

DORSET HORNS AT THE COTTAGE.

Within a short distance of the Springfield Station on the C. P. R., and three miles from the Port Credit Station on the G. T. R., is situated the farm on which Mr. Thomas W. Hector is now most successfully carrying on the breeding and importing of what to many Canadians is a new breed of sheep.

As many of our readers are aware, one of the advantages claimed by those interested in Dorsets is that these sheep will produce a crop of lambs, at the behest of the shepherd, at any season of the year. Any sheep breeder who doubts that in this particular they have not an advantage over other breeds should see this flock in early winter.

At the time of our visit, January 10th, 58 lambs had already been dropped. They were a sight long to be remembered. Great, strong, lusty fellows, sleek and fat, dozens of them ready for the knife.

These began to arrive early in October, but the majority came in November and last part of December, and have lost no time growing since. There were plenty of these lambs that would weigh over fifty pounds, others sixty pounds, and some were told had actually tipped the beam at seventy pounds.

We have never seen a healthier, better developed lot of any breed. Many of them were big enough to wean, and quite able to take care of themselves if need be.

Mr. Hector had provided a compartment purposely for feeding them by themselves with interstices gauged to suit the passages, and which would not admit their dams. The eagerness with which they separated and sought their feed showed how they appreciated the care to which they are accustomed.

A number of the ewes had again been bred, and if lambs can be weaned as early as these are there is no reason why the Dorset ewes could not bring up two crops in the year, if sufficient care and feed is supplied.

This we were assured is the oldest flock of the breed in Canada, and as the former partner, Mr. Tazewell, had been accustomed to this breed in England, the first sheep imported were very carefully selected from the best flocks of the day. Among the breeders of those sheep are Messrs. Culverwell Bros., Bridgewater, Somerset; Mr. Thos. Chick, Stratton, Dorset, and Mr. Herbert Farthing.

The sales had reduced the flock to about forty-five breeding ewes and ten rams. A large bunch of rams had been sold for ranch purposes quite recently, while we were assured that the demand for ewe lambs was such that all last year's crop had been exhausted some time ago.

The culls of the ram lambs have so far only been offered to the butchers. These were well grown and fat, but were deficient in some points, yet, at the early part of the year when the spring lamb is scarce, no difficulty was found in obtaining \$10 from butchers for them.

Three rams have been used in the flock; these are St. Vincent, Stratton Duke and Sir Durlough. The latter is a remarkably fine show sheep, having won first prize as a lamb at the Royal Show, Dorchester, England, in 1891, and first at all the principal shows in Canada where exhibited.

The ewes appear to be kind mothers and good keepers; the lambs are strong from the first, and are no trouble.

The strictest account of ages is kept and every lamb is recorded in a private flock book, so that the produce of each ewe can be readily traced, and no mistake as to age or breeding can possibly occur. Another importation to replenish the ranks thinned by sales has been arranged for. The new importation will arrive early next season. We expect that this flock will win honors for its owner and Canada next fall at Chicago.

Care and Treatment of Jersey Cattle.

BY MRS. ELLA ROCKWOOD.

Perhaps no breed of cattle possesses in a greater degree susceptibility to treatment, kind or unkind, than the Jersey. The peculiar nervous temperament so essential in a perfect dairy cow is one of her strongest characteristics.

Look at the bright, intelligent face of a true specimen of this breed, and note the large fawn-like eyes, bright and glistening. Look at the thin, dilating nostrils, with their orange lining, which seem to scent danger like a deer, and seeing know that this queen among cows demands and well deserves the most careful handling and kindest treatment to bring out her good qualities and keep them at their best.

No cow, from the scrub to the thoroughbred, can do her best unless under circumstances conducive to quiet and content; and although cows of more sluggish temperament may bear ill-usage with little apparent regard, it is not so with the sensitive Jersey, and she soon depreciates in value.

From calfhood she should have reason to regard her master as her friend. No blows or harsh words should teach her to fear him; but she should expect and receive only caresses and kind words. Under such treatment she will develop a gentle, kind disposition.

She should be taught to lead by a halter, to stand quietly as for milking, and to bear handling of the udder long before she reaches maternity; so

that she may be quiet and easily handled, instead of being wild and unmanageable, as heifers often are at that time. No breaking-in will be necessary, and if it is desirable to dispose of her she will bring a better price than one that has never been trained.

Do not make the mistake of thinking that when she drops her first calf is time enough to begin feeding her; she should have been fed from her birth with this in view.

No supplemental food is better than ground oats as a help in developing the heifer calf. As soon as she begins to eat hay she should have a little, night and morning, fed dry. Begin with half a pint of feed, or even less, and gradually increase the quantity until she will take a pint at a feeding. Keep her thrifty and growing. A calf once stunted by insufficient or improper food will never make so good a cow as she would otherwise have been.

The grain ration should be increased as the heifer grows, and at the arrival of the milking period she should, after the first few days, be given a generous quantity of such food as is best suited to assist her in producing milk.

While there are various grain foods recommended by dairymen as excellent for milch cows, for the general feeder and the average cow nothing is better than a mixture of one part cornmeal, one part oatmeal and two of wheat bran. Of this, feed as much as after experimenting with your cow you find gives best results in milk and butter.

Each cow is a law unto herself as to the amount of food she can profitably consume. It takes more to produce a like result with one than another. Up to the extent of her capacity the greater the amount consumed the greater the returns at the pail and churn; but when a cow is fed beyond her capacity to convert the food into milk and butter she is fed at a loss; the extra food goes to make fat.

A liberal allowance of coarse fodder should also be fed. Clover hay, corn fodder, ensilage—all are good. Roots are valuable as a food for milch cows. Carrots are perhaps best, with sugar beets next. Turnips and ruta-bagas will flavor the butter.

Pure water should always be within reach of the cows. No other domestic animal requires so large a quantity, and a shrinkage of the milk will follow if she is deprived of it in abundance.

While Jerseys as a breed are unsurpassed as butter-makers, there is a wide range in their value in this respect. Each cow should be tested and the best only kept. In regard to testing, it is not always that the cow showing the highest test of butter-fat is really the best cow. Other things should be taken into consideration—quantity of milk and length of milk period during the year. These should be considered before deciding, as a cow showing a medium amount of butter-fat may make up in quantity of milk during the year what a single test of her milk may lack.

Not all of us can have cows making a thousand pounds of butter in a year; but any one owning a single Jersey cow may, with judicious breeding and careful feeding, combined with the kind treatment and care which all animals should have, in a few years possess a herd of cattle which will be a source of profit as well as pleasure.

How the Jersey Strikes Our Poet.

BY G. HOPPER.

"The Jersey Cow," so neat of limb,
So gentle, thoroughbred and trim,
Inspires both poetry and prose
(E'en when no "Prize" shines at the close!)
Her fine ideal dairy form,
Her speaking eye, liquid and warm,
Her pleasing color, royal air
That marks her one beyond compare—
All of the attributes of grace
Betok'ning an illustrious race—
These charm the poets in their dreams,
These lure the artists to the streams
By which she browses, fresh and fair,
And sweet as summer-scented air.
But all these things to nothing tend—
Behold her at her business end!
Bred ages back for milk that's rich,
She gives it still without a hitch—
Only more so. And more and more
She pushes up the wondrous score.
Such milk, that, coddled in our churns,
To golden butter quickly turns!
Such butter, solid through and through,
Renowned from York to Timbuctoo!
Butter, flavor of which exceeds
The wildest dreams of other breeds!
Tis tasted by the epicure,
And then no other he'll endure.
Tis tasted by the farmer too—
The farmer who was always blue—
And soon we view his Jersey tubs
And lose sight of his heavy scrubs,
The while upon his face we see
The glad dawn of Prosperity.
He tells unto his neighbor's wife
The happy change made in his life;
And then, sown in this fertile ground,
The Jersey's "tale" goes 'round and 'round.
So may e'er spread the worthy fame
Of this unrivaled bovine dame!
So may her genuine merits spread
Till every prejudice is dead,
Till Ignorance, with blinded eyes,
Shall no more vent her senseless cries;
But freely to this truth accede:
"The Jersey is the butter breed!"

How to Feed Our Horses.

Not many farmers take into account what it costs to winter the horses necessary for their farm work. If this and other items that go to make up the expenditure in keeping up a fairly well equipped working stock were minutely detailed, there are few that would not be surprised at the result. Certainly the proper management of horses on the farm is one of those particulars which demand serious attention. There is a large proportion of horses worn out on the farm. If we take a percentage of the loss thus incurred, it is one of the departments that adds materially to the drain on the credit side of the ledger account. For instance, a farmer buys a pair of already broken young horses, which do his work to his satisfaction, and, consequently, if they are good he values them much more highly than any buyer is likely to offer; he therefore keeps them on until they are too old for sale and are worth considerably less money for any commercial purpose than the price paid. He still asks a high price, and the upshot of the matter is he either wears them out or sells them, when nearly done, at a figure not exceeding twenty-five per cent. of first cost. On the other hand farmers breed their horses, and after they are sufficiently educated the same course is pursued. Now in both these instances there is a yearly loss on account of depreciation in value. Spring is usually the best time to sell this stock. Work that will not stand delay is close at hand, and rather than sell them at their value and run the chance of replacing them they are retained. The difficulty is partly due to farmers not keeping their horses in condition for sale. When the winter season comes the feed is taken off and horses are fed hay without grain in order to curtail the expense, as well as to prevent further trouble from feeding horses that have not sufficient exercise. The grain ration is stopped short, or so lessened that a hearty horse has to satisfy hunger by filling up with more hay than is good for him, and which he generally has dealt out to him *ad libitum*. He consequently spends his idle hours in gorging himself with hay, the value of which his owner does not take into consideration. If the yearly value of keeping a horse in proper shape is taken into account, it is found to make the horse labor one of the heaviest expenditures on the farm. In these days, when hand labor is not attainable, the only resource is to keep a sufficient number of horses of such a stamp that may be required to horse the improved implements of the day. In fact, at present a fully equipped set of implements and machines in which horses are utilized is the only solution to the farm labor question, therefore how to feed horses cheaply and always have them in saleable and good working condition will have to be made more and more a study of.

The opinion that hay and oats are the only kinds of feed suitable to the every-day horse ration has been so well handed down by old writers that it is in a measure dangerous to suggest a substitute. The convenient form of both these articles, and their well-known suitability for horses that have to perform arduous work, also have the effect of keeping these two standard staples in continued use. But the fact that this condition is only suitable for hard worked horses must not be overlooked, and that the farm horse of necessity must stand idle for a large proportion of the winter.

In order to economize, and at the same time provide suitable diet, the mixture that all practical horse breeders use in their breeding studs is much in advance, and although all do not agree quite as to what sort of grain is best and cheapest, they all agree that cut feed, hay and straw, bran and ground grain can be fed with much greater advantage and at about half the cost. If a feed room is provided in which water does not freeze, the mixing can be done by wetting the chaff and adding the bran and ground grain; and if mixed twelve hours previous to feeding all the better. Another good plan is to heat the grain and bran or meal and bran in a chaldron, and then mix with whatever chaff is intended to be fed. It then forms a most savory and nutritious food, and at very little expense and trouble after the required appliances are once in place. By either of these methods not only are all the nutritious elements in the ration made the most of, but in this form it is much easier on the digestive apparatus than when long hay and whole oats are fed. At the same time this mixed food is not as heating to the blood of horses not being worked.

Everyone knows that pork and fat meat of any kind is both relished and conducive to health in the case of a man at work out of doors, but place the same man on the same diet inside in an office, without exercise, and he would quickly suffer. Exactly the same principle applies to animals on the farm, and by studying and testing the different modes only the best methods may be practically worked out. What in this case applies to the idle work horse is still more applicable to young colts, as a properly balanced ration, properly prepared as above, will develop them more quickly, and at the same time keep them in the best possible state of health.