

the man of less means may well take a lesson and seek to improve his holdings by the introduction of a better class of live stock. We do not advise the man with small or average means to pay extraordinary prices on fancy pure-breds. Start with good grades and as success warrants advance to the pure-breds. A writer in an American contemporary hits the mark when he says:

"Scrub stock is altogether too common. Scrub stuff, no matter whether it be oats, corn, wheat, hogs, cattle or horses, never is profitable. The price of farm products never will be high enough to justify raising such stuff.

"The poor farmer, plodding along year after year with inferior, inbred, scrubby seed or stock which cost more to grow than they bring on the market, never having a thought but hard work, attending to the miserable parasites which are robbing him of his just dues, is to be pitied. For instance, he plants a mixed potato for seed which yields one-third to one-half what almost any other pure seed potato would. He breeds a sow which raises three or four scrawny pigs which cost \$18 each to prepare for market. On account of slow growth and hard feeders they have grown only enough to bring twelve to fifteen on the market. The same is true with milk cows, brood mares, seed oats, wheat or corn. Let us quit this, not only for our own good, but for the good of those who have to buy as well."

It is not practicable to do away with all inferior live stock at once, and never will the scrub be obliterated; but by a judicious process of selection, and by the use of the best sires great improvement is possible in a few years. The good sire is the starting point for such stockmen as the one which made the comment which we quoted in the beginning. The sire exerts an influence on the progeny of all the females with which he is mated and is the beginning point which all breeders should recognize. Let the man who thinks he cannot afford good stock replace a few of his common individuals with the better class and carefully weigh everything in connection with the feed, labor and output and he will not long stick to the statement, "I cannot afford to keep good stock," but will rearrange it to read, "I cannot afford to harbor scrubs."

Handling the Bull.

Dean R. S. Shaw, of the Michigan Agricultural College, according to the Holstein-Friesian Register says: "As a rule the bull hands back to a man on the point of his horns, the exact treatment accorded him at the points of the pitchfork prongs. The club has no place whatever, in the handling of a bull, and the same is also true of boisterous conduct of any kind on the part of the attendant. Quietness and gentle, but firm treatment are essential to the proper training of the bull. Never undertake to make the animal do anything without accomplishing the same. If there should be any question about the result, do not undertake it. The man who is afraid of a bull should not attempt to manage him, as the bull will detect the first evidences of fear and begin to take advantage at once, finally becoming ungovernable. On the other hand, no man should pursue foolhardiness and expose himself to danger unnecessarily."

THE FARM.

Shocking Corn for Silo.

"About 1890 we built a square silo 14x14 and 16 feet high," said R. C. McGowan, of Huron Co., Ont., to "The Farmer's Advocate" last week. "There was no filling outfit around at that time, and we cut the corn into it at first with the box set on top of the silo. The neighbors thought we were foolish. One man remarked that we would have a lot of rotten corn. We understand he was in the barn on many occasions that winter without our knowledge at the time, and ended up by building a silo himself. Others did the same.

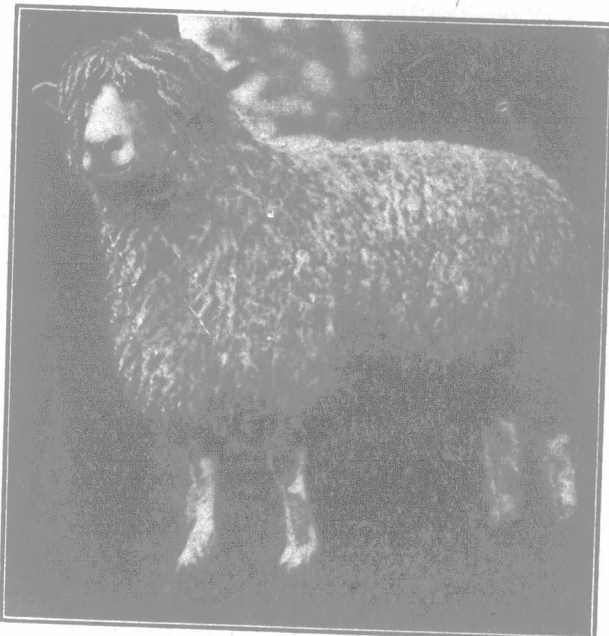
"For some years now we have been growing the White-cap Dent corn with excellent satisfaction, and find it better adapted to our conditions than any other tried beside it, though one of our neighbors swears by the Bailey as we do by the White-cap. With us the Bailey has been quite a bit later than the other.

"The corn this year in our vicinity is only a fair crop, is far from mature, and is ripening unevenly. We expect to cut and shock this year before filling, in order to get rid of the surplus sap. Last year I saw corn juice running away from a silo after filling. We build our shocks by first cording up some sheaves laid in pairs, parallel, but say three feet apart. Two are placed on the ground this way, then two cross-wise above these, and so on up three or four feet high, until sheaves can be stood around these. There being a column of air space in the center, the corn saves well this way, even in wet weather. Sometimes the bottom sheaves may get a little wet, but not very much so as a rule."

Mr. McGowan described in "The Farmer's Advocate" of June 8th, 1911, how he built a 12x30 cement silo very cheaply with homemade wooden curbs, the total cash outlay for cement, gravel, barbed wire and lime being only \$41.61.

Alfalfa and Clover Silage.

Unfavorable weather for making hay led us to try a little experiment this summer at Weldwood with clover and alfalfa silage. We have never advised the ensilage of these two crops when they could be properly cured otherwise, but when one has second-growth alfalfa exposed after cutting to a fortnight of bad weather with drenching rains saturating it day after day, and no prospect of



Cotswold Shearling Ewe.

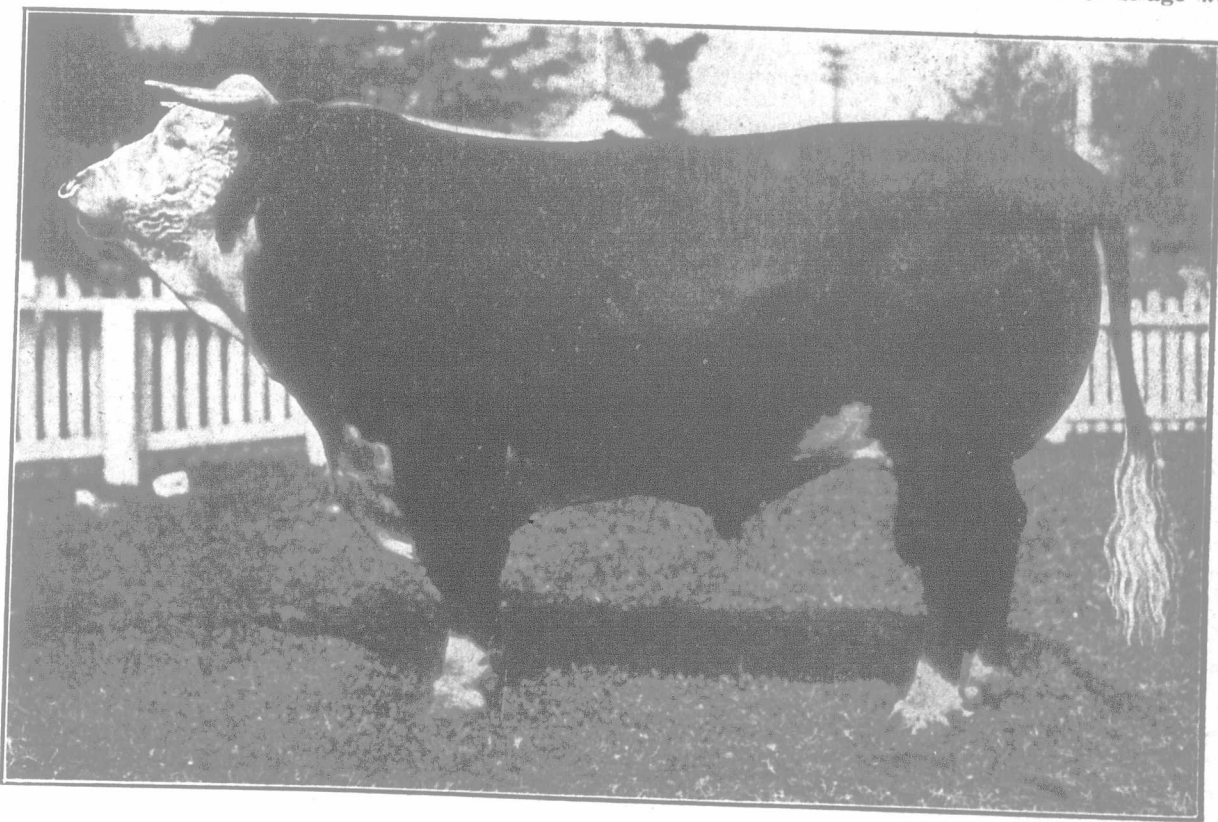
First-prize and champion female of the breed. Owned by John Miller, Jr., Ashburn, Ont.

an abatement of the waters, he begins to look around for some solution. A 14 x 40 cement silo just being emptied at the end of August, suggested to us an experimental solution. We had two acres of second-growth red clover too dirty with bindweed and other plants to leave for seed or even to cure as hay at that stage of maturity. Also there were some four acres or so of second-growth alfalfa which had made quite a crop though it was the poorest portion of the stand. The alfalfa was clean, but the stems were becoming woody, and would soon have been too hard to make good hay even with suitable weather. As oats would press for attention whenever the weather cleared up, we decided to dispose of the clover and alfalfa first, by putting these in the silo. As the silo-filling outfits had not started out, and moreover as we wished to put this stuff in at odd times between showers, we ensiled it without cutting, pitching it through the second silo door. It took three men to unload, one pitching off, one forking into the silo, and

one inside tramping and distributing. Two or three men here would have been better.

The method was very simple. After mowing preferably while wet, the green clover and alfalfa was put together with the side-delivery rake which, by the way, is an excellent implement for raking up such crops when cut daily for silaging purposes. We tried loading with the loader, but the stuff was too heavy and broke one of the slats. After that we pitched by hand, sometimes from bunches and sometimes from the windrow. Altogether we put in four loads of clover and eight loads of alfalfa, the clover being somewhat wetter, as it happened, than most of the alfalfa. The loads, though small, were as heavy as we could draw with a good team over the soft ground, and would have averaged over a ton. The twelve loads filled the fourteen-foot silo to a depth of about eight feet. To mow, rake, haul and store this crop took 40 hours of horse time rated at \$4.00, and 41½ hours of men's time costing, with board, at the wages we pay, \$7.28, or a total of \$11.28, amounting to about 90 cents per ton, more or less. As a matter of fact, the work was done at a time when neither men nor team could have been employed to advantage but for the building operations in progress, and this fact might be considered by others thinking of duplicating the experiment. Feeding was commenced the day after filling. The cattle ate the ensiled alfalfa quite readily for a day or so, then with decidedly less relish for a few days, but afterwards cleaned it up fairly well again, and continued to do so to the end. The alfalfa silage soon turned a light-brown color, and developed some heat irregularly through the silo, being first hot in one place and cool in another and so on, changing about from time to time. The flavor was something like that of alfalfa hay warming up on a load or in a mow. To some persons' nostrils it was not unpleasant, though others found it disagreeable. The cattle seemed to prefer the silage when it was warm. It soon commenced to mould, and the only way to lower it fast enough to prevent this was to feed from the centre, leaving a ring around the outside to waste and be afterwards thrown out. Perhaps half the alfalfa was lost in this way. With a larger stock or smaller silo, no doubt this could be avoided. As we get down to the clover silage, which was more solid, we found we could extend the feeding area and reduce the ring of waste. The clover silage was a much darker brown than the alfalfa, and whether owing to the fact that it was wetter when stored or to the greater length of time before feeding, or to a combination of both reasons, it had a stronger and more acid taint, filling the stable with an undesirable aroma. Strange to say, though the creamery man found little evidence of it in the milk—not so much as from the alfalfa. Of course, neither was fed till after milking.

Results in milk production were unsatisfactory. The flow, which had shrunk several pounds per head when the corn silage was finished, shrank still further when the cows were changed from green alfalfa to alfalfa silage, and refused to come back to any extent until one feed of green corn was substituted for a feed of silage. This may have been partly due to the better balance of the ration, alfalfa being as much out one way as corn is the other. When the clover silage was



Refiner.

Senior and grand champion Hereford bull at Toronto and London; also champion throughout the West this year. Owned by L. O. Clifford, Oshawa, Ont.