

Mr. Peters closed by referring to the prosperity of the farmers as a class, advising them to have faith in the respectability of their business, which was on a par with any in the world, and to send to the Legislature as their representatives, more of their own number. Until this was done, their interests would not receive that attention by the Legislature their importance demand. (Applause.) Let us take a higher standing, make ourselves better farmers, learn of the doings of the world day by day, work and learn, and while not neglecting our agricultural pursuits let us cultivate our minds as well as our farms. (Loud applause.)

John Pickard, M. P., being called upon responded briefly. He agreed with Mr. Peters' estimate of the rank of the farmer, to whom we look for all the comforts of life. The farmer should be an educated man, and he had always advocated free schools for the children of men who had hewn out for themselves homes in the wilderness.

The question of stock was an important one, and it would be well to enquire what kind fattens best on the smallest amount of food. This was a subject that should be discussed by all the local Societies.

J. D. Dixon said in his County they were satisfied with the Short Horns, but from personal experience he would say for those farmers not prepared to give them extra feed and attention, they are poor stock. There are other breeds equally good and preferable in some localities where facilities for procuring food are not great. But no matter what breed a farmer has, no matter how high he feeds them, without good, tight, warm barns it will be impossible for him to turn out his stock in the spring in as good a condition as it went in in the fall.

But in improving our stock there is no reason to apprehend any difficulty in finding a ready market, as it appears by the returns of trade we do not produce sufficient beef, cheese, pork, butter, eggs, &c., for home consumption.

RETURNS OF TRADE.

In the year ending June 30th, 1872, there were imported from P. E. Island, eggs to the value of \$34,257, while the total exports only amounted to \$24,000, leaving a balance of \$10,000 consumed in this Province.

We imported butter to the value of \$10,117—exported \$5,436. We imported cheese to the value of \$1,296—exported \$150.

These returns are ample evidence that there is no fear of our over-doing the business by raising pure stock, &c.

Mr. D., here instanced a case, illustrating the rapidity with which Short Horns gain flesh on extra feed. He kept a young bull of that breed in the barn during the summer, commencing on green

fodder and meal, weighing the animal regularly once a week. The first week he gained 5 lbs. a day, the second week the same; then I increased the food by adding a peck of potatoes every day. The first week on this he gained 6 lbs. a day, and in six weeks had increased in weight nearly 300 lbs., being then in no better condition than any animal ought to be.

He felt that farmers do not come up to the discharge of their duties in the most intelligent and profitable manner possible. The reason may be that so many, from indifference or lack of education, do not seek after the information to be derived from the experience of older countries, and, from the experiments now being carried on in England and the United States. A large portion of the wealth of New Brunswick is invested in farming, and as the largest industry, it is the farmer's own fault that it is not proportionately represented in the Assembly.

O. E. Flewelling, of Salisbury, was the next speaker. He said this subject is so large and important, that the discussion ought to be carried on during the evenings the Board of Agriculture is in session, to the end that speakers would have time to discuss it in all its bearings.

The history of the improvement of stock raising in America is an interesting one, although it does not run over a period of more than sixty years. Mr. F. here briefly alluded to several important importations.

But the main question before us to-night is what is, the best breed of stock?

Short Horns want heavy feed, but on hilly and rocky lands they cannot compete with the Ayrshires and Devons. As far as he knew, these breeds give more milk and produce more butter in proportion to the feed than any other, although some say a cross of Devon and Ayrshire is the best of all.

The Jersey and Alderney have their fanciers who rank them without an equal for the dairy, but they are not beef cattle. In England the Devons are considered the best beef, which rules the market at one penny a pound over all others. Even in this Province the superiority of this breed is acknowledged, especially at the Sackville Exhibition, where Devon grades were particularly noticed. In horned cattle quality should not be overlooked for bulk, as in the market the best beef brings the highest prices, and herein lies the great success of pure blood and good feed. The Short Horns thrive best on the plains, but outside of the large intervals the Devons and Ayrshires are the most remunerative.

Above all things keep good cows, and you cannot have too good blood. They cost more, but a cow that will annually return the interest on \$200 is more desirable property than one whose original cost was \$20. Nor should the calf be

forgotten—let it never stop growing till it comes to maturity. Keep it in a warm barn during the winter, and increase the feed as it increases in size.

One calf brought up in this way is better than two cared for in the old style. Farmers do not fully realize the benefit accruing from extra feeding. It has been fully established by experiment that two cows yielding 5 lbs. of butter per week on common food, when fed shorts in addition produced 8 lbs., and with cooked food 10 lbs. per week.

The cooking of feed he highly approved of, while vegetables, especially carrots, were favorites with him, adding to the yield of milk. He also fed carrots to his horses, and could give Swedish Turnips to his cows without tainting the butter.

Mr. F., closed by advising farmers to educate their children; to keep better stock, not overlooking their dairy qualities for beef and beauty, as too many in the United States have done: to exchange experiences as local clubs and by public discussions; and to keep a cash account. Do this and their standing as a class would be elevated, while the young men who now flock to the towns and cities would cease to leave the old folks on the farm.

Col. T. O. Miles, the next speaker, could remember the time when the stock in Maudgenville was better than it is today. This degeneracy he attributes to the use of undeveloped parents, the heifers being poorly fed and breeding too young, the bulls small, rough-haired, big headed, peaked, totally unfit for sires. Another reason was the admixture of all kinds of breeds, resulting in mongrel crosses of the poorest quality. The evil of this course was well understood in the days of Moses who commanded the Israelites, "Thou shalt not let thy cattle gender with a diverse kind."

To improve and regenerate, the stock requires two things, money and confidence. Dean Swift once preached a Charity Sermon from the text, "He that giveth to the poor, lendeth to the Lord." His sermon was comprised in these words "if you have confidence in the security, down with the dust." So he would say to those contemplating stock raising, if you have confidence in the enterprise, down with your money.

Our present system of agriculture is faulty and there is little money in it. We know less about stock breeding than did Jacob when he worked for Laban's daughter, who by rods, twigs, streaked and speckled put in the water troughs, made the cattle to bring forth variety of kinds. If the farmer does not occupy the position in society to which his pursuits entitle him, it is his own fault. Mr. M., concluded by suggesting the advisability of looking more to the development of the animal called man, which, like the