

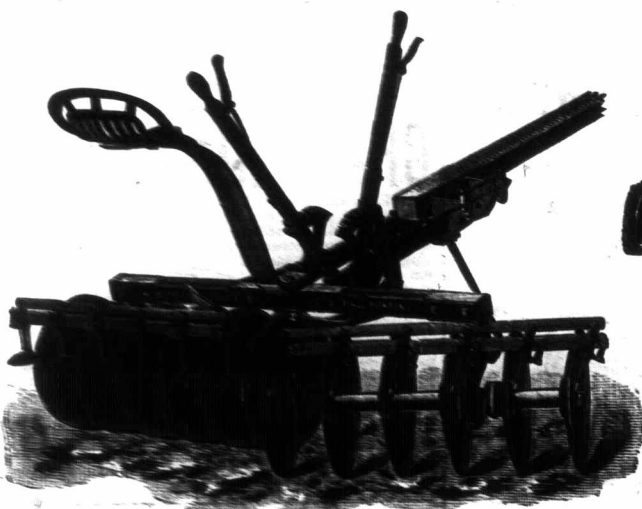
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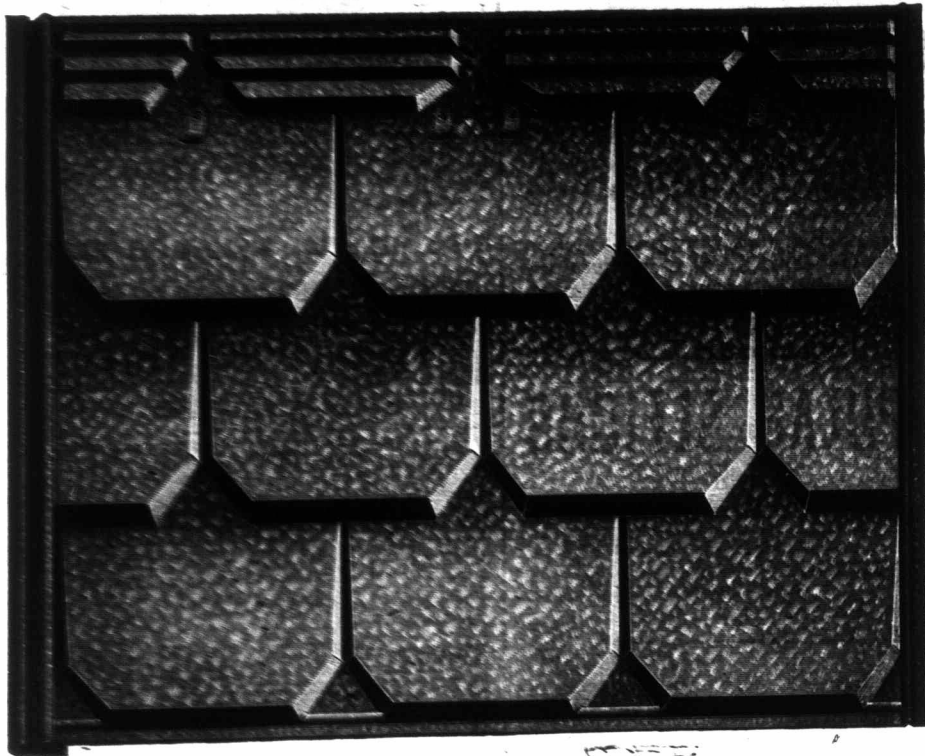


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STOCK GOSSIP.

In writing to advertisers please mention the Farmer's Advocate.

The Ottawa Fair prize list, which appeared in the ADVOCATE for October 15th, credited Mr. J. N. Greenshields with securing all the Aberdeen Angus awards, instead of Dr. Craik. The list was furnished us by the exhibition authorities, and the error was apparently made by a copying clerk in the Secretary's office.

At River Bow Farm, on the River Thames, two miles from Byron and eight from the city of London, Messrs. Kains Bros. are breeding Ayrshires. This herd is headed by the stock bull, Castle Douglas, imported in dam, by the late Thos. Braun, Petite Cote. He was sired by the noted bull, Traveler, dam Fairy Queen. This is a very superior animal, and is proving himself a sure stock-getter. He won first prize at the Western Exhibition this fall. The latest addition to this herd is a very promising bull calf from the herd of Thos. Ballantyne & Son. This bull is out of one of his best imported cows, and got by Beauty's Style of Aachen, imported from Mr. Robert Wallace, Auchinbrain, Scotland. The cows and heifers are an exceedingly choice lot, and show the owner's skill in selection and breeding.

SPRUCEDALE DAIRY FARM.

At Bright, a station on the Buffalo and Goderich Branch of the G. T. R., which makes direct connection with the C. P. R. at Drumbo, and G. T. R. at Paris, is located the stock and dairy farm of W. C. Shearer. We found the owner busily engaged in filling his silo. He is a great upholder of ensilage as a food for dairy cows, and has the honor of having built the first silo in this part of the country. It is built of stone and cemented on the inside and will hold eighty tons. Not finding this sufficient for his stock two years ago, he built another of wood, double boarded with tar paper between, of similar capacity. Both silos were built inside the barn. Mr. Shearer cannot detect any difference in the keeping qualities of the ensilage from the two silos.

Mr. Shearer has been dairying in the old way for years, but found that it was too slow, and that it cost too much time and labor to pay. He then looked around to see what improvement he could make in his business. The first idea that struck him was that he must improve his cows. About five years ago he decided that Jerseys were the most profitable breed for his purpose, so he purchased a number of cows and a registered bull, which, with their progeny, gave him a very nice herd. He then fitted up an old stone cheese-house, which was on the farm, into a model dairy, the first in the neighborhood. He again added to its equipment a large barrel-churn, a No. 7 Alexandra Separator, and a tread-power, which is usually worked by his bull, though if so desired, he can use one of his horses. Mr. Shearer believes in making this bull earn his own living, and thinks that if all bulls work on a tread-power, that we would hear but little about accidents from vicious bulls. Another step in the right direction was when he decided that the custom of sending his choice Jersey butter to the store to be mixed up with all sorts and conditions of butter was all wrong. He was fortunate in securing private customers in Hamilton and Toronto, to which he sends weekly about a hundred pounds of butter, neatly put up in pound packages, wrapped in parchment paper and stamped with his name. As an evidence of the steady improvement which has been made, we will give the records of 1891 and 1894, and allow our readers to judge for themselves.

In 1891 they kept fourteen cows, which averaged 294 pounds of butter, and brought \$55. This, after adding \$16 obtained for skim-milk for hogs, makes a total of \$71 for the year. In the year ending Sept., 1894, the cows increased from a total of \$84 in 1891 to \$105, an increase of \$21 over 1891. This was made up by an average of 331 pounds of butter per cow, which sold for \$55—an increase of \$17 over 1891; \$10 worth of skim-milk fed to hogs, and \$40 was counted as the value of the calves. The same number of cows were kept, but a number of them were two-year-old heifers. This larger return was obtained in spite of the dry summer, for Mr. Shearer, like all true dairymen, having been prepared for all emergencies with a large field of corn and green feed, his cows scarcely knew that the grass had dried up. He has had his separator only a short time, but feels that it has paid for itself already, for he considers that he gains a pound a week per cow, by means of its use, besides the great saving in labor. Another large item towards the price, was the prize money, \$40, which he won for his butter at both Drumbo and London. His first investment in the stock line was of a cow and three calves, which has proved a very profitable venture, as they have all turned out wonderfully well. At the head of the herd is the pure St. Lambert bull, Canada's Hero, a grandson of the famous bull, Canada's John Bull, dam Nettie of Grimsby, who had a seven days' test of nineteen pounds five ounces, and her dam a test of sixteen pounds in the same time. He was bred by Geo. Smith & Sons, Grimsby, and if the butter records of his ancestors go for anything, he should produce some choice milking stock. The cow, Bessie Scarlet, now eight years old, has from March 1st to June 15th made 250 pounds of butter, and averaged 45 pounds of milk per day, testing 5.15 per cent. of butter-fat. Another of the same breed is her four-year-old daughter, Scarlet Flower, by an imported Jersey bull, Prince of Oak Lawn. This is a fine cow, of a handsome solid fawn color, and tests 6 per cent. Scarlet Blossom is another three-year-old daughter; she tests 5 per cent., and made an average of a pound a day for four months, as a two-year-old last winter. Roselle, one of the calves already mentioned, is now four years old, and has a test of 6.50 per cent. butter-fat, with a yield of 30 pounds of milk per day. This is a beautiful cow, with skin of exceedingly rich butter color, and of good dairy shape. She has an extremely large muzzle, and as Mr. Shearer says, is a good feeder and is never sick. Violet is another of the first purchase, and is a good cow, testing 5.75 per cent., with a yield of 26 pounds of milk per day. She has a fine two-year-old heifer, Diana, a perfect picture of the old cow, and due to calve in a few days. Another daughter, Olive, is a very promising one-year-old heifer; a perfect beauty, and one of the prettiest of the whole herd. There are a number of fine heifer calves now ready for sale, and also three yearling bulls, all of which are from the stock bull, Canada's Hero, and they should give good satisfaction to customers. Mention must also be made of a small but choice flock of Oxford-Down sheep.