

Zealand, and the United States, rests upon a solid foundation of substantial merit. Those who by practical experience have become convinced of the great value of the Aberdeen-Angus breed of cattle, hold to them with a pertinacity born of positive knowledge, and defection from the ranks of Angus breeders is extremely rare. The National Association of America has just issued its third volume of the Herd Book in a very complete and attractive form. The quality and size of this book is a very emphatic indication of the prosperity of the breed in this its adopted home.

For THE CANADIAN LIVE STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL

Southdown Sheep.

For its mutton qualities the Southdown excels all other sheep. It has long been held in the highest esteem, and by its standard as a mutton sheep are weighed the merits in this direction of every new aspirant to public favor. A near approach to the Southdown in the quality of mutton is considered high praise in any other breed of sheep. Some writers have suggested that this unsurpassed excellence of the Southdown for mutton has been reached at the sacrifice of the wool producing capacity. However, we find the well-bred Southdown of to-day not unfrequently producing fleeces from 10 to 13 pounds; and good-sized fleeces are known to average fleeces of eight to nine pounds each. The wool, besides being abundant, is of medium fineness, and finds a ready sale. The fibre of the Southdown wool is the strongest wool-fibre known, and in certain other desirable qualities the Southdowns have no superiors; as, for example, their hardiness, their docility, their early maturity, and in the fact of the ewes being prolific and careful mothers.

Not the least among the causes of their great popularity is the commanding beauty of their form: no other breed of sheep can approach them in this regard. I do not claim that the Southdown is suited to every locality within the bounds of civilization; but they will adapt themselves to a wider range and greater diversity of soil and climate than any other breed of sheep.

There is a growing demand for good mutton in this country. The leading American breeders use Southdown blood on their flocks to a greater extent than ever before, and doubtless the taste for good mutton will greatly increase as our markets become better supplied with mutton of the highest quality. In parts of the country where an open range can no longer be had for sheep, the Southdowns are rapidly growing in favor, and with proper care and skill, a well-selected flock of Southdowns can be made to pay 100 per cent. of their cost. Every year they will clear your fields of weeds and rubbish, and will enrich your soil.

But they will not thrive upon this alone. To relish this rough herbage, the sheep must be fed liberally upon supplementary food, such as bran-meal, or a pint a day per head of oil-cake, meal, and bran, or other grain food. With this alloy, the sheep's foot will take on a golden tinge, and will edge with gold the farmer's pocket, by making his poor lands rich, giving him at the same time a lamb or two and a fleece of wool every year. With sheep, if we do not feed them with materials needed to make fat for themselves, and rich manure for us, they will be unprofitable, and this is the truth about it.

JAMES ELLARS.

For THE CANADIAN LIVE STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL

Sheep in Canada.

By D. McCRAE.

Sheep breeding with us has not received the attention it deserves. We have one of the healthiest climates in the world for the breeding and feeding of sheep, and an immunity from disease that has only to be mentioned to excite the envy of the British shepherd. We have, however, during the winter months, to provide house-room and fodder for the flock, and this undoubtedly is the great reason why our flocks are so small. Few farmers keep more than a score of breeding ewes, many have less than ten, though that is a common number, and a great many farmers have

none at all. There are no large flocks and no shepherd. It is not likely that the system at present pursued will be much changed, but we wish to point out to those not keeping sheep that they are a desirable addition to the live stock of the farm, and to those keeping but a few, that there is room for a much larger number, and if well kept, that they will be found to be fairly profitable. In the summer a few sheep will pick up a lot of odd pasture about lanes and fence corners that would otherwise be wasted. They need little care or attention except to see that they have a change of run now and then, that they have access to water, and that the burs are carefully cut in all the fields where they go. They will stay out longer than cattle in the fall, and when brought into winter quarters can be put up in much less expensive buildings than other live stock. They should have a yard where they can run by themselves, and to which neither cattle, horses, nor pigs should have access. The ewes will require close and careful attention at lambing time, and extra food till the grass comes, unless the owner has them late enough to lamb on the grass. Early lambs are considered more desirable and bring better prices. Then comes the washing and shearing. The price of wool has for many years been very low as compared with the very high prices obtained during the American war. For the past few years the price for ordinary long wool has been from 18c. to 20c. to the grower for washed, and from 11c. to 12½c. for unwashed wool. This year, in some cases, a shade more has been paid, and thanks to the McKinley Bill, the buyers have sold quicker and made more money than for years past. This was caused by the rush to get it into the States before the additional 2c. duty. How will this operate next year? Probably slightly against the wool-grower. The bulk of the Ontario clip is still long combing wool, and while more of this is used by the home trade than was consumed ten years ago (by the new use, to which long combing wool is being put), yet the great bulk of it has to be exported and can not be used profitably by the Canadian manufacturer. Of late years many Down crosses have been tried and a greater quantity of short wool grown. This is all used in the country, but the difference in price paid to the grower has seldom been enough to make up the lighter weights of the fleeces. Pure Southdown has freely sold at 25c. the past year, and the coarser Down grades at from 22c. to 23c. This will likely be maintained, as English wools can not be laid down for less money. The price of wool is kept down by the enormous quantities now brought from Australia, New Zealand, the Cape, and South America. Large quantities from Australia and New Zealand being quite as long in the staple and much finer than Canada fleeces. While the amount may not be large, the money coming from the clip is always welcome to the farmer. Next come the lambs. Early bred lambs find good prices in our cities. The price of lambs has been going up gradually and steadily. Early good ones bring from \$3.50 to \$4.50 during the season, from local butchers. The bulk of our surplus lambs have, for many years, gone to the States, mostly by way of Buffalo. The returns for last year, as given to the customs, averaged \$3 per head. This seems to be rather under the mark. Farmers who buy up lambs during the early fall and winter, and keep them till Christmas, make much more than this price. The McKinley Bill does not bear heavily on this trade. Some shippers claim it is more favorable than formerly. Under it sheep are \$1.50 per head, and lambs 75c., instead of 20c. on the value as formerly charged. There will therefore be an increased demand next year for good shipping lambs to the States. The British market has also been tried with lambs and with success. Our export sheep to Britain last year were valued at \$6.50 per head. With such prospects for mutton, farmers should therefore keep more and better sheep. For the British market, quality is needed to bring the best price. The same is true in regard to the lamb market in the States. Keep sheep. Keep good sheep. They pay better than wheat or barley.

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WM. ELLIOT, Ethel P. O., Ont., writes:—"I could not get along without THE LIVE STOCK JOURNAL. It is the best paper I ever had, and I would like to see more of them come to our Post Office."

For THE CANADIAN LIVE STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL

English Shorthorns on Native Pastures.

A Visit to the Farm of HUGH AYLMER, Esq., West Dereham Abbey, Stokeferry, Norfolk, England.

It takes a little over three hours on the Great Eastern railway to reach the splendid farm of 1,500 acres owned by this gentleman in the county of Norfolk. This part of Norfolk is known as the "Fen" country, as it is very flat, and at one time must have been very wet. It is now well drained by large ditches, from which the water is pumped to a higher level by old-fashioned windmills, resembling very much the one charged on by "Don Quixote." I thought at first they were for grinding grain, but found out on enquiry they were for draining purposes. They add not a little to the picturesqueness of this very rich country. Mr. Aylmer's residence is close by the ruins of an Abbey, of which a part of the walls, some of the moat and an old road to reach the grounds of the Abbey are plainly to be seen. The old monks certainly had an eye for good land, as it is one of the richest and best cultivated farms I ever saw, — not park land, but rich arable soil fit for any crop, with the grass in each pasture field affording a view never to be forgotten. The estate is divided up into several farms, each under the care of a foreman, but is all farmed by the active and energetic Mr. Hugh Aylmer, so well known to live stock circles in England and Scotland. I was met at the station and driven to the residence of Mr. Aylmer, a fine old English house, with beautiful grounds, well kept hedges, a greenhouse with geraniums and suchias twelve or fourteen feet high, trained up against the walls, and the general appearance of wealth, comfort, and good cheer, only to be seen in its completeness in old England. To a Canadian the want of large barns, such as we have in this country to hold the grain, seems strange, and the buildings for holding the cattle are all so low, still they are substantial, and in a great many instances they have been built for hundreds of years. The old ones are covered with red tiles, the later ones with slate, and now corrugated iron, and the steddings paved with cobble and other stones.

After lunch Mr. Aylmer and his secretary took me out to see the cattle. He owns about 160 head of Shorthorns, 800 head of Cotswold sheep, and several Berkshire pigs. These are divided up on the several farms, so it necessitated being driven from one farm to the other. The Shorthorn females are all out on the pastures, about twenty in a field, and I say without hesitation, that in all my life I never saw such a fine group of grand, lengthy, blocky, and exceedingly uniform animals — no small or stunted looking ones, but all built on a generous pattern, the roan color predominating, some reds, and a few white ones, this being of no detriment in England. They had just as fine points and lines as the best Aberdeen Shorthorns, and were on a much larger pattern and rank highly as milkers, nursing as they do their own calves and living on their own pastures, both in summer and winter. Mr. Aylmer's Shorthorns are of a thoroughly Booth character, the best bulls procurable from Warlabey having been selected for the last twenty-five years from that herd. These, together with the herd bulls bred on the farm, have been used. Also Mr. Aylmer has from time to time purchased the finest Booth cows when first-class herds have been sold. The herd consists of eight tribes. The Bliss and Fames from Warlabey, the Chalks from Killeby, the Ribys from Mr. Booth's Anna, the Flowers and Goldens from Aylesby, the Maids from Yorkshire, and the Angus Strawberries from Storrs in Northumberland. As far as possible Mr. Aylmer keeps the different tribes of cows in pastures by themselves, and it is a treat to see them, such frames and such beefing and milking qualities, with not a bad one in the lot, and how he manages to keep them out is his own secret, which no one can unravel.

After seeing the cows I was shown the bulls and heifers. I then found out the reason why so few are brought to Canada, it is the high prices that Mr. Aylmer gets for them. Can you imagine a Canadian farmer paying 200 guineas, or over \$1,000 for a roan two-year-old, the sum paid for Knight of Dereham (57545), out of Killeby Queen 7th, one of the Chalk family? Mr. Aylmer had ten 1889 yearling bulls by Royal Fame left out of a lot of twenty or thirty raised. They