

Salt for Stock.

That stock of all kinds require salt, especially in summer, in order to thrive well, is now pretty generally admitted. We have been in the habit of allowing a regular supply to horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, once a week during the season of grass, and occasionally in the winter season. The best article for the purpose is solid blocks of rock salt, such as were shown last year at the Provincial Exhibition by Mr. Hendrie, who imported them from England. But although this article ought to be cheap, it is much dearer than fine salt, owing to there being no demand for it. These blocks of rock salt are so hard that animals cannot chip them with their teeth, and can get just about enough by licking them. They may lie out in the field without much danger of being dissolved by rain, &c. Large flat stones, made slightly hollow form good salting places, so do the sap troughs left in the woods after maple sugar making has been got through with. It is better to have a number of small troughs or rocks of salt scattered about the field than to put all into one place, as this will prevent the animals crowding each other, and the stronger ones from getting the lion's share, often too much at a time. Feed salt to all kinds of stock regularly on the same day of the week, and they will get accustomed to it, and not yearn after it at times, as would be the case when they get it only by chance. It is said that cows that get a regular supply of salt yield good butter, which comes quickly from the cream in churning.

European Cattle, Sheep and Hogs.

In his report of the Universal Exposition at Paris, in 1867, John P. Reynolds, Secretary of the Illinois Agricultural Society, gives the following summary of his observations as to the merits of the different varieties of cattle, sheep and hogs in Europe.

In regard to cattle, he says, "After looking at them with some care, and obtaining what ever reliable information I could in regard to such as we do not know all about here, I feel some confidence in expressing the opinion that, taking everything into account, the Durham has no equal for beef, the Devon for work, or the Ayrshire for quantity of milk: that for quality of milk, the Alderney, Jersey and Brittany are of about equal merit. I am aware that the Hereford contends in some localities with the Durham for beef, and with the Devon for work, but I think maintains a very unequal contest.

"Sheep.—For mutton of fine quality, the English Southdown heads the list wherever known. For mutton and valuable wool, the Leicester (improved) of England, takes the first rank, though, like the pure Southdown, it must have abundant food and proper care. If there be a race of domestic animals indispensable to agriculture on old and partially

exhausted lands, it is sheep. In all judicious efforts to reclaim worn-out soils, some varieties of this race, for their ability to thrive where cattle or hogs would starve, and for the comparatively rich returns they make for the food and care bestowed upon them, are regarded as of the very first importance.

"Hogs.—For everything desirable in this best of all assimilators, the English breeds are confessedly before all others in Europe. Starting with a cross of the Chinese to secure fattening qualities, intelligent selection and subsequent crossing have produced at least one good and distinct variety in almost every shire in England. These have been transported to the continent of Europe as they have been to America, and form the elements of every good race they or we have. The Berkshire, Yorkshire, Suffolk and Middlesex are most esteemed in France."

Short-horn Items.

Colonel J. B. Taylor, of London, Ontario, has lately imported from the herd of James O. Sheldon, Esq., of Geneva, N. Y., the roan bull calf "Proud Duke." By examination of his pedigree, as below, it will be noticed that the five last sires in the pedigree are among the most noted bulls of "Duchess" blood.

"Proud Duke," got by 10th Duke of Thorn dale (5610).

Dam, Penance, by 2nd Grand Duke (12961) [321].

Dam, Peerless, by Grand Duke (10281).

Dam, Peri, by Grand Duke (10284).

Dam, Pink, by 2nd Duke of York (5959).

Dam, Marigold, by Raspberry (4785).

Dam, Bright Eyes, by Sir Richard (5175).

Dam, Queen Bess, by Fleatham (2028).

Dam, —, by Admiral (5).

Dam, —, by Young Denton (961).

Colonel Taylor has also imported from the States the roan cow "2nd Duchess of Portland," got by Duke of Richmond (3886).

Dam, Duchess of Portland, by imported Lord Ducie (13181).

Dam, Alice Maud, by Grand Duke (10281).

Dam, Cicely, by Duke of Northumberland (1940).

Dam, Craggs, by son of 2nd Hubback (2682).

Dam, Craggs, from the herd of Mr. Bates:

And also the roan cow "Duchess of Winfield," got by Duke of Cornwall (3851).

Dam, Duchess of Portland, by imported Lord Ducie, as in the pedigree above.

A writer in the *Mark Lane Express* strongly advocates working bulls. In his own case he uses a bridle, collar, and cart saddle. He says it is remarkable how soon a surly bull may be taught obedience by a man of good common sense, courage and firmness.

The Hamilton Sheep and Sheep-shearing Exhibitions.

These exhibitions, of which the present is the fifth annual one, have always been highly successful, and they are yearly proving of more and more interest to sheep-breeders and wool-growers. Some \$250 were distributed in the various prizes, from \$20 down to \$1.

We were present, and were well pleased to note the interest manifested by the farmers, and the good work done by the shearers. We measured the length of staple in the wool of a cross-bred Lincoln and Cotswold ram on the grounds, and found it to be 15½ inches.

The sweepstakes prizes for rams and lambs, advertised in the bill as per Mr. Nottle's offer in the *CANADA FARMER* of April, did not fill. Probably the amount was put too high.

We would suggest that next year they offer prizes for wool, namely, one for the heaviest fleece in each class of sheep, and a sweepstakes for the fleece of the highest value of weight and quality combined.

The following is the prize list:—

Class 1.—Best aged Leicester ram, Wm. Douglas: 2nd, Walter Allen; 3rd, Joseph Hackney. Best yearling ram, James Main; 2nd, Peter Rogers; 3rd, James McKelvie.

Class 2.—Best Cotswold ram, J. T. Nottle: best yearling do, James Biggar; 2nd, Thos. Blanchard; 3rd, J. T. Nottle.

Class 3.—Best Lincoln ram, J. T. Nottle; 2nd, Peter Grant; best yearling do., J. T. Nottle; 2nd, J. Fothergill; 3rd, J. Alton: best yearling Southdown ram, J. T. Nottle: 2nd, James Main.

Class 5.—Best Merino ram, H. H. Hurl: 2nd, Charles Foster: 3rd, Thomas Shaw.

Class 6.—Sweepstakes, open to all other classes. Best ram of any age or breed, H. Douglas: 2nd, J. T. Nottle: 3rd, Walter Allen; 4th, Jas. Main.

Class 7.—Best fleece, according to value. Walter Allen: 2nd, H. H. Hurl: 3rd, Peter Rogers: 4th, J. T. Nottle.

The judges of the sheep were James Gerrans, of Dunkirk, N.Y.; David Ashbaugh, of Glanford, and Robert Kirkwood, of Hamilton.

Best shearer of sheep of any age, William Hawkins, Middlesex. \$20: 2nd, John Gill. Exeter. \$8; 3rd, Nicholas Ford, Glanford, \$5; 4th, Joseph Rush, Jarvis, \$3; 5th, L. Hancock, \$2.

Best shearer of yearlings, Robert Bowrin, Hamilton: 2nd, James Ford: 3rd, E. Lavis, Hamilton: 4th, John Laing, Seneca.

The judges were Messrs. T. Stock, John Smith, and H. J. Lawry.

The value of Canadian cattle exported into the United States during the first three months of 1869 was \$236,252—nearly double the value of those exported during the same period of 1868.