

duced in many of the breeds. But yet purchasers are not satisfied, although good animals are offered in some instances for sums not more than twice the price of butcher's meat, and in others for less than this sum. The aim of the purchaser seems to be often to get the animal for meat price. Now this can never become general without proving most destructive to stock improvement, for then the breeder would get little or no compensation for the extra pains and outlay always attendant upon the production of breeding stock. Extra pains and increased outlay will not be forthcoming without the prospect of compensation in an increased price.

Take the case of Southdown sheep, for illustration. One who undertakes to breed them for selling must be at increased expense in getting his foundation stock. He must then purchase his males at a price above the average, and this about every second year. If a reputation is to be built and sustained he must sell the inferior specimens to the butcher, for there will be some of this class, however judicious the breeding.

It would be unwise to sell those specimens for breeding at butcher's prices. It would soon result in serious injury to himself and probably to the purchaser, for if deemed unworthy of a place in his own flock, where they are likely to get well cared for, they would produce less satisfactory results in the hands of one less skilled. The new purchaser himself would soon become disgusted with his work, and the neighbors who came to see, would conclude, as they have done in many such instances, that if such was the improvement made by pure-bred stock, they wished to keep aloof from it altogether. The standard of scrub stock is surely low, but it would be much lower if such a course were adopted. If those who breed scrubs were to sell their culls for breeding purposes, the results would be deplorable. With all their indifference to improvement, those engaged in the scrub stock business act more wisely here than many of the breeders of pure-breds.

Now it is plain from what we have said that the breeder of a good class of Southdowns cannot afford to sell good specimens from his flock at meat prices, nor can his price even approximate to average meat prices, for the average meat price has reference to a class of stock fed in every way more carelessly than his. If a comparison is to be made between the prices at which he sells and butcher's meat, it should be between the prices meat will bring where its quality will equal that of his flock if turned into meat.

It is hazardous to mention figures, but we will be excused for calling attention to what we have met in our own observation. Enquirers have complained at \$10 for a pure-bred Berkshire pig at two months, a good specimen and rightly marked, and from imported direct on both sides. Others conclude that \$1 per setting of eggs from certain pure-bred fowls is dear. To such we say, come and let us reason together. Take the case of the Berkshires. A good sow is the first investment, which it is only just should call for a good price, not necessarily exorbitant. Then a good boar must be secured on similar conditions. We have no certain security that that sow will prove a safe or a good mother, or that the boar will give stock that is all our desire, though the shapes and marking of both are right. The longer the pedigree the greater our security, having respect also to its character. Berkshires are a breed not sufficiently long established to prevent reversion to the quaint old spotted creature from which the breed has been evolved. In a litter of eight it will be strange if some white spots do not crop out on the ear or shoulder or

somewhere contrary to rule. In every such instance these must or should go to the meat market, as being less reliable to breed true to color. Then there will be the inevitable "runt," and one or two the shapes of which are not the best. These, too, must make meat. Add to this the care of keeping the pedigrees, trouble of shipping, liability to accident, trouble emanating from partial or complete barrenness, the cost of a stock male every second year, and tell us how much less than \$10 as a minimum can one sell Berkshire pigs suitable to breed from. It would be different if every specimen would answer for this purpose. The same line of reasoning will apply to the breeding of every class of pure-bred stock.

We appeal to the breeders of the Dominion to hand every specimen not fairly good over to the butcher. This cannot be done in the case of horses, but they need not be sold for breeding purposes. In one or two instances we have been tempted to let specimens go, though not unadvisedly on the part of the purchaser, and the results have not been as satisfactory as might have been expected. Henceforth these shall be the portion of the butcher.

Nor can we conclude otherwise than that those who insist on getting pure-bred stock at meat prices will never make much progress in the business. The breeders of such cannot afford it, and it will turn out eventually that parties who begin with this class of stock cannot afford to do it either.

The attempt should not be made by every one to grow pure-bred stock. Those only should embark in the business who have a natural adaptation for it. That adaptation is usually shown by the production of a superior type of whatever class of grades the individual has been handling in the past. Any one who has left his neighbors in the race in growing good grades is more likely to succeed in producing good pure-breds.

Yet every one in the stock business should be most careful to use pure sires. With most breeds the price should not be an obstacle now. The shipping business of this Province had never been had it not been for the adoption of this course, and now that dairying is spreading rapidly let pure sires be used where the offspring is to be kept.

The Prairie Province of Manitoba.

The Government of Manitoba has recently opened offices in Ontario, for the purpose of disseminating information regarding the prairie province. The office in Toronto is in charge of Mr. A. J. McMillan, and that in London is in charge of Capt. Wastie. These gentlemen attend farmers' markets throughout the province. Several excursions have been arranged to Manitoba, to give farmers and others an opportunity of visiting the country and seeing it for themselves. The Manitoba Government issued last month a little pamphlet, entitled, "Facts about Manitoba," which is full of useful information. From it we learn that last year nearly 25,000,000 bushels of cereals were exported. It is stated that in 1887 there were 432,134 acres under wheat; 155,176 acres under oats, and 56,110 under barley. There were 10,791 acres of potatoes, with an average yield per acre of 238 bushels, and last year, it is claimed, many were exported to Ontario.

The book is full of useful information relating to live stock, poultry, cereals, lands, railways, etc. Last year there was an unprecedentedly large harvest, and Mr. McMillan informs us the indications in Manitoba point to the probability of another very large harvest this year.

Cataraqui, its Ayrshires and Environments.

Cataraqui is an unpretentious village about two miles north-west of Kingston, and situated at the base of a tier of sloping hills at the side of a wide valley farthest from the city. Like many of our villages, its name seems to keep in remembrance the language of a vanished race. A little further on is the home of D. Nicol & Son, whose herd of Ayrshires is one of the most select and uniform to be found in Canada to day, numbering 27 head, of which 15 are cows; they give proof of much care exercised in their management and skill in their breeding. There is a uniformity in their appearance and characteristics which give evidence of the one moulding hand, and of a definiteness of purpose that is soon to be followed by even a greater uniformity. Almost without exception they trace to two foundation cows purchased in 1874 and 1876. These were Effie Deans —233—, and Rhoda [1339]. Effie Deans, a cow broad and large and heavy, with a weight of some 1,200 pounds, was bred by Walcot & Campbell, N. Y. Mills, in 1871, although she was owned successively by the Hon. M. H. Cochrane, Mr. John McAulay and Mr. George Kirkpatrick. Sired by Norval 762, she has for dam Effie 360, by Rob Roy 325; g. d. Tibbie 791 (imp.), by Black Thorn, and g. g. dam Bute by Sir Samuel. Rhoda [1339], bred by Mr. A. Allan, Montreal, was calved in 1873. She is by Conqueror [90] 1574 (imp.), and has for dam Strathaven Queen [228] 4554, imported by Mr. Allan.

But three sires have been used in the herd, with some slight exceptions. The first of these, Victor, came from D. Drummond, and the second, Stonewall, from J. Drummond, Petite Cote, P. Q. The present stock bull, Norseman, two years old, is by Comet [1521], and from the dam Jessie [1460], by Romeo [863], and has for g. d. Rhoda [1339], by Conqueror. Like the cows, this bull is in fine condition, and will doubtless tend to hasten that equalizing process which adds so much to the beauty and utility of a herd when the standard sought is a correct one. The calves, like the cows, give evidence of care and judicious feeding. With proper shapes and nice healthy coats, they are developing in a way that is full of hope for their future.

The true Ayrshire type is kept constantly before the breeders of this herd. They seek to produce cattle of the triple wedge-shape cast with straight top line, much roundness of barrel and squareness of quarter, small, neat heads and slim necks, with but scant dewlap, horns turning forward and upward, but not of the heavy spike cast, and udders nicely formed, with teats well apart. The cream is sold to a party in Kingston, and the returns for the milk and products amply sustain the high opinion which the firm have as to the pre-eminent value possessed by Ayrshires, for dairy purposes, not to speak of the sales that are made for stock purposes.

There is also a large and even flock of Southdown sheep bred from sires principally raised by Mr. Jackson, of Woodside, Abingdon. The flock numbers about 75 head. It is thought by many that the lighter breeds of cattle and sheep are better adapted to the eastern part of Ontario than to the west, where on the whole more uniform and heavier crops are grown. They have to travel more in foraging, and their lack of weight facilitates the ease with which this is done.

It is greatly important that adaptability should be well weighed in stocking any farm. It would be supreme folly for the Highlander to stock his mountain sheep range with any of the heavy breeds, and of doubtful propriety to fill the fertile meadows of York-