

in no other district. It occurred to Dr. Fream that the botanical composition of good meadows of the different districts would form a most useful inquiry, and so he asked for samples of the turf of these to be sent him. In reply, he obtained twenty-five samples of the best grass land from seventeen counties, and these were planted in isolation in the botanical garden of the College of Agriculture, Downton. The growth of these plots was carefully watched during the summer, and the various grasses, clovers, and weeds noted every day or two. The plots were then carefully cut, and the produce weighed and carefully sorted. The whole results will be given in the forthcoming Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society, but in the meantime the facts relating to two good cheese pastures—a Cheddar pasture on the estate of the Marquis of Bath, near Frome, and a Stilton pasture from the farm of Mr. Thomas Nuttall—may be given. (1) The following were the percentages of grasses, clovers, and weeds on the two pastures:—

	Stilton Pasture.	Cheddar Pasture
Grasses.....	58 per cent.	88 per cent.
Clovers.....	42 “	6 “
Weeds.....	0 “	6 “
	100 “	100 “

Of the weeds, the only one found in the Cheddar pasture was the buttercup, which was present in the large proportion of 6 per cent. Of the clovers the whole of that in the Cheddar pasture and 99 per cent. of that in the Stilton pasture was the common white Dutch clover (*Trifolium repens*), 1 per cent. in the Stilton pasture being *Trifolium pratense*. So far as the grasses that compose these pastures are concerned, the following shows the varieties present and their proportion:

	Stilton Pasture.	Cheddar Pasture.
Rye-grass.....	67 per cent.	86 per cent.
Cocksfoot.....	26 “	— “
Bent grass.....	6 “	1 “
Timothy.....	1 “	10 “
Dogstail.....	— “	— “
Yorkshire Fog.....	— “	3 “
Total.....	100 “	100 “

Here we have no indication of any special composition of the Cheddar or Stilton pasture. Both are good, the Cheddar pasture having the finer grasses and the Stilton pasture the larger quantity of clovers. But there is absolutely no weed and no special grass in either which would be likely to affect either the flavour or the quality of the cheese made in the two districts.

But by far the most interesting feature of these experiments is the side light which they throw on what is known as the rye-grass controversy. Over the whole of the twenty-five plots the average shows that at least 65 per cent. of the grasses is rye-grass. These pastures, it must not be forgotten, were selected by as many farmers in different parts of the country as examples of the best bits of grass land they could find. If, therefore, the best grass land of the country contain this proportion of rye-grass, the question as to the value of this grass may be taken as settled. But as most of these lands have been more grazed than mown, the analysis also clearly proves the perennial character of this grass, this also having been denied. It is sincerely to be hoped that this investigation will be repeated another year, as it throws a most

(1) I do not think Lord Bath's land can be called a “Cheddar” pasture. I should rather call it a North Wiltshire pasture.

A. R. J. F.

valued light on what are our best grasses. The indications are that these are in very few numbers, only sixteen varieties having been found on all the twenty-five plots, and that of these rye-grass is the first.

OUR ENGRAVINGS.

West Highland Cow.—Kyloe. See p. 168

Hampshire Down sheep.—See p. 165, 169

Devon Cow, Moss Rose.—See p. 173.

Braewold Flock of Hampshire-downs

SEASON OF 1888.

I offer Ram Lambs fit for service and now ready for shipment.

They were sired by “Cyclone,” imported by me last year, and bred by F. R. Moore, Littlecot, England. (1) He was half-brother to “Merry Hampton,” the most noted Hampshire of 1887. The lambs are out of ewes imported by me in 1882 and 1884, or from ewes bred by me from those. They have very black faces and legs, and are of excellent quality. They were dropped in March, have had no grain since they were put to pasture with the ewes, until the past month. They now weigh something over 100 pounds each. Price, \$25 in crates on the car.

Hampshires surpass all other breeds for raising market lambs and for “grading up” common flocks. Mr. J. S. Woodward, Secretary of the New York State Agricultural Society, last spring published the following.—“We have again this year raised lambs from South-down, Shropshire, and Hampshire males, crossed on the Michigan Merino ewes, and we are more than ever pleased with the Hampshire as a sire. His lambs are stronger when dropped, grow more rapidly, and get to a shipping size quicker, and, besides this, their faces and legs are more deeply colored, of a more uniform color than those from the South-downs, and doubly more so than those from the Shropshires. Besides this, for growing lambs up for feeding when coming one year old, these grades show greater superiority, as they will weigh nearly 20 per cent. more at one year than either of the crosses.”

Mr. Woodward, at his farm near Lockport, is the largest early market lamb raiser in this State.

Mount Kisco is thirty-five miles from New York City, on the Harlem R. R. Those desirous of seeing my sheep can do so at any time.

JAMES WOOD.

Mount Kisco, N. Y., September 1, 1888.

All right. A. R. J. F.

Devon cow Moss-Rose.

There is no doubt that while no attempt is made to “boom” the Devons, they are steadily gaining in public favor wherever they are known. Handsome, hardy, the best of working oxen, excellent beef cattle, rich though not very deep milkers, maturing early and fattening readily, their intrinsic merits deserve a front place in popular regard. Not so large as the Short-horn or Holstein, the Devon is more active, hardier and a much better forager than either, while its beef in the London market fetches a higher price than that of the former, and its milk is richer, though less abundant, than that of the latter. What form of a beef beast can be produced better than that of the Devon cow Moss Rose, page 173, re-engraved from the London Live Stock Journal? Yes, the Devons are pretty sure to make friends wherever they are known.

R., N. Y.

(1) Cole was the small hut in which the sheep used to be kept at night, some 300 years ago, in order that by sweating their wool might be kept fine. Hence, the Cotswold Hills, in Gloucestershire.

A. R. J. F.