

produce larger returns, while less labor is required. To my mind, no system of farming is better calculated to keep and increase the fertility of the farm than that which makes the raising and feeding of beef cattle a leading feature in its plans and purposes—feeding the bulk of the grain raised, and having it go to market on legs instead of on wheels, while a generous heap of manure is left to stimulate the growth of grain, grass and roots. The production of beef, however, is but one of many lines open to the stock-raiser, and while the circumstances of one man may be such as to make it profitable to him to make a specialty of beef, another may find it more profitable, under his circumstances, and more congenial to his tastes, to make a specialty of dairying; and, by proper attention to the most profitable production of milk, or of high-class butter products, which are always in demand, and, for which, if the quality is extra, an extra price can always be obtained. Another may find that upon his farm, and under his circumstances, sheep-raising may profitably be made a leading feature of his business; and at the present time no class of stock is in better demand, or paying better, than sheep; no kind of stock can be more cheaply kept, nor requires so little labor in its care. There is no healthier climate in the world for sheep than ours, and no country where sheep are so little liable to disease. We would not, however, advise, as a rule, "putting all one's eggs in one basket." The safest course for the average farmer is to raise and keep a few colts, a few cattle, a few sheep, and a few pigs. All kinds of stock do better in small numbers than in large lots, and it is not often that there is a depression in the markets for more than one or two classes of stock at the same time, and if any mishap should occur in one class the farmer has the others to depend on. One thing I submit is certain, that is, that to whatever line a farmer turns his attention in the matter of stock-raising, it will be found to pay best to keep good stock, and to keep it well. I would not be understood as insisting that every farmer should keep pedigreed stock. That is hardly practicable, and is not followed even in England, the home of the thoroughbreds; but I lay it down as a sound principle, that every farmer will find it profitable to improve his stock, and keep on improving it by the use of pure-bred sires of some established herd, and of good constitution and quality. I held it true that if the object be only the production of veal calves to be marketed, at six to ten weeks old, or of lambs to go to the shambles, at the same age, it will be found to pay well to secure the use of pure-bred males, as the produce would show such improved form, weight and quality, that the extra prices obtained would in a very short time repay many times over the extra cost of securing the services of such sires. If the object be to produce steers or heifers, to go off as beef animals, it goes without saying that high grade cattle not only make vastly greater improvement and better returns for the food consumed, but their well-rounded forms and symmetrical appearance invariably command the highest market prices, while the lower grades go begging for buyers. This holds true also in regard to dairy stock. I know a man in my own county, in the butter business, who has never bought or owned a pedigree cow, but by the purchase, once in three years, of a pure-bred

Jersey bull, at a moderate price, from \$50 to \$75, I believe, has so improved the working capabilities of his cows that many of them have made from 14 lbs. to 16 lbs. of butter in a week, and some as high as 18 lbs. and 21 lbs.; and he has sold cows (of his own breeding) of this class as high as \$100 each, and refused that price for others. His cows have in some years averaged him \$75 each in buttersold, besides the sales of heifer calves, in many cases, at \$25 to \$40 each. Of course, he feeds well, and keeps his cattle always in condition to do full work, or to sell to good advantage; but, while he is doing this, he is getting large dividends, not only from the prices received for butter and calves, but also in the shape of a large quantity of rich manure, which goes to keep up the productiveness of his farm. This is a system that is easily within the reach of the average farmer of moderate means. Of course, it requires close attention and regularity in feeding, and other details, but this is the price of success in any line of business.

While common lambs are being sold by many farmers to butchers and drovers at \$3 to \$4 each, I know men who have flocks of good grade sheep, who keep their lambs till winter, and sell them to the same class of buyers for \$6 to \$8 a head; and others who have sheep of higher grade, built up by the course I recommend, the steady use of pure-bred rams, have sold their ram lambs at \$8 to \$10 each for breeding purposes. In all these cases the only extra outlay has been the price of a good sire, which can often be sold at the end of his term of service for nearly as much as he cost, for it is well known that, in these times at least, good, useful pure-bred males can be bought at very moderate prices, and the profit is not all in the sale of surplus stock, but largely in the improved character of the females retained in the herd or flock. In addition to this there is the feeling of satisfaction a man experiences in his own mind in watching the growth and progress of well-bred stock, and the pride he may take in being able to show them to his neighbors or to visitors. To one who has been used to breeding and handling good stock, it seems almost incredible that in a country where the facilities for improvement are so easily available, so few, comparatively, of our farmers have taken advantage of them. In a day's drive, through almost any county in Ontario, how very few herds or flocks are seen that give evidence of any improved breeding? If it were something that was beyond the reach of the means of the people, or something that was very difficult of attainment, there would be some excuse for the state of things which exists; but, to my mind, the way is so clear that a wayfaring man, though an average farmer, ought to be able to see it and walk in it.

Buying Fruit Trees.

A great number of nursery agents are now on the move in this country, and, with enterprise characteristic of themselves, the people of Manitoba are ordering stock for future planting in fairly liberal quantities. This is as it should be, providing the buyer knows the character of the varieties he is ordering, as there are numerous varieties that will prove a profitable investment if judiciously planted and cared for. There is little doubt that the spring is the best time to plant nursery stock in any country, and especially so where the winters are long and severe. Concerning the class of nursery stock to buy for this province, there is not much room for choice. In the September number of the *Advocate*, a Manitoba gardener, who is, in other words, the gentleman who does the horticultural work at the Brandon Experimental Farm, gives a full list of the different gooseberries, red, white and black currants and raspberries, that are adapted

to this country. Of this class of fruits it is perfectly safe to plant, but beware of the agent who has a new variety or varieties of apples, pears or other large fruits, that he is prepared to guarantee perfectly hardy.

Crabs have been a complete success this season, and it might be advisable to plant a limited number of them, although a profitable return cannot be expected every year. The Yellow Transparent Apple will possibly grow here, and perhaps give a crop often enough to be fairly profitable, but this is by no means certain. Every farmer, however, should plant gooseberries, currants and raspberries, in as great numbers as circumstances will admit, as they have in most instances proved very profitable. The nursery agent, in so far as he does a straight, honest business, is a public benefactor, as he often induces the farmer to make an investment that is decidedly in his own interests, and which he would not have done but for the agent; but in too many cases he induces him to buy what will not prove suited to the locality in which he resides. Let those who purpose planting next spring confine themselves to the varieties recommended in our September number, and they will not go astray; but outside of those varieties there are no others at present known to horticulturists that are sufficiently hardy for Manitoba.

Our Illustration.

The *Advocate* takes much pleasure in giving, in this issue, an illustration of the magnificent yearling Shorthorn bull, Duke of Lyndale, recently purchased from Col. King, of Minneapolis, by Greig Bros., of the Kingswood Stock, Otterburn, Man. Duke of Lyndale is a "pure Duke," as will be seen by the annexed pedigree, and cost Messrs. Greig the snug sum of \$1,000:—

DAM.	SIRE.	BREEDER OF SIRE.
Duchess of Brant 3d	Got by Grand Duke of North Oaks 2d 88316.	J. J. Hill
10th Duchess of Hillhurst	4th Duke of Clarence (35597)	Colonel Gunter
7th Duchess of Airdrie	3rd Duke of Onclida 927	Wilcott & Campbell
2nd Duchess of Airdrie	Royal Oxford (18774)	Mr. S. Thorne
Imp. Duchess of Athol	Clifton Duke (25580)	Mr. A. J. Alexander
Duchess 54th	2nd Duke of Athol (11376)	Mr. Towneley
Duchess 40th	2nd Duke of Oxford (6046)	Mr. Bates
Duchess 30th	2nd Cleveland Lad (3408)	Mr. Bates
Duchess 20th	Short-Tail (2621)	Mr. Bates
Duchess 8th	2nd Hubback (1423)	Mr. Bates
Duchess 2nd	2nd Earl (1511)	Mr. Bates
Duchess 1st	Marske (418)	Mr. C. Colling
	Ketton 1st (703)	Mr. Bates
	Comet (155)	Mr. C. Colling
	Favorite (252)	Mr. C. Colling
	Daisy Bull (186)	Mr. C. Colling
	Favorite (252)	Mr. C. Colling
	Hubback (219)	Mr. Hunter
	J. Brown's Red Kull (97)	Mr. Thompson

Duke of Lyndale, at ten months, weighed an even 1,000 lbs., but the change in food, as well as the journey from Minneapolis, retarded his growth for a time. He is evidently doing well now, and has that excellent quality of hide and flesh called "good handling," but which is so difficult to describe. He is a rich, dark roan, with a little white, as will be seen by the illustration, and is as perfect a type of Bates Short-horn as could be desired.