

in any sense. Yet this is for the most part farmed exactly like the land, which, lying level and full of clay, is the real plow land. The same crops are taken and the same system pursued by nearly all. There is not even a rotation of crops except of the most simple kind, and root culture is scarcely practised at all. Under this evil want of system the land is becoming poorer, and in a short time much of it will fail to support the tillers who at present find a living.

The remedy is hard to apply, but is, of course, quite evident to anyone who knows the history of agriculture in other and older countries. It is not easy to apply it, because it involves the complete change of life of a great many persons, and the emigration of a considerable number. All our hilly land should be brought under sheep and kept in sheep runs for all time, or at least until rising values would enable the lower lying parts to be cultivated with a profit. If this opinion be correct, and of course that admits of discussion, there is a great necessity for the full study of the manner in which this change can be brought about. A good many circumstances render it difficult to make the change which is involved, and a good many questions require careful consideration before any man relying upon private means could venture on the experiment.

It has been rumoured in this Province that Professor Wm. Brown, of Guelph, had turned his attention to this question and meditated a visit to Nova Scotia in connection therewith. It is to be hoped that this rumor rests on a good foundation. The study of the adaptability of our Province to become a sheep raising country by one as well qualified as Professor Brown, would be of the utmost value in deciding the difficulties and chances of success, and secondly, in attracting the needed capital. Upon one point I believe all are agreed. The farmers are not securing such good returns for their labor as formerly. Many farms are failing to produce. Many men, who, twenty years ago sold hay, are now compelled to buy that article in order to feed their stock.

Generally speaking, men say that the farmers are not so well off as they were. By some, this deficiency in profits is attributed to confederation, and a common argument with those who favor repeal, is the poverty of the country. Surely, however, this is not good sense. Our diminished receipts come from exhaustion of the soil. It is an experience which we have in common with the farming of the New England States, and of the Southern States, of the Union. Even the rich lands of the West are beginning to show the same result. The remedy is expressed in the old saying, "Feed the land and it will feed you." The only question is, how to do this most advantageously. In all our high lying, light lands, the sheep should be made the instrument. The demand for our lambs is unlimited. They are taken away in large numbers to the American markets, and the British market is capable of receiving any number which we can raise. To the people of the Maritime Provinces, the JOURNAL can be of great service by fully discussing this matter, editorially and by the contributions of correspondents. It is in a line with the professed intention of the JOURNAL to promote the introduction of improved stock. Almost all our sheep are of no particular sort, and are small sized. At the same time, they are producers of first rate mutton, much more enjoyable than that of the fat sheep, which are brought from the Upper Provinces to the Halifax market, and should, in the form of mutton, command a much higher price. A judicious cross upon this stock would give us a model mutton producer, and by increasing our market abroad, would add to the wealth of the Province.

M. R. L.

Manitoban's Letter.

(Too late for March.)

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

SIR,—In the February number of the JOURNAL appeared a letter from "Manitoban," dated at Brandon, Man., and as I am the only Shorthorn breeder, whose post office address is Brandon, the readers of the JOURNAL in Manitoba who are acquainted with me would naturally suppose that I was the author of that letter; and as I hold an altogether different opinion on the herd book question from that given by "Manitoban," I think that in justice to myself I should make my views known. I might have overlooked the matter, only I consider it very unfair for any dissatisfied person to air his grievance under the cloak of another, and I trust if "Manitoban" wishes in future

to make known any supposed wrong, he will write over his own name.

"Manitoban" is doubtless one of those who thought he saw a "pot of gold," knowingly investing his "every surplus dollar" in purchasing rejected animals at greatly reduced prices, expecting to palm them off on the unsuspecting farmers of Manitoba as pure bred Shorthorns, but has since discovered that the game will not work, as the first question asked by intending purchasers is, are they registered in the Dominion Herd Book? And consequently this speculator in rejected Shorthorns has a number of unsold animals on hand, and imagines a great wrong is being done him unless the standard is modified. As an example of what is tried to be done in Manitoba: At the Western fair last fall, a breeder when asked to produce the pedigrees of some animals he was exhibiting, feigned very much surprise that it was necessary to produce pedigrees when exhibiting Shorthorns, although he claimed considerable notoriety as a breeder and importer. The standard of the Dominion Association is high, but not higher than necessary. We have now a foundation which cannot in future be undermined, and that is just what is required, a standard in which the most perfect confidence can be placed. The herd book is the only guarantee we have as to pedigree. As to individual merit, each breeder must exercise his own judgment and fancy.

At the annual meeting, to be held in Toronto, on 24th inst., a discussion of the Shorthorn standard will take place, and I trust, after due deliberation, the Association will see the wisdom of maintaining the standard as it now exists, and that all breeders will unite in making the Dominion Herd Book a grand success.

JOHN E. SMITH.

Beresford Stock Farm, Brandon P.O., Man.

The Shorthorns at Maple Lodge.

In the township of McGillivray, county Middlesex, 20 miles north of London, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Ailsa Craig, and 1 mile west of Lucan crossing of G. T. R. and L. H. and B. R., in the very centre of the most fertile part of that tract of land lying between London and Goderich, conceded to be one of the choicest in the province, is situated "Maple Lodge stock farm," the property of Jas. S. Smith, Maple Lodge P. O., comprising 225 acres of land, being a rich clay loam, naturally drained by a free subsoil, and watered by spring wells and running streamlets. About 80 to 90 acres are plowed; 30 acres covers the area sown with wheat, the balance is sown with coarse grains and roots; of the latter generally 10 acres, chiefly mangolds, 1,000 bushels per acre being the average crop. The land is heavily manured for roots. Spring wheat follows, and it is seeded to grass, timothy, al sike and red clovers, of which very fine crops are grown, usually averaging over four tons per acre of hay.

In 1881 Maple Lodge was awarded the medal by the Agricultural and Arts Association of Ontario, as the best managed and cultivated farm in North Middlesex county.

For thirty years Mr. Smith has been breeding Shorthorns, constantly improving on the material of the foundation, both by the exercise of his own judgment in various ways, but more particularly by the infusion of fresh blood in the female line as he found it desirable. Being a first-class and thoroughly practical farmer, and a progressive agriculturist generally, he could not be satisfied with the "scrubs" that were then so prevalent. Learning from experience, with a fine herd of high grades kept for several years previous, that what would keep a scrub well, would also keep a thoroughbred well, though double the size, and keep it in better condition than the other, he made selection in 1857, from the herd of the late George Robson, of two young cows of the Lavinia family. Queen of the West, by Victor (12268), a Bates bull, was one, and the other Daisy 2d, by the Princess bull Shenandoah 948. Both were from the same dam,

Daisy, by Halton (11552) g. dam Lavinia 4th from the herd of Hon. A. Ferguson, and got by Duke of Wellington (3654), etc.—pure Bates, of the best families, on a Colling foundation. Daisy by Halton, was a most wonderful milker, an attribute of Bates cattle which has carried them to the front in all countries, when in competition as milkers or dairy cows.

Mr. Smith has always made it his aim to retain this milking quality in his herd, and with so much of success that in it there are several cows which have made nearly two pounds of butter per day, while their calves have gained at the rate of three pounds per day up to eight months old, fed on the skimmed milk, with flaxseed tea added, and a fair allowance of grain, showing that they are beefers as well as milkers.

The first bulls used were the pure Princess bull Shenandoah 948, and imported Lord of Lorne (16428), both owned by Mr. Robson, and grand animals and show-bulls in their day. These were followed by Shenandoah 2d, 6364, a lengthy, thick-set, dark roan bull, of Bates blood chiefly. Then followed the Bates Acomb bull General Lee, and the Seraphina bull Royal Duke of Gloster 5155, the latter bred by Mr. F. N. Stowe and owned by Mr. Robson, and winner of first prize at the Provincial Exhibition two consecutive years. He was sired by 12th Duke of Oxford (17742), dam Sanspareil 3d, by Friar John (12915).

After that came Artemus 21968, an excellent bull, and a very successful sire. He was principally of Bates breeding. Some of the choicest things in the herd have his blood in their veins. It was with cows sired by Artemus 21968, and Shenandoah 2d, 6364, that Mr. A. Lynch, of Sotogan, Man., sixteen years ago, laid the foundation of his herd, now numbering seventy females, all descended from those cows, and of which herd that able judge, Mr. James Hunter, of Alma, said last autumn, "They are second to none in the Dominion."

Artemus gave place to Gladstone 19854, a roan Bates bull, bred by Mr. Jas. Kirby, Milton, and got by Duke of Marlboro 55871, he by the famous 6th Duke of Thorndale, dam Mountain Daisy, by Garibaldi, etc. Gladstone won first prize at Western Fair, London, 1870, and was subsequently sold to a gentleman in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The place of honor was then given to Matchem 20377, purchased 1871, from his breeder, Hon. D. Christie, Paris. Matchem was a large, dark roan bull, with very even, thick flesh, weighing 2,800 lbs. He was sired by Mr. Christie's famous imported Knight of St. George (26544) (publicly sold for \$1,300 when five years old), dam May Queen, the winner of two Provincial first prizes, by Mr. Christie's Oxford Lad (24713), the winner of a large number of prizes and medals; among them were first prize and sweepstakes at the New York State Show, 1862; first at Hamilton Provincial, 1864, and in 1865 he won first prize, sweepstakes, and Prince of Wales' prize at the Provincial Exhibition, London. His g. dam, Sanspareil 4th (winner of two Provincial first prizes), got by 12th Duke of Oxford (17742), was also a prize-winner. The Seraphina family, of which Matchem was a member, is celebrated in Great Britain as well as America, for their great beefing and milking qualities, combined.

In 1883 a Bates cow, Mattie, was purchased from the Hon. George Brown's Bow Park herd. A son of this cow was used by Col. Taylor, London, on his Craggs family, siring amongst others the Duchess of Springwood, illustrated in C. H. B., vol. 2, page 438. After breeding one heifer calf from Mattie, got