

a keen demand for early lamb, these half-bred sheep and their produce sold for big money. To raise them, whole tracts of moorland were broken and brought into cultivation, and land values rose with a bound. The curious question has been raised: whether these half-breeds are a pure breed? It is difficult to appreciate this question. There are only two recognized ways of breeding them: by a Border Leicester sire out of a Cheviot dam, or by a ram, the produce of such a union, out of a ewe similarly bred. Such is a very useful kind of sheep—none more so; but that it is a breed we much doubt, as it cannot exist within itself. The blood of the B. L. and Cheviot must ever and anon be resorted to, to keep up the character of the type evolved. This does not seem to us to consist well with the character of a breed. No sheep are, however, more valuable, and their name, Half-breeds, is used chiefly to distinguish them from the cross-breeds, which are the produce of a Border Leicester ram and a Blackface ewe. The latter make capital hogs, and are largely bred for the hogg market. SCOTLAND YET.

Cattle Breeders' Association.

The fourth annual meeting of the Pure-Bred Cattle Breeders' Association of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories was held in the Manufacturers' Building, on the Winnipeg Exhibition grounds, on the evening of July 25th. Mr. Leslie Smith, Wawanesa, First Vice-President, took the chair in the absence of President E. A. Struthers, from whom a letter was read, regretting his inability to be present.

Mr. W. S. Lister, of Middlechurch, Secretary-Treasurer, presented a statement of receipts for the past four years, showing the total to have been \$243, and of the expenditures amounting to \$148.50; balance on hand, \$94.80. Also a report of the business undertaken during the past year. The report, as read, was adopted.

The election of officers was then proceeded with, resulting as follows: President, Leslie Smith, Wawanesa; First Vice-President, H. O. Ayearst, of De Clare; Second Vice-President, James Glennie, Portage la Prairie; Secretary-Treasurer, G. H. Greig, Winnipeg. Directors—Representing Shorthorns, J. G. Barron, Carberry; Herefords, W. Sharman, Souris; Jerseys, James Bray, Portage la Prairie; Holsteins, W. J. Young, Emerson; Ayrshires, D. Steele, Glenboro; Polled-Angus, J. Traquair, Welwyn; Galoways, W. Martin, Winnipeg; Walter Lynch, Westbourne; Donald Fraser, Emerson, and A. Graham, Pomeroy.

C. M. Richardson and R. Waugh, Winnipeg, were appointed auditors.

On motion of Mr. Ayearst, seconded by Mr. R. D. Foley, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Lister for his services as Secretary during the last three years.

On the motion of H. O. Ayearst, seconded by Jas. Glennie, regret was expressed that E. A. Struthers had been unable to attend the meeting, and he was thanked for his labors as President. Thanks were also given to other retiring officers.

On motion of J. G. Barron, seconded by D. Munroe, it was resolved that, in the opinion of this meeting, the Industrial Exhibition should not commence later next year than the 17th of July.

On motion of W. S. Lister, seconded by J. G. Barron, the Secretary was instructed to send out circulars to agricultural societies in reference to holding exhibitions on consecutive dates along the different lines of railway, to facilitate the attendance of judges and others wishing to attend a number of them in circuit.

R. D. Foley moved, seconded by D. Munroe, that the directors be requested to name competent men to act as judges in the Province at the local exhibitions. This was lost, after some discussion.

Considerable discussion ensued as to the cattle stables, the unanimous feeling being that the Shorthorn barn is the only one at all suitable for exhibiting cattle.

It was resolved, on motion of R. D. Foley, seconded by J. Barron, that, in the opinion of this Association, the cattle stables should be changed as according to previous motion passed by this Association, which was that they should be modelled after the plan of the Shorthorn barn and made ten feet wider and floored throughout.

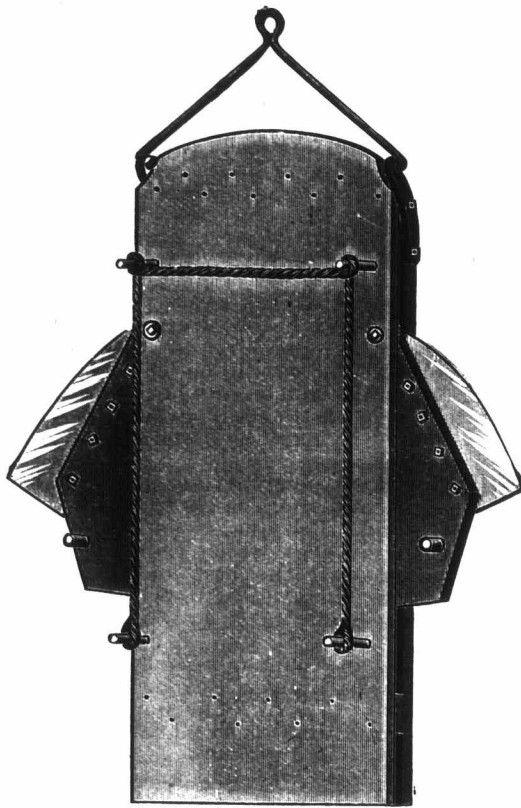
On motion of Jas. Bray, seconded by Joe Lawrence, a vote of thanks was passed to the railway companies for free transport, and it was resolved that the Secretary be instructed to ask the companies to give the same privileges another year, and point out that it would be impossible, otherwise, to hold a successful exhibition, as there would be no stock brought in.

The meeting adjourned until 9 o'clock next morning, when Superintendent O. H. Gregg, of the Minnesota Institute system, and Prof. Shaw, of the Minnesota State College, gave lectures, using the animals as object lessons. Mr. S. J. Thompson, Provincial Veterinarian, also gave an address on the subject of tuberculosis.

FARM.

Filling the Silo.

The time of year will soon arrive for securing the silage supply for the coming season. Harvesting should commence when the ear has reached the glazed stage, or a little before that time if there is a large amount to be handled. Immature corn means sour ensilage; over-ripe corn, dry, mouldy silage. Opinions differ widely concerning the methods of cutting. The corn sled represented by the accompanying illustration has been found very efficient when the crop is standing well, but when the stalks are broken and twisted about a good deal, there is no better method than hand cutting with a good sharp corn-hook, of which there are various styles. Even when the corn stands well, rapid and neat work can be done with the hooks. Cut near the ground, long stubble being a nuisance. The sled consists of two flat runners, 5 feet 2 inches long, and beveled in front like the runners of a stone-boat. They are made of hardwood, and are 2½ inches broad and 5 inches high. They are kept in place by three cross-pieces. Over this frame is a covering of inch boards, 2 feet 6 inches wide. The wings on which the blades are fixed consist of two pieces of hardwood shaped somewhat like a V, with something like a piece of an old cross-cut saw bolted on the outer edge of each, which is sharpened and cuts the corn when the sled is in motion. The knives are hinged on a bolt in front, and the rear part may be pushed under the platform to adjust the width of the boat to any variation that may be found in the width of the rows of corn.



A HOME-MADE CORN-CUTTING MACHINE.

The knives are held in position at the rear by a bolt, which may be removed at will. The length of the knife is 20 inches, and the narrowest width at base 9½ inches. The greatest width is 16 inches. Four stakes are placed in position, as shown in engraving, and a rope attached to these a short distance above the platform to protect the two men who stand inside and catch the corn in their arms as it is cut, allowing it to fall in bundles of sufficient size to be conveniently handled.

From the time the harvesting commences, "dispatch" should be the watchword. Enough hands and teams should be secured to keep a continuous stream of corn running into the silo. In some localities two or three farmers have found it very satisfactory to own a large ensilage cutter in partnership, and where horse-powers are not at their disposal a threshing engine can often be secured to run the machine. By the partnership plan all the hands of the farmers owning the machine can be made use of,—in the field, hauling to the barn, feeding the cutter and levelling and tramping in the silo. The ensilage cutter should stand out doors if possible, so that there will be abundance of room to drive up with the loads and handle the corn with freedom. It is thought by some practical men that to allow the corn to wilt before hauling is an advantage, but others who have tried it have not found it entirely satisfactory. Mr. John Gould, of Ohio, who delivered an able address on the silo at a Western Dairymen's Association, stated that he "does not believe in cutting corn over five minutes before it goes on the wagon."

Hauling the Corn.—For drawing the corn to the silo any form of low truck with a flat rack, or an ordinary rack floored over, will answer very well. The top of the rack should not be much higher than the wheels. Sometimes two long scoundings or poles are suspended under the axles of a wagon at any desired height. Boards are then placed across these to make a platform, on which the corn is loaded. The number of men necessary depends upon the distance the corn has to be hauled.

When the field is close at hand, about seven men, one of whom may do the directing, can keep things going nicely. Every man should have his place and do his own work. The platform of the cutting-box should be from a foot to a foot and a half below the top of the rack. Then, have an extension table 12 feet long, and 2½ feet higher at the back end than the front. There is a good deal in proper loading. To build the loads with corn crosswise, butts all one way, has been found very satisfactory. The bundles can then be taken from one end of the load first, and followed in succession down the inclined extension table, without any delay whatever. By this plan just one man is required to feed the machine. There is a plan now in vogue by means of which the man in the silo can be done without. Says Mr. Gould, in his address to the Dairymen's Association: "Which is the heavier, a man or the next load of ensilage?" The plan is this: To take some boards and make a little table 3½ feet square, and lay it across two poles over the silo, right under the top end of the carrier. As the ensilage falls on the table it will form a pyramid about four feet high, and as the rest follows it is thrown by this slant clear over to the walls of the silo. By-and-by the corners will be found a little slack; then turn your table quarter the way round, and the corners will fill. Once in a while it may be necessary to get in and do ten minutes' tramping and spreading, because a little straightening up is necessary now and then. When within two loads of the end of the day's work, the table should be removed, and the corn allowed to fall in the centre, then spread out level and left to settle over night. The pressure will then be where it is most needed. Mr. Gould has practiced pouring on 20 pails of water at the close of each season's filling, for two years, and in this he thinks he has found the ideal covering for the silo. After the last load is in, gather up the litter, spread it over nicely and tramp the corners down close. After two days, tramp it down again, and do it well. Now is the time to pour on the water, about 20 pails for a silo 15 feet square. The work is now completed, and if the silo has been properly constructed and now in good condition, there need be no fear about the quality of the ensilage when wanted for the stock. Sometimes, when a silo is very rapidly filled, after being tramped round the sides and corners and leveled, it will, in a few days, settle down six or seven feet, and may then be refilled to the top. Once it settles down, the top should not be disturbed. If holes are made, there will be spots of "bad" ensilage. Therefore, in refilling, considerable fresh-cut corn should be run in before a man steps in again. If the corn be over-ripe, some recommend sprinkling on water freely occasionally.

Fall Wheat Reports.

(Continued from page 301.)

THE CROP AS SEEN BY OURSELVES.

East of London, on the C. P. R., we found many fine fields of Golden Cross, which seemed to be a favorite with many between London and Galt. The Manchester and Democrat still hold a place. As we continue east and north we find the old White Clawson the popular sort. We saw several splendid fields of this kind. On other farms in the Eastern and Northern fall wheat sections the Canadian Velvet Chaff does well. Some promising fields of American Bronze were here seen. On the farm of the Hon. John Dryden was a field of twenty acres, all American Bronze, a most promising crop—tall, thick, well headed, and very pure. On an adjoining farm, owned by Mr. Dyer, Columbus, was another large and promising field of this variety; also a quantity of Pride of Genesee, one of Mr. Jones' latest cross-breeds, and a large strip of Genesee Giant. The first named is a gigantic grower; the heads were in several cases seven inches long, but coarse and open; the straw was quite five feet high. The habits of growth are like the Clawson; the head bends over and the straw is inclined to lean; it tillers freely; from one stool we counted 28 well-developed heads. Though so vigorous a grower, we are not prepared to pronounce it a desirable sort. The Genesee Giant was more promising. This sort presented a splendid appearance; in its habits of growth and in the straw it resembles the Golden Cross, to which it is closely related.

Essex, S. R.

W. J. BALDWIN, Colchester.—Hybrid Mediterranean, White Surprise, White Clawson and Michigan Amber are the leading wheats in this vicinity. My seven acres of Surprise promised well, but suffered to some extent with rust. Red Clawson, Walker's Reliable and some other new sorts are grown, but fall behind in the race with the former mentioned sorts.

Oxford, S. R.

GEO. SIBBEN, Ingersoll.—Red Clawson and Volunteer are mostly grown about here. The former gives best results, having larger heads and plumper grain than the latter.

J. W. COHOK, New Durham.—Manchester, Clawson and Democrat are among the leading varieties of wheat grown in this locality, and, with favorable conditions, yield about in the order named. Democrat, however, seems to be able to withstand adverse conditions, with less injury than the others named. American Bronze and Canadian Velvet Chaff have been tried, but have never grown in popularity.

Bruce, E. R.

JAMES TOLTON, Walkerton.—Garfield, American Bronze, Golden Cross, Democrat, and Bearded Velvet Chaff and some of the older sorts are grown in this locality. My experience in growing the first three named places them in value in the order named. All varieties seem to stand the winter and spring equally well. Garfield inclines to be weak in the straw. The Bronze grows a rank and stiff straw, inclined to rust on rich land. Garfield, Democrat and Red Clawson are all popular with my neighbors.