

stocked and worked. Inferior stock will eat just as much as that which will bring the highest price in the market, and yet year after year thousands of farmers in Canada are wasting precious time and valuable feed upon miserable brutes that will not bring reasonable returns for the food that is consumed in the attempt to fatten them, though no account be taken of what they have consumed during an unnecessarily long period of immaturity.

Had our Canadian and American farmers but the courage to look this question of land poverty squarely in the face, we should hear much less about those farms that are not paying more than three or three and a half per cent. on the money invested in them.

### THE FLOCK.

Without attracting a great deal of attention or making any great noise over it, the sheep interest is doing considerable in the way of building up Ontario farming and stock-raising. Every farmer does something in the way of sheep-raising, though comparatively few make the most that can be made of this pursuit. Our average farmers are too apt to satisfied with inferior sheep and results that fall considerably short of what they ought to be. In this, as in other branches of stock-raising, the breeder should always keep in mind that as a rule scrubs eat as much as thoroughbreds without giving anything like the same results. We do not wish it understood that every farmer breeding for mutton and wool should employ only thoroughbred ewes and rams, and that these should necessarily be of the same breed, but the more rapidly the sheep-raiser gets rid of his scrub stock the better. At the outset, for the sake of economy in the initial outlay, a careful selection of ewes from common stock may be allowed, though if a reduction of first cost is not an object, undoubtedly time is saved by using pure-bred ewes as well as a pure-bred ram; the latter is essential in any event. The cross breeds seem to be very popular with the butcher, and like other stock, while undesirable to breed from, they are frequently very superior as to individual merit. The Southdown and other Downs, the Lincolns, Shropshires, and Cotswolds will any of them prove useful for the object desired. Care should be taken, however, that while only the best thoroughbred rams are employed, none but the largest, most symmetrical, and vigorous of the ewes should be kept for breeding purposes.

It has been urged as an objection to sheep-raising by the farmer of limited means that the wool and mutton market fall upon the same time of year, and that for the rest of the time the income from the flock is practically *nil*. On the other hand, however, it should be remembered that the income from wool and mutton comes in at a time when it is more than ordinarily acceptable to the ordinary farmer, because its arrival is so timed as to reach him at just the time when his ordinary sources of income are nearly or wholly unproductive.

### SHEEP IN CATTLE COUNTRIES.

As the cattle ranching interest is rapidly developing in the North-West it is of the greatest importance that care should be taken to guard against those mistakes that have in the past militated so seriously against the cattle interest in other range districts. One of the most dangerous accidents that can befall a great cattle range is the advent of sheep. Any practical farmer can see at a glance that where cattle are expected to make a living off the grass both in winter and in summer it is absolutely necessary that the ground must not be picked bare by sheep. Everybody knows how closely sheep can mow the grass, and how utterly impossible it would be for range cattle to exist where their woolly-coated cousins were allowed to run in large numbers.

At present and for many years to come we shall have plenty of grass and plenty of room for all the cattle, sheep, and horses that can be brought in, but at the same time it might be as well to prescribe limits beyond which sheep should not be allowed to go, as by this means plenty of grass would be preserved for the cattle and horses while the sheep interest would not suffer by being confined to certain limits. There are hundreds of square miles in the North-West that would make admirable sheep ranges which are quite outside the supposed limit of the cattle ranching country, and were these properly stocked there is little doubt that immense fortunes could be speedily made out of regions that are now regarded as comparatively useless.

Regarding the unwisdom of allowing sheep to invade a cattle ranching country the *Evanston (Wyoming) Chieftain* says:—"Cattle ranchers in this vicinity are driven almost to desperation by the encroachments of large herds of sheep. In numerous places the meadow lands which they depend upon for their supply of hay have been ruined by herds of sheep owned by non-residents of our territory. Some means must be devised to protect our settlers, else they will all have to turn Arabs, live in tents, and wander with their herds from one valley to another all over this mountain country, like the 'sheepmen,' and pay taxes nowhere."

### NORMANS.

Dillon Bros., of Normal, Illinois, the largest importers of Normans and Percherons in the United States, have received their first lot this season, consisting of eighteen choice stallions, blacks and dark greys, from three to six years old. They were selected by Mr. J.C. Duncan, and are said to be the best he could procure in France.

### LIVE STOCK SHIPMENTS.

During the week ending June 11th, 1885, the shipments of live stock from Canada to Great Britain amounted to 2,636 head of cattle and 3,787 sheep. Among the principal shippers of the above were Thompson & Flannigan, Crawford & Co., P. Bonner, and other Toronto shippers.

## Correspondence.

### SILVER SPRING JERSEYS.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN BREEDER.

SIR,—Mendota 3rd [26326], of the Silver Springs herd, Jersey cattle, born May 10, 1875, gave during the week ending June 21st, 301 lbs. of milk, which made 15 lbs. 6 oz. of thoroughly worked salted (1 oz. to the lb.) butter of excellent quality and color. She was milked twice a day; her feed was 3 lbs. crushed oats, 9 lbs. corn meal, 2 ½ lbs. bran, 3 lbs. linseed meal, and 3 ¾ lbs. ground field peas, divided into three feeds per day; ran in the pasture and otherwise received the same treatment as the other cows in the herd. She was ten years old in May, and for nearly two years had entirely lost the use of one quarter of her udder and another had also been greatly injured; with her last calf, which was born May 3, the injured portion of her udder was partially restored. Mendota was sired by Omaha [482], he out of Omoo [1247], the dam of the noted Oonan. Her dam was Mendot [26324], out of imported Bonamy [10705], by Robbin's Major [8310], a pure Colonel-Countess-Flora bull.

T. L. HACKER.

Madison, Wis., July 10, 1885.

### OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

From our Special Correspondent.

LIVERPOOL, June 30th, 1885.

With shorter supplies during the past eight days business has been rather better for our Dominion cattle, and values are reported higher from nearly all the receiving centres. In Stanley market yesterday there were nearly 700 cattle shown, and a clearance was very nearly made. The stock offered consisted chiefly of good handy steers very suitable for this season, butchers, as a rule, fighting shy from big weighty animals. From the sales made in this market, prices would give a strong 15c. for best bullocks. A number of very fine bulls shipped by Thompson & Co. and handled by J. Sullivan & Co. formed a conspicuous item in the Canadian department. Buyers were plentiful for this class and good returns were got, averaging close on 12c. per lb. Hitherto business for this sort has been slow enough, and I fear it will be difficult to maintain the quotation now reported.

In London the fine cool weather, and short native and Continental supplies, gave increased firmness to the beast trade, which resulted in a further advance for Canadians. About 400 excellent steers were shown and sold readily at prices from 15 to 15 ½ c. per lb. and even a trifle more for some gilt-edged steers.

Grass-fed stock are coming very slowly, and the notion is prevalent that there is a scarcity of home-fed stock. I do not incline to this opinion, and believe, now that markets have touched a remunerative price, we shall see them in strong force before long.

A decrease in United States shipments continues to be noticed—perhaps more to Liverpool and Glasgow than anywhere else. At London, for week ending 26th June, no fewer than 2,138 cattle and 249 sheep were landed,