

HIGHLAND.		
	Highest price 1898.	Highest price 1899.
Bulls.....	\$ 285 00	\$ 330 00
Yearling bulls.....	400 00	405 00
Cows.....		105 00
Two-year-old heifers.....		200 00
JERSEYS.		
Bulls.....	267 75	210 00
Cows or heifers.....	630 00	945 00
AYRSHIRES.		
Two-year-old bulls.....	261 50	170 00
Yearling bulls.....	78 75	135 00
Bull calves.....		135 24
Cows.....		170 00
Three-year-old heifers.....		131 24
Two-year-old heifers.....		107 50
Yearling heifers.....		112 75
Heifer calves.....		98 00
KERRY AND DEXTER-KERRY.		
Bulls.....	204 75	236 30
Cows.....	336 00	367 50

There has been throughout all breeds a first-class demand, and at private sales some very high prices have been made, but these are excluded from my record for this reason, that one only hears of some and not all; hence, no satisfactory conclusions could be drawn therefrom. The Shorthorns have been strongly supported, as have also the Herefords, whilst in the Red Polls more record prices have been realized.

The Sheep Section is dealt with more fully than either of the two preceding sections, from the fact that more detailed information is obtainable in the public press, and there are given first the highest prices realized in the different breeds during the present and past years for rams, yearlings, ram lambs, yearling ewes and ewe lambs of each breed, and then a set of tables giving the highest averages made for the same subdivisions during the same period:

RAMS.		
	Highest price 1898.	Highest price 1899.
Leicesters.....	\$ 199 50	\$ 205 00
Cotswolds.....	162 75	115 48
Lincolns.....	5,230 00	1,155 00
Oxford Downs.....	425 24	346 24
Shropshires.....	1,627 50	787 50
Southdowns.....	262 50	577 50
Hampshire Downs.....	315 00	81 00
Suffolks.....	630 00	289 24
Wensleydale.....	90 00	105 00
Border Leicesters.....	1,375 00	550 00
Dorset Horns.....	115 48	150 00
Kent or Romney Marsh.....	157 50	262 50
Cheviots.....	345 00	500 00
Devon Long-wool.....	230 00	76 00
Blackface Mountain.....	1,000 00	750 00
Kerry Hill.....	210 24	220 72
Ryeland.....		105 00
South Down.....	335 48	220 72
South Hams.....		41 24

RAM LAMBS.		
Cotswolds.....	94 72	63 00
Oxford Downs.....	157 50	210 24
Shropshires.....	231 24	31 24
Hampshire Downs (letting only).....	472 50	150 00
Hampshire Downs (selling).....	357 00	210 00
Suffolks.....	525 00	761 24
Wensleydale.....	80 00	62 50

YEARLING EWES.		
Lincolns.....	52 50	131 24
Oxford Downs.....	16 24	30 72
Shropshires.....	47 00	42 00
Southdowns.....	80 00	78 75
Hampshire Downs.....	37 50	25 00
Suffolks.....	77 50	70 00
Border Leicesters.....		50 00
Dorset Horns.....	17 00	15 00
Kent or Romney Marsh.....	20 24	15 24

EWE LAMBS.		
Shropshires.....	31 24	16 00
Southdowns.....	52 50	21 24
Hampshire Downs.....	36 24	18 75
Suffolks.....	52 50	37 50
Dorset Horns.....	12 75	9 00
Kent or Romney Marsh.....	9 00	13 00

## AVERAGE TABLES.

YEARLING RAMS.		
Leicesters.....	73 72	45 60
Cotswolds.....	57 00	46 75
Lincolns.....	434 75	372 75
Oxford Downs.....	88 24	77 50
Shropshires.....	104 00	138 82
Southdowns.....	110 24	115 00
Hampshire Downs.....	117 00	73 24
Suffolks.....	75 68	145 00
Wensleydale.....	49 00	71 24
Border Leicesters.....	228 00	159 00
Kent or Romney Marsh.....	60 00	52 50
Cheviots.....	107 00	97 00
Devon long-wool.....	56 24	50 80
Blackface Mountain.....	154 48	156 00
Kerry Hill.....	31 24	63 00

RAM LAMBS.		
Cotswolds.....	51 48	42 50
Oxford Downs.....	61 00	47 24
Shropshires.....	35 24	17 00
Southdowns.....	50 24	62 00
Hampshire Downs (letting).....	245 48	229 75
Hampshire Downs (selling).....	58 00	58 75
Suffolks.....	105 60	115 25
Kerry Hill.....		44 00

YEARLING EWES.		
Lincolns.....	40 66	41 20
Oxford Downs.....	15 72	18 00
Shropshires.....	26 30	25 24
Southdowns.....	23 24	30 48
Hampshire Downs.....	20 88	15 00
Suffolks.....	38 00	36 00
Border Leicesters.....		18 85
Dorset Horns.....		11 32
Kent or Romney Marsh.....	13 80	13 00

EWE LAMBS.		
Southdowns.....	10 32	10 60
Hampshire Downs.....	13 00	10 00
Suffolks.....	21 24	19 00

**Swine.**—The auction sale record of these during the past year has been a very small one, and the best prices made were: Boars, Berkshires, \$830.00, and sows, \$168.00.

W. N. C.

## The Prize Mutton.

I do not know by what authority the opinion of Mr. William Davies, a Toronto pork-packer, was asked for on the mutton carcasses shown at the Fat Stock Show at London and lately published in what is called the *Agricultural Gazette*. But I do think it was a stupid thing to publish the opinion of a man who in his letter clearly admits that he did not know what he was eating. He bought two pieces of mutton, as he supposed, and after cutting off most of the very thick fat, found the lean was rich, juicy, tender, and of fine fiber, and he says: "I imagined this was from a Shropshire or South-down sheep." There were no ear-marks on it, and he didn't know for sure what it was, so he drew on his "imagination" for a conclusion. He bought two more pieces, which proved "very unsatisfactory," and he says: "I think the last must have been a Cotswold or a Leicester." He didn't know for sure, so he drew on his "thoughts" for a conclusion. The letter was addressed to F. W. Hodson, Esq., Ottawa, who, I understand, is the High Commissioner of Live Stock for the Dominion of Canada, and Mr. Davies innocently adds: "I thought this would interest you. Of course, all lovers of good mutton know that the Downs are much superior to other breeds." Somebody had, no doubt, told him that, or he had heard somebody say it, and he seems to have imagined or thought it was a fact, and the High Commissioner thought this precious letter was good enough to put in the *Agricultural Gazette* to help to "edificate" the benighted farmers of Canada so they would know just what kind of sheep to breed. It is but fair to state that the Commissioner appended a note of comment, in which he says: "Each carcass shown was conspicuously marked so as to indicate to which breed it belonged. It is a pity the retail stores had not kept a close watch on these markings so as to be able to inform customers just which breed they were eating." It is a pity, and it is not safe to leave some things around within reach of some kinds of people without being conspicuously marked. Mark Twain used to take the precaution to mark some of his sayings, "This is a goak"; and it was kind of him, for some innocent people might have imagined they were written in earnest, and the consequences might have been serious. Mr. Davies may have been eating Cotswold when he imagined it was Southdown, and he may have eaten Shropshire when he thought it must have been Cotswold or Leicester. He would not have been the first epicure who had been fooled into praising Cotswold or Leicester mutton when he "imagined" he was eating Southdown. But Mr. Wm. Davies is conspicuously announced in the heading of the article as the "President of one of Canada's most important and greatest national industries." Think of that. He is the same authority that, a few years ago, undertook to teach the farmers of this country which breed of hogs they ought to raise; and to prove that he knew what he was talking about, he went into the business of breeding hogs to show them how to do it; but he didn't stay at it long. He evidently concluded there was more money in letting the other fellows raise that breed. It was easier to preach than to practice. He was shrewd enough to see that there was more money and more fun in packing pork in the city than on the farm. He probably found the "Boers" more odoriferous than he had imagined. Perhaps it would be uncharitable to criticize the letter in question severely, for it is quite possible that the writer was not aware that it would be published, with conspicuous headlines, as the opinion of a notable authority. If he had imagined that it would go to the world in its original shape, it is only charitable to believe that it would have been "conspicuously marked" "Private"; but the Commissioner thought it too good to be hid under a bushel. It would be a pity to deny the poor, ignorant farmers the leading of such a helpful light, and he gave them the benefit of it "free gratis for nothing."

COTSWOLD BUCK.

## Government Combination Stock Sales Condemned.

I am decidedly opposed to holding combination public auction sales of pure-bred stock. In my opinion, there is no need of them with the demand we have for Shorthorns at the present time. There is not enough in the country to supply the demand, and there is no place an animal will sell better than right out of its own stable, and buyers are not all prepared to buy at the same time. In general, buyers would have more confidence in buying from breeders than buying at public sales of that kind. The two sales tried in Toronto some years ago should convince anyone they cannot be made a success. I attended a combination sale in Aberdeen in Oct., 1897, where they were selling Shorthorns and Polled Angus. I found there was not one of the principal Shorthorn breeders represented there, and out of about 80 Shorthorn bulls, there were not over six good ones, the rest being culls. The animals were not all sold, as one of the breeders in conversation with me said they could do better to take them home and sell privately than take the prices they were offered that day, which I feel satisfied would be too often the case with that kind of sales here; and their sales are conducted as well as it is possible to have them, and since the demand has increased over there, the combination sales have gone back.

Markham, Ont.

JOHN ISAAC.

## Re Breed Type.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—We feel that your space is golden, and one should well consider before occupying a single line. We read the *ADVOCATE* with pleasure, and if we do not profit we must be dull indeed. We read with pleasure the article by G. W. Clemons, in your issue of Feb. 15th, on breed type, etc.; would like to thank him for the complimentary remarks "and comical company" he places our loved Jerseys in; would say that we have had just one year's experience with one of his beloved Holstein-Friesians, and she is no doubt a No. 1 A; have given her as good a chance as ever we gave a Jersey, and intend to keep this up, and later on will report, if you will allow us. At present we think it is quite as easy to keep the Jersey's "minarets" out of sight as it is the Holstein-Friesian's.

ROBT. TURTS &amp; SON.

Hastings Co., Ontario.

## FARM.

## Saving and Applying Manure.

You invite readers to give their experience in saving and applying manure, so I will give mine. For about fifteen years I have spread manure direct either from the stable or yard in winter time, and, with the exception of last winter, I have never seen any evil results. Last spring the ground was frozen so deeply that the water was unable to soak into the soil, and some manure was washed away. Formerly when cleaning out stables the manure from different stock was mixed and kept piled up in the yard and then drawn and applied when the snow was not too deep. One year, the field where manure was applied was near the stables, so I cleaned the horse stable every day into the cow stable, and every other day drew mixed manure direct to field and spread, using a boat or jumper. This saved any extra handling, and better results were obtained than from what was applied in spring.

Having all my cattle loose, with exception of cows, this winter, I draw the manure, every three or four weeks, direct to field intended for roots, and certainly find it very convenient, and leaves more room in the barn-yard. Drawing on wagon in spring cuts up the soil and hardens it to a great extent, and labor is much scarcer in spring than winter, and larger loads can also be drawn on the sleigh.

J. N. KERNIGHAN, Huron Co., Ont.

## Pros and Cons of Applying Fresh Manure.

BY G. A. BRODIE, ONT. CO., ONT.

The subject of making and application of farm-yard manure is, no doubt, a very important one, and probably one of the most neglected operations of farming at the present time. When and what crops to which farm-yard manure should be applied are problems yet unsolved by a large majority of farmers. Although no set rules can be given for the application of manure to the various kinds and conditions of soils and for the different farm crops, still there are general principles to guide in this direction. It is better to apply some time before the crop is sown, so that a large amount of the fertilizing ingredients becomes washed into and thoroughly incorporated with the soil, and in a condition suitable to nourish the young plant. The best results are obtained by applying manure to such crops as roots, corn, meadows, and all fodder crops, but not to grain crops unless the soil is lacking in fertilizing ingredients, as the tendency is to produce an abundance of straw with an inferior sample and poorer yield of grain. There is also a greater tendency to produce rust.

Some advantages of applying manure fresh from the stables are:

1. It makes more work in winter when labor is cheaper, and gives exercise to idle teams.
2. There is less loss of fertilizing ingredients through fermentation and also through leaching, unless the yard is constructed so as to retain the liquid portion. There is no doubt but that there is a considerable loss when applied on deep snow, and I think the system should not be followed when the snow is over a foot deep.
3. Clay soils are kept more open by the application of strawy manure from the stables.
4. Manure will cover twice as much land as when left to ferment in the yard, and contains nearly as much fertilizing ingredients per load as manure in the yard under favorable conditions, and much more when manure is put in untramped piles and allowed to over-heat.

## Objections to the system:

1. Sandy and open soils are rendered more open by the application of fresh manure, which is generally strawy. These soils lack in retentive properties, so that a large portion of plant food would be lost.
  2. Land manured in winter will not dry off as fast and will be stiffer to cultivate and work up in the spring.
  3. On hilly land considerable fertility will be lost through surface washing.
  4. Foul seeds are not destroyed.
- For several years I have practiced applying manure fresh from the stables, and am greatly in favor with the system on my farm, which is clay loam and not rolling. If farmers generally would practice the system of applying manure as soon after it is made as possible, I am satisfied the farmers throughout Ontario would be much richer and farming a much more profitable occupation.