

We hear that it is a common practice among some of the Agricultural Societies and Farmer's Clubs to dodge about from bulls of one breed to bulls of quite a different kind for service in the herds of their members: a shorthorn bull this year, when meat is high in price; the following season, a Jersey, when dairying is in fashion; continually ringing the changes from one breed to another, until it becomes a toss-up what the progeny of the "milky mothers of the herd" shall be.

Now this is a most vital mistake. More than twenty years ago, we wrote the following in this self-same periodical:

"There is the well authenticated account of a thoroughbred bay mare, whose pedigree did not contain one ancestor, or ancestress, whose colour was in the least degree mixed with white—gray thoroughbreds being extremely rare, so rare that, during a pretty long experience on the turf, we only remember three or four—She was, accidentally, served by a beast of a gray carthorse, to the intense disgust of her owner, the upshot of which was that, though the immediate foul was bay, seven succeeding foals got by bay, brown or chestnut racing stallions, had, every one of them, more or less stains of white in their coats!" To this very day, it is said, dark spots on the muzzles of some of the purest bred of our Shorthorns show the signs of the cross with some Galloway bull perpetrated about 80 years ago.

No, what all Societies should do is to "take a line and stick to it." Suit your stock to your soil; do not attempt to breed Shorthorns on poor sandy land like Sorel, or Jerseys on farms where there is no pasture worth speaking of; and when you have got your herd, do not be afraid of paying a good price for a bull if a change seems to be needed. As our lamented friend William Carr wrote many years ago: "When you have experienced the benefit resulting from the use of a high-bred sire, you have next to be convinced of the expediency of 'continuing' in the same course."

UNDERDRAINING.

To the Editor of the "Journal of Agriculture."

Dear Sir,—Seeing an article in your "Journal" of the 1st instant, under the above caption, I thought I would try and emphasize it, as I think underdraining one of the most important and at the same time one of the best paying investments a farmer can invest money in, if done judiciously.

I do not see, Mr. Editor, why it is that tiles are so expensive in this Province of Quebec. The only reason I can give for it, is the very limited number used. In Ontario, you can buy 2 and 3 inch tile for \$6 to \$9 per thousand, while here they cost more than twice that amount!

In "ye olden time," say 40 odd years ago, I have myself assisted in making stone drains on my father's farm, where there were miles of underdrains, it was quite an undertaking. A good deep ditch at least 15 or 16 inches wide at the bottom had to be made, where the soil was easy to dig you could get the ditch dug for 10 to 15 cents per rod, by contract. Sometimes you had to board the man in addition. Then you had to haul stone, anywhere from half a mile to a mile, sometimes even further, side stones of, say 4 to 5 inches high, were used and a flat one on top, then as many small stones as you liked, to fill up the holes if any, and then a sure precaution was to use a little straw on top of the stones and then fill up with dirt.

In this way, a careful made drain in certain soils would last for years, while in some soils the drains would fill up in a few years, especially if you were liable to have muskrats burrowing in them.

I have also made wooden drains using 2 x 3 in scantling for the sides and cover over with a good wide slab, this is much cheaper than the stone-drain, and lasts fairly well. Where lumber is cheap and plenty, I should say this perhaps would be the best, of course the lumber will rot after a time, but where timber or wood of