five imported cows. She is from the famous herd of Mr. Cruickshank, Scotland.

A CALIFORNIA MAN recently lost 100 head of sheep in one night from the flock being turned into a wheat field where they ate so much grain that, by its swelling, their stomachs were ruptured.

### Water for Stock in Winter.

We question if there is anything more neglected than the adequate watering of stock in winter. Where wells or cisterns are quite handy, but where the water has to be supplied by means of pumps and pails, how often is the work hurried through carelessly before the animals are nearly satisfied? And how much worse is the case, when the nearest stream is half a mile or a mile away from the farm buildings, and the stock has to be driven to it in a drove once or twice a day? They may not all be thirsty at the time of watering, and of course in such case they will not all drink. Are they therefore to be punished by a ten hours' deprivation till next watering time? The necessity for an ample supply of water is even more apparent in winter than in summer, for the food is mostly dry fodder during the cold weather. A writer to the New York Sun treats this question pertinently when he says drinking places should be made easily accessible, so that the animals should not be obliged to wade through mud and ice in order to reach them, thereby getting their feet and legs wet and covered with filth to be carried back into the yards or stables. Animals will frequently suffer thirst rather than wade through a mud hole to get water. Then again, the water should be pure and sweet,

or it will be rejected until the animal is forced by thirst to drink it. Cows, in particular, sometimes have strange fancies in regard to water, often preferring that from a stagnant pool to the purest and sweetest spring. But as a rule water from a well, spring, or cistern is better for stock in winter than from an open pond or running stream which is frozen over during frosty weather. The water in the latter is usually too cold either to suit their taste or to be healthful. No rule can be laid down to meet the circumstances in regard to the amount to be given or the number of times animals should be watered per day or week in winter, but we can safely say that each animal will, if permitted, settle this question for itself.

In regard to watering he sees a celebrated author sums up the question in the following words: "It rests only to say, that water, although

it should never be given to a horse in large quantities shortly before being put to work; or at all on his coming off work, while hot; still less while jaded or exhausted—should ordinarily be furnished him often and in abundance. Not so much in large draughts at a time, which improperly distends the stomach, as in small quantities, at frequently recurring intervals." If a farmer depends upon hired labor to care for his stock, he must be ever on the alert to prevent neglect, unless the laborers are of a more faithful kind than is usually obtained in this country.

The horses may have been hard at work during the day, and when brought in at night they would be hastily unharnessed, and left with snow and mud hanging to their legs and feet; no blankets being put on in the coldest weather, although the stables were little better than open sheds. To complete the neglect, hay would be tossed into the rack, and oats into the trough before them, and then the farmer goes to the house and forgets that the horses have had no water since morning. Perhaps this latter requisite to health and comfort is offered before the animal is half through with his meal, and if he refuses to drink under such circumstances, it is taken as a proof that he is not thirsty; hence no more is offered him until the next day. Now, this haste in the care of animals is the cause of many diseases, as well as general unhealthiness, shown in a staring coat, loss of spirits and health. An animal may be given plenty of good and rich food, and still remain poor: all the result of bad management in other matters which are quite as important.