

NIAGARA DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This Society held its semi-annual exhibition on the 2nd of November, and although the weather was unfavourable, we would judge from the report, that the performance was highly creditable to that old and wealthy District. The cloth manufactured by Mr. Brewer, in Mr. Gibson's establishment, "was much admired, and in fact was a first-rate article and we have no doubt would bear comparison with any manufactured in this Province. It was made from a beautiful lot of merino wool, from the flock of Mr. Barton Barr, of Haldmand," so says the *Niagara Chronicle*. We feel satisfied that the high meed of praise above awarded to the Canadian manufactured cloth is justly due the enterprising proprietor of the St. Catharines Woollen-cloth Manufacturing Establishment. Acting upon the principle of encouraging domestic manufactures, we lately ordered a roll of cloth from the above establishment, and one of the best tailors in the city did not hesitate to pronounce it the best Canadian manufactured cloth that he had seen. The wool from which it was made was not very fine, but the cloth was very strong, and showed in the finish that the manufacturer had superior machinery, and well understood his business. To give greater encouragement to the above establishment, we shall shortly purchase a quantity of the very best that the manufacturer can turn out, and shall in every reasonable way recommend the use of neatly finished Canadian cloth in preference to the American. In doing so, we shall not confine ourselves to one establishment, but to many, and also to the erection of others, on a large scale, whereby a proper division of labour may be practiced, on the principle adopted in all manufacturing countries. The cloth which we lately purchased cost one hundred per cent. less than a similar article cost in 1836, although the price of the wool was nearly equal in both instances. It may be afforded still cheaper, if we could form an opinion, from the fact that an American wool dealer has purchased in this city, since July, 10,000 dollars worth of wool, for which he paid an American duty of thirty per cent., and three cents per pound, and subsequently manufactured it into cloth, which he exported to the Canadian market, subject to another duty, and after all this routine of costs it has been actually sold at prices ten per cent. less than the cloth we received cost us. It is not more difficult to account for this difference of prices than it is to show the reason why the American cheese-makers become rich at selling their article at prices varying 100 per cent. less than a similar article is worth in this country. We may at some future period enter into the spirit and detail of this matter, and point out a few good reasons why the Canadian farmers should improve their sheep husbandry.

Never plant on foul ground to save a ploughing, or on wet ground to save time.

MANAGEMENT OF CATTLE.

Having made some remarks in the August number of the *Agriculturist*, in reference to the different breeds of cattle, we call the reader's attention this month to selections for particular purposes and general management.

For milkers, select as large cows as can be found possessing symmetry and neatness of head and limbs. The hair should be soft and silky to the touch, and skin loose. It is a matter of more moment than is generally supposed, that milk cows have a pleasant temper. An ill-natured beast, *ceterus paribus*, will not give so much milk, and even what is obtained will be taken with difficulty, and without great cautiousness she will "dry up" sooner than one of moderate docility.

In the selection of a male, great size is objectionable. There is not a greater error with farmers, than the supposition that a large male crossed upon small cows will improve the breed fastest. There are many objections to a very large bull. They are usually coarse, and difficult to keep fat, and their offspring from small cows are generally more ill-shapen than themselves, and are uniformly meagre, raw-boned, uncommonly creatures. There are substantial reasons for this result. The produce of externally large animals while in *utero*, are not fully nourished by small cows; there is frequent difficulty in cows being delivered of very large calves; then they always come poor; and, in the last place, they require such a quantity of nourishment, that few small dams supply their wants. The most compactly built, firmly muscled, flinty horses of the world, have not been produced by large sires, but they are the produce of the little Arab, upon dams of larger size.

In breeding it is a rule, from which there is perhaps no variation, that "*the male gives form and the female size.*" Hence the conduct of the most scientific breeders in England. Their object is to find a bull rather under than over size, with full points and perfection of form; and experience teaches, that we can find at least twenty heifers of suitable dimensions for breeders, where we can find one bull which should be selected. The indispensables for a good breeder are, first let the animal be of the deepest milking stock; second, medium size; third, small bone; fourth, full points; fifth, glossy hair; and sixth, soft loose skin.

In Durhams, select an animal without a black hair or muzzel, and by all means have him of good disposition.

The next consideration is, to manage matters so that the calves shall be dropped about the 1st of April. July is the proper month for the cows to go to the bulls.

Difficulty in Calving.—It is not at all unfrequent that cows cannot bring forth, and by neglect we have known valuable animals die in this condition. Sometimes the cow is too feeble for the laborious exertion; and again, the calf is extremely large; in either case a little gentle assistance will relieve both dam and offspring. If the feet have made their appearance, examine if the head is between the fore legs. If it is, all will go on well; but if the head is turned, take off your coat like a gentleman and Christian, roll up your sleeve to your shoulder, and insert your hand, and turn the calf if necessary, or the head forward. Then take hold of the fore feet with both hands, and as the suffering dam exerts herself, pull gently, and in nine cases out of ten the cow will be delivered in less than ten minutes.

After Calving.—Let the calf suck all it will the first day, but at evening have the cow milked perfectly clean. When the calf is two or three days old, separate the dam from it, but

let them together three times a day. By all means the calf should be kept fat, and when about two months old, if properly managed and taught to eat, it should be weaned. But unless the calf receive rich food at this age it will decline, and become so stunted in its growth as never to recover from it.

In winter, calves should have a shelter, and be fed carefully. The cheapest mode of rearing any animal is to keep it always in good condition; and in this no farmer can be successful without constant personal attention. Rules are too limited to make a good manager of stock, but still they often times materially aid. Every husbandman should be one of thought, diligence and punctuality,

Attention to Milch Cows.—Any one who would conclude his cows are so superior as to give an abundance of rich milk without the requisite food and attention, will be much mistaken, and if a man of feeling, mortified at his "ill luck" from bad management.

In winter the first study should be comfortable quarters for milkers. A cow-house is indispensable to prosperous husbandry and good living. Each cow should have her stall and be taught to go to it, and stay in it, for her meal. It is not so important to feed superabundantly, as it is to give what is to be consumed regularly. Man learns by experience that his regular meals, of proper quality rather than large amount, are essential to sound health—the same holds good with all domestic animals.

Green food is very important in winter for cows. If this cannot be obtained by the way of pasturage, roots, such as potatoes, turnips, beets, &c. will answer the purpose admirably.

Cooked food is better for cows than uncooked, and less will answer a better purpose. Currying cows in winter is essential to good health, and it materially increases the quantity of milk. This may be done with very little labour twice in the day. Cows should have good hay or rough food of some kind at all times, and regular supplies of water cannot be neglected with impunity, and daily salting is just as necessary to the cow as to her master.

Milking is not the most unimportant matter. Women were not made to manage cows, and an ill-natured man should not enter a cow yard. At an active, quick moving, attentive man, feed, milk and manage the cows. The good old Yankee plan is for the husband to make the fire, bring the water, and "pale the cow," while the wife sweeps the house and gets the breakfast, and really we should like to see the system adopted in the Southwest.

Milking should be performed briskly. A slow, lazy person, tugging slowly at a cow's udder, puts the kind creature so much out of patience that she holds up her milk and soon becomes dry. We advise our friends to saw off the points of their cow's horns, to prevent hooking injuriously, and by a little management with cattle while young, they will become fond of their managers, and afford much pleasure to all of sound cowish refinements to attend to them.

Last, but not least, in managing cattle, is to keep the stables clean. The cleaning should be done once a day, where the cow stands up at night, and if they are in the stalls through the day, cleaning should be done morning and evening. Let each cow have a soft straw bed for lying down.

These, to some, may appear small matters, but if our readers who have not adopted this or a similar course, will try it the coming winter, and are not amply remunerated for their extra attentions, we will confess we have written to little purpose.—*Tennessee Agriculturist.*