

Mr. R. H. Harding's Chester Whites and Dorset Horns.

The illustration that adorns this issue represents three Chester White pigs and three Dorset Horn sheep, the property of Mr. R. H. Harding, Thorndale, Ont. They are a very superior lot. The pigs were bred by the owner, and reflect credit on Mr. Harding's judgment as a breeder and feeder. The two-year-old sow, Maplevue Queen, No. 185, which stands to the right, was sired by Broadbrim, Nos. 128 and 4855; dam, Annie Lawrie, Nos. 152 and "7462." Maplevue Queen has been a winner whenever shown, winning sweepstakes at the last Provincial Fat Stock Show, held at Guelph, for brood sow and two of her offspring. When in show condition she weighs over 700 pounds, and is remarkably well-developed, smooth and active. The barrow that stands to the left is a model in every respect. His sire is Silverchief, No. 66; dam, Maplevue Queen. The yearling sow, Perfection, that stands to the left in the illustration, has the record of never yet being beaten in the show ring. She won first in a ring of six models at the Toronto Industrial in 1892; first and diploma at the Western Fair, London, 1892; first at the Provincial Fat Stock Show, held at Guelph, December, 1892, and also won the red ribbon for the best sow any age or breed at the same show. She is, we think, all her name indicates. Her weight, when 14 months old, was 525 pounds. She is now heavy in farrow. Her sire, Silverchief, No. 66, although never fitted for show, won first and diploma at the Western Fair at London, 1892. He was bred by S. H. Todd & Son, Ohio, and has proved himself capable of producing first-class bacon hogs. Mr. Harding has wintered over 30 pigs, all kept for stock purposes, and they are one and all of first-class quality. Some of them, no doubt, will be heard from as winners in the near future. He has now a number of young pigs, and eight sows yet to farrow, which will give intending purchasers a chance to buy young stock from a herd that has won such prominence, although only established four years.

Three imported boars are used in the herd, two of which were imported from Messrs. Todd & Son, the other from Mr. Martin, Alexandria, Ohio. Each of these animals is individually good, and their pedigrees are as good as the best.

The Dorset ewe to the right is Cottage Graceful (imp.) 108; she is from the noted flock of Charles Hawkins, Dorchester, England. The ram to the left is John Bull 270, imported in dam by Messrs. Tazewell & Hector from the flock of Culverwell Bros., Bridgewater, Dorchester, Eng.; he is a large yearling, exceedingly well covered with wool. It is said his sire cost 40 guineas. The ewe lamb in the background, Harding's No. 16, weighed when 53 days old 55½ lbs. She was sired by The Colonel 193; dam Lady Jane, No. 28. This lamb is now nearly five months old, and is growing very nicely, nor is she an exception, judging from the appearance of the rest of the lambs. Some of Mr. Harding's ewes that lambed in the fall are now heavy in lamb, and some that lambed during the winter have again been served, which goes to prove that these sheep will continue their peculiar fecundity in the Canadian climate. The owner of this stock feels confident there is a bright future in store for Dorset Horns in America. The foundation of this flock was imported from the noted English flocks of Chick, Hawkins, Roper and Culverwell Bros. The animals at present in the fold number about forty, and are of uniform quality, large, thrifty, and well woolled; in fact, the breeding stock, both sheep and swine, are first-class in every respect, and the owner a straightforward and honorable man, who deals in all cases with conscientious uprightness. His farm is located 2½ miles from Thorndale Station, Stratford branch G. T. R., in Middlesex county, 10 miles from London, Ont.

The cow knows her place in the stable and takes it. She also knows when it is her turn to be milked, and if disappointed gives less milk and of inferior quality.

Can the per cent. of fat in milk be increased by good feeding? Nearly all the most carefully conducted experiments have shown that the proportion of fat cannot be increased by feed. Prof. Cook, of Vermont, disputes these statements, and now the Colorado Station sides with him. Doubtless much will depend whether the cow is up to her normal standard of fat production, and also how she has been fed and cared for previous to the test. But the average farmer can well afford to let the experimental stations settle this interesting problem, for he knows all that is absolutely necessary for him to improve his herds, which is that some cows will give twice as much butterfat as others on the same feed, and also that plenty of good feed always gives a paying increase in the amount of butter produced. Therefore, weed out your poor cows and feed the remainder well, if you would succeed in dairying.

A farmer in France claims to have discovered a remedy for rust on wheat, which is simple and at the same time effective. In the experiments reported, wheat which had been sown in the fall was sprayed in the spring with a mixture of 4½ lbs. of sulphate of copper and 6½ lbs. of sulphate of soda, dissolved in water. This treatment gave an increase of fourteen bushels over wheat not so treated. It would be interesting to know what results spraying with the Bordeaux mixture would give.

A. D. Harkness, Irena, Ont., in an exchange, says:—"Anyone who can run a fanning-mill can run a separator, and it is pure shiftlessness to spill milk so that it will get in the machinery. I have never found more than 0.15 per cent. of fat in the skim-milk, and that was when I was letting the milk in too fast. I think that if a person is getting more than fifty pounds of milk per day during the months of October and November, that a separator will make enough more butter to pay the interest on the cost of it."

Even if Prof. Koch's lymph has not been as successful as was hoped it would be in the case of consumption, still it has been shown by experiments conducted at the Pennsylvania Experiment Station that it will indirectly, to a large extent, prevent the spread of this dread disease. It has long been an acknowledged fact that the use of the flesh or milk for food of animals suffering from tuberculosis was a very fruitful cause of consumption in man. In the experiment quoted it was shown that the lymph is a sure test in detecting the disease in its incipient stages long before its presence could be found out by experts in the ordinary physical examination. The use of this test will doubtless be of great value in stamping out the disease in its early stages.

In the planting of trees, vines and cuttings, especially in dry weather, care should be taken to press the earth firmly about them. To a great extent poor results and losses of plants arise from neglect of this important point. The planting of a tree seems a very simple matter, yet the inexperienced will often make great blunders. The hole should always be made much larger than the roots require; the earth should be carefully sifted back among the roots, and when filled it should be pressed down firmly, so as to leave no spaces around the fibrous roots. This will help protect the plant from drought by preventing too free access of air, and by being firm no obstruction is offered to the upward movement of the subsoil water. Great care must be taken to keep the roots moist, and not allow the little hair-like fibres to dry and wither, for if this happens it is sure death to an evergreen, and any tree will be stunted and not make a good growth, no matter how much care is taken in the planting. How often do we see farmers going home from town with a dozen trees strapped on behind the buggy with the roots exposed to the burning rays of the sun. No one could expect trees after such treatment to live. So don't blame the nurseryman for your own neglect.

Sheep-shearing time will soon be here again. Do you wash your sheep? It is a disputed point whether it pays to do so, but much will depend upon circumstances. A farmer was met last fall who was very wroth at the FARMER'S ADVOCATE because it had advised shearing sheep without washing, and the gentleman in question had lost by following this advice; but, when inquiries were made, it was found that he had been docked for too much by the local dealer. Always find out how much is taken off in your market. The usual practice is to deduct one-third, in other places one-half is taken, which would make a very material difference to the farmer. Each man will have to decide this matter for himself. If his wool is very clean, doubtless it would pay him better to wash rather than give such a large proportion of it to the dealer; also, if the facilities for washing are very convenient it may pay to wash. Among the many disadvantages of washing are the following: Much time is lost in driving the sheep to a suitable place, and in the building of pens. When washed it is necessary to delay shearing late enough in the season for the weather to be mild, so that the water will be sufficiently warmed, but often before this time comes the sheep will have lost far more wool on fences and gates than can be gained by washing, so that in such a case washing is labor in vain. There is also great danger that valuable sheep may be chilled, and sometimes loss will follow. This last-mentioned reason applies with additional force to the farmer and his help, for many fatal diseases have been caused by being chilled by being in the water such a length of time as is necessary. If washed the sheep should be turned into a clean pasture for a week or ten days to allow of the return of the natural yolk. This process can be hastened by feeding a few peas or a little corn.

Timely Notes for May—No. 2.

REPLY TO CRITICISM OF TEACHERS' SALARIES.

I was surprised at Mr. "Scrub's" "criticism" of fixed salaries for teachers, for he takes very extraordinary ground when he says salaries should be kept down to keep young people from getting lazy. If it's only boys that he wants as teachers in his local school I have nothing to say; if he is satisfied to let his children be taught by any raw, inexperienced youth who will teach—or rather pretend to teach—cheaply, why he is simply beyond the reach of argument. But would he be willing to give a boy laborer on his farm the same wages as a more experienced man?

Again, I can never get any laborer, however well educated or refined these same "independent, honorable and perfect" chaps may be, who will work fifteen hours a day on my farm. In the first place I never ask them to, and in the second I find they are unwilling enough to even work ten hours. The owner may work as long as he likes, but the hired man wants his evenings to himself, his Sundays away, he declines any work not distinctly "stated in the bond," and so on and so on.

Then again, "Scrub" gets on his high horse, and shrieks "insulting," "ignorant," &c., at my devoted head—forgetting altogether the amenities of debate—and that merely saying "you're another" does not confute any statement.

I meant to insult no one; can't "Scrub" see that if I were to insult farmers generally I would also insult myself, being one of them? In conclusion, I would say that the point I wished to enforce was that we want good, experienced teachers in our public schools—men who are worthy of a good salary, and who will teach. We want school teachers, not school keepers.

OATS AND MILLET FOR HAY.

One of the most successful men I know in this province is a firm believer in the above mixture for horse-feed, and as the proof of the pudding is in the eating, his horses always look well and his colts are the finest in the district. Perhaps I ought to mention his horses are all heavy draughts. His *modus operandi* is very simple; plow up stubble after all the grain crops are sown, then sow three bushels oats and six pounds millet (common) per acre, with a broadcast seeder; roll well after repeated harrowing. Out with binder before millet seed is quite ripe, and stack near stable or put away in hayloft. I fancy a bushel less of oats, if sown with press drill, would give equally as good results, but he usually obtains from three to four tons per acre of first-class feed.

AN EXPERIMENT THAT FAILED.

Last year I sowed on a small piece of my oat field, about an acre, some mammoth red clover and timothy seed at the same time as the oats. I finished harrowing, then sowed the oats, rolled, sowed the grass and clover seed by hand, harrowed once, rolled down solid, had a good catch, cut the stubble high and left it till spring. I find, however, that all the clover is dead, but the timothy is coming up strong. I mean to plow it up to sow potatoes there, and I expect a better crop through turning under the sod.

SOWING FODDER CROP ON LAND MANURED WITH FRESH MANURE.

Last year I got considerable abuse for advocating plowing in fresh manure, and then sowing fodder crops on it. I am convinced I am right. I simply haul out the manure during the winter direct from the stable, spread it and plow it in, then sow my piece with whatever I intend to grow for fodder—peas and oats I have been using. This year I mean to use corn, and by cutting early I kill weeds, and also get a very heavy crop of feed. I also save a lot of work in summer, and only have to handle the manure once. There is no mess round the stable, no evil smells, and no leaching of the manure. I find a good many of my neighbors this year are doing exactly what they condemned so strongly twelve months ago.

GENERAL.

A terrible mortality appears to have occurred among pigs of all breeds at farrowing time this season. At present there is a great dearth of young pigs; no reason can be assigned; the fat, the lean, the well-bred and the scrub sow all alike have lost their little ones.

Get those pigs out on to the grass; don't keep them cooped up.

Put three horses on to your wagon when hauling a load to town if your roads are bad. Drive them abreast same as on a binder, then go to the next council meeting of your municipality and demand hire for that extra horse you are obliged to use. Let your neighbors do the same, and see if this won't help along the crusade for good roads.

Sell those fat steers before the good grass comes.

"INVICTA."

Thirty-one of the students who have attended the first session of the dairy school which has been established in connection with the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, remained the full time, and passed the final examinations. This is a good showing, when we consider that out of the number attending a large proportion are old butter-makers who could not spare the time from their business to finish the course, and so had to leave before they had a chance to write on their examination. We are pleased to notice that two young ladies were well up among the first half dozen.