

EDITORIAL.

In this issue will be found several excellent articles on sheep breeding. Messrs. Wallace prefer to let the ram run with the ewes during breeding season. This is a common practice. A ram will sire more lambs and give quite as good or better results if the ewes are brought into a small field or pen for an hour or two each day, when the ram should be turned among them. As soon as the ewe is served she should be removed from the others and put with another flock, or left outside the enclosure, that she may not divert the ram's attention from the others. The ram may be kept in a paddock, or a roomy, airy pen when not with the ewes. During the season he should be liberally fed and well cared for. A strong, vigorous male, if treated as above, will serve eighty ewes, and the results will be satisfactory. To practise the above method, closer attention to detail is required. Messrs. Wallace's article is an excellent one, but we differ with them when they recommend throwing chaff or hay on the ground for the animals to feed over. This plan is wasteful in the extreme; better far to feed from racks. The best sheep rack we have ever seen is one built against the sides of the pen or yard. It should be constructed with a 14-inch board nailed to the wall at a suitable height from the ground. To the outside edge of this should be nailed a 3-inch strip; this will make a trough with a flat bottom two inches deep. About eighteen inches above the trough an inch board six inches wide should be nailed, so as to run parallel with the outer edge of the 3-inch strips. Slats four inches wide and one inch thick should be nailed to the outside of the trough and the horizontal strip. Sufficient space should be left to readily allow a sheep to put its head between the strips. Sheep will not pull out and tramp under foot hay or straw fed in such a trough or rack, for it serves a double purpose, and should be cleaned out thoroughly before each feed is given. Grain and cut roots can be fed in this device as well as straw. For feeding grain it is much to be preferred to a V-shaped trough, in which the grain lies in a deep seam, voracious feeders often choking by filling their mouths too full. The slats, too, prevent pushing and crowding while feeding. A rack fastened to the wall is much better than one built or placed in the middle of a pen or yard; it takes up less room, and exposes no sharp corners for the animals to run against. Messrs. Wallace strike a key note when they advise the division of sheep at lambing time. Small hurdles are a great convenience; they can be made of half-inch boards six inches wide; three boards nailed on two uprights three and a-half feet high are just the thing for large sheep; one-half of the hurdles should be four feet long, the remainder five feet. By commencing in one corner of the house two such hurdles will make a pen four feet one way by five feet the other. Now is the time a wall rack is appreciated, each ewe and her lambs having a perfect pen.

Mr. Sidney Upper recommends chopped grain. This should never be fed to sheep, let them grind it themselves; there is no advantage in grinding it for them, but an absolute loss. Many farmers make this mistake.

We call the attention of our readers to the article entitled "The Value of Fancy Points in Breeding Stock," by Mr. J. C. Snell. As nearly every Canadian knows, Mr. Snell is one of the oldest breeders in Canada. This article is of unusual merit; it deals in a masterly manner with a subject of more than usual interest. Mr. Snell is known to be the writer of many able articles, but this is undoubtedly the best he ever penned. Each of our many readers would do well to peruse it carefully and impress its teachings on his or her memory. The quality of our live stock would rapidly advance, if the principles, so well set forth, were practiced by farmers generally.

Mr. Chas. Wright strikes the nail on the head when he advises farmers to divide their flocks when bringing them into winter quarters. He also states that "one good lamb is better than two poor ones." Every farmer knows this, or says he does; but alas, the majority spend their time rearing the "poor ones." More attention to detail must be given in order to produce the "good ones", not only in sheep, but in all classes of live stock; yet, it is only the "good ones" that yield a profit. The doors and gates leading into the pens and folds should be wide; double doors are preferable, each of which should be four or five feet wide. It is wise to shut the sheep away from feeding rack just before feeding time—this allows the shepherd to properly place the food without being crowded; it also prevents straw and chaff sifting into the wool. In order to carry this plan out wide doors are a necessity.

The Agriculture and Arts Association of the Province of Ontario have abolished their system of "Prize Farm Competition." Modification or abolition was an absolute necessity; the latter was much the easier course.

Mr. McCrae's suggestion to the Board is worthy their most serious consideration. There is no apparent reason why the Board should not hold two annual sales. Success might not at first be attained, but the plan would ultimately succeed. Annual live stock sales are a great success in Britain. Why not in Canada? Mr. McCrae is right when he says the A. and A. Association is the proper body to start this ball rolling. We would like to hear what the live stock breeders think of this suggestion. Our columns are open to all who desire to discuss it.

Messrs. David Morton & Sons' Ayrshires.

For many years the firm of Messrs. David Morton & Sons have been established as manufacturers in the city of Hamilton, and, with a view of gaining recreation, they decided to start a fine stock establishment within convenient distance of their city office. With this idea before them, they purchased a farm, which now serves the double purpose of a place of retreat in summer, and the site of operations upon which a very excellent herd of Ayrshires is now domiciled.

The farm is situated within easy driving distance of the city of Hamilton, and is reached by means of a most delightful drive upon the road which extends along the brow of the mountain, from which a magnificent view of the city and surrounding country is obtained.

Their natural tastes and fondness for live stock led them to embark in this enterprise, which is not only fascinating in itself, but bids fair to be exceedingly profitable in the future.

A most happy beginning was made with admirable individuals, the selection of which Mr. Morton, sr., had the forethought to entrust to one of the best judges in Scotland. The illustration upon the plate page of this issue represents a few specimens of this now famous herd, and it is with no small degree of pleasure that we introduce them to our readers.

Royal Chief, the bull in the foreground, is at the head of the herd, and is without doubt the best bull of the breed ever brought into the country. He had been most successful wherever shown before his importation, since which he has won a series of victories. The first glance at Royal Chief fixes the attention, and a closer inspection reveals the fact that he is a bull of such outstanding excellence that it is difficult to decide which is most to be admired, his wonderful symmetry and finish, displayed in his smoothness of form and beautiful touch, or his great constitution and vigor, in addition to which there is any amount of breeding character. Royal Chief = 57 = (1647) was calved in April, 1887, and was sired by Douglas of Crofthead, dam Marion of Crofthead, and traces back to the celebrated Black Prince of Lessnessnock. It is now an established axiom with cattle breeders that the bull is half the herd, and the presence of such a one must be of immense benefit to the country at large; while the fact that he, as well as a number of the other good things were brought to this country, is proof that their proprietors determined to excel, and to have the best, regardless of price.

Beauty of Ayrshire, the cow in the foreground, was bred by Mr. John Caldwell, of Bogside, Dundonald; is a beautiful type of the breed; very smoothly finished, true wedge shape, rather inclined to being thick-set, with broad loin, capital top, and grandly developed udder.

Flora, a beautiful three-year-old cow, bred in the same herd as the last mentioned, is built on rather a larger scale. She has a wonderfully smooth top; wide, strong loin; silky coat; shows capital udder, and she, like those previously described, displays that strong vertebral development that modern breeders of high-class dairy cattle so much desire. Flora won second in Toronto and first in Montreal.

The light-colored two-year-old heifer in the background is Sprightly 3rd, one of the first daughters of Royal Chief born on the farm, and to our minds is among the best individuals. She is a grandly developed heifer of large size, grand back, great length of quarter, and beautiful breeding character. She has never yet been beaten in the show ring, and if she develops as she promises to do, is likely to keep well to the front.

In addition to those shown in our illustration, this herd includes a number of prize-winners at Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa exhibitions, at each of which they captured first prize given for best herd of Ayrshires, and at Ottawa won the gold medal given by Alderman S. Bingham for best herd of Ayrshire cattle. The prizes awarded were as

follows: At Toronto, one silver medal, five firsts and three seconds; at Montreal, two silver medals, one diploma, five firsts and two fourth prizes; at Ottawa, one gold medal, two diplomas, three firsts, two seconds and one third prize.

The owners suffered a great loss by the death of the imported cow Maggie Brown, of Barmoorhill, which happened on the fair ground in Montreal. She was one of the best Ayrshire cows that has ever been seen in Canada, and as a milker, as well as a show cow, had few equals. Fortunately there are a number of her descendants in the herd; one in particular, a yearling heifer, gives promise of being a counterpart of her dam, and her son (imp.) Monarch is now being used to cross upon Royal Chief heifers.

The calf, Canty of Loudoun Hill, now sixteen months old, a daughter of the first-mentioned cow, sired by Royal Chief, is a splendidly developed heifer, and was awarded first prize in Toronto.

Of the thirty-six head comprising the herd at present, we were most favorably impressed with a long row of young heifers by Royal Chief, and it is the intention of the Messrs. Morton to breed a herd up to sixty in number, and, until a herd of this size is reached, only the young bulls will be sold.

The farm is managed on the most practical lines, the buildings being convenient and comfortable, without being superfluous. Butter is the chief product at present sold, the dairy being conveniently situated. The butter and milk room is built of stone, with shafting extending from the boiler and engine house. The cream is separated by passing the milk through an Alexandra hand separator, while the churning is performed by belt connected with the shafting. The churn used is to a Canadian quite a novelty, and was imported from Scotland by Mr. Morton. It is in the form of an oblong box, with two compartments, in one of which two sets of paddles are placed. The cream, by the action of the paddles, is driven around to the other compartment, at either end of the partition being a hole for the passage of the cream, which rushes around in a stream. When the butter begins to separate one of these openings is closed. In this compartment the globules of butter lodge, which prevents the butter coming in contact with the paddles after it begins to form, the object being to preserve the grain of butter in the highest degree possible. Among the latest improvements is a large silo, built and filled this season. All modern appliances are being added. It is the intention of the owners to make the establishment the most perfect of its kind in Canada.

A Coffee Humbug.

"COLE'S DOMESTIC COFFEE BERRY" A COMMON VARIETY OF SOJA HISPIDA, OR JAPAN PEA.

The Ohio experiment station has just received the following letter from Col. R. J. Redding, director of the Georgia experiment station:

"This station has just received from one 'C. E. Cole, Buckner, Missouri,' a 'parched and ground' sample of what he calls 'Cole's Domestic Coffee Berry,' accompanied by a printed dodger setting forth the merits of this wonderful 'berry' in graphic style, and supported by numerous 'testimonials.' He offers seed for sale at fabulous prices,—\$3.50 per pound, in large quantities; 25 cents per hundred seeds, in small quantities.

"I presume each station will receive or has received a similar sample and dodger. Fortunately (perhaps) I received a few days earlier, through the Southern Cultivator, a package of the 'coffee,' together with a specimen plant in full fruit. The plant is simply a common variety of Soja Hispida, or Japan pea, so well known to many of the stations, and the seed of which is abundant and comparatively cheap.

"On the principle of the Golden Rule, I write to put you on your guard against this imposition, and suggest that you 'hand it around' among your farmers, as I expect to do in this state."

At about the same time the above letter was received, the Ohio station received a copy of the same circular from Cole, together with a package of the roasted and ground "coffee" and a few of the wonderful berries. The berries are simply peas, and the "coffee" has been mixed with enough of the genuine article to give it the characteristic aroma of coffee.

Notice to Advertisers.

With this number we commence a new series. Hereafter the ADVOCATE, as previously announced, will be published twice each month. All advertisements, where the contracts call for monthly insertions, will be inserted in every other number; those not appearing in this issue will be found in the issue of Jan. 15th. This arrangement will continue during the life of the present contracts, unless our patrons otherwise instruct us.