

continued to exist, holding annual Exhibitions, and ploughing matches, which have always been very popular.

In 1869, the keeping of records was resumed, and these show a steady advance, both as to membership and the premium list, which now amount annually to upwards of \$1000. Mr. Gavin I. Walker has been the indefatigable Secretary for over 20 years and has contributed, by the great interest he has taken and the work he has done to bring the society to its present position, popularity, and usefulness.

The roads, in this county, are as a rule, in excellent repair, although, owing to the strong nature of the land in some places, and the sand in others, they must be somewhat difficult to keep so.

St. Andrews was erected into a Parish in 1892 and it was here where the first settlers located, and many of their descendants still occupy honorable positions in the locality. St. Jerusalem d'Argenteuil, or East settlement, is a fine agricultural section, the farmers are prosperous and intelligent.

I was greeted at this place by a very interested audience, accepting with evident pleasure the suggestions as to progressive farming I had the privilege to propose. The crops here, especially the oats, were looking very promising but alas! were being attacked by grasshoppers which threatened to destroy them, but I have since heard that timely heavy rains, together with a parasite which attacked the insects, killing them in great numbers, have done much to avert the dreaded catastrophe.

This season the effects of poor cultivation and the pernicious practice of grazing the meadows in the autumn, are very marked. Where the land has been well tilled crops are good, but where this has not been done they are poor, and where every bit of the aftermath has been eaten off, leaving the roots of the grass without any protection from the frost, or fertilizing material to aid its growth, the results are most disastrous; in some places the hay crop is not worth gathering. The poor cattle will suffer in such cases, because the trouble usually occurs with men who have not forethought enough to plant any supplemental forage crops.

Another circumstance, that proves the necessity of economy as regards manure, is the fact that, where the farm yard was seen with all the dung scraped up and applied to the land, the crops of that farm were good; while, where a heap was left under the barn eaves where the liquid was suffered to run away or undue fermentation to take place, the crops were poor.

When will our farmers be taught the absolute necessity of carefully husbanding the manure.

At Brownsbury, where the first settler Mr. Brown, from England, established himself in 1818, are some well ordered farms and the corresponding prosperity of their owners bear witness to the fact that farming has been, and can yet be, remunerative.

The soil in St. Philippe is heavier and more fertile than the surrounding neighbourhood. The farms are admirably tilled, and the beautiful homestead and the magnificent church testify to the thrift and public spirit of the people. In the Priest's garden are some very healthy looking apple-trees, which prove that the locality is good for them, hence others are being planted; so potent is the power of a good example.

I noticed also, at Mille-Isles, that fruit-trees looked very promising where planted on high land, and in this place I had the pleasure to offer some instruction as to their care as regards the des-

truction of insects, fungi, spraying pruning etc., which seemed to be much appreciated by the owners of orchards.

In a district near Lachute, white sand, very fine and powdery, is continually being blown from its bank, by high winds, entirely destroying many acres of crops, and rendering otherwise valuable land unapt for tillage by covering it, to the depth of many feet. I am not sure whether the Reed, "Arundo arenaria," the mat grass of Great Britain would answer here; it is used there to prevent the sand of the sea beaches, in some parts of the coast, from encroaching upon the land, by planting it so that the roots form a dense mass and thus prevent its removal; but I think the experiment would be well worth trying here upon a small scale, if some seed could be procured.

I noticed that a good many cheese factories are closed, and the farmers are making butter, having come to the conclusion that cheese at the present price does not pay because scarcely any by product remains, they are looking anxiously to the action to be taken as regards cold storage, quick transit, and proper inspection and are turning their attention to the making of the finest quality, whether at home or in the creamery.

I took a special pains to point out to them the advantages of winter dairying; my remarks were well received, and I have reason to hope will be acted upon in many cases.

Respectfully submitted,
your Obedt Sert.

GEO. MOORE.

CROPS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Grain—Hay—Roots—Fruit.

The following particulars of the crops in British Columbia have been recently received by Dr. Saunders director of Experimental Farm from Mr. Thomas A. Sharpe, Superintendent of the Experimental Farm at Agassiz:

The spring opened well with timely rains, which gave the crops an early start, but the cold wet weather and lack of moisture which prevailed from the middle of May until near the middle of June had the effect of stunting the growth. Since the middle of June the weather has been unusually hot, with an almost entire absence of rain, which has hurried the grain crops along and, in some instances, lessened the yield by a premature ripening.

The hay crop was a very fair one. Clover on the Experimental Farm averaged over two tons of cured hay per acre. Fall wheat was well headed and had made a good stand before the hot weather came, and the yield is very fair. Spring wheat and barley are yielding less than the average, but the oats promise well. Harvesting is proceeding rapidly and will be well advanced by the end of the first week in August. Root crops and potatoes are all suffering from the long continued drought, but turnips promise better than other roots and with timely rains may yet give good crops. Pease promise a fair return and Indian corn is doing well.

Owing to the cold, wet weather which prevailed during the blossoming period, strawberries did not set well and the crop was light with a considerable proportion of imperfect berries. Raspberries and blackberries promised a full crop but owing to the prolonged drought the fruit has been small. Red

and white currants were very plentiful and the size was above the average. Black currants have given a light crop and gooseberries have suffered more than usual from mildew.

The bloom on fruit trees was very heavy, but owing to the cold, wet weather which continued throughout the blossoming period, none of the larger fruits set well. The cherry crop has been below the average, although the sample has been good. The crop of apples, pears and plums will be below the average.

On Vancouver Island the crops are said to be better, also on some of the lower valley lands nearer the ocean; but on the ranges in the interior, although the cattle wintered well, the pastures are now poor owing to the long continued drought. At last reports the air was full of smoke, in the Fraser River Valley, from fires, which are still burning in many parts of that district.

The Dairy.

GENERAL PURPOSE COWS.

Judging cows—Digestion—Constitution—Guernseys—Escheteons, &c.—Poor pastures—Summer and winter food—Pease, linseed, &c.

We all think we know a good cow when we see her; but, in spite of our supposed knowledge of the animal, there are very few good judges of cows to be met with, or else we should not see such extraordinary decisions at our cattle-shows. You know that the desirable qualities of cows vary with the uses they are intended to serve. It would be absurd to look for the points of a shorthorn in a Jersey, or the form of a Devon in an Ayrshire. Each has its own peculiar beauties, and the man who breeds the one is often prejudiced against the other. All breeds are good in their way—one for stall-feeding, another for grazing, a third for milk, and, again, a fourth for butter; and of these several kinds, we must each choose for himself the sort best adapted to the land he occupies and the food he has at hand. It by no means follows, however, as we shall show further on, that because we happen to farm inferior land we must be contented with inferior cattle, for a very small outlay for additional food will make our second class pastures equal, nay superior, to the best grass-lands in the province.

Now, in judging of general purpose cattle, what are the principal points to be determined? And, first, of the cow: if her digestive powers are imperfect, she won't be worth a farthing. The signs of good digestion are the same in all animals: a large stomach, broad hips, deep loin, and well-rounded ribs; the brisket should be moderately deep and broad, to afford play to the lungs and heart. But, here, we may note, that, where food is scanty and much ground has to be gone over to find it, the brisket will be narrower than in the reverse case. Thus, for example, the South-Downs on their native hills are much narrower before than the same race fed within hurdles (folds) on the turnips of Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, and the brisket of the Devon on the wild moors of Bodmin is a very different thing to the brisket of the shorthorns of Underley or Compton (1).

A good constitution is indicated by several unmistakable signs: a "kind" head with bright, calm eyes; fine, lustrous hair, and a pliable but not too thick a skin—a very different sort of handling skin to that of the pure shorthorn.

As you will probably want to fatten your cows for the butcher, when they have done their duty in the dairy, you had better not fall too much in love with the "wedge" form. (2) Some of the delicate little Ayrshires to be seen at our shows in the autumn, are perfect models of this style: I do not counsel you to keep this shape in your eye, when you are starting a herd of general purpose dairy cattle. A visit to any good herd of Guernseys will amply repay you for the trouble of a journey, and an hour's study of two or three of the best cows will, if your memory is good, keep you from making mistakes in buying cows for the rest of your life.

The udder—well, if you have an eye for form, your own taste will guide you in this point. It should be square, broad, well up before and behind, not fleshy, and yet not harsh to the feel. The teats should be equi-distant from each other, and of moderate size.

If you intend to sell milk, the colour of the skin of your cow need not trouble you; many perfectly white-skinned cows are marvellous milkers. But as you probably intend to make butter, it is as well to know that a yellow-skinned cow is, almost invariably, a butter-producer.

Look inside her ear, on the point of the shoulder, on the skin covering the bones at each side of the tail-head; and if these points are yellow, or, preferentially, orange-coloured, the cow under examination will seldom turn out unprofitable to the dairy. We have, as have often stated in this journal, our own ideas as to the best style of cow for the general farmer, and we hope to have an opportunity of "showing" what is meant by this before very long. Escheteons, milk-mirrors, and dished faces, we do not bother you about; colours are utterly unworthy of attention—a white shorthorn, in England, fetches as high a price as a red one, if other things are equal; in the States, a white or light-roan is almost unsaleable; and the black Ayrshire in the Rougemont herd was by no means the worst of the lot. The raving madness for whole-coloured Jerseys, with black tongues, and black switches, to the almost total neglect of other more important points, has done inconceivable injury to the breed. Mind, I am speaking to you as to men who look for profit from the herd, not to amateur farmers, whose desire is more for beauty and uniformity of appearance.

But the pedigree of your stock is worthy of deep attention. Don't imagine that this is a fanciful point. The old milking families of shorthorns still retain their pre-eminence, (3) and we strongly recommend you, wherever it is possible, to find out the milking power of the dam and granddam of every cow.

(1) When we say that the brisket of cattle, on poor land with a great expanse to be gone over before sufficient food can be got to fill the belly, will be narrower, we mean that each succeeding generation will decrease in this point, until what may be termed the normal width is reached.

(2) Please recollect that we are speaking of general purpose not of purely dairy-cows.—Ed.

(3) The first "Duchess" gave 18 pounds of butter a week!