

EDITORIAL.

The "little red Scotch Shorthorn" does not appear to be in any immediate danger of losing his grip upon the esteem of the hard-headed British breeder, judging from the results of the great annual sales in Scotland recounted in the Nov. 1st ADVOCATE.

The purchase, during the past two weeks, and shipment of two carloads of young pure-bred bulls in Middlesex Co., Ont., for the improvement of British Columbia stock, as reported in another column, is one of the hopeful signs of the times. As a rule, such buyers do not make their appearance till the early spring.

At a meeting of the Council of the Yorkshire (Eng.) Agricultural Society, Mr. Arthur Egginton drew the attention of the Council to the evils resulting from the over-feeding of stock for show purposes, and suggested that a code of rules should be drawn up for the guidance of the judges. After considerable discussion the suggestion was unanimously adopted.

The remarkable increase in the use of commercial fertilizers is illustrated by the fact that in the U. S. in 1890, the capital invested in their manufacture amounted to \$40,594,168, furnishing employment to 10,000 men. The output of fertilizers was about 1,250,000 tons, valued at \$39,180,884. In 1894 the output nearly reached 2,000,000 tons, while the capital invested increased in a still greater proportion.

If the outlay on capital account for sheep is taken into consideration as compared with other industries; also the relatively small amount of labor which they take; also the cheapness of structure necessary for their house, and then add to these advantages their great value in bringing fertility to the soil, we must conclude that a great many more sheep than are now found in Canada could be profitably kept.

English Live Stock Journal:—"It is reported that the proposed holding of the Dairy Conference of 1897 in Canada has received a large measure of support from the members of the British Dairy Farmers' Association. Indeed, we are informed that the promises of taking part in the excursion across the Atlantic are so numerous that there is a fear that the number of those who desire to be members of the party will become unmanageably large."

The agricultural returns for the Board of Agriculture of Great Britain for the year 1894 give the following statistics as to the live stock of certain of the chief countries of the world:—

| | Horses. | Cattle. | Sheep. | Pigs. |
|-------------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| United Kingdom | 2,079,587 | 11,207,554 | 31,774,824 | 3,278,030 |
| Australia | 1,870,058 | 12,637,252 | 110,159,732 | 1,027,714 |
| Austria-Hungary | 1,548,197 | 8,643,336 | 3,186,787 | 3,549,700 |
| Canada, 1893 | 685,187 | 2,057,882 | 1,935,988 | 1,012,022 |
| Cape of Good Hope | 340,323 | 1,929,800 | 15,124,753 | 228,764 |
| France | 2,767,648 | 12,154,611 | 20,275,716 | 5,860,592 |
| Germany | 3,836,256 | 17,555,694 | 13,589,612 | 12,174,288 |
| Russia in Europe | 19,663,336 | 24,609,264 | 44,463,454 | 9,242,987 |
| United States | 16,081,139 | 53,095,586 | 45,048,617 | 45,206,498 |

Thursday, Nov. 21, is Canada's national Thanksgiving Day, on which special acknowledgment is made of the year's blessings, which include, generally speaking, a very abundant harvest, though some localities suffered from adverse conditions of weather. In the Great Northwest the crops were magnificent. Prof. C. C. James contributes, in another column, an able and interesting article appropriate to the occasion. In no country has the farmer passed through stringent times with as little complaining as in our own Dominion. On Thursday, 21st, the stout-hearted Canadian farmer will demolish his Thanksgiving turkey—to enjoy it in peace and comfort who has a better right?

During 1894 and a portion of the present year, negotiations were carried on through the Imperial authorities with the U. S. Government anent the recognition of Canadian records at the boundary, but nothing satisfactory was the outcome, on the technical ground that because the various recognized pure breeds recorded here had not "originated" in Canada there was no discrimination. It appears that further representations have been made from Ottawa, attention being called to the so-called French-Canadian Jersey or Canadian cow as one originating in Quebec Province. As might be supposed, the U. S. authorities have just replied that they are not satisfied from the evidence submitted as to the breeding standard of these cattle, and no change in their attitude is deemed advisable.

J. A. S. Macmillan's Shropshires.

The very striking illustration upon the title page of this issue has been prepared by our artist from a photograph of a few representative sheep from the large flock of pure-bred Shropshires owned by J. A. S. Macmillan, Brandon, Man. Mr. Macmillan's Shropshires are now becoming so well and favorably known throughout the West that a detail description of the flock would probably be superfluous at this time. Suffice to say that Mr. Macmillan personally selected the foundation flock from such celebrated English breeders as Mrs. Barrs; Mansell; Ingers, and others. And new rams are imported every year for use in the flock. This flock has been well-represented at the leading shows for the past three or four years; and their winnings this year, which included seven 1sts, six 2nds, and three 3rds, at the Winnipeg Industrial; nine 1sts, four 2nds, and four 3rds, at the Territorial Exhibition at Regina, should be ample evidence that the sheep of this flock possess high individual merit as well as good breeding.

Mr. Macmillan reports the past season as a very satisfactory one; the sheep have done well, and sales have been good. Among the larger sales recently made are the following: McIntosh & Co., Calgary, 55 head; Geo. Hope Johnston, Calgary, 40 shearing ewes; the Lethbridge Sheep Co., Irvine, N.-W. T., 15 ram lambs; Count De Soras, Whitewood, 10 ram lambs; and W. H. Upton, Whitewood, 10 ram lambs and 7 two-shear ewes. Two farms are kept: one south of Oak Lake, and the home farm, which is just two miles south of Brandon, where sheds have been erected and a large supply of fodder provided. While quite a bit of hay is put up, the main fodder will be sheaf-oats, cut green—one hundred and seventy-five acres being in oats this year. Thirty acres of oats and tares were tried, and proved a good crop. There were also five acres of turnips on the home farm, which were being stored at the time of our visit; the balance of the 350 acres now under cultivation being in wheat, barley, etc.

Now that an export trade in sheep has been established, there should be a largely increased demand for pure-bred rams; for if profit is to be made out of the business, pure-bred rams must be used; in order to get sheep of good quality.

In swine, no pure-breeds are kept, except for crossing; the Tamworth-Berkshire cross having been tried with very gratifying results.

Mr. Macmillan is a lover of a good horse, and has faith that money can be made in breeding horses of good quality. He is now the owner of seven drivers and two saddlers. His handsome black driving mare, Lady Peri, five years old, got in a good second to the light bay mare shown by Christie & Fares at Brandon summer fair. He also has a three-year-old Dexter-Prince Standard-bred, recently from California, which he thinks promises to develop considerable speed.

Thoughts for the Dairy Farmer.

Dairying, like other branches of farming, is subject to ups and downs, but the stability of the cheese market for a couple of decades past is well worthy of note, and has been a subject of frequent comment. During the past season the price of cheese sagged down considerably, though not as low as summer cheese once dropped, temporarily, a good many years ago, but latterly markets have improved. There has been a strong demand, with good prices, for butter. Canadian creamery butter is now making a place for itself in the British markets. We notice that it is being regularly quoted in provision reports sent out from Liverpool, arrivals meeting with "a ready sale as landed." Canadian cheese retains its place of pre-eminence, but no opportunity or means should be neglected to keep up the march of improvement in order to meet competition. Prices for a time may not have been encouraging, to the new cheese factories and patrons more particularly, but the older ones will not be seriously disturbed. Heretofore those who have pursued dairy farming intelligently and with steadfastness of purpose, have had their reward, as in other specialties, and so it will be in the future. None of us relish a depression in prices, but it is not without good if it compels a closer study of the business, from the selection, breeding and feeding of the cow, right on through every detail of the business, till the finished product is landed in the territory of the consumer.

The Agriculture of Canada -- Thanksgiving Day Reflections.

[By C. C. James, Deputy-Minister of Agriculture for Ontario.]

The wealth of every country is a product to which all classes contribute, or should contribute. If, however, we trace it back to its source, we shall find that four streams contribute to the volume, namely, the product of the farm, the forest, the fisheries, and the mine. The variations in our national wealth and the general condition of our national wealth are controlled largely by these four sources. In Canada, these four great industries give employment to a very large portion of our population. In 1891, out of 1,659,355 workers in all classes, 790,210 were engaged in agriculture, fishing, mining, and lumbering. The relation of the various classes of workers may be stated briefly, thus: Of the total persons having occupations, 47.6 per cent. were engaged in agriculture, mining, fishing, and lumbering; 19.3 per cent. were engaged in manufacturing and mechanical pursuits; 14.9 per cent. in domestic and personal services; 11.2 per cent. in trade and transportation; 3.8 per cent. in professional avocations; and 3.2 per cent. were in the non-productive class. The 790,210, forming nearly one-half of the total workers, were divided into the following classes: Agricultural, 735,207; fishing, 27,079; mining, 15,168; lumbering, 12,756. The annual agricultural productions of Canada amount to about \$500,000,000 in value; the forest products, \$80,000,000; the mineral products, \$20,000,000; and the fisheries products, \$20,000,000. It will thus be seen that the four streams or fountain sources of wealth aggregate \$620,000,000 a year, and that four-fifths of the total volume comes from the farm. No wonder, then, that when agriculture prospers our whole country prospers, and that Thanksgiving Day is postponed until the year's harvests have been gathered and the farmer has balanced his ledger.

The times have been hard, unusually hard, and have weighed excessively upon the farmers of Canada; and yet they have not lost heart. The farmers of Canada come from hardy stock,—the best of the yeomanry of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Germany, in addition to the thrifty French-Canadians, who may be considered almost as being native to the soil. When these nationalities shall have coalesced, the product will be a rural people unexcelled, if not unequalled.

Another cause of hope in Canada's future lies in the fact of our variety of resources. We have coal in abundance in our Maritime Provinces, east and west; iron in every Province except the prairie sections; gold in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia; copper and nickel to supply the world; salt, petroleum, and natural gases. We have cod fisheries on the Atlantic coast, salmon on the Pacific, and our inland lakes and rivers also contribute large quantities of varied kinds. The timber limits of the older Provinces still contribute the larger portion of the legislative revenues, while the enormous forests of British Columbia and Labrador have been only partially explored; and the agriculture of Canada is even more varied. Prince Edward Island, long noted for its sheep and its horses, is making a special effort for recognition as a dairy Province; Nova Scotia grows some of the finest fruit in the world, in the rich and beautiful Annapolis Valley; New Brunswick has, as yet, developed no great specialty, but is making a general advance in methods; Quebec, with abundant hay and rich grasses, holds her high record for Eastern Townships butter; Manitoba grows the best wheat in America; the N. W. Territories are building up a series of magnificent stock ranches in some sections, and in others general farming is developing well; British Columbia will soon have a surplus of fine fruit; as for Ontario, the Central Province, her cheese, her apples and peaches, her barley and peas and oats, her cattle and sheep and horses, all take rank unsurpassed in the world's markets. While we have a variety of resources and a variety of industries, we can also claim a wonderful variety of agricultural products, and in this there is reason for concluding that the continued prosperity of this country is assured.

Now, permit a few words of particular reference to the high quality of our Ontario agricultural products, for the country that can continue in the production of a superior article is sure to hold a high place in the markets of the world. In the matter of live stock there is no other part of North America that has reached such high excellence in the keeping of stock of so many breeds as the Province of Ontario. The Chicago records were most conclusive. Many of the best herds of the United States, especially of cattle and sheep, have been built up upon Ontario stock. Even Great Britain has drawn from our resources. The celebrated Forest Grove herd of the late Col. Moberly was sold on Oct. 23rd. Advertisements of it gave the pedigrees of 21 of the choicest Shorthorns; of these, 8 at least were Ontario stock. Within the past month, Prof. Curtis, of the Experimental Farm, of Iowa, has visited this Province, making extensive purchases of sheep and swine. Further illustrations could be given, but we shall rest content with making reference to the compliment paid to Ontario by The American Sheep-Breeder in a recent issue:—