

was \$500 and this was given by Lady Grantley for the reserve animal in the class for between two and three-year-old heifers, viz., Leighton Kirklingdon II., shown by the executors of the late Mr. J. Taylor.

On the second day of the old classes of bulls came under the hammer, and some excellent prices were realized—in fact the record for these sales was broken. Previous to this year the sum was \$4250 but on the present occasion \$75,000 was realized for an eighteen months' old bull named Shenley Victor, first prize winner in the class for bulls over 10 and not exceeding 18 months of age. He was bred and exhibited by Mr. C. F. Raphael Shenley, North Barnet, and is by the famous Sir Hector, which was bought for \$1250 and exported to the Argentine. Shenley Victor will also go to that country, being bought for that purpose by Mr. MacLennan, who also gave \$1,500 for Rupert Benedict, a massive roan (the property of Mr. J. W. Barnes) which was given second position in the class for bulls exceeding ten and not exceeding twenty-one months old.

In the class for bulls exceeding thirty months old, Mr. Hudson of Marlow, was placed first with the Baronet, an animal which was secured at \$1,650 by Mr. Casares for exportation for South America.

There was very spirited competition for the bulls in the class over eighteen and not exceeding twenty-one months old. The highest price realized was \$900 paid by Mr. A. Gordon for the third prize animal Cam Ringleader, a roan from Mr. Read's herd.

ITIMS

A large breadth of barley and oats has been first in under conditions that have been all that could be desired.

Wheat is very backward for the time of the year and much of it will have to be re-sown. I do not know whether it is due to the bare frosts or wireworm.

A bite of grass for sheep and cattle is wanted badly. Hay stacks have not appeared at an alarming rate and no hay will be left over for next season.

Lambing ewes have done well where properly looked after. One flock I know of 100 ewes gave 90 doubles.

Pedigree stock breeders have done remarkably well of late as will be gathered from the previous part of this letter. But on the other hand growers for the market have had rather a rough time. Business on this side is by no means too good and money very scarce. Lent too makes a difference to the consumption of provisions. Valtes, however, remain firm.

All vegetation is backward as a result of the cold and long winter, the days are, however, beginning to grow warmer and brighter. A. W. S.

Short Cut Canal

A canal connecting the Hudson and St. Lawrence Rivers is a scheme that is not new and even for small craft has materialized. Realizing the possibilities of this project a number of American capitalists have united to bring this to pass, and are promoting the construction of a large canal from Longueuil, opposite Montreal, on the south side of the St. Lawrence to St. Johns, which is an indispensable factor in the establishment of a navigable waterway that will connect Montreal and New York, via the Richelieu River, Lake Champlain and the Hudson River.

Mr. C. A. W. Smith, representing the American capitalists, was lately in Montreal, engaged in the advancement of the scheme; he expects early developments of an important character as the result of the legislative powers that have been obtained in Canada and the United States.

That Mr. Smith has great faith in the

scheme is shown by his statements. He says: "The ultimate and complete realization of the scheme, would be when Canada builds the Georgian Bay Canal. Then we would have, with the new waterway, a practically baseline running from Montreal to New York. That would cut the United States railway and water routes from the Great Lakes by several days and even now by such a canal, we could haul our wheat from Chicago 30 hours faster than it could be brought by any other water route, or by the Erie Canal and the railway lines that feed it from the West." He further says: "We do not seek to divert Canada's over-sea trade from her own

ports, but we want to bring our own wheat down from Chicago, and we want to bring Canadian wheat to supply the New England States and the State of New York. I have no doubt whatever, that five years from now the United States will not be able to supply wheat enough for the requirements of its population, and we shall have to get our supply from Canada. We have no other intention than to benefit Canada by promoting this project; that a waterway will be a success, I believe to be beyond all question. I believe it will carry 20,000,000 tons of freight a year between Montreal and New York."

"HABITAT."

Spring Pointers and Spring Crops

This is the season when roads are impassable and outside work at a standstill and it is a good time to thoroughly overhaul the machinery and implements. See that the harrow teeth are sharpened, that the cultivator points are ground and the bolts all in place, that the disc is ready and all the double trees, eveners and attachments are in good order. Where rust has made inroads upon ironwork and when wood is beginning to look its age, it is wonderful what a good coat of paint will do in both improving its appearance and in adding to its life. Have the harness carefully gone over, cleaned, oiled and where necessary repaired. The seed grain should all be ready, cleaned and weighed, and placed where the mice cannot do damage. A plan of the farm should have been prepared to facilitate in planning the crop rotation, and then when actual operations commence there is no hesitation as to what is to be done. All these little things done in preparation, so that everything is in readiness, draws the line between a well-managed farm and a poorly-managed one, where the work is always behind.

With everything in readiness we will consider in a general way a few points in the practical operations on a farm, the crops and how to have the soil prepared to obtain the best results. While considering such a diversified subject it will be recognized that different methods apply to different localities and different soils.

THE SOIL.

The farmers, who struggled with heavy clay last fall will be amply repaid for their efforts this spring. Even though the clay was unusually tough last fall it will, after such an amount of frost as we have had this season, be in excellent condition as soon as dry enough to work. Crossing the furrows with the cultivator will in most places be sufficient spring preparation though a stroke of the harrows with the furrows may be advisable. Such a land manure was applied as it was plowed, will make an excellent bed for any of the spring-sown grains but more especially roots.

Where spring plowing is to be done a disc harrow is an invaluable implement. The plowing should first be rolled to compact the furrows, then cross them with the disc, overlapping each row one-half. In this way the ground is disked twice in opposite directions. A good seed bed can now be procured by giving a stroke of the harrows with the furrows to prevent loosening any of the sods. Even where a heavy sod has been plowed down the above treatment is usually sufficient preparation for the procuring of a good seed-bed.

THE CROPS.

This year should mark the beginning of a better era for the Ontario farmer pins his faith to red clover. This crop should be sown with our grain crops even if the latter are to be plowed

in the fall. On heavy clay the clover loosens up the soil and prevents baking; on light sandy soil it adds humus, which is so necessary to a sandy soil and in both cases it is one of the best nitrogen fertilizers that can be procured. So clover improves not only the physical condition of soils but also adds a valuable fertilizer.

In discussing the crops we will first consider barley.

This crop, perhaps because of its being disagreeable to handle, is much neglected. It is one of the earliest sown crops and the quickest to mature. Its place in the rotation should be after a crop that has been manured and the ground must be in fine condition. This is because barley being a quick grower needs to have its plant food in an available condition to favor its rapid maturity. From one and one-half to two bushels are sown variously over the province. For the production of a good quality for brewing purposes it is well to cut when a little soft so that the barley will dry gradually.

The oat crop might be considered the standard grain crop of the stock-raiser. Its home is in the north, so it does well all over Ontario on almost every description of soil. The richer the soil the better the crop but on a rich soil it should be sown thinner than on a poor soil, the quantity to sow varying from five to seven pecks. On a rich damp soil oats are liable to go down so that where such soils have to be contended with a strong-strawed variety is the kind to sow.

Spring wheat and goose wheat can readily be sown on almost any variety of soil, but as all other crops, they should have a good seed-bed. The best results with wheat are obtained when the grain is sown after roots or after a crop that has been manured. Wheat requires to have its material for growth well incorporated in the soil and in an available form so it is useless to think of helping wheat by manuring wheat or after the grain is sown. About two bushels per acre is the usual quantity sown.

ALFALFA.

Every stock-raiser should endeavor this year to sow a field of alfalfa. Don't do as a neighbor did—sow it in the orchard and because its deep roots killed the trees, condemned it as a soil-robber. Choose a good piece of land well drained, near the buildings; prepare the ground as for barley and seed the alfalfa in with one-half bushel of barley per acre at the rate of 20 pounds per acre. When the crop is up and the barley heading out set the mower knife high as possible, mow the whole and take off and feed as green hay or cure and use as cattle feed. Then do not pasture the piece or cut again this season. Next year you will have an excellent piece of soiling crop for the young things which has no equal in the writer's estimation.