

in drills and kept it cleaned, I believe it would have been a good deal better, as pigweed grow among it and kept it back. However, owing to the very dry weather we had this summer, nothing could grow and do well, some of our grain was so short we could not cut it with binders. I believe rape will make a first class feed for cattle, pigs or sheep late in fall. I have fed it to the two former and they both eat it greedily. I will never sow broadcast again, no matter how clean the land may be, as like turnips it pays to keep land stirred up around it."

BUILDING A MUTTON FLOCK.

There can be no better sheep for a foundation flock for the average farmer than the common ewes of the country with a portion of Merino blood. Such sheep are blocky, have good constitutions, are very healthy, are fully adapted to country and climate, and may be kept in much larger flocks than most imported stock. The man in any part of the country where there is a good demand for mutton who wishes to make most money in sheep growing will keep a flock of these ewes, annually cutting out the older and poorer, and supplying their places by fresh additions. Then, on these use a ram of some of the mutton breeds, so as constantly to raise cross-bred lambs to be put into market as early lambs, or kept to feed the succeeding winter, selling them when coming one year old.

My reasons for this course are these: There is an almost unlimited demand for this class of mutton, and this demand is growing faster than the supply. The crossing of bloods always results in progeny superior in vitality, quick growth, and get-there-ativeness to either of the breeds selected for the cross. One great reason why this Yankee nation excels all others is because it is so thoroughly cross-bred.

The choice of a breed for the ram depends entirely upon what is desired by the flock master. If early lambs are sought, then, as I have so often said, no breed equals the Dorset Horned. No other will get so many lambs, get them so early, or put them into market in such fine condition at so young an age. If lambs are sought, to be carried over winter, to be fed and sold when coming one year old, then I know of nothing equal to the Hampshire. They are larger than Dorsets, and their lambs will be larger at one year old and, with good feed, will be in prime condition. A study of the fat sheep shows of this country and English will show the correctness of this statement, as crosses with Hampshire blood on one side, usually the sire's, always carry off the prizes for yearlings (lambs? Ed.).

Uniformity is a quality greatly desired in all market products, and in nothing more so than in lambs. Both these breeds named stamp their get very uniformly. They are both very old breeds, well and long established, and indelibly mark their offspring. The same is true of the South Down, but this breed is of too slow growth for this purpose, and its head is so short and thick between the ears as to make it very dangerous to use the males on common ewes, too much loss occurs in lambing.

My objection to the Shropshire for this purpose is that the breed is entirely too new, and the lambs will have legs and faces of all shades of color and "ringed, streaked, and speckled, and spotted." Even Shropshire breeders know that in their thoroughbred (?)

flocks they must be continually weeding out those lambs which breed back to one of the foundation types.

(Right. Ed.)

As to the building up of a grade flock, I have had little experience. A few ewes which we have crossed a second time, using thoroughbred rams, have not given us such results as would encourage us to continue. I surely would not advise this course. Why try to establish a grade flock when the ultimate result would be to come very near to the thoroughbred type? When the American farmer has reached the point where he is willing to bestow the care and attention, and give the feed requisite to succeed in this, why not take some of the established breeds and try to improve them?

If the breeder be young and wish to experiment, it is well, and in that case he should make the cross, select the ewes of this cross most nearly to his fancy and on them use a ram of the breed first used, and from the lambs of this cross endeavor to select and breed so as to build up a new breed. But this opens up a subject so large that space will not permit me to follow it. Suffice it to say that for average mortals the continual raising of cross-bred lambs from the common Merino ewes of the country will give greater satisfaction and certainly more money.

J. S. WOODWARD.



AN ENGLISH SWEEPSTAKES DAIRY SHORT HORN COW.

The Dairy.

THE GENERAL-PURPOSE COW.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN—Some men are deterred from buying fine cattle because they want the finest or none. They see the finest (or at least those having the highest reputation) selling for a great deal of money; therefore they wait a while longer. It is not every man who should buy a high priced cow with a long pedigree and a big milk and butter record, even though he has money and wishes to invest in that way. It is only those who have the time, skill, patience and taste to attend to these costly pets who should buy them. The man who is full of other work should only buy the cow that is useful for all the things for which a cow is made, and buy her at a moderate price.

I am not depreciating those phenomenal yields where cows, through much skill of herdsman and long training, have been made to milk 100 lb. per day, or those whose milk per day has made four or more pounds of butter. It is interesting from a scientific standpoint, showing the possibility of the

cow—I will not say *extreme* possibility, for we cannot fix a limit to the quantity of milk and butter a cow can be made to yield. I say in some degree, for it must not be supposed that if a cow is pushed to an abnormal yield of dairy product, her heifer calf can also be pushed there. In the natural yield there is more hereditary quality.

I would say that a practical man who has other things to attend to beside cows would wish a cow, or even a herd, that would yield in the flush of flow about six gallons of good milk, from which could be made 1½ lb. of butter per day. This would taper down to two gallons, six or seven weeks before calving, from which time it is best to dry the cow and give her a little rest. This is best for the calf, and makes the cow give more and richer milk after calving than she would without the rest. This good average cow that I am writing about, with good average attention, would yield 10,000 lb. of milk per year, and though this looks small when compared with three times that quantity, still the practical man would rather have the smaller milker at the smaller price. There is much less danger of milk fever, spoiled udder and garget. This cow will pay for her food and in a very reasonable time will pay her cost; but if she dies before she does it, her owner will not have sent a round sum into a cow's grave.

recorded, for he expects to feed her on something more substantial than genealogy.

As much as specialists may argue against the phrase, there is such an animal as a "general-purpose cow," and when the practical man finds, he will buy her and carry her home, and she will be to him a pearl of great price.

Milk cows want plenty to eat and water twice every day; after, the cow wants rest—that is better for the cow and for the milk and butter. The cow should not be salted periodically, once or twice a week, and I would not recommend mixing salt with the food, as you are likely to put in more than is needed. The better way is to put the salt where the cow can get it when she wants it. Regularity with the cow in every department of the dairy is necessary. Let no dogs run after the cow, or otherwise abuse, excite and ill-treat her. Such a course will invariably result in loss of butter fat. The dogs make many cows lame, and plenty of cows lose their calves with the dogs. Treat her kindly, and she will repay you with interest.

Cleanliness is an important factor in the dairy. There is nothing so susceptible to odors as milk. Have everything in the barns extra clean; that is just as good as good feeding. It is a good plan to tie the cow's tail while in stable to a hook fastened overhead in such a way that when she lies down, the brush is held up from the dirt, but when standing, the tail is in its natural position. Let your most faithful man attend to the feeding. Brush and card the cows daily—sickness is often avoided in this way. Kindness to animals costs nothing, and they appreciate and pay for good treatment.

A. H. JANSSEN.

Maples Stock Farm, N. Y.

MEETING OF THE DAIRYMEN ASSOCIATION OF ST-HYACINTHE.

WEDNESDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The second day of the Convention of the dairymen of the province opened with a splendid attendance under the presidency of Mr. S. A. Fisher, M. P., vice-president of the Association during the momentary absence of the president, Rev. Abbé Montminy.

The morning was spent in listening to one of the finest lectures that farmers and dairymen could have heard, it was delivered by Professor Robertson, and was on the subject of "Dairy Farms."

The professor exhibited to his audience charts of different animals and told them that although he did not intend to favor any breed in particular, still he felt bound to speak of the animal that best serves man. "I wish to give some points that are necessary in a cow, so that she may make a good return for all she eats, and, besides, that she may give a profit. This constitution by which is meant the good health and good work of the cow, and not the pedigree, is valuable in that animal. For that she must have good breathing powers, with good heart power. This is known by a flexible skin. A cow to give a profit must consume bulky and cheap food. Any cow can give good milk if fed on rich food, but the question is to get rich milk from cheap food. (1) The ribs should be wide apart, and the pouch should be large.

(1) The italics are ours.—Ed.

I am writing for such readers as want help to support their families, and I say that money invested in a good all-round cow will give more profit for her cost than the same sum invested in any other way. The practical man does not wish to invest a large sum, for he does not expect to be a fancy breeder. He does not wish to buy a pedigree unless he also gets a cow that has intrinsic merit, nor a cow whose family has been specialized to yield a very large quantity of very poor milk; nor one that has been bred to give milk rich in one quality to the neglect of others, as well as to quantity. As he expects to convert his male calves, barren and old cows into beef, he would be glad for his cattle to be good beef stock, but not so good that a cow will a calf two months old would fatten herself instead of increasing her milk when her feed was increased. He does not expect to get one cow that has all the best qualities of all other cows. He simply expects to get a good cow with a good average of all those qualities for which cattle were made. He does not care what may be the color of her hair, for he knows that has no more to do with her dairy products than has the color of any other cow. He does not care in what book her pedigree may be