

few had calves at foot, and a few had been served. The animal had been picked up from the farmers' stocks in the district, and, being a select lot, they sold at an advance over what has been realised at farm sales, realising from £10 up to £20 each, the higher rates predominating.

On the Friday, at Cleabarrow, when the late Mrs. Scott's live stock was sold, there was a very large attendance, drawn from a wide radius, north and south, and from Wales. The competition, we think, was the keenest ever known at a sale of non-pedigree cattle, and the prices the most extraordinary, when we take into account the depression now ruling in the prices realised for live stock. There were two pedigree young cows, but their prices fell considerably short of those of the best of the cross-bred cows, one of the latter selling for £60. (1) So spirited was the bidding that Mr. Mitchell got through the fifty eight head of cattle and fifty sheep, with their lambs, in the space of two hours. Excluding twelve newly-dropped calves, the forty-six cows, heifers, calves, and one bull realised a total of £1,170 10s., or an average of £25 8s. 11d.

### Farming and Sheep Keeping.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN—I am interested in keeping sheep for the threefold object of wool, lambs for market, and the improvement of my farm. I keep between 15 and 20 grade South-Downs. I allow them 25 acres of rather poor pasture during summer, and in winter feed clover hay and cornstalks, with some turnips and a little grain (corn and oats). My sheep are strong and in good condition the year round. They shear about five pounds each. Their lambs come in January and February, and are sold to local butchers in June and July at 6½ to 7½ cents per pound, and weigh from 60 to 90 pounds at that time. I think my flock is doing well, but my little farm is not getting better, but rather poorer from year to year. Can you advise me how I may make my sheep improve my farm?  
B. F. H.

Suffolk County, N. Y.

The answer to the above inquiry is this: You must help the sheep improve the farm. The flock and its owner must act together as partners in the work of improvement. This flock has good, intelligent care, but the flock must be increased. That 25 acres of pasture must be improved. Evidently it is not "natural grass land." There is great difference in the lands of Suffolk county, some being very good, while much is almost barren sand. I take it that this soil is improvable, and would suggest that the owner summer-fallow such portion each year as he may be able to do, if it be only one acre. Two plowings, with frequent harrowings, will do this. If some green crop is sown after the first plowing and turned under with the second, it will be of value. Buckwheat involves the least expense for this, but it adds comparatively little to the soil, although as much as any crop in proportion to its cost. Then, when the soil is brought to a good condition, sow a mixture of the following grasses, without any grain crop: Orchard, rye grass, Italian rye, meadow fox-tail and red-top. Kentucky blue-grass might be added. Be liberal with the amount of seed: At present prices it should cost about \$7 per acre. It is not necessary to insist upon any exact proportion of the varieties. Such manure should be harrowed in with the seed, as can be spared from other crops, if well rotted. It will be well to be liberal with this also, but I would not advise the purchase of commercial manures for the purpose. Compact the ground well with a roller, and do not let sheep upon the young grass until it has made a good

(1) This is the stamp of cow I have been begging some one to import for ten years,  
A. R. J. F.

growth and is well rooted. In the spring sow ten pounds of red clover seed to the acre. Keep on with this until the whole pasture has been reseeded. (1)

In the mean time the flock can be helped by soiling crops. Thickly-sown corn fodder makes excellent sheep food. The turnip crop might be increased, and mangolds will be very valuable for the ewes and lambs in the spring time. In Suffolk county, vetellés will be found very valuable for early winter feeding, keeping fresh there in most seasons until near mid-winter. (2)

The only outlay of money involved in the above recommendation is in the purchase of seed. The labor required will be profitably invested.

While the old Spanish adage is still true that "the sheep's foot turns the land into gold," it is also true that even a sheep "cannot make something out of nothing." As the improved pastures and the assisting crops give increased food, the number of the flock can be increased. Then the amount and value of the manure will be increased also, and this, in turn, will give more food until that "25 acres of rather poor pasture" should furnish the summer keep for 75 or 100 head of sheep. (3)

If wheat bran, oil meal and other foods are purchased, the advance can be more rapidly made. But it can be surely made without the purchase of foods or manure. The writer purchased, not long since, a tract of badly exhausted land, which he is treating in the manner indicated with very satisfactory results.

I would advise B. F. H. to push his lambs for market a little more rapidly, purchasing for this purpose, if necessary, wheat bran, oats and oil meal.  
J. W.

### The Holstein as a Butter Cow.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN—Mr. A. L. Crosby is mistaken in thinking I did not take his criticism on a former article of mine kindly. He treated me fairly, and if anything in my reply indicated that his remarks were not kindly received I beg pardon of your readers, as no such feelings were entertained on my part. While I would avoid a war of words I enjoy reading a fair statement on both sides of such a question as the one under discussion. Whether cows may correctly be characterized as "inflexible," I will not attempt to decide, but will state a few facts, and then leave the subject to the consideration of those interested.

Only three dairies within my own immediate knowledge are made up Jersey grades. They are all situated so far from a cheese factory that it is inconvenient to draw the milk, and their owners, being good butter makers, obtained Jersey blood with the intention of making a permanent business of that branch of dairying. Two out of the three had just changed their stock when a change in the condition of their families made it necessary to give up butter making, and their milk is now drawn a long distance to the cheese factory. They have since obtained Holsteins. In neither of these dairies did the Jersey cross result in as great improvement in butter production as the Holsteins has in my own. I have one half-blood Jersey, a beautiful cow seven years old, that has taken a first premium at our country fair every year,

(1) The real cow grass, *trifolium pratense perenne*, would be better. I have just received a small lot of the above, with some genuine *Pacey's perennial ryegrass*. These I hope to get some careful farmer to grow for distribution. There is no charge for the seed, which is from Carter's, London, direct.  
A. R. J. F.

(2) Rape would fatten quicker.  
A. R. J. F.  
(3) Four sheep to the acre is pretty strong for rather poor pasture.  
A. R. J. F.  
Try two first.