

### THE SHORTHORN STEER "DOMINION CHAMPION."

As an illustration of what may be done with a well-bred animal, the recent instance of the white Shorthorn steer "Dominion Champion" will be familiar to many who saw the steer at the late fall exhibitions. The Champion was bred by Mr. E. A. Bradshaw, of Oshawa. He was calved January 10th, 1876, his sire being Barrington Butterfly, owned by Mr. J. Wilson, of Green River, Ont., and his dam, Lily Dale, by Kentucky Baron, granddam Lady Jane Grey, by Romeo. While in possession of Mr. Bradshaw, he lived, that gentleman states, entirely on pasture in the summer and was moderately fed in winter. Mr. Bradshaw sold him to Mr. John Russell, of Pickering, who writes as follows.

"The steer was put up to feed at the age of two years and ten months. He then weighed 1,540 pounds, and when he left my place he weighed 2,840 pounds." The steer was ultimately bought by Mr. J. Holderness, of Toronto, and on the 15th of December, 1880, killed at the establishment of Mr. H. R. Frankland, of St. Lawrence Market. He was then 4 years 11 months old, and weighed 2,900 pounds. Immediately previous to slaughtering, the Champion was carefully measured by Mr. Samuel Wilmot, of Newcastle, Ontario, who gives the following as its exact dimensions.—

	Ft.	In.
Length of body from crown of head to tail...	7	6
Height from ground .....	5	2
Girth round neck .....	4	6
" " brisket or chest .....	8	11
" " shoulders .....	9	6
" " belly .....	10	4
" " loin or flank .....	9	7

His square measurements across the back were as follows:—

	Ft.	In.
Across rump .....	2	6
" hips .....	2	8
" middle .....	8	6
" shoulders .....	8	1
" neck .....	1	8

Mr. Wilmot adds: "His symmetry was perfect throughout—colour purely white. I notice he has taken, during 1879 and 1880, no less than eleven first prizes as best fat steer, at the Dominion, Provincial, and other leading agricultural shows."—*Report of Ontario Agricultural Commission.*

### MANURE SAVING.

MR. EDITOR,—I write, not in the expectation of throwing any light upon a subject very important to farmers, but to keep the matter before them and to provoke discussion

on it. We should all try to find out the best plan of securing liquid manure.

The RURAL CANADIAN for 1st February contained a very simple device which secured the whole of the liquid manure, but which I thought would generate, both by its own nature and the fermentation which would likely take place, very impure and unwholesome air. That view I see confirmed by Mr. Geddes in the last number of the RURAL CANADIAN, and yet the plan which he suggests does not seem to be one which would secure all the liquid manure.

A water-tight tank outside the building, could any plan be found which at a moderate expense would collect and convey the liquid manure to it, would obviate the difficulty of impure air, but I know of no such plan.

To collect all the urine, not only the drop, but, in the case of fed oxen and horses, the

the agricultural press, and deservedly so. Various expedients are being suggested for preventing the terrible waste which is going on in most barnyards. A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* puts this waste at the enormous figure of \$14,000,000 for the State of Ohio, and the worst of it is, appears to make out his case. This writer states in regard to his own practice, that he keeps his cows in stalls provided with absolutely water-tight floors and gutters. They are not only carefully planked, but the joints and cracks are filled with coal-tar, put on hot. The gutters are eight inches deep and two feet wide. They are kept amply provided with litter, which, as the liquid cannot escape, gradually absorbs it. The gutters are cleaned out about once in three days, and the manure, as fast as removed, is built up into a compost-heap, with alternate layers of muck. This muck

is thrown out of its bed, and weathered one year before being used in the compost-heap. This method is a great improvement on the usual way of doing, and, although it involves considerable trouble, pays well, the cost being about \$88 per season, and the value of the manure, estimated by the standard of one of the most approved commercial fertilizers, is no less than \$900. This writer answers the one objection to his plan as follows:

"It is so much less trouble," says one, "to use commercial manures." Well, my dear sir, it would be less trouble to throw your milk away and buy your butter.

There is "no excellence without labour," "no rose without a thorn," "no pains, no gains." Many a farmer who would get out of his wagon to pick up a cent lying in the road, will allow hundreds of dollars to slip through the cracks of his stable floor this winter, and buy superphosphate by the ton next fall.

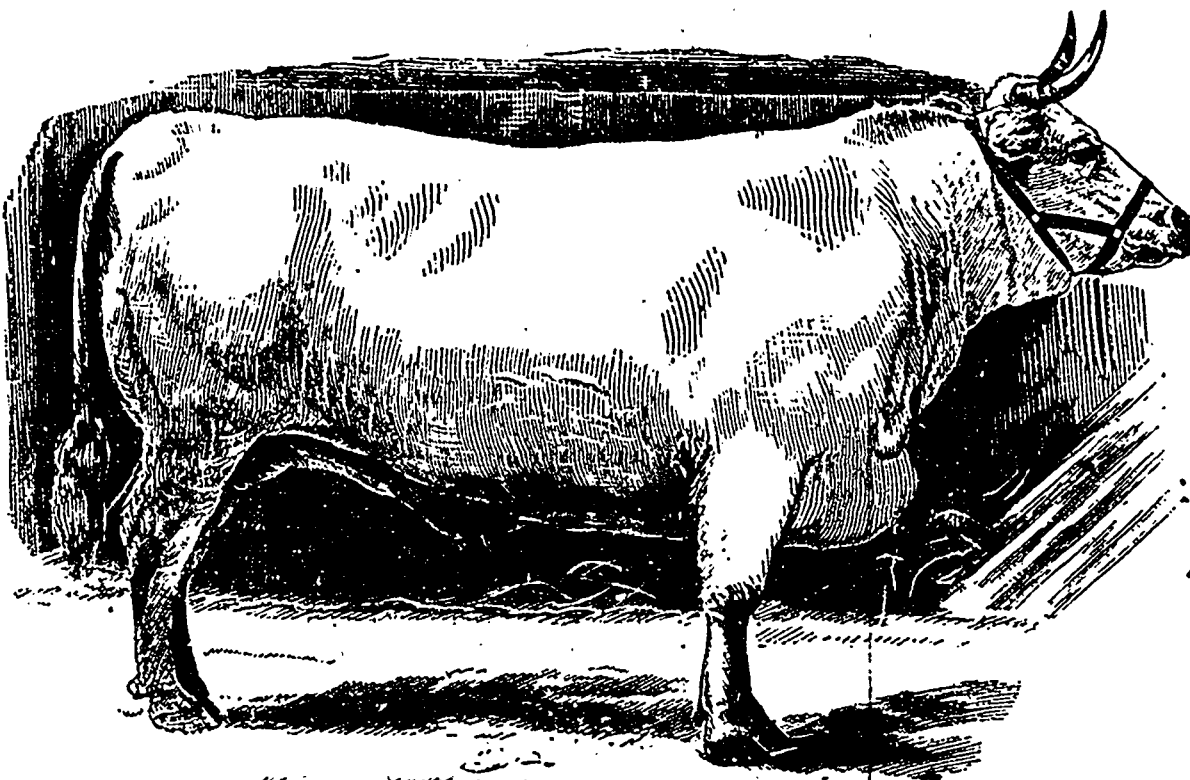
A Michigan correspondent of the *New York Tribune*, writing on this subject, says:—

"Give animals plenty of bedding; this will absorb all the manure, solid and liquid; draw out all the bedding that is wet either every day or every week or every month; if not drawn often the cows will stand uncomfortably, and it will be necessary to throw some of the solid excrement under their fore feet; but with plenty of bedding you can draw out manure at your own convenience; your cattle will be clean and kept dry; your stable will be perfectly sweet; there is no odour in a stable so kept; every particle of manure is saved, and at no expense; no floor is needed; no drain; no cistern. It proves to be the cheapest and the best way to build a barn. I would not put a floor in a basement barn for cattle under any circumstances."

We must frankly confess that this plan seems very slipshod and slovenly. Nor do we like the idea of cattle standing and lying all winter on a stratum of moist straw laid on an earth floor.

THE farmers of the Parry Sound district go into stock raising more extensively.

OVER 100 horses are said to have succumbed from pinkeye this winter on the Madawaska River.



"DOMINION CHAMPION" SHORTHORN STEER—WEIGHT 2,900 LBS.

stall must be water-tight, and though that were done by a good mechanic it would not likely continue long so; besides, the drop would not suit well for the passage of the urine to the tank, because solid manure would obstruct it. Now, what suggests itself to my mind—but it is merely a suggestion—is, that under the floor of the stalls of oxen and horses a water-tight floor of cement, either on the earth, or by boards laid in cement, or with brick be made, with an incline to a channel under the drop, which shall convey the liquid manure to the tank. In this case any ordinary floor would answer, and the drop or place where the dung falls may be so open that the liquid manure might pass, but none of the solid.

I am very young in experience in regard to farming, but I know that, in order to success, the closest attention to manure is necessary, both to make and collect it, and to have it in the best state for application to the land.

Hoping that the importance of the subject may bring out some one of experience to give us information on this matter, I am yours truly,

A NOVICE.

THIS matter of manure saving is attracting a large amount of attention just now from