

known by the designation of the "cheese king." Mr. McPherson's whole soul is in his business, as every man's ought to be, and must be, who moves his fellows. Both with tongue and pen he is urging the patrons of his factories to bring their cows up to the 5,000 pound per season standard of milk, and to use every possible precaution in saving the fertilizing properties of their farms from every form of waste. He is also soon to back up the wisdom of his theories by actual demonstration on a farm of his own. With a mechanical genius that is a treasure to its possessor, and a blessing to the people when rightly directed, he deliberately invents better ones when existing methods and contrivances do not suit him, and disinterestedly lays them down upon the altar of his country. Unlike the Greeks who banished Demosthenes and raised lofty monuments to his genius when dead, the people of the St. Lawrence counties are showing their appreciation of one of the most wonderful products of the region by bestowing upon him tokens of their good will while yet alive. Mr. McPherson is now president of the Eastern Dairyman's Association, of the dairy association of the county of Huntingdon, and of the Glengarry Farmers' Institute. The Glengarry Institute was held at Lancaster, and it, too, is favored with a live Secretary in Mr. W. J. McNaughton.

We think highly of the county of Huntingdon, and also of that of Glengarry, and we admire the people of both counties from what we saw of them. In Glengarry especially, almost every man of them is well built, and muscular, but we only saw representatives of the frontier townships. Whether it is the oatmeal used that accounts for it we cannot say; we only mention the fact. The St. Lawrence was crossed on the ice. It is six miles wide here, and the country on the immediate Southern border is low and uninviting. The way to Huntingdon passes a hop-yard of 400 acres, undoubtedly the largest one in the Dominion. It occupies the site of an ancient pine forest, which grew upon a soil of light sand, too light to support the ordinary forms of crop vegetation. An enterprising American firm bought the land cheap, and now it is covered with a forest of hop-poles throughout its long length and breadth. A compost is made by the mixing of muck, ashes, lime, etc., and in this way the hops are coaxed into the production of a good growth.

On the right and but a few miles distant rise the Adirondack mountains beyond the Trout river. These are in the State of New York, and the far off homesteads on their sides were inviting in their appearance.

Within a few miles of Huntingdon the country rapidly improves. Beautiful sugar maple groves line the sides and crest of the gentle swells, comfortable homesteads and long lines of highway shades are the order of the day. And here, as elsewhere in Quebec Province, the forest trees, like the inhabitants, are crowding each other. Beneath the snows of Huntingdon we thought we could read a good deal. Loose working soils and open subsoil, with gravel under the sugar maples that grew upon the ridges, and a land of much productiveness, or the trees tell a tale untrue. The ice coating of the forests, like ten thousand looking-glasses, reflected the color of the trees as richer than their wont, and gave even a tint of hope to the buds viewed in the light of spring. It wanted but a ray of sunshine to fill the land with emeralds and crystals such as some people say resemble those that adorn the better land.

Prof. J. W. Robertson, D. M. McPherson II. Bissell (Algonquin), Dr. Baker, Montreal, and others, gave the farmers both of Huntingdon and Glengarry bread and pure grape wine in their addresses, and the meetings were very profitable.

Huntingdon has a large amount of good stock. Amongst those keeping good Clyde horses are A. & J. Bell, Athelstane, Robt. Ness, Howick, and Messrs. Somerville & Stevens, Huntingdon. Shorthorns, D. Brims, Athelstane, and A. Gilmore, Huntingdon. Ayrshires, J. Holdsworth and A. Muir, both of Huntingdon. The only breeders of Shorthorns in the riverward side of Glengarry that we have heard of are R. R. Sangster and R. McLennan, both of Lancaster.

Morrisburg, county Dundas, with its admirable secretary, Mr. Whitney, held its Institute on the 9th Feb., with a moderate attendance. At this meeting Mr. D. Derbyshire, Brockville, gave his fine paper "The girls and boys of the farm," with its underlining of incisive irony in those portions of it where most required; and Mr. P. McIntosh, Cass' Bridge, a good paper on stock raising.

### Do Sheep Deteriorate When Bred Long on the Same Farm?

The opinion is frequently expressed that sheep deteriorate if kept long upon the same farm, and that to keep up the stamina of the flock the foundation will have to be frequently changed.

At a meeting of the Farmers' Institute of South Huron, held at Exeter early in February, some of the speakers declared with a good deal of positiveness that sheep, to do well, must be frequently changed, and they spoke, they said, from that high standpoint, experience. Since that time we have been informed by Mr. Henry Trinder, of Simcoe, Ont., that for *twenty-seven* years he has kept sheep upon his farm without any other change save that of the introduction of a new ram occasionally, and this is only the change that has to be made in all kinds of breeding, and that they are now quite as good and even better than when he commenced with them. Here, then, we have the experience of a man in Norfolk Co. running counter to the experience of men in Middlesex and Huron. What is it, we are led to ask, that makes the difference? Who will answer?

We hope it may not be conclusively established that sheep cannot be efficiently sustained on the same pastures, for this, it seems to us, would so sorely discourage all breeders of first-class sheep, that in absolute despair they would give up the business. When one goes to large expense in importing sheep, and from a very select foundation, he does not expect that they will so deteriorate in a few years, that he will require to sell them off and import a new foundation. Breeding under those circumstances would be absolutely discouraging. Who will come forward and harmonize these experiences so antagonistic?

### Amongst Our Friends.

"Every number of your JOURNAL becomes more valuable to the farmer and stock-raiser than its predecessor. Such enterprise on your part will reap a rich reward, though it may prove to be slow."—John Douglas, Tara, Ont.

"I consider your JOURNAL well worth the money to any farmer or stock-raiser."—J. H. Turner, Bottineau, Dakota.

"Having taken the JOURNAL for the past years, and valuing it as the best stock and agricultural paper printed, we feel it our duty to do all in our power to further its circulation."—Angus Gillanders, Ridgeway, Ont., Augustus Gosnell, Highgate, Ont.

"I am well pleased with your JOURNAL; it should be in every farm house in the Dominion."—Jos. Yuill, Carleton Place, Ont.

"I only wish I could afford the time to look for more subscribers than those sent, as I feel it the duty of every one who has been privileged with reading the JOURNAL to work for it. I feel assured that I am not saying too much when I assert that it is the best journal published in the Dominion."—Jas. Burns, Greenbank, Ont.

### Publication of the Shorthorn Herd Books.

When in Toronto a few days ago, we were favored with a view of the proof sheets of a large portion of the first volume of the Dominion S. H. H. B. It gives evidence of great care in the compilation, and the profuse notes interspersed by the secretary, the materials of which have been gathered at a great expenditure of labor, will be of value in all time. It is a great matter for the Shorthorn interest that an editor has been found so capable, and at the same time so willing to spare no pains in getting necessary information, and better than all so thoroughly *reliable*. This is our own conviction, and we do not hesitate the risk of expressing it here, for *reliability* in a public office where such large risks are at stake is above all price, and the whole public should have the consolation of knowing it when their interests are safe.

The first volume it is confidently hoped will be out in about three months, and others will follow much more rapidly, as the further the stream of research flows downward, the fewer the obstructions in its channel. We have heard some whisperings, bringing to the surface a degree of impatience felt at the delay of the publication of the volumes, but those who utter them have no adequate idea of the enormous amount of research required in their compilation.

For the CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

### In-and-In-Breeding.

BY W. LINTON, AURORA.

(Held over from February.)

History tells us that Mr. Bakewell was the first great improver of our domestic animals, and his greatest achievements were with his Leicester sheep. Although he made a vigorous attempt to improve what were called the Long-horned cattle of his day, his attempts resulted in almost total failure, but his efforts with the cart-horse were somewhat more fortunate, and in his sheep-breeding he made a grand success.

The question naturally arises, how did he do this? He did not run about the country picking up a sheep here and there, and mating them, to produce a flock, trying to improve them by crossing. He selected the best of his own flock, and continued to select the best until they were all related one to another, so that when the rams were used in other flocks, they stamped their own characteristics on the offspring, with a degree of certainty that they could not have done had they been bred in any other way.

It must frequently have been observed that animals sold at shows and at Shorthorn sales, though good in themselves, and it may be descended by several crosses from purely-bred and perhaps well-formed Shorthorns, rarely, in their progeny, meet the expectations of their purchasers. What is the reason of this? and why are the hopes of those persons so often disappointed? If you look into the herd book, and examine the pedigrees of these animals, I think you will almost invariably find in them recent new crosses of animals of different families not related in blood. The progeny of such crosses, when good, I can never consider otherwise than good by accident, for however excellent the parents themselves may have been, it is my conviction that the chance of them producing good animals is in proportion not so much of their own apparent excellence, or the number and qualities of their ancestors of different families, as to the number of recent good crosses they may have had of the same blood or family. It is this continued relationship in blood which gives character to a herd or flock, and fixes its qualities, either good or bad, according to the skill and perseverance of the breeder.