

A Day at Maple Shade.

April sunshine had just swept away the snows from the broad, rolling fields of "Maple Shade," bringing into view the new "clover catch," and the refreshing greenness of as fine an area of winter wheat as the writer has seen anywhere this season. Approaching the farm (which embraces 416 acres) from Myrtle Station on the C.P.R. at the north, one passes first, two fine bits of bush, which are being conserved in a way that commends itself to more general practice. The cattle and other stock are fenced out, allowing a new generation of trees to grow up to replace their primeval ancestors, and for transplanting. The name of this great stock farm suggests what the visitors will find, fine skirting rows of maples, set out long before Hon. John Dryden, the owner, became Minister of Agriculture for a Province, the farms and live stock of which constitute its peculiar glory. To have been the controlling genius of such a farm—on the original nucleus of which he was born—with its herds and flocks, fields and gardens, was to have become possessed of an endowment the outworkings of which have left their impress for good directly on the agriculture of his own Province and indirectly upon other Provinces and States. One could want no better example of sound political sagacity—to give it no better name—than the calling of the farmer and breeder of Maple Shade to take charge of the Provincial Portfolio of Agriculture. To drop in upon a farm just when the winter's snows were disappearing is a severe test—for if it has any worst side it will then be seen—but Maple Shade is equal to the ordeal, and is a rare sight indeed when the trees are in full foliage and the grain waving. Well-watered and fertile, this farm, which is located quite near Brooklin station on the G.T.R., about 30 miles east of Toronto, in Ontario County, is peculiarly well adapted to stock rearing, but its high-class cereals in the days of high prices for grain brought large direct revenues. It produces great roots and corn as well, a silo having been in use for five or six years past, giving excellent satisfaction in sheep as well as cattle feeding.

Speaking of sheep brings back to mind the Maple Shade Shropshires, which Mr. Dryden has been breeding for some fourteen years. A foundation selected from several of the first flocks of England, supplemented by occasional importations. Setting out with a useful ideal, a type has been fixed of good constitutioned sheep that will weigh well and are not too fine. A "snap shot" at a bunch of ram lambs



A TYPICAL TRIO OF SHROPSHIRE LAMBS, AT "MAPLE SHADE," THE HOME OF HON. JOHN DRYDEN.

early last fall, and reproduced herewith, will give perhaps a better idea of their style than words. Some 35 breeding ewes are kept, and this spring's crop of lambs were strong, growthy, and very uniform, being from a ram of Maple Shade breeding.

But we must hasten from the sheep pens. The average visitor will probably find in the herd of some three score and ten Shorthorns his chief object of study and admiration. As *Farmer's Advocate* readers well know, Scotch blood predominates, as with the sheep, so here again the outstanding impression that one gets after a careful survey of this herd is *uniformity* both in conformation and color, then vigor, size with quality, and that elusive but, moreover, essential thing, if one aspires to Shorthorn aristocracy, called "character." To have wrought out such a combination till it has become a fixity, for it stands out in special evidence among the latest generations, is to have, like Amos Cruickshank, achieved greatness as a breeder. The rows of yearling and two-year-old heifers by Earl of March = 17252 = would delight the eye of any cattle man, the prevailing color being a rich red, after the Earl, who, by the way, was bred by Messrs. Watt, of Salem, Ont., being sired by Bampton Hero, dam English Lady. He is a fine-tempered bull, of many good points, and the youngsters tell of his prepotency. His rising successor is the lusty roan, Revenue = 21053 =, bred by Gaunt, of St. Helen's, Ont., rising three years old, by the Earl of Moray = 16188 =, dam Lady Lovell, by Lord Lovell, by Royal Bampton; so that he has enough of the old type blood not to be too radical a departure from what has been demonstrated good. Before these bulls were Conqueror, Sussex, and Patriot. What an opportunity, we thought, looking over the young females, to select the four-

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Visitors welcome.
Correspondence solicited.

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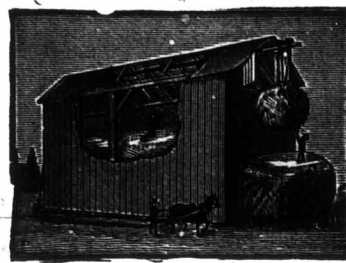
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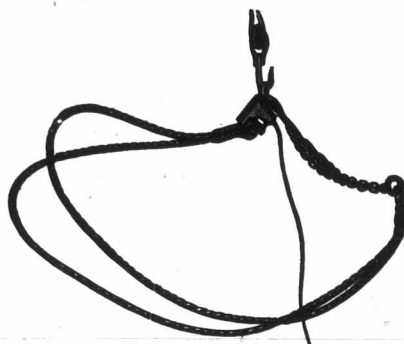
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WATERLOO, BRANTFORD, CANADA, 8

dation for a herd. All the young bulls were
gone save two or three, and if the others were
any better than these, their new owners are
to be congratulated. One at least of the
young bulls left will assuredly make his mark,
his dam being one of the finest dairy Short-
horns to be found in many a days' travel.

If we mistake not, the first Shorthorn bull
on the farm was brought there at the halter
by Mr. Dryden when but a youth. He had
"hanked" for a "Durham," and finally his
father consented, and before the winter was
over the young animal grew right away from
his stall mate, showing plainly that there was
"something in it."

In '85 a single female was purchased from
Hon. Mr. Simpson, of Bowmanville; soon
followed a cow with a heifer calf at foot.
About 1870, attention was specially called to
the Sittytown Shorthorns, a visit there result-
ing in the purchase of Stanley (52304); Mimulus,
a three-year-old cow by Champion of England;
and a yearling heifer, Queen of Beauty. In
1887 a bold stroke was made in securing for
Maple Shade the entire herd—some forty
head—of Mr. E. Cruickshank, nephew of the
late Amos Cruickshank, and whose father,
Anthony, was a partner as well as brother of
the latter. The herd from Letheny was a
valuable addition to the breeding stock of
Canada, putting Maple Shade at once in the
forefront. Space fails us to tell of the Mints,
the Lavenders, the Victorias, and other
matrons, or of all the sires that have held
away, nor of the countless show rings and other
triumphs their progeny have won. What one
sees to-day represents the work of more than
thirty years, and it is an accomplishment upon
which the owner is to be congratulated, for it
demonstrates what a steadfast and intelligent
adherence to a purpose will accomplish.
Despite his multiplying public duties and par-
liamentary life, Mr. Dryden has not let these
things absorb all his thought, for he delights
still to be among the sheep and cattle and
looking over his horses, among which are a
good Clyde or two. Though the demands of
the public service preclude his giving the farm
and its stock as much of his personal attention
as he would desire, it was evident to the
writer that Maple Shade was still his home.

STOCK GOSSIP.

In writing to advertisers, please mention
the *Farmer's Advocate*.

It is said that a new breed of swine called
"belted swine" has been propagated in Mas-
sachusetts. Several years ago Chester White,
Berkshires and Duroc-Jerseys were crossed in
the following proportion: one-half Chester,
three-eighths Berkshire, and one-eighth Duroc-
Jersey. The result is a beautiful specimen of
pigs that bear white belts over the shoulders
and in front of hams, the rest of the body
being a light drab with small black spots.
They are now coming fairly uniform in color.

Mr. Edgar Silcox, Shedden writes:—"My
herd of Jerseys have wintered splendidly, and
I have plenty of feed to the good. I have pur-
chased from Mr. McIntyre, Lawrence, a grand-
daughter and great-granddaughter of Massena
(Mrs. E. M. Jones' great Jersey cow), and two
daughters of Rustler of St. Lambert stock
from George Smith & Son, Grimsby, and
three daughters of Ida's Romeo (bred by Mrs.
E. M. Jones), also two daughters of St. Lam-
bert of Coronators (bred by Capt. Ralph, Mark-
ham). I sold to George Smith & Son, Grimsby,
a cow, Rose of Oak Grove; she is hard to beat
in the show ring. I received a long price for
her."

A GOOD WORD FOR THE DORSET-HORNS.

SIR.—My experience in sheep breeding in
this country has been remarkably satisfactory.
I have at the present time four hundred sheep
at home; two hundred of these I am breeding,
the rest feeding for mutton. Have also a
number out on shares, some of which paid very
well; with others, it did not pay, as they were
not properly cared for. I have in my flock
pure-bred Dorset-Horns, Shropshires, Cot-
swolds, and Lincolns; also crosses of the above
breeds, as well as Southdown crosses, and find
the closer the wool, the better the sheep will
do in this country. Sheep will not do well in
inclosures, and the storms are too severe on
open-wooled sheep. I have sixteen pure-bred
Dorsets. They fare alike with the rest, and
they are all in better condition than the others,
owing to their heavy, close fleeces. Have fed
my breeding ewes on hay and sheaf oats this
past winter, and am very much pleased with
the result. I think it is the best and also the
cheapest way of feeding which I have yet
tried, and the lambs are coming bigger and
stronger this year than they have ever done
before. The Dorsets breed twice a year. Some
people thought this would be no advantage in
Manitoba, owing to the long, cold winters, but
I find that my second crop of lambs do equally
as well as the first.

Emerson, Man.

Tuberculosis in the Milk.

The Iowa State Veterinary Department has
conducted an exhaustive series of experiments
to determine whether tuberculosis in cattle is
hereditary. They conclude it is not. Calves
from cows affected with tuberculosis when
fed milk from healthy cows become healthy,
and calves from healthy cows fed on milk
from diseased ones contract the disease. It is
determined that the disease is transmitted
only by the milk, and that it can also be trans-
mitted to persons as well as cattle if the dis-
eased milk is used. The experiments have been
made at the State Agricultural College, and
have extended over a long time.

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