

## Canadian Live-Stock &amp; Farm Journal

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All communications to be addressed STOCK JOURNAL Co., 48 John street south, Hamilton, Ont.

HAMILTON, CANADA, AUG., 1889.

A SOUND fleece is not grown by rich feeding just before clipping, but by the use of nutritive food fed regularly and rationally. To secure the best results the condition of the sheep should be that which is most conducive to health. Only by the observance of the laws of hygiene in the fold may it be expected that the secretions of the body may be healthy, and thus give the wool that lustre and elasticity that characterizes a good fleece. Neglect of but a short time never fails to show its results in weak spots occurring in the fibre. Fatness being opposed to wool-growing, the aim should be to keep the sheep in fair condition and as vigorous and healthy as possible.

WITH our issue of this month appears the first of a series of articles on "Horses' Teeth as Age Indicators," from the pen of our well known regular contributor, F. C. Grenside, V. S., lecturer and veterinarian at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, of vast experience in veterinary work, and possessed of recognised literary ability. We feel satisfied we may bespeak for him the close interest and warm appreciation of our readers. The articles, our regular readers will agree with us, are in the hands of one of our most popular contributors, and as they treat of a subject of importance, pregnant with interest, we promise our readers a valuable series. The engravings that shall be freely used to illustrate these articles have been prepared under the supervision of the greatest living authority on such matters, Prof. G. T. Brown, C. B., Principal of the Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh, Scotland.

UP to the present time the greater demand for pork has come from the laboring classes, with whom it has always found a ready sale, owing to its cheapness and strength-giving properties. With the wealthier classes, however, it has never found favor. It appears to us that there is a dormant demand here, if once the right product is brought forth. With the disclosures of the last few years in respect to feeding pigs, for quality of flesh fresh to mind, it seems that much could be done to

greatly enhance the value of pork as a food. The feeding of garbage of all kinds and the uncleanness usually observed, has beyond question done much to keep pork in ill-repute with those not living by hard manual labor. A change is now on the move, and to supply the market's demands a better admixture of fat and lean is being sought after by our feeders. But this is not all; pure water and clean quarters are sanitary conditions absolutely necessary for the production of the best quality of flesh, and when these are fully observed and the pig is treated more humanely and in accordance with recent developments, then we may hopefully look for a larger consumption of this meat which is so largely abhorred at present.

IF there is one thing more than another that has kept the Shorthorns well to the fore, and made them and their grades so valuable as feeders, it is in the fact that of all our breeds they mature the earliest and possess the ability to transmit this quality to their grades. As stall feeders this same excellency has made them especially valuable. It is a feature that, especially at the present time, is claiming a good deal of attention. Beyond question it is a factor that largely determines the cost of production, and the latter regulates the margin of profit. Though definite facts may not be to hand to prove that it is a strong element in respect to the profits, it is nevertheless well known to all feeders as a very important consideration in the choosing of stores, "baby beef," as some have termed it, is in the end the cheapest produced, and if the animals are kept in conformance with the laws of health it possesses nothing that should shut out its market. Since the days of the earliest feeders early maturity has always come in for its share of consideration. As the veteran Mr. McCombie says: "What I wish to impress on you is that you must keep the cattle always full in flesh; and as a breeder you must be careful to never lose the calf flesh. If you do so by starving the animal at any time of its growth, you lose the cream—the covering of flesh so much prized by all our retail butchers. Where do all the scraggy, bad fleshed beasts come from that we see daily in our fat markets, and what is the cause of their scragginess? It is because they have been stinted and starved at some period of their youth. If the calf flesh is once lost it can never be regained." This is one means of getting the steers early to market, the other being through the use of animals possessing this feature to an eminent degree.

THE little isle of Jersey stands out clearly as an excellent example of what intensive farming may do. The whole island covers an area of but 28,717 acres, of which there are 20,561 acres under cultivation in 1887. With these people a farm of 22 acres is very large, the usual size being, as the agricultural returns show, 7½ acres for each occupier. On their live stock and the potato crop their greatest reliance is placed. In 1887 there were 20,357 head of horses, cattle, sheep and pigs on the island, the cattle of course being in the strongest force, these numbering 12,474. Their potato crop of the same year was valued by the French Consul at £72 per acre. Through their live stock and small farming these people are able to use land with profit that rents for from £7 to £15 per acre, and sells for from £200 to £405 per acre, the latter price being paid for lots in the most favored situations and with many improvements. The system of feeding is by tethering their cattle, and in this way they endeavor to economise as much as possible. A recent traveler through this island, Mr. E. Bear, of

England, was much impressed with the wonderful prosperous aspect of the people, and their contented and independent looks. There are but few cottages, but many granite houses, occupied by many of the smallest farmers, with well kept flower and vegetable gardens attached. The soil, though not possessing great natural richness, has been brought under their system of management to a high state of fertility. Many of our farmers, anxious to extend their farms, should carefully ponder the advisability of scattering their forces over a wide territory, when they could be concentrating them in many cases produce more profit. There are not a few farmers in Canada that are suffering from this cause. This leaflet of history emphasizes the importance of live stock to increase the fertility of the soil, and the value of intensive farming as a means of economically using that fertility.

A MORE general and stable target for eulogiums and derision, praises and taunts, than the general purpose cow does not exist at the present day. Though discussion on the subject has been rife for ages, many have not winnowed the chaff from the wheat. We do not wish to consider the general purpose cow a myth, but a mundane wealth producer. We have seen her, and in the majority of cases for Ontario's conditions she was personified in the Shorthorn grade. As conditions vary, and one feature is of more value under certain conditions than another, so will the scale go up or down with the different breeds and their grades for this purpose. On Ontario farms she is to be found as a rule in the cow that gives a moderate quantity of milk of good quality and her male offspring are of such a form and character as to make profitable feeding steers. We do not think it advisable to choose a cow for the sake of the beef she may make when she is profitless for the dairy, as this reminds us of the Hibernian that bought a pair of boots of number twelve, though he only needed sevens, simply because he thought he was getting better returns for his money, as the larger sizes contained more leather and cost but the same price as the smaller. If she gives a good yield of milk and meets the requirement in regard to steers, she represents our idea of a general purpose cow. Some go to the opposite extreme to say that she may equal the specialist in any of these directions. It is not proper to expect such, for there is no doubt but that those that are selected and trained in one direction will surpass those whose energies are directed into many channels. The matter of getting all possible profit out of his stock is of great import to the ordinary farmer, and the breed that gives him the greatest returns is the one that is going to secure his patronage. As the conditions of all farms differ, so will the cows that suit them and the market conditions differ, which means that there is no best breed for all Canada. The breed that suits the average best will be the most patronized by the ordinary farmer, but that does not imply that the supplying of such cattle shall be the most profitable to our breeders, owing to the rapid progression of specialist ideas.

### Our Horse Interests.

WE advance the statement freely that there is not another branch of our live-stock interest that is so thoroughly in accord with our natural conditions as that of our horse industry. Analyze as closely as you may our winter and summer conditions, and the closer you do so the clearer it becomes that our surroundings are favorable in every sense for the production of horses that, under proper management, will readily find sale in the markets of the world. Our