

Lazy Land.

A farmer discussing his last year's crop failures a short time ago said, "I did well enough with everything but my lazy land." He went on to explain that it was not the land exactly that was lazy. He wanted to see with how little work he could get in a part of his crop, and the result was a yield that it would have been a wise thing for him not to try and cut at all. Every now and then is found a man who has a great deal to say about lazy land. Somebody who was in a hurry went over 10 or 20 acres with a seeder, not even taking the trouble to harrow over the old stubble, and had as good or nearly as good a crop as if he had plowed it. The story is quite true, and being true, encourages some people who hear of it, to sow 50 or 100 acres in the same thrifty way. Every season produces some such examples, and some people who are willing to profit by the example. If a farm has been properly worked all along, there may be cases in which to try a crop with the drill seeder may prove as sound policy as any other, for the exceptional circumstances in which it is tried. And if land has been thoroughly stirred to the depth of more than six inches, it will often be found to be the soundest policy to refrain from going so deep for two or three years afterwards. Half the original depth may be as far as a capable man sees it proper to go in such a case. But the best sample of lazy land is when the man who owns it is as thrifty of his thinking as of his labor, and does both so lazily that most of his crop is scarcely worth the gathering. Such men are scarcely so honest with themselves as the farmer spoken of above. They blame the season, and if their brain was as fertile in reasons for doing things as well as possible as in framing excuses for doing things in the worst possible way, and for the failures resulting from this shuffling lazy way of working, they might be pointed to as examples to be followed, instead of being shown up as examples to be shunned. The best sort of land is that which has been selected with

proper caution by the man who is to make his living out of it, and is after that worked with proper judgment and live thought: The man who goes out and does a great deal of work the exact effect of which he has not properly studied before he began, may achieve results that are practically as bad as if he had been doing nothing. Cases of unprofitable summer fallowing, for example might be pointed to in which a man has worked for weeks to kill crop weeds. He harrowed time after time in the hot days of July, and never started a weed to grow, perhaps finishing with a good deep furrow late in October to make sure of a good job. He was not lazy enough, and, to his dismay found that his land was also the reverse of lazy, producing the biggest growth of weeds he ever saw there. If he had carefully studied the best way, of reaching the end he arrived at, and had done no more than was manifestly calculated to help that result, he would have had a bigger yield of wheat, a much smaller yield of weeds, and only half the work it cost him to bring about the opposite result.—*North West Farmer & Miller.*

Horned Dorset Sheep.

A Wisconsin correspondent of the *Breeder's Gazette* writes of these sheep as follows, speaking apparently from personal knowledge and experience:

Horned Dorset sheep are now coming to the front and eliciting considerable attention from flock-masters and breeders. They belong to the medium-wool class and originated in Dorsetshire, England, many years ago.

In general conformation they have many points in common with the Shropshires and Downs generally; they are straight, deep in body, ribs more than ordinarily well arched, broad in loin and shoulder, and hind leg well let down, forming a good leg of mutton. The general appearance is pleasing—head erect, quiet and intelligent eyes, face rather long and thin, with an inclination to be a little convex, nose and lips pink to flesh color; horns in ewes thin, with a symmetrical downward curve. They are small and fine in bone,

hardy, remarkably quiet, and easily handled.

Originally, it is said, they were very hardy and capable of subsisting on scanty pasture, and were chiefly noted for their remarkable prolificacy and being excellent nurses. The modern Dorset has retained all these excellent qualities; also during the past few years, through careful selection, better feeding and care by the most eminent and skillful breeders, they have strengthened and blocked their form, doubled in size, proof and weight of wool, and indeed so freely has this breed responded to the will of the careful breeder that the Dorset lamb arrives at maturity even earlier than in any other breed.

In no breed has there been greater skill shown by the breeder than in the Dorsets. If those who moulded the straight, erect and well rounded form of the Down, fixed their habit of early maturity and laying on the kind and quality of flesh desired, did well and merited praise, what shall we say of those who gave to the Dorset these qualities, and at the same time not only retained but increased their original habit of lambing twice a year? It is not infrequent for ewes to produce twin lambs twice a year, and occasionally triplets make their appearance, and more have been known to be produced. To develop these peculiarities, the Dorsetshire Agricultural Society offer prizes each year to the shepherds who shall rear the largest number of lambs with the least loss of ewes, and it is not unusual to note reports of 150 per cent. of lambs with a loss of one-sixth of 1 per cent. of ewes.

We have used a Dorset-Horned ram on high-grade Shropshire and Merino ewes with very promising results. The lambs are growing rapidly, are healthy and strong, and in many cases at seven weeks old stand quite as high as the Merino dams. These same ewes last year produced lambs by an imported Shropshire ram, and we are entirely satisfied that the Dorset cross loses nothing by comparison. Our flock has no other feed than pasture.

If cleanliness is next to godliness some of our farmers keeping poultry will never acquire it.