

be too low. The Jersey men do not make exorbitant claims for milk production, and yet their standard is identical with the one proposed. Likewise the Guernsey's record; and if a record were established for Shorthorns, it must be sufficiently high to be of some importance. It may be said the Shorthorn could not reach these figures, but look back to Mr. Taylor's record with 150 pure-bred cows, where they must at least produce 700 gallons to stay in the herd; and, if the average in his herd is so high, surely the most of the breeders have one or more that can qualify, and should be given opportunity to demonstrate their work.

In regard to individuals that are producers, I am quoting Mr. Sanders Spencer, that well-known authority of Huntingdonshire, England, in reference to dairy Shorthorns at the London dairy show, in order to dispel the idea that good milking cows of the Shorthorn breed are necessarily "hat-racks." In writing of the dual-purpose cow, he says, describing a cow at the show: "One of the most remarkable instances of this combination won the first prize for Lord Rothschild in the class for Shorthorn cows entered or eligible for entry in Coates' Herdbook. This seven-year-old cow, Red Rose 3rd, bred by William Bateman, has bred four calves, her last on August 5th, yet she gave 63.4 pounds milk on the first day of the show. As to her form and character, she was a first-rate specimen of the pure-bred Shorthorn, having a deep, compact body on short legs, and unusually well-developed hind quarters and thighs, in addition to a lovely-shaped udder."

At the same show, another cow, 12 years old, was placed third at the show by inspection, and gave 137.7 pounds in ten days.

In the unregistered class, Mr. Nelson's Daisy gave 61.1 pounds of milk, and the enormous quantity of 4 pounds 2 ounces of butter.

In conclusion, I would say that, as the grand old cow that followed the wagon that trekked across the unknown West, drawn by her brawny sons, while she gave the food that built up the men who have made our country what it is, and as she was a factor in the beginning of civilization, so must the cow of the future be able to revolutionize economic conditions in regard to production in food supply in the days of competition to come.

W. E. SHEAN.

Peel Co., Ont.

MILKING SHORTHORNS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

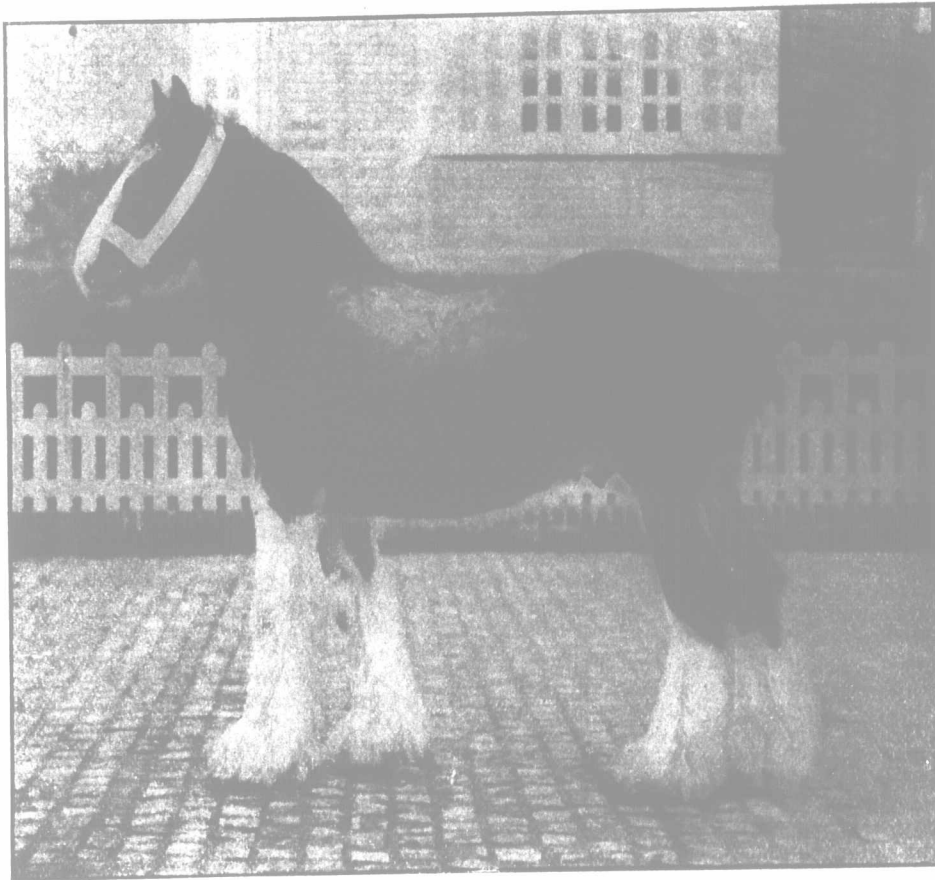
In your editorial of Feb. 27th, "Insanity in Stock-breeding," I think you struck the keynote of where the biggest mistake has been made by breeders in the beef-cattle line, viz., following out a fad in breeding in quest of a pedigree that was pure Scotch. Some of the most prominent breeders of Shorthorns in Ontario will not deny that, if a breeder offered anything for sale, no matter how good it might be as an individual, unless it had the pure Scotch pedigree to back it, it was turned down. On the other hand, many a scrub bull and female has been sold if they could show the pure Scotch breeding. To-day we see our most prominent breeders as much as acknowledging that they have been breeding on wrong lines. They discarded the very point that they have got to go to work to-day to develop; that is, the milking qualities. This can never be done by developing the heifer calves as they have been—letting them suck their dams for, say, three or four months, and then have to look about for a grade Shorthorn to finish feeding them. Another fad that I think has done damage to the Shorthorn is feeding for show purposes. It's all very nice to see a Shorthorn, or, in fact, any beef animal come out in show form, but unless a man has a good bank account to back him, he cannot make it a success. If you are to produce a dual-purpose Shorthorn—one that is going to pay her way at the milk pail—you have got to give up the idea of the high fitting for exhibitions. If you want to show, bring them out in their natural breeding condition. To my mind, these two points, pedigree, and showing for glory, not money, have been the greatest stumbling blocks that the Shorthorn cattle have had to contend with. Now, if the Scotch Shorthorn is not the dual-purpose Shorthorn, is it wise for breeders to go on breeding on these lines, or go back and breed from English-bred cows? It's no use for a man starting Shorthorns to go on and not know what he is breeding for. He has got to get something that is going to sell. Which is it to be, the straight Scotch or the English-bred Shorthorn, both of which are bred in Canada? H. I. ELLIOTT.

Richmond Co., Que.

The sheep breeders in Southern Alberta have formed what they call a trust, under the name of the Southern Alberta Wool-growers' Association, and will no doubt endeavor to get their wool and will no doubt endeavor to get their wool known among the woollen manufacturers of the East. C. S. Crest, Lethbridge, Alta., is Secretary-Treasurer.

CARE FOR THE LAMBS.

The steadily-increasing demand for sheep for breeding purposes, and for mutton and lamb to supply the tables of our growing towns and cities, at profitable prices, renders the care of the coming crop of lambs a subject well worthy of consideration. The loss of a lamb from neglect or indifference means a considerable loss of money, and more or less self-condemnation. The careful flockmaster will not begrudge the loss of a few hours of sleep if, by visiting the fold at intervals in the night when the new arrivals are expected, he might save a lamb or two that might otherwise perish for want of a little attention at a critical period in its existence. If the ewes have had good management during the winter, with room for exercise and suitable feed to keep up their strength, and the lambing quarters are comfortable, the lambs will, as a rule, come strong enough to help themselves to nourishment, and will need but little attention, though difficulties in parturition are always liable to occur. When a ewe has been in labor more than a couple of hours, it is good practice to make examination to ascertain whether the presentation is normal, and, if not, assistance given to place it right, the hand being first dipped in hot water and oiled, then time given for nature to work out a deliverance. If further help is needed, it should be gentle, and only in concert with the pains or throes of the mother. After the lamb has been licked, and has gained strength to stand, it will generally help itself to nourishment; but if it be not strong



King Cole.

Yearling Shire stallion. Sold for \$4,725 at Lord Rothschild's sale, Feb., 1908.

enough an hour after birth, the ewe should be tied or held while the lamb is brought up to the udder, a little milk drawn, and the teat placed in its mouth, when it will usually take sufficient for a start. Nature's way is a little at a time and often, and it is not wise to overload the young stomach. In case of a lamb being too weak to stand, the ewe should be gently laid upon her side, and the lamb, on its knees or side, brought to the fountain, and the teat placed in its mouth. In the case of a lamb dying, the ewe may be made to adopt one of a pair that are not being sufficiently nourished. The surest way to succeed in this is to take the skin off the dead lamb and place it on the living one, the skin being drawn off so that the legs of the living one fit into the place of the others. The ewe, in such case, should be confined in a small pen made of low hurdles, and, if necessary, she may have to be tied up for a few days. Sometimes it is only necessary that a little of the milk of the foster mother be smeared on the back and rump of the lamb, and she will take to it. The lambs should be docked at two to three weeks old, as the operation is safer at that age than later, and in the case of grades not to be retained for sale for breeding purposes, the ram lambs should be castrated at the same time. Thousands of dollars are annually lost to Canadian farmers by neglecting to castrate, as ram lambs in the field or stock-yards in the fall are a nuisance, and their value discounted by a dollar or more, as compared with ewe or wether lambs.

THE FARM.

CEREAL PRODUCTION OF EUROPE.

The marked shortage in the European grain harvest of 1907, contrasting sharply with the exceptional abundance of 1906, was undoubtedly a prime factor in raising the average farm price of wheat in the United States considerably above the level of 1906.

This condition illustrates forcibly the influence exerted by European agriculture on the welfare of American farmers, and lends timeliness to a bulletin just issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture on the "Cereal Production of Europe," by Frank R. Rutter, special European Agent of the Bureau of Statistics. The bulletin gives complete official statistics, as far as they have been published, of the acreage, production, and average yield of the various grains in each country of Europe for the last twenty or twenty-five years.

Wheat and corn are the two grains that Europe imports largely from abroad. European production of rye, barley and oats is practically sufficient for national requirements.

The growing dependence on foreign countries for much of its grain supply, is illustrated by the fact that during the past twenty years Europe has increased its average purchases of wheat more than 100,000,000 bushels, or about 80 per cent., and has doubled its annual purchases of corn.

It is only in north-western Europe, comprising the countries of Teutonic stock, that the dependence on foreign

agriculture is increasing. The wheat production of those countries has remained practically unchanged during the last twenty years, while their requirements have been steadily increasing, so that to-day they require from foreign sources 190,000,000 bushels a year more than they did twenty years ago.

In the countries of Latin origin, located in south-western Europe, and including France, grain culture has just about kept pace with the increase of population.

In the more sparsely settled countries of eastern Europe wheat culture has made enormous strides since 1885. The average production of these countries during the five years, 1901-1905, was 968,060,000 bushels of wheat, while, during the five years, 1886-1890, the annual production was only 634,000,000 bushels—a gain of more than half within twenty years.

Paradoxical as it may sound, it appears that the average yield per acre is highest in those countries where wheat culture is least generally practiced, and where the acreage under that grain shows the smallest increase. The extension of the wheat area, on the contrary, is most marked where the average yield is lowest.

Thus, the United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Denmark, are at the same time the four countries in which the wheat acreage during the last twenty years has undergone the greatest reduction, and the four countries which show the largest yield per acre. In each of these countries the acreage under wheat has fallen at least one-fifth in amount, while in each of them a yield of more than 30 bushels per acre has been obtained on an average during the last five years.

At the other end of the series stands European Russia, in which the increase in acreage during the twenty years was no less than 60 per cent., while the average yield per acre was little more than ten bushels.

This apparent anomaly may be easily explained. The high average yield, such as is realized in north-western Europe—about twice as high as the best average yield recorded for the United States—presupposes the use of valuable land, justifying a large outlay in labor and fertilizers, as well as an abundant supply of good but cheap labor. These conditions of intensive culture, however, are much more favorable to