

EDITORIAL.

Thorncliffe Stock Farm.

One of the largest breeding establishments in Canada is Thorncliffe Stock Farm, Todmorden, Ont., situated within a pleasant half-hour's drive to the north-east of the City of Toronto. The proprietor, Mr. Robert Davies, who has done so much to promote the breeding interests of the country, has spared neither effort nor expense to fit up and stock the establishment, with perhaps the finest barn and stables in the Dominion and the richest obtainable blood in the various lines of stock to which attention has been devoted. Herein is to be noted a keen discernment of what, as the old Scotch lady once remarked, constitutes the "fundamentals" of success in farming, viz., live stock rearing. The farm is divided by a small branch of the Don River, which affords along its flats the finest sort of pasture land. The uplands of the farm are in a high state of cultivation, capable of carrying a large stock. The main barn, where the breeding stock is kept, occupies a most desirable position, being snugly nestled beneath a lofty wooded steep to the north-west, while the east and north-east winds are stayed by rising pasture lands. The horses in training are comfortably housed in a range of roomy box stalls some quarter of a mile distant to the west, upon the elevated plain over the Don branch, where a first-class half-mile track is situated. The stock (comprising over one hundred head of horses, about two hundred and sixty Shropshire sheep, and twenty head of cattle—Shorthorns and Jerseys) are all of the best strains procurable. Over each class is a competent herdsman well versed in his calling.

HORSES.

Thoroughbred.—At the head of this stud is the noted prize winner, Mikado (by imported King Ernest, dam Mimi), illustrated on the frontispiece of this issue. He is a rich brown in color, stands 16½ hands high, and weighs in stud condition about 1,300 pounds. Added to this he has well-nigh ideal conformation, as the illustration shows. His sloping shoulders and long quarters make him very short on top and long underneath, while his head and neck are a study for an artist, embodying the *beau ideal* of a pure blood horse. As a prize winner Mikado has a wonderful record. Besides numerous victories, he has won the first prize and diploma at the Toronto Industrial, at the Provincial Exhibition, at the Toronto Spring Show (twice), and at Grand's Horse Show, Toronto, 1892; as well as the first prize (value, \$750) given at New York over all comers, and, to crown all, a sweeping victory at the World's Columbian Exhibition in 1893. As a race winner he captured, as a three-year-old, the great Omnibus stakes at Monmouth Park (1½ miles), beating all the best horses of his year. In his race at four years old he won the Harlem stakes at Jerome Park (one mile and a furlong), carrying 118 lbs., and defeating Duchess, Himalaya, Richmond, and St. Louis. He belongs to a family famous for the transmission of speed and power to stay. He was bred by the late D. D. Withers, Brookdale stud, New Jersey. Other stock horses in the stud are Parisian and Admiral. The former is an imported Irish horse, while the latter is a fashionably-bred English horse, the get of St. Blaze. Among the numerous brood mares are: Queen Bee, out of Bee Hive, in foal to Mikado; Thistle, in foal to Parisian, the dam of Thorncliffe, The Chicken, Dandie Dinmont, and herself a sweep-stake winner; Andauty (imp.), a great turf mare and the dam of a Derby winner, has a beautiful foal at foot by Admiral; Bee Hive, near the foaling to Admiral; Phadalia, by Parisian, in foal to Admiral; and others equally meritorious which lack of space prevents mentioning. The young stock from these mares show their good breeding. They all have great roomy box stalls, in which they can get as much exercise as is necessary for their best development.

Among the twelve horses in training is Garter King, a three-year-old chestnut gelding by Regent, dam Buckle. He is entered for the Queen's Plate contest and promises to train into a very speedy horse. He is agile, full of snap, and strong. The imported mare, Lotis, by Trapeze, out of Toarmina, has already made herself a name by winning races before leaving England and at the Woodbine and Detroit. She is a strong, handsome weight-carrier. Kilrona, a beautiful three-year-old black mare, won last year at Hamilton, Saratoga, and the Woodbine. She is by Kilwarlin (a St. Ledger winner) and out of Curona. Others deserving mention specially are: Zeal, by Enthusiast (winner of 2,000

guineas, Eng.), dam West Riding; Par Buckle, by Parisian, dam Buckle; Bristles, by Dandie Dinmont, out of Thistle; Music (imp.), by Autocrat, dam Discord; Chester, Thorncliffe, Fair Flora, Device, and Phaeton, all of which are bred from the best English stock.

Clydesdales.—The well-known stock horse, Prince of Quality, who won second prize in very keen competition at last spring's horse show, is one of the heads of the stud. He will be remembered as a short-legged, very compact, black horse, possessing a deal of substance and quality. The stallion Energy, whose portrait has adorned these pages, is still in the stud, in beautiful, fresh and showy condition. He is as gay as a peacock, and as active and clean as a colt. His breeding brings him so nearly related to Mr. Davies' mares, through Darnley, that he could be spared from the farm. He is a big horse, of desirable conformation, and a sure foal getter. King's Own by Queen's Own, out of Candor, is a beautiful colt coming two years old. He is already a handsome, well-finished horse, weighing, in nice growing condition, over 1,600 pounds.

The farm teams are made up of such mares as Lady Dunmore, Candor, Young Lily, Bar Bell, Gilmore's Sally, Rose of Thorncliffe, Pride of Thorncliffe, Bessy Bell, and others, all of which are imported or out of imported dams. Most of these are heavy with foal to Prince of Quality. Those who have followed the Toronto winners for the last few years will recognize many of these mares at once. These mares have been regular breeders; there are, therefore, an excellent lot of colts and fillies coming one and two years old.

Mr. Davies also has on the farm a beautiful pair of Standard-bred mares, Prairie Bell and Ida Brock, as well as three imported German Coach mares, winners at the World's Fair, now in foal; also eight Shetland pony mares, some in foal, and the very fast half-bred Shetland by the Thoroughbred Parisian.

CATTLE.

Shorthorns.—The Shorthorn sale held last year left only a few of the best cows on the farm, such as Adaliza 28th, Young Maggie Blythe, Evenlode and daughter, and a few of their progeny. That grand old bull, Northern Light, by Vice-Consul, still stands as head of the herd. The yearling heifers and bulls are very choice, and in fine shape. We would specially mention an exceptionally fine six months old red bull calf out of Isabella's Mina, and by Lord Outhwaite.

SHEEP.

Shropshires.—At the time of our visit, on March 19th, the 110 breeding ewes gave every evidence of keeping the shepherd hustling, as there were at that time 35 fine strong lambs, which number will be augmented daily. The flock is of exceptionally fine breeding, having been bred in the English flocks of Bradburn, Minton, Mansell, Barr, and Thomas. The yearling flock, consisting of 46 rams and 52 ewes, are well grown and well woolled throughout.

Visitors to Toronto who enjoy seeing really good stock, kept in presentable condition at all times, would find a hearty welcome and enjoy a treat by paying a visit to Thorncliffe Stock Farm.

Lucern or Alfalfa Culture.

(Continued from page 110.)



[Lucern seedling—six weeks old.]

Lucern Hay.—It is claimed that there is no better hay plant than lucern in regions where it will grow well. The making of hay requires considerable skill, on account of the nature of the plant. If the hay is put into stacks or into barns before the stems are cured it is liable to heat and mold, and if it is allowed to lie on the ground too long before stacking the leaves get dry and brittle and will drop off, causing serious loss. To make the best hay, the field should be cut just when the first blossoms commence to appear; if left till in full bloom the stems become very hard and woody. It is well to let it lie in the swath until the leaves are thoroughly wilted, but not dry and brittle; then rake in windrows, and leave until moderately dry; then

remove directly to the stack or barn; if possible to the place of feeding it, as the less handling it receives the less leaves will be lost. The art of making good lucern hay is acquired by practice rather than by following directions. Avoid, as far as possible, getting it rained upon after it has commenced to cure. A hard, soaking rain will decrease its value one-half.

The number of cuttings will vary from two to three in New York or Pennsylvania, to seven or eight in California. When grown on the most suitable soils, namely, those which are rich and well drained, and which abound in lime, potash, phosphoric acid, and magnesium, and with stimulus of heat and moisture, lucern yields, with ordinary good care, from one to two tons of rich, nutritious hay every four or five weeks. It, however, deteriorates rapidly after the third year unless taken care of. It is recommended that the field be harrowed every spring, and if after a number of years the crop shows signs of ill-nourishment, an occasional dressing of composted stable manure or commercial fertilizer be applied.

Cutting for Seed.—When lucern is grown for seed the second crop is the one usually saved. The yield is usually heavier, and what is of more importance, the crop ripens uniformly. Cut for seed when the pods are dark brown. Rake at once into heaps and allow to cure through; then place where it can be threshed without further hauling. An average crop is probably from five to ten bushels per acre.

Feeding Value.—Lucern hay properly cured is worth as much, weight for weight, as other clover, and is eaten by all kinds of farm animals. It is not in itself a perfect ration, being largely nitrogenous, thus particularly valuable on most farms, especially where corn fodder, straw, and roots are largely used. It contains a high percentage of protein—the most valuable constituent of stock food. It is a good substitute for wheat bran, cotton cake, and oil cake.

As a **Soiling Crop** it ranks high. It is even better for this purpose than for pasturing. Cattle and sheep cannot be safely pastured upon it when the plants are very young, or soon after a heavy dew or rain, as there is great danger of "bloating" in such instances.

For Hogs.—One acre is said to furnish forage for from ten to twenty hogs per season. At a conservative estimate, ten pigs per acre will gain 100 pounds each during the season from May to September, and 1,000 pounds cannot be produced so cheaply on any other feed. The pigs will come out of the field in the fall in capital condition to fatten with grain, etc. The lucern in a hog-pasture should be mowed once or twice during the summer, or whenever it commences to get hard and woody.

A Soil Renovator.—Lucern, being a leguminous plant, is a great collector of nitrogen from the air. The roots of the plant, if examined, will be found

to be covered with a great many small swellings or tubercles, in which, if examined under a high-power microscope, the tissues will be found to contain great numbers of bacteria. It is through the action of these that the plant is able to appropriate the free nitrogen of the air. Not only is nitrogen gathered by this plant, but by means of its very deep-rooting qualities a great deal of fertilizing material is brought up from the subsoil and placed within man's reach.

By raising lucern not only is an excellent quantity and quality of forage provided for stock, but at the same time the fields are becoming enriched by a great fertilizer that if purchased would cost a great deal of money.

To rid land of lucern is sometimes difficult. As a result of poor cultivation or other causes, the yield per acre may cease to reach a profitable amount. The best method is to plow the field in midsummer, turning the roots up to the sun. (The cut of the three-year-old plant shows the roots to be very strong, therefore a sharp share and good horse power is necessary.) When the leaves begin to show above the sod, cross-plow. This, with good tillage, will usually suffice. A catch crop should be put in at once, so as not to allow the land to remain bare, and to prevent the leaching out of the most valuable fertilizing elements.

"The Best."

H. P. HEMING, Wellington Co., Ont.:—"I feel that it is my duty, as a subscriber, to wish the ADVOCATE success. I consider it the best medium for information printed in the Dominion, on farming, feeding stock, implements, pure-bred stock, and other points too numerous to mention."



[Lucern—three years old.]