

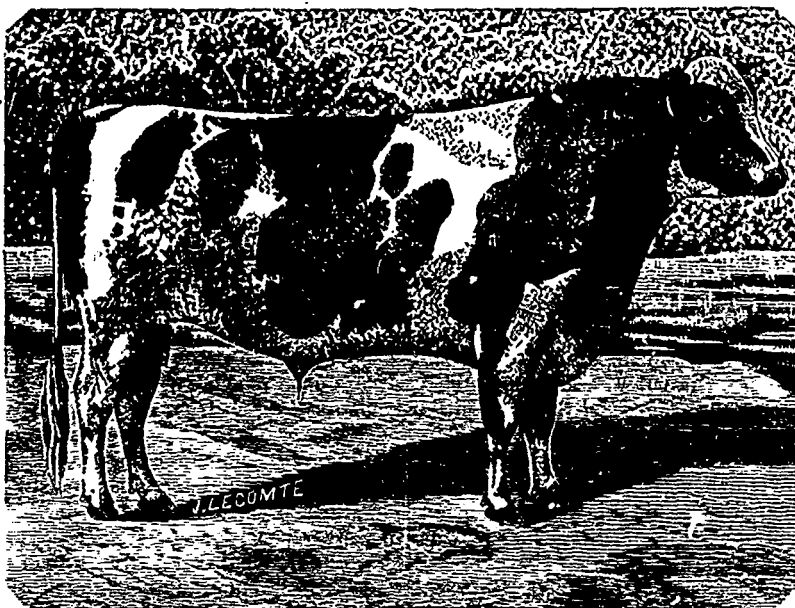
A propos of the term *thoroughbred*, as applied to horses, I saw the following advertisement in the Montreal Star of the 5th September:

"For sale: a thoroughbred mare, bred from the best trotting stock;" which is of course an absurdity.

A. R. J. F.

We give a portrait of the great Holstein bull Netherland Alban 4584 (A. R. 34), winner of the \$50 first prize in the aged class at the Syracuse State fair, as mentioned last week. He is a bull of the milk-and-beef form; head proportionate; neck of medium length, fine, neatly joined to head and shoulders; chine straight, broad and open; loin and hips very level and strong; escutcheon fair size, of excellent quality; handling superior; secretions very oily, abundant and yellow; style and bearing very fine. His get, as well as himself, have met with great success in the show ring, and from present indications Netherland Alban gives promise of taking a position second to none as a stock-getter. He was got by Netherland Prince 716 (A. R. S), out of Albino 2654 (A. R. 204); and was dropped April 29, 1885. He was bred by Messrs. Smiths, Powell & Lamb of Syracuse, and sold by them to his present owners and exhibitors, Messrs. J. B. Butcher & Son of Pawling.

Country Gentleman.



FIRST PRIZE HOLSTEIN BULL NETHERLAND ALBAN.

## SEASONABLE NOTES.

### STACK-BUILDING.

Last week we promised a few remarks upon the art of stack-building, and commented upon its decadence and the demoralisation of harvest work in consequence of low prices and bad times. Stacks may be built, on saddles or on the ground. It may be presumed that the saddles is an improvement and innovation upon the other system of building on a straw bed. Be this as it may, there has certainly of late been a reaction towards the simpler question. Saddles are used for two objects—as a means of keeping out vermin, and secondly for purposes of ventilation, and for bringing corn more quickly and more uniformly into condition. So far as vermin are concerned there is but little advantage gained by their use, as mice are imported in sheaves straight from the field, and rats climb into ricks through the carelessness of farmers and labourers, who habitually leave heaps of rubbish, stakes, and loose straw in the neighbourhood of ricks. Another reason which favours the building of ricks upon the ground is the now common habit of stacking corn in the field, where it is thrashed out by means of portable machines. Saddles

are fixtures, and ricks are set up where most convenient, and hence an extemporised bottom is preferred.

The bottom ought to be made on a dry situation where water is not likely to lodge, and is best made with straw, which is put down about 18 inches thick on the site of the future rick. If a round stack is desired, the best means of proceeding is to set up a harvest fork perpendicularly in the ground, and to loosely tie a piece of string from 4 to 5 yds. long around it. Then stretching the string, describe a circle around the fork, and make the bedding exactly within and up to the circle as formed. In this way a perfect circle is made, and after the bed has been made level we may proceed with the work of rick-building.

One plan is to commence in the centre, by setting up two sheaves just as if we were going to make a stook. They are placed in an A form, with the crop ends upwards. This must

form the basis of a solid cone of sheaves, built up as a round stook in the centre, which makes a nucleus around which sheaves are built. The crop ends are laid towards the centre, which at once presents a full appearance. The butts only, lie directly on the straw, and the heads all lie on sheaves. Thus the work gradually is carried on until the outside is reached, and the rick is then considered to be fairly started. To begin at the outside is wrong in principle, as each sheaf then rests with its head on the bottom, and will be found to be-

come fusty or mouldy from damp. After the first layer is laid this order is reversed and the builder begins his second course at the outside, and ties them in by a second layer laid upon the bands of the first, which securely ties them in, and prevents slipping. A third layer, and a fourth are then laid until the centre is reached. Successive layers of sheaves are added, each one commencing at the outside, care being taken that the middle of the rick is kept sufficiently full to give a slight inclination of the butts downwards. This prevents rain from finding its way towards the centre from the outside. If the middle is too full the rick will slip, but if properly built, the tendency is only to grow out at the leg so as to form that perfect form which may be likened to a peg-top, or the lower part of a pear, gradually swelling out evenly all around until the eaves are reached.

### RIGHT AND LEFT STACKING.

Good stack-makers take a great pride in their work, and love to see a well-built and pleasant-looking object, when their work is completed. For this purpose they endeavour to build right and left the meaning of which phrase is worth explaining. When sheaves have been well set up in shork the straw becomes bent, and on lifting the sheaves from the ground the butts are not square but levelled, or set at an angle. In