

1889 Sales of Shorthorns.

A Scotch contemporary of recent date says:— Another sale season of pedigreed Shorthorn cattle may be regarded as over. Although not nearly equal to what has been experienced before the agricultural depression came upon us, it is satisfactory to note that in this important branch a better trade has been done than has been the case for several years past. In all there have been 40 sales, at which 2,085 head have been sold for a total of £73,492 7s. 3d., or an average of £35 4s. 11½d. each, this comparing well with the 1,594 head sold last year, at 39 sales, for a total of £44,013 13s. 6d., or an average of £27 15s. 6d. In 1887 there were 37 sales at which 1,353 head were sold at an average of £27 12. 6d.; while in 1886 the average was £30 9s. 1d. This year's average was not so good as in 1885, when the average price was £37 10s., but it will be seen that there has been a very considerable advance on the prices of each of the past four years. Neither do we as yet approach the values which prevailed during the twelve years which ended with 1879, and during which time the average for the sales during the whole series of years amounted to no less than £54 7s. 7½d. per head. Besides the home trade, there has been a good foreign trade with South America, but that for other countries seems to have been almost nil. In all, the Shorthorn Society has issued 608 export pedigree certificates since January 1, and of these 586 have been for animals going to South America, 12 for Germany, 3 for France, 2 for Belgium, and 1 each for Australia, Canada, Denmark, Sweden and South Africa.

The Shropshire Breeders' Meeting.

The annual meeting of the American Shropshire Registry Association was held at the Sherman House, Chicago, Nov. 19. The roll was called by Mortimer Levering, the Secretary and Treasurer, and was answered to by a large number of members. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$949.52. The following officers were elected:—President, S. H. Todd, Wakeman, O.; 1st Vice-President, John Dryden, M. P. P., Brooklin, Ont.; Sec.-Treas., Mortimer Levering, Lafayette, Ind. Executive Committee, John L. Thompson, Arcana, Ind.; W. H. Beattie, Wilton Grove, Ont.; Prof. W. C. Latta, Lafayette, Ind.; W. J. Garlock, Howell, Mich. Pedigree Committee—John Dryden, John Campbell, jr., Woodville, Ont.; Dr. T. H. Allison, Kittanning, Penn.; J. L. Thompson, Prof. W. C. Latta. Vice-Presidents for Canada—Richard Gibson, Delaware; Prof. Thos. Shaw, Guelph; Robert Miller, jr., Brougham. The rule for entry was changed, so that fees would be charged as follows:—Members of the Association pay for each imported sheep or lamb \$1, if accepted for registry within one year after date of importation. For each American bred sheep, 50 cents, if accepted for registry before Dec. 31 of the year of its birth. Triple fees will be charged for registration of all sheep later than the time of limits above fixed. Non-members charged double fees. The following rule also added:—Infringement of any of these rules, or dishonorable conduct on the part of a member, shall make him liable to forfeiture of the privilege of membership in the Association. It was further resolved, that no Shropshire breeder be allowed to register his sheep if he had any other pure breed of sheep on his farm. This last surely should be reconsidered, and could never have

been properly understood, as this rule would most effectually close one of the main thoroughfares for establishing this already popular breed of sheep, as the majority of buyers have already a flock of some of the pure breeds, amongst which they wish to place the Shropshire on his merits. The sum of \$500 was voted as an appropriation to be offered for premiums to be awarded to Shropshire sheep in the fairs for 1890.

Holstein-Freisian Association

held a meeting at Chicago Nov. 13, and in response to an offer of \$5 made at their meeting March 20, 1889, for each full-blooded bull calf slaughtered or castrated within four weeks of birth, it was announced that \$1,250 had been paid. The registration fee for bulls had also been raised to \$5 for members and \$6 for non-members, which much reduced the number registered. During the year \$4,000 had been paid out in special premiums.

The Dairy.

PRIZE ESSAY.

What Steps Must be Taken to Improve the Quality of Milk Delivered at Cheese Factories.

BY JOHN PARKER, STAMFORD, ONT.

The dairyman must take the first steps towards improving the milk, by taking better care of his cows; his stables, his methods of milking, and the care of the milk after it is taken from the cow.

A word or two in regard to her care first. She should be treated with the utmost care at all times, because, any rough usage will tend to make her hold up her milk, and sometimes make it bloody. Dogs, unless well trained, should never be allowed to come anywhere near the cows, and certainly, never to race them. Thoughtless men or boys who club or stone them when taking to or from pasture, should be sent away along with the dogs until they learn to be more humane towards our dumb animals.

Nine out of every ten cows, I venture to say, are turned out in the spring as soon as the grass will afford them a living, and never fed a bite of grain until the snow flies in November. In the fore part of the season they may do well enough, but towards the last they can scarcely hold their own; and, as a natural result, they either do not give any milk, or so little that it is hardly worth while bothering with it. And who would expect them to do otherwise? Surely, no man of at least ordinary intelligence, if he gave the matter a single thought. It pays, and pays well, to feed a small grain ration every day, even when on the best of pasture, but more especially as the pastures grow short in the fall. If any farmer has any doubts about it, I would advise him to try it for just one season, and I venture to say he will do so ever afterward.

So much for her summer's feed. Now, let us see how she is going to fare during the long winter. After having been half starved all the fall, she is placed in a cold, damp stable, and fed on hay and straw until she is sick and tired of them. Sometimes, of course, she fares better, and gets a little grain. It will take half of the winter to get her in the condition she was in the latter part of the summer. After giving scarcely any milk for two or three months, she cannot be made to give what she otherwise would, had she been well fed all along. So, a cow that should

give milk at least ten months will be dry before eight months. It would be much better to feed her all she will eat of good, nourishing food all the time. Well-cured corn fodder and oat straw cut fine and mixed equally, if a little bran, corn meal and roots be added, will make a very substantial and tempting ration, and will be a change from common hay and straw. Sugar beets will be much relished, and will not taste the milk like turnips, &c. She should also have free access to salt at all times, which will not only increase the quantity of milk, but also greatly improve the quality of it. Pure water at all times is another very important matter, as bad water will make bad milk; so, good, pure water will make pure milk. Her stable next calls for our attention. It should be warm and comfortable, and always kept clean and well ventilated, or first-class milk cannot be expected. If a little lime be sprinkled on the floor of the stable occasionally it will do much towards keeping it pure and sweet.

The milk should be thoroughly aired within one hour after it is taken from the cow, to rid it of all stable odors and other gases, which hinder the manufacture of good cheese. The milking should be done by a very careful, kind-hearted person, who milks with dry hands, and as rapidly as possible without being harsh. Milking with dry hands can be done as easily and quickly as with wet hands, and is much cleaner. Rapid milking will make the cow let down her milk more freely, and so increase the quantity.

The cheese manufacturers must also take steps towards improving the quality of milk delivered to them, by assisting or at least encouraging the dairymen to produce a better quality of milk. If they would by some means test the milk supplied them, and pay according to quality, much good would undoubtedly result. They could grade it the same as the millers do the wheat, by giving a certain price for a standard quality of milk, and raise or lower the price according as the milk supplied them went over or below the standard.

The farmer, generally, is slow to adopt any new idea; but if he saw his neighbor was getting more for his milk than he was for his, he would naturally enquire into his neighbor's methods of producing it, and strive to imitate them.

The use of pure-bred sires of the best dairy families would in a few years very much improve the dairy cows; and as the cows improve their owners will generally become more interested in them, and so take better care of them, when they find there is money in it. Then, and not till then, will the milk be much improved in quality. The above simple advice, though not all bearing directly on the subject, will produce a better quality of milk, if heeded.

There are good prospects of a cheese factory being established at Cypress river next spring. Mr. Siver, who manufactures cheese at the Icelandic settlement south-west of there, has offered to remove the plant to Cypress river if a suitable building is procured. The milk from one hundred and eighty cows is already promised.

The best only pays. It is the last few cents on a pound of butter that constitutes the profit. In fact it is very doubtful if there is a profit on anything but the best. Besides the pleasure of selling an article that everybody wants. Mrs. S. L. Eadie, eight miles south of Winnipeg, has received twenty-five cents per pound all summer for her butter, and the trouble has not been where to find customers but how to supply all of them. There is room for many more of this class of buttermakers.