

hold of this matter, and let us have a nice, pleasant time. But I hope they will not be influenced in any way, but have the Convention held where it will bring the most dairymen and factorymen together for the mutual benefit of all.

Elgin Co.

DAIRYMAN.

Hulless Oats—New Wheat.

SIR,—One of my neighbors sowed one bushel of hulless oats last spring. They were almost a total failure. I think they are played out.

On the day of our County Fair two men were engaged at one of the hotels in Woodstock selling a new kind of spring wheat, a branching variety, said to have grown north of Toronto, or near Collingwood. The heads were shown and looked very nice; also the clean wheat in a bottle. It looks very like fall wheat, being, I think, as white as the Clawson. They were selling this wheat at \$12 per bushel. I very much suspect it is a swindle. If they were responsible men, whose guarantee would be of some value, it would lessen the risk; or those owning it would rent land in different parts of the country, and grow it another year, and it should succeed as those agents say it did this year—grow 40 bushels of beautiful white wheat per acre. They would do a better thing for themselves than selling it even at \$12 per bushel. If you know anything about this wheat, let us know. Innerkip P. O. F. M.

[We have heard of different persons selling different varieties of wheat through the country; we have not heard of any new variety introduced by any seedsmen this year. Steele Bros., of Toronto, have brought some wheat from Manitoba and the Western States, but we are not aware that he has travellers out; we presume this wheat is brought in as a change of seed, not as a new variety. The Egyptian wheat, of which we gave an illustration and account in the January number, 1875, might be the variety you speak of; as you do not send a head or grain, we cannot positively say. Mr. Browne, of the Agricultural Emporium, is importing a new variety, but he has no travellers out. Farmers should try new varieties only on a small scale; they will find it generally safest to deal with the established seedsmen.—Ed.]

Provincial Exhibition.

SIR,—Your remarks on the coming Provincial Exhibition for next year are well timed, and I hope that they will have the desired effect, not only upon the Provincial Board, but upon the city and county councils, and stir them up to take timely action in the matter; for I fully coincide with you that with proper management and hearty co-operation on the part of all, the next Provincial Exhibition can be made the best by far that Ontario has yet seen. Let the question of holding the present site for all time to come be settled once and for ever, and I cannot see how any citizen who has the prosperity of the city and the success of the Exhibition at heart, can advocate its removal to any other site. With proper management and forethought, the present site, with Victoria Park, can be made to answer a two-fold purpose.

As to the advisability of keeping the Exhibition open for two weeks, there are a good many arguments against as well as in favor of the plan. But one thing is certain—there is room for improvement in the management of the proceedings during a one-week fair. Let the Provincial Board put their heads together and devise some means whereby visitors can have more than two days to inspect the articles. It can be done by putting a little life and thoroughness into it, and by having everything on the ground promptly on Monday, and the judges ready to go to work. Let the readers of the *Advocate* give their views on the subject, and let us have one of the grandest Fairs Canada has ever seen.

London Township, Nov. 20th, 1876.

SIR,—Can you tell us what is the cause of cotted wool, and if there is any way to prevent it? If so, it will be of great advantage to many farmers. We would like to get all the information possible from wool growers and breeders of sheep.

H. BEST, Culloden.

[The cotted wool proceeds from a stoppage of its growth, caused by a sudden change in the atmosphere or by a change in food, from a rich diet to the opposite. Either change affects the health of sheep, and this change shows itself in the altered state of the wool.—Ed.]

Short-Horn Breeding.

SIR,—You would oblige if you would publish in the *Advocate* the rules of breeding of Short-Horns. I would like to know how many crosses are required before animals can be entered on the Herd Book, and how long before their names wear out; also, how did the Dukes and Duchesses originate?

C. C. GARDENER.

Charlottown, Prince Edward's Island.

[To thoroughly and fully explain all these questions would take up more space than we can afford to give; but we will try to satisfy our correspondent briefly. By the "rules of breeding" we presume are meant the distinction between *grade* and *thorough-bred* cattle, with regard to their entry and registry in the "Canada Short-Horn Herd Book," the first volume of which was published in 1867, compiled by the Secretary, and revised by the Committee of the Board of Agriculture of Upper Canada. This volume took a very high standard of admission, requiring that every animal recorded should have derived its descent from animals whose pedigrees are already recorded in the English or American Herd Book, and if any were short or imperfect, such were distinguished by a star (*) or asterisk, and in fact any pedigree that did not show descent from the English Herd Book through all its branches was marked with a star, and thus many pedigrees which were entered in the American Herd Books were thus marked, as they could not come up to the standard of purity of blood. This was the rule of breeding for the first volume of the Canada Herd Book; but in the two following volumes the standard has been very much reduced, and any animal that can show four ancestors of recorded short-horn bulls was admitted as thorough-bred, no matter if their fourth dam on the female side were a black muley cow; and the same rule now holds good, only animals having less than four recorded sires are marked with a star, and this star will wear out in the progeny as soon as the animal can make up the four recorded ancestors. The rule is very liberal, and we think a wise one, as it encourages farmers to breed up their herds to the standard by using in their herds *thorough-bred* bulls. It does not take so many years to do this, and each year the young calves are getting nearer to the required standard, and by always using *bulls of one family*, in time a very valuable herd can be formed. Such has been the practice of some good English breeders; they have raised noted families of short-horns from good market cows, but they always used bulls of the very highest and purest blood, and always of one family, and thus intensified the purity of each generation, and so quite bred out the cold blood in the original market cow; and we wonder that their example has not been followed by many of our intelligent stock farmers, for now when beef cattle are so much in demand for exportation to England, it will pay to breed *short-horn* grades, as their *quality* is so superior to common cattle, and they fetch a much higher price in England.

C. C. G. wants to know how did the Dukes and Duchesses originate.

[In the year 1784 Charles Colling bought the "Stanwick Duchess" cow from the estate of the Duke of Northumberland, in Yorkshire. She was bred to Hubback (319), and produced a heifer (Duchess), who was bred to Favorite (252); she produced a heifer (Duchess), who was bred to Daisy Bell (186), who was son of Favorite, and the produce was a heifer, who was bred back to Favorite, her grand-sire; she produced a heifer, who was bred to Comet (151), whose sire and grand-sire were also Favorite (252), and her daughter was called Duchess 1st, and was bought by Thomas Bates at Charles Colling's sale, October 19th, 1810, for 183 guineas—about \$915; but really money was so much more valuable then that the relative cost would be equal to nearly \$1,800 of our money. This cow Mr. Bates thought so much of that he bred her descendants for nearly 40 years, keeping only the very best, and such as came up to his standard of perfection; any males or females that fell short of the mark were *ruthlessly butchered*. Indeed so strictly did he carry out this principle that he had only 14 of this family at the time of his death. He bred then generally to bulls of their own family, taking only out-crosses of the "Red Rose" and "Princess" families, which were the two favorite families of Robert Colling, and like the Duchess, traced their blood direct from Hubback to Favorite. Mr. Bates said that it was to the union of these three bloods—"Duchess" tribe, "Yarborough's" dam and "Princess" tribe—that his cattle owed their superior excellence; but indeed his herd had more of the blood of the Princess tribe than any other, as he used the Princess bull "Belvedere"

(1706) for six years in his herd, even on his own daughters, and then used his sons "Short-tail" and the Dukes of Northumberland until he brought fresh blood in by the "Oxford" cross from the Matcheen cow, who was herself one-half Princess blood. This, then, was the mixture of bloods that produced the Dukes and Duchesses. Let our breeders follow the example of the sage of Kirk-livington in his strictness of selecting *his best* only to breed from, and the firmness with which he consigned his inferior ones to the butcher. Let them but persevere in this, and they will, like him, surely succeed.—J. B. T.]

Our English Letter.

We have the pleasure of giving our readers the following brief communication from our English correspondent. Though brief, it is interesting to us, treating of the past season's yield of crops, price of stock, and steam-ploughing—a subject now becoming a subject of enquiry among Canadian farmers:—

DEAR SIR,—I will give you an account of Sussex farming. We had a dry summer, but a showery harvest. My wheat comes out 26 bushels to the acre; oats come out 64 bushels to the acre; and I grew 6 cwt. of hops to the acre, which I expect to bring £7 7s to £7 10s per cwt. They will pay me very well this year. After harvest I had the steam-plough to work. I ploughed 26 acres of stubbles. I had two small engines of six-horse power (by Airling, of Rochester), and Foster's steam-plough, and they do their work in our small fields more satisfactorily than the large engines. I think they would answer well on the small Canadian farms. I am glad to see there is another emigration of 1,800 Icelanders to Canada. I have read with much interest Lord Dufferin's visit to British Columbia. I should much like to see the Canadian Pacific commenced. I bought the other day at Eastbourne fair 50 good strong Southdown ewes at 35s apiece: they will weigh 72 lbs. when fat. I am giving them 1 lb. of linseed cake on a two-year seed lea, which I shall afterwards break up and sow with oats. In the last *Agricultural Journal* there were two very good articles; one on the "Farming of Denmark," and the other on the "Old Long-horn Breed of Cattle." I cannot conclude without thanking you for your paper, as there are many very useful articles in it.

ROBERT WATSON.

Standard Hill, Ninfeld, Battle, Oct. 23, 1876.

Superphosphate of Lime.

DEAR SIR,—I notice in your October number an enquiry from a correspondent as to the value of superphosphate of lime as manure. I have used some this year, and will give my experience. My land is a clay loam. I first manured moderately about four acres with barn-yard manure; in the centre of this piece, on two acres, I sowed two barrels of the lime, of 250 lbs. to the barrel, or half the quantity recommended. The results were satisfactory to me. This year the turnip crop in this locality was almost an entire failure, owing to the drought, while last year they were very good. The part of the crop manured with superphosphate was almost up to last year's crop, while that unmanured was scarcely worth digging. Through one of the sides unmanured I dug a tile drain, which, when covered over with sand and hard clay from the bottom of the ditch, looked very unpromising for a crop. On this space, some 35 rods long and two rows in width, I sowed a half-bushel of the manure, and dug an average crop, while those on each side were worthless; they also kept green long after the unmanured ones were killed by the frost. This is my first trial of the manure, and am satisfied it is a good thing. I intend to sow it on my grain next year.

J. E.,

Pickering Township, Co. Ontario.

Duffin's Creek P. O.

[In reply to the enquiry of J. M. L., Strathroy, in the October number of the *Advocate*, Mr. E., of Pickering, has kindly communicated the above information. As far as we have heard, the superphosphate referred to in our visit to Brockville has realized our expectations.—Ed.]

Superphosphates.

SIR,—In your valuable journal (*FARMERS' ADVOCATE*), there was a communication from "J. M. L., Strathroy, Ont.," asking for information regarding the use of superphosphates, which was answered by "R. T. R., Barton, Ont." With your permission, allow me to add my experience. I used it last spring on turnips, potatoes and corn, with satisfactory results, considering the season, which

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