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than taking out with him a few of these inimitable pigs, to be dropped on his way to Greece as a present for his brother-in-law, the King. A simple Norfolk countryman was put in charge of these grunTERS, and when he returned, at the conclusion of his special mission, he informed the members of the Royal Family who were at home that the King of Greece "were a very nice-spoken gentleman, sent his love to them all, and were very pleased with the pigs." But the herdsman reflectively added that he should not care to live in those parts himself, and he seemed sorry for his beloved pigs.—[Daily Chronicle.

Dorset Horn Sheep.

The Dorsets are an ancient breed of sheep, which, in large numbers, inhabited certain of the Midland and South-eastern Counties of England during previous centuries. Improvement has been effected solely by selection and good feeding and without crossing with other breeds. The central home of the breed at present is in Dorsetshire and Somersetshire, where they have been bred from time immemorial, but they are found in many other counties and colonies of Britain, and are numerous in the United States. There is evidence to show that, at least two hundred years ago, it was customary to breed them so as to drop lambs in the early autumn, and in many instances they have been bred twice a year. For the production of early winter lambs—that is, unweaned lambs that can be marketed about Christmas, or in the winter and early spring—they are unrivalled. In many instances they will take the ram in April and produce lambs in September. They stand in the first rank in early-maturing qualities, the lambs attaining heavy weights at an early age. They were first imported into Canada in 1885 by Mr. E. Stanford, of Markham, Ont., and into the U. S. from Hamilton, Ont., by Mr. Wm. Daley, of Lockport, N. Y., in 1887. The first direct importation from Britain to the U. S. was made in 1887 by A. Thayer, Hoosick Falls, N. Y., and E. F. Bowditch, of Massachusetts. The largest importation was made in 1889 by T. S. Cooper, of Pennsylvania, consisting of 153 head. In size, Dorsets are larger than Southdowns, the average weight of matured rams in fair flesh being about 215 pounds, and of matured ewes, about 165 pounds, but show sheep in high condition weigh far above these figures. The first-prize pen of three wether lambs at the Smithfield Show last month, averaged 190 pounds. They are adapted to most districts of Canada and the U. S., and will thrive on rough land and short pasture, their grazing qualities being excellent, as they are quick in their movements, are possessed of good staying powers, and will eat coarser herbage than some of the other breeds.

In general appearance the Dorset is a somewhat long-bodied sheep of fair symmetry and style; the head rather large than small, tapering towards the muzzle, and having a tuft of wool on the forehead. The face and legs are white. Both rams and ewes have horns; small and flat in the female, but considerably longer, stronger and more angular in the male, and curved spirally outward from the head. The fleece is fine, dense and of even quality all over the body, and the wool comes down to the knee and hock. The mature sheep will shear, on an average, from six to eight pounds of unwashed wool; some of the rams shear eight to twelve pounds. Their mutton is tender, good flavored, and has a fair proportion of lean. It is thought that Dorsets answer better for being crossed upon than for crossing for mutton uses, as horns are not generally considered desirable for mutton sheep, but in producing a class of cross-bred grade ewes, possessed of the propensity to breed early and to nurse their lambs well, they are of great value, and their friends claim that the horns are an advantage as a defense against dogs, which the rams especially are apt to use in that capacity. Associations to promote the interests of the breed have been established in England and the United States. The American Dorset Horn Association was established in 1891, and the American Continental Dorset Club in 1897. The present secretary of the first named is M. A. Cooper, Washington, Pa., and of the latter, Joseph E. Wing, Mechanicsburg, Ohio. The two associations have registered over 12,000 animals, and of these but a small percentage are duplicates. Some of the best flocks in America are owned in Ontario.

Premiums Suiting.

I received the knife, harmonica and microscope all right, and like them very much.
Wentworth, Ont. ALICE SMITH.
Received the premium knife in good condition. Many thanks. It is a fine one.
St. Ann's. J. H. COMFORT.
I received my premium knife to-day, for which I thank you very much. It is quite up to your estimate."
York, Ont. B. W. GELLALLY.
Received watch in good shape, and am pleased with it. Wishing you every success.
Grey, Ont. B. McDONALD.

Life on an English Stock Farm.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—During a stay of over fifteen months in Canada, in which time I made my first practical acquaintance with farming, I found the perusal of your really excellent journal of great value to me in acquiring theoretical knowledge of my work. Consequently, having come over to England to improve my knowledge of methods of feeding stock, and the general care of the same, I think that it might be of some interest to your readers to describe something of the English methods as practiced on the farm on which I am now engaged. In the first place, the area of the farm



Prizewinning Dorset Lambs.

is something like three hundred and eighty acres, and the main business is buying and preparing "store" cattle for the butchers' market. Besides this, the chief staple of our industry, there is the raising of sheep, with a standing flock of about sixty ewes, the sheep taking the second place in importance. The chief purpose of the sheep-keeping is to supply the butcher, though, naturally, the wool is also a source of income to be counted upon. Our staff of regular employees includes a cowman, a shepherd, a wagoner, and wagoner's lad (a youth of about 19), a lad of all work, and two laborers, besides the "boss" and his "assistant," the last named capacity being filled by your humble servant. Our heavy horses are six in number—one a Clyde, the remaining five being Shires of great size and weight. Of these horses, the Clyde is constantly in use as a horse with which to run about the farm, carrying feed to various parts, and taking about such fixings as sheep netting, hurdles, feeding troughs, and the



Shorthorn Heifer, Queen Ideal.

Fifteen months old. Winner of first prize at the International Show, Chicago, and the Ontario Winter Fair. Owned by R. A. & J. A. Watt, Salem, Ont.

like, while the heavier work devolves upon the other large and heavier horses.

At present, we have in our cow stables, and the fold-yards attached thereto, something like seventy head of cattle, all bullocks or barren heifers, rapidly getting fit for the butcher market. To feed these cattle we require about two tons of pulped turnips per day, mixed with chaff and cut straw or hay, in quantity governed by the discretion of the cowman, besides a variety of "corn" meals also, whose quantity is controlled by the cowman.

The first business of the cowman after breakfast on Monday is to prepare this food in sufficient

quantity to serve until after breakfast on Wednesday. He has the best machinery, driven by a powerful oil engine, and the assistance of one of the laborers at his disposal, and is almost as much the "boss" as the farmer himself. The usual method of procedure is to put out a layer of chaff and cut feed on the feed-room floor, and on this a layer of some two tons of roots, then another layer like the first, another two tons of roots, and more chaff again. Then comes the mixing in of the strong feed. Over the mass of roots and chaff come down from a trapdoor above quantities first of cotton-seed meal, broken cotton-seed cake, linseed meal and cake, and of either corn meal (maize) or "germ meal," and sometimes also of rice meal. These are spread in even layers, and the mixing is done by a turn of the shovel when filling into the hand-truck or the bags used for carrying the feed to the various lots of cattle. Then, there are the outside cattle to feed, mostly rather younger stock, out grazing on scanty pasture, patched with soft snow, in outlying parts of the farm. Being on the land, these cattle do not require roots as yet, but must be kept growing, and got accustomed to feeding on the various meals. To serve this purpose, large feeding troughs are put out on the grazing lands, and in a central position. In each group of troughs stands a large box, capable of holding bags of feed to last several days. The feed for these outside cattle is prepared by mixing suitable quantities of the "corn" feeds before mentioned with a considerable bulk of chaff. Here is where the Clydesdale finds a great deal of his work, taking out bags of this feed to the boxes in the various fields, feed for sixty or seventy head of cattle, besides the feed for the two flocks in which the sheep are herded, and which feed is similarly handled to supplement the pasture.

The roots for the now nearly finished root harvest (we have not all out, but have all hauled in which are ready for carting), come off about forty acres of land, less a small piece of each of two fields given over to potatoes and carrots grown for market. We count twenty-five tons per acre of Swede turnips a fair average crop, that is after the roots have been "topped and tailed" with the turnip hook. As a ton makes a fairly stiff cartload for one horse on soft ground, it will readily be seen that these nearly forty acres of roots (swedes and mangels) will require some hauling. We follow the now almost general practice of growing common turnips for the width of the drill all round the field, and where we have two fields or more devoted to roots for feeding purposes, half of each is given to swedes and the rest to mangels, the idea being to dodge the total loss of either crop.

Potatoes we use to some extent in the place of wheat in the course of crop rotation, which, in this district, is on the four-course system, a condition of tenancy just here being that a place should be farmed on that system.

ERNEST S. SANDERS.

"The Bridge Farm," Newport, England.

Points in Beef Cattle.

At this season of the year it becomes the farmer to study how best soil fertility can be maintained. Observation, as well as experiments, show that this can in no way be better accomplished than by feeding the coarse grains and fodder on the farm. The advantage of feeding stock, then, is twofold—fattening stock, and enriching the land. Thus, soil cultivation, crop rotation and stock-keeping are indissolubly bound together.

My attention has been drawn during the last few years to the vast number of poorly-bred cattle, as compared with well-bred ones, and I have come to the conclusion that in many cases it was not owing to indifference, but to a lack of knowledge of what constituted a beef animal, and the extra benefit derived therefrom. I have heard it said that one could winter two or three scrub cattle on the same feed that it took to winter one good animal. This is a fallacy, as a well-bred steer, fed on the same rotation as an inferior one, will be in the better condition of the two, and when finished for export will bring about 5c. per pound, where the other will fetch from 2c. to 3c. per pound, or a difference, weight considered, of about \$25 to \$50. Now, this being a fact, and feed being high this winter, it becomes us more than ever to feed those animals which will give us the greatest gain and best returns for the amount of feed consumed.

I will endeavor to point out and describe some of the important points that go to make up a prime export steer. We like a deep, low-set, blocky steer, with