

coming king of the most powerful government in the world walk down among a row of tenant farmers, sheep-breeders and shepherds, who were holding their rams in a paddock for his inspection. As he walked down the line, shaking hands with this and that old farmer, saying a kind word to a

of fine-wooled sheep that, it is safe to say, were ever seen in any country.

It is a great pity that on account, I am told, of some rulings at Washington, neither cattle nor sheep can be brought to the United States country from France.

The most interesting thing to me in the whole live-stock exhibition was the hornless Merinos exhibited by Mr. M. Lesage and others. They are, as I understand it, not fixed in this particular characteristic; still, they are more than a sport, as I saw the same thing in 1893 and 1895 at the National Agricultural Fair in Paris. I asked questions enough about them to have settled the Alaska boundary, but was not able to satisfy myself in regard to this point, as the answers were most conflicting.

"Are they a sport? How long since? Are the feeders trying to encourage it or otherwise? Can a hornless ram be depended upon to reproduce himself?"

The Frenchmen had their shoulders nearly out of joint with shrugs, and that is about all the satisfaction I could get. I have written several letters, and so far without result. They are, as the photos show, very grand sheep, quite as large as the Rambouillets, without a wrinkle, and the grandest fleeces I ever saw, of the greatest length. I was, as the ladies say, quite carried away with them. I would like, above all things in the sheep world, to cross the hornless French Merino ram on Cotswold or Lincoln ewes, for instance, with a view of establishing a new breed of sheep; also to select a few hornless Merinos and try and breed them with that particular feature, which, I understand or infer, has not been attempted in France. Of the native breeds of sheep, there are many, and some of them are the most ungainly-looking brutes that ever



MR. F. S. PEER, MOUNT MORRIS, N. Y., IN HIS OFFICE.

Author of "Soiling Crops and Ensilage."

shepherd lad who was holding a ram while the Prince parted the wool to inspect the staple, a "thank you" and a smile to a ruddy-faced Scotch shepherd who in the excitement of the moment forgot to remove his cap in his eagerness to display the fleeces of his favorite blackfaces—yes, it was a sight to make any Briton proud of his king. You need not ask why the Prince of Wales is the most popular man in England. A genuine gentleman, a genuine sportsman, these qualities are so mixed in his nature that every subject in the land points to him and says, "He is a man." But I lose myself, I must travel back to France.

CATTLE.

Of the native French breeds of cattle there were many, and the entries in some of the classes were large. They were all of the beefy order. The photographs of the Limousine and Parthenaise bulls represent the general characteristics of all the French cattle.

The Normandies are about the only breed of French cattle that can be classed as dairy animals, and it is straining a point to say that. This breed of cattle are about on a par with milking Shorthorns. Some of them are grand dairy cows and some are out-and-out beefers, giving hardly milk enough to rear their young.

It is a gamble whether a heifer from the best dairy cow out of a bull from an equally good dairy cow will come up with good, fair, or indifferent dairy qualities. No matter, said the Frenchman. If zee what you call heifer come good to zee milk, she go in zee dairy for make much milk; if she go to zee fat, she will come to zee butcher—all zee same make money.

The most businesslike-looking animals in France for dairy purposes are the Race Flamande, a beautiful solid dark red cow, as dark as a Devon. These animals are not natives, but Flemish; however, they have been for many years owned and bred in France. They are in general type and characteristics a red Holstein, about one or two sizes smaller. They are genuine dairy cattle, and a great credit to any country. I wonder they have never found a place in America. Altogether, they were the best lot of dairy cattle at the Exhibition. I include Jerseys, Guernseys, Holsteins, and Normandies. Their milk is richer than the Holstein and more in quantity than any of the other breeds I have mentioned. They are quite equal in quantity and quality to the Ayrshire, which is paying them a very high compliment. They cannot be compared to the Ayrshire for style and perfection of form; still, I should say they have better-shaped udders than the Guernseys or Holsteins. With careful breeding, they should be brought up to a very high standard, but the French farmers cannot be called careful breeders. They are nowhere in the race, compared with the English or Scotch breeders.

"What about their horses?" you ask. That is Government work, and just goes to illustrate the value of intelligence in selecting and mating farm stock. In the hands of the farmers, it is little beyond turning a bull loose in a herd of cattle and leaving the result to Providence or luck. The only real evidence I saw of careful breeding was in sheep and poultry, and this is confined to a very few persons.

SHEEP.

The Rambouillets have, in the hands of Mr. M. Gilbert and Mr. M. Theremin-Sorreau, and perhaps a half dozen all told, attained a degree of perfection that stamps these gentlemen at least as well up in the art of breeding for improvement. The two gentlemen named exhibited the grandest specimens



CHAMPION RAMBOUILLET MERINO RAM.

Paris Exhibition, 1900.

PROPERTY OF M. GILBERT.

paraded in sheep's clothing, which was about the only qualification that seemed to entitle them to be classed as sheep.

My guide said, "Zay are what you call a mix together of devil and goat from zee mountains on the Swiss border."

As I considered this one of his most reliable statements, I wrote it down in my notebook. I asked him which was the sire and which was the dam.

"O, zee devil, he come always by zee female," was his very ungallant remark; but when he told me he had been married three times and that all three of his wives were living, I thought perhaps he spoke from practical experience, and I set that down in my notebook also! F. S. PEER.

Mr. Peer at Home.

We have the pleasure of presenting to our readers a photo of Mr. F. S. Peer, author of the new book on Soiling, Ensilage, and Stable Construction, referred to on page 513 (notice). Mr. Peer is very well known as a breeder and importer of horses, cattle and sheep in the States, and to the great majority of Canadian breeders as an expert judge on dairy cattle. No man from over the line has ever given more general satisfaction in the Canadian showing than Mr. Peer. He has judged satisfactorily seven years at Toronto Exhibition, which is a sufficient guarantee that his work is well received and endorsed by our best breeders, the uniformity and consistency of his work being an education in itself to young breeders on the most approved type of each breed. He is equally as well known in Montreal, Quebec, and Halifax, where he has judged year after year with great satisfaction to exhibitors. From Halifax Mr. Peer each autumn goes into the woods for a few days' shooting. Heads of Nova Scotia moose, caribou and deer decorate the walls of his office, as shown in the photograph. We understand Mr. Peer is going to try his skill again this year after the Halifax exhibition, this time in New Brunswick. We wish him good success.

FARM.

Silo Construction.

We have the recently-expressed views of John Gould, of Ohio, at the end of twenty years of successful silo practice. After referring to various forms of construction that have been tried, he says the round silo is to-day far in the lead. Investigation with these shows that where the silo was built of unbelled and unmatched staves there was a difficulty in bringing the edges together with sufficient "pinch" to make an airtight joint. The testimony is that it would be best to have the staves matched with the flat "A" groove, and tongue to correspond.

The result of investigation insists that the stave silo must be made as nearly airtight as possible. Filling the staves full of hot gas tar before putting them into the structure would seem to meet the need in this direction. Prof. King found that silage which appeared to be bright and green, of excellent quality, by the entrance of air through the single staves had lost over one-fourth of its feeding value. This means that better hooping of silos is required, and some form of painting that fills the pores of the wood and renders the staves thoroughly impervious to air.

Mr. Gould goes on to say that the foundation of a round silo is best made by excavating a circular place where the silo is to stand to about the depth of a foot and filling in six inches with small stone and cement for a floor. Then strike a circle as large as the outside diameter of the silo, place a temporary hoop six inches high on this circle and on its outside build up six inches higher, having the diameter of the foundation fully three feet more than that of the silo. Set the silo staves inside of this little retaining wall, and when it is complete and the hoops are tightened up fill in about the staves and the stones with finely-mixed cement, roofing it up against the outside of the staves and inside as well. It is now demonstrated that a roof is of no value to the silo, save for looks and to keep out snow and rain, so that a roof which can be quickly removed in silo filling and as easily replaced, and which does not shed rain too much, is the ideal roof. For a cover to the silage, thoroughly wet down the surface when the silage gets warm and rake in a bushel of oats and tread down compactly.

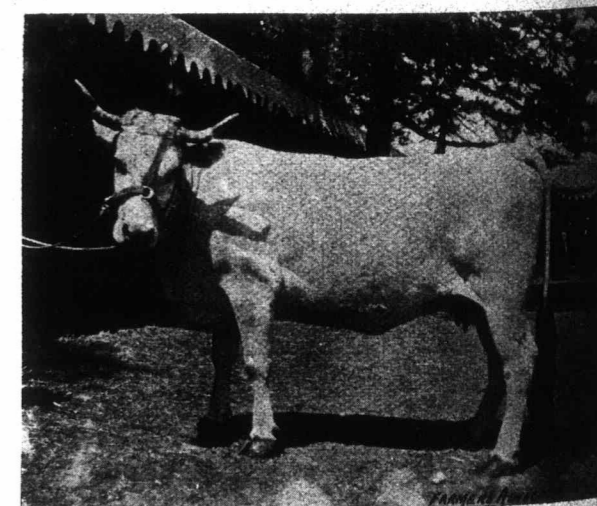
There is only one time to fill a silo, and that is when the corn is going into the glazing stage. Corn harvesters, self-feeding cutters, hopper and hose carrier for distributing the cut silage have changed wholly the filling and economy of the silo.

[Until this year we held the same view as Mr. Gould expresses, regarding the uselessness of a roof to a round silo, but after seeing a number of roofless silos shaken, turned over and smashed by the wind, while roofed silos in the same locality remained intact, we have changed our views, and now believe that no round silo should be considered finished until a substantial roof has been put on. Not only does it prevent the staves from shaking apart, but the tall, frail structure is held firmly together for a much longer period.—ED. NOTE.]

Characteristics of the New Kansas Wheat.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I have a few acres of the Kansas wheat. It stood in the field alongside of Early Red Clawson, and was considerably shorter in the straw. The straw is very fine and soft. It stools remarkably well, but the heads are very small, and the grain is small too. It has very long beards. It stood the



CASCOUNE COW.

First prize, Paris Exposition, 1900.

winter about the same as the Clawson; no rust; and ripened about three days earlier than the Clawson. I will report about the yield as soon as I have it threshed. JOS. B. SNYDER.

Waterloo Co., Ont.