

"THE CANADIAN BREEDER, referring to this, says that the remarkable cow Mary Anne of St. Lambert was of Canadian breeding, a fact that we had no thought of disputing." And again, "Enough about the breeding, a question that has not been in dispute, and concerning which no doubt has been expressed."

The *Husbandman* carefully omits the paragraph to which we took exception on this point. It reads as follows:—"With delightful complacency THE CANADIAN BREEDER assumes for Canada the glory of producing this remarkable animal." The reader can judge if such a sentence was written with any other intent than that of ridiculing the idea that Canada was entitled to "the glory of producing this remarkable animal."

The famous Holstein cow, Echo, owned by F. C. Stevens, proprietor of the Maplewood stock farm, Attica, N. Y., which gave birth to male triplets March 4, died on the 8th inst. Her owner refused \$25,000 for her, and was offered \$5,000 for a calf, if male. She had the largest milk record in the world.

## Correspondence.

### DOES THE BREEDING OF SHORT-HORNS PAY?

WHITLALE, ONT., MAR., 10TH, 1885.

To the Editor CANADIAN BREEDER:

SIR.—Does the breeding of Shorthorns pay? I do not mean to speak of Shorthorns that cost \$2,000, \$1,000 or \$500, but of that class of plain although pure bred animals costing from \$100 to \$250 each, according to quality. That the price of this latter class rests more upon quality than pedigree is manifestly in their favor, as then the painstaking breeder, can, by careful mating of sire and dam, by constant attention and liberal feeding raise animals of the highest quality.

For the average Ontario farmer who has energy enough to succeed in any other farm work the breeding of Shorthorns is at the present time and likely to be for the next one-hundred years the most profitable of farm occupation. I do not wish to infer that it should be made a speciality, but that a large portion of the farm should be devoted to it. There is nothing falls in so well with mixed farming, and there is no business a farmer can so easily grow into. I know of numbers of cases where large herds have been built up on one or two animals; cases where one or two good breeders have raised for their owners herds valued by thousands of dollars, when the original cost was only as many hundreds, and in the meantime these cattle have by their bull calves brought in a large yearly profit. I would not advise any man to buy a large herd and expect to step at one into a very profitable business, unless he has had long experience, and training in buying, so that he may be able to select good breeders of good families. Commence with one or two cows, go slow and learn if you have had no experience.

What is wanted is size and aptitude to lay on flesh. Our ordinary grade cattle are too small for shipping, and therefore what is needed for crossing is something that will increase the size. Some of the latter importations although good flesh carriers have a tendency to decrease in size. The older Canadian importations are not so finely built but carry large carcasses and are usually good milkers; a point in their favor which tells at once on the calf. Indeed I have a suspicion that these latter cattle though very beautiful are sometimes obliged to find nurses for their calves. Though keeping a nurse cow may pay in individual cases it will not pay the common farmer. He wants a cow that will raise her own calf well and that will be a regular breeder.

The Bates and Princess families have the advantage in their favor of being ordinary good milkers. Though not as families so evenly laid out as some others, they are, I believe, the heaviest and best type of beef cattle in existence, and what is better they impress their qualities upon their stock.

In forming a herd the farmer can now get good cows pure bred for \$100 to \$150. Bulls from these cows will at a year bring from \$75 to \$120 each, *if well taken care of* and the market is almost as sure as the market for wheat. Breeding cows do not need to be highly fed; sufficient to keep them in good condition; plenty of coarse feed, and a smaller quantity of roots and grain.

The sire is of the utmost importance as the improvement of the stock depends largely on him. Get or use a good animal of the best breeding. One that stands well up in front, and carries a masculine head and neck. Of course the point to be aimed at is flesh and milk, therefore we do not want extreme milkers that will give sufficient to make a good calf. The first year is the making of the Shorthorn. If it does not do well the first season it will never do as it should afterwards. Give your calves extra attention from the first and feed well the first winter, it will pay. Breed at about twenty months or sooner if larger than ordinary.

It seems to me that capitalists could make large interest on their money in this business. All they need is a trustworthy manager, accustomed to work and well trained in the business. They should give their manager full charge, and work for money making, not for fancy's sake. The trouble with capitalists when undertaking such work as this is the expending of too much money on appearances. Fancy buildings and painted stalls are of no more use than a plain substantial barn. Neither should the expect to see their cows always in show condition, for in that condition they would not ordinarily pay.

E. W.

THE CANADIAN BREEDER AND AGRICULTURAL REVIEW circulates through the entire Dominion, and has a large and increasing circulation in the United States and Great Britain.

CANADA STOCK FARM,  
Iredell, Texas, Feb. 28, 1885.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN BREEDER.

Your publication comes to hand regularly and I am very much pleased with it, each number having articles in it that we find beneficial to stock men even in this far off country.

One article especially in your number of Feb. 6th, 1885, in "Feeding Oats to Sheep," corresponds exactly with my views. I have been feeding  $\frac{3}{4}$  oats and  $\frac{1}{4}$  cotton seed for the last two years, and have found it a great improvement on the plain cotton seed, which is the usual feed about here.

Wishing you every success with your paper,

Yours,

JOHNSTON BROS.

## BEEF TOO FAT.

H. F. JOHNSON in New York Tribune

It is pretty evident feeders and breeders are beginning to consider the demands of consumers that in first-class butchers' meat there shall be more lean and less fat, or, in other words, a maximum of tallow shall give place to a fair proportion of tender and juicy meat. The consumer who now buys a joint of first-rate ripe beef, mutton, or pork, pays for three pounds of fat and bone to one pound of lean, and the fat being good for little else than soap-grease, the portion available for eating costs him three prices. It is worth our while perhaps to consider the changes which have taken place in the character of butchers' meat within fifty years or so, and how fat has usurped the place of lean.

Then, if when a steak or a joint was bought the butcher ventured to remove a portion of the fat the buyer protested, being desirous of getting as much fat as possible, not only because it was scarce, but more because the fat of those days when cooked could be eaten with a relish. But now the consumer insists that the dealer shall give him as little fat as possible, because he has more of it than he knows what to do with, since when cooked it cannot be eaten. The difference between the quality of the fat of fifty years ago and that of the present consists in this, that formerly fat was largely made up of cell tissues, the result of the then system or manner of feeding a class of animals in which the flesh and muscles were developed in a much larger proportion than the fat and fatty tissues.

Now, the system of feeding having been radically changed on account of the abundance and cheapness of corn, the entire animal has been changed too in its physiological make-up, and has become little more than an animated frame on which to hang a maximum of fat, once a minimum of lean. Take the prize fat steer for example, and note the six or seven inches of pure fat or tallow covering his back and sides; note the champion wether of the same class, with a blanket of four or five inches of suet over his shoulders; and look at the prize fat pig smothered under six or seven inches of lard, and though each may weigh enormously for its age and race, the amount of eatable substance in the dressed carcasses does not much exceed that obtained from an animal in fairly good condition for slaughter, of half the weight.

That is, the aim seems to have been to produce fat only, but with little regard to the increase of lean. And this because it appears to be understood that if an animal is fed high for a long time the result will be out of proportion to all lean. But the fact is some races or