

MR. ANDREW TELFER.

Mr. Andrew Telfer (of A. Telfer & Sons), of Springfield Farm, Paris, came from Scotland in the year 1845 with his parents, and settled along with them on the farm where he now resides, on the banks of the Grand river, two and a-half miles north-east of Paris. He commenced breeding Southdown sheep over thirty years ago. During the last five years he has secured over 350 prizes at the leading fairs of Ontario. The breeding flock consists of about thirty head, selected principally from the noted flocks of Messrs. Jonas, Colman and Ellis, England. A stock ram, the Duke of Summersbury, bred by Mr. Edwin Ellis, stands at the head of the flock.

MR. JOHN JACKSON.

The Woodside flock of Southdown sheep, the property of Mr. John Jackson, has been established thirty years. It now numbers 55 head of breeding sheep. It has been entirely renewed in the last twelve years by importations of rams and ewes from the most fashionable flocks in England. In the last three years at the largest shows in the United States and Canada sheep from this flock have been awarded 156 first prizes, being 94 per cent. of all offered. During the last twelve years they have won over 1,200 prizes, including a large number of diplomas, sweepstake and champion prizes for best flock. Also a champion silver cup and ten gold and silver medals. The importations have been from the flocks of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, Messrs H. Webb, Geo. Jonas, J. J. Colman, Chas. Chapman, F. M. Jonas and Edwin Ellis. The stock rams at the head of the flock the present season are the noted prize-winners Norwich Bear 2919, and Ellis No. 34. Mr. Jackson takes pleasure in showing his flock to all interested in this famous breed of sheep. Orders are now being booked for next season's trade. The aim of the proprietor is to supply to his customers at moderate prices sheep possessing the highest individual merit and good pedigrees combined.

HORNED DORSETS.

JOHN TAZEWELL.

is of the firm of Tazewell & Hector. These gentlemen are the largest breeders of these sheep in America. They have been importing and breeding them for the last nine years. Their flock now numbers 140, all of which were selected from the pens of the leading English breeders of Dorsets. Many of the animals in this flock have been successful prize-winners both in England, Canada and the U. S. A. Mr. Tazewell is an Englishman reared in Somerset, where he resided until about ten years ago. He has had a long experience with the sheep of his choice. Knowing intimately the best English flocks he was in a position to secure the best specimens. Mr. Hector, his partner, is a Canadian, a gentleman of pleasing address and upright character.

JOHN A. MCGILLIVRAY, Q. C.,

Toronto, has for the last seven years, in addition to practising his profession, carried on farming on his farm adjacent to the town of Uxbridge. During these years he has reared Shropshires, Cotswolds, and Dorsets, experimenting with a few to discover which he would select as most suitable. He concluded, finally, to keep the Dorsets, and for the last five years has bred nothing else. He considers them hardy, easily kept, and very prolific. He has now a flock of fifty-eight, at the head of the flock being Dougall, a shearing which he bought from Mr. Beattie, his importer, for the sum of \$125. Of his sheep about forty are imported. He has great confidence in his favorites, and proposes to keep at least 100 breeding ewes.

MERINOS.

G. & B. DEO,

Messrs. G. & B. Deo, Evergreen Stock Farm, are importers and breeders of the highest type of registered American Merino sheep. They exhibited this fall at Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, London and other fairs, taking over 90 prizes, including 38 firsts, 39 seconds and 5 diplomas, capturing all the diplomas offered. They started breeding registered Merinos by purchasing the prize-winning flock of Mr. Rock Bailey, Union, Ont., which was established by Mr. Bailey's careful, personal selections from such noted flocks as A. D. Taylor, Goyer Bros., Partch's, Beal's, Dehl's and Randall's, of Michigan; J. W. Peck, of Vt., and L. E. Snattuck, of Mo. These trace back to the flocks of H. Taft, Batavia, N. Y., and F. H. Dean, of Vt., Mr. Dean being one of the greatest importers of the Spanish Merino. The flock also traces direct to the earliest importations made by Col. Humphries, Jarvis, Crownshield, Cuff, Heaton and Cook's flock. This flock is recorded in the Michigan Sheep Breeders' Association as flock No. 298.

FAT SHEEP.

MR. JOHN RUTHERFORD

so well known as the most successful exhibitor of fat sheep on the continent, commenced to breed Leicesters and Lincolns in 1864. In 1881 he took another farm, and on it he commenced to breed Southdowns. At various times he has imported Hampshires, Shropshires and Cotswolds. Each year he fattens specimens of each of the above breeds.

He now keeps all the breeding stock on one farm, and those being fattened on another. Mr. Rutherford has been an almost continuous exhibitor of fat sheep since 1864, and has won the sweepstakes in his class at all the provincial fat stock shows but one. He commenced to exhibit at the American Fat Stock Show in 1885, since then he has won at the annual shows held at Chicago 123 first prizes, 65 seconds, and 42 thirds, 20 sweepstakes given for stakes for best wether, and each year for the heaviest best animal of each of the various breeds, 25 sweepstakes for best wether, and also for the one making greatest gain per day. Six times he has won the prize given for best carcass, and twice the grand sweepstake for best carcass any breed—1887 a Leicester yearling won this coveted honor, and 1891 a Southdown yearling was successful.

Wisconsin Farmers' Institute.

BULLETIN NO. 5.

We have just received a copy of bulletin No. 5, issued by the Wisconsin Farmers' Institute. We could not help comparing it with the report of the Central Farmers' Institute of Ontario which we recently received, and which falls very far behind the splendid volume issued by our Wisconsin friends. The following is a partial list of the topics and speakers:—

"The Dairy Temperament in Cows," ex-Gov. W. D. Hoard; "Science and the Clover Patch," "Wisconsin System of Agricultural Education," Prof. W. A. Henry; "Shall We Have Pure Food?" Hon. H. C. Thom; "The Construction of the Silo," Prof. F. H. King; "Manure and Fertility," "Sheep Husbandry," Grain Raising," George McKerron; "Plowing, Cultivation and Tillage," Thomas Convey; "Swine Husbandry," A. Selle; "Hog Pens," George Wylie; "Noxious Weeds," W. H. Cole; "Pastures and Meadows," "How I Feed Dairy Cows," Butter-making on the Farm," C. P. Gooderich; "Cheese Making," T. J. Flemming, W. H. Phillips; "Advantages of the Creamery," N. G. Williams; "Creamery or Cheese Factory?" S. Faville; "Steps in the Progress of Extracting Butter Fat from Milk," J. A. Smith; "Potato Raising," George Martin; "Common Sense in Farming," A. X. Hyatt; "Now and Then in Farming," T. J. Van Matre; "The Farmer's Reading," Frank S. Grubb; "Public Highways," Dr. S. L. Marston; and a number of others pertinent to the occasion.

We would advise our readers to obtain copies of this work. Apply to W. H. Morrison, Madison, Wisconsin, U. S. We notice that 12 cents in postage was required to bring the volume to us. At least that sum should be enclosed by each applicant.

The Mulberry as a Wind-Break.

To the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

Sir,—Having read the article, "Poplars and Willows for Manitoba and the Northwest," in the December number, I beg leave to suggest an opinion that the Russian mulberry would make a good wind-break. 1. It is said to be *hardy* in Manitoba and the Northwest, and hardiness is the first requisite. 2. It is easily propagated, hence the plants are cheap enough in quantities. 3. It is tenacious of life when once rooted. 4. It grows rapidly in fairly fertile soil. 5. It grows with low branches when unpruned, and when pruned the limbs droop somewhat. 6. It will grow quite tall and with interlacing branches, with numerous small limbs, making a dense shade when planted close together. 7. It affords fruit that is much relished by our feathered friends, as well as shelter for their nests. These seven reasons in its favor are worthy of attention. What are its most prominent failings? Yours, W. S. H.

Stock.

Our Scottish Letter.

INBREEDING.

In the annals of scientific investigation the name of Charles Darwin will ever occupy a prominent, if not the first, place. The patience with which he prosecuted experiments during lengthened periods of time, the breadth of the area within which he collected his facts, the shrewd inductions which he derived from these facts, and above all, the modesty, that unflinching test of true greatness, with which he advanced his opinions, entitle him to rank as one of the greatest benefactors of the race, and especially of all who are dependent on or interested in the rearing of stock. His views, therefore, on that method of breeding which has proved the most potent of all means in developing our modern breeds, are worthy of careful attention, and in now giving some notes as to what these views were I am not to be regarded as identifying myself with opinions and results which have sometimes been asserted to be the corollary of Darwin's investigations and opinions. I merely wish to state, as clearly as I may, what I have gleaned from various quarters regarding these views.

It has often been a source of speculation to us whether a herd of wild horses would exhibit so much variety of character as an equal number of the same genus in the domestic state; and it is interesting to find Darwin setting forth that as a matter of fact animals in the domestic state are marked by a greater variety of individual characteristics than those in the wild state. Changes can be made in the conformation and constitution of animals when in captivity in a way that one never sees in wild animals. The size can be increased apart from all other considerations by the amount of food that is consumed. The same race of animals in the plains of South America and in the Falkland Islands vary in size; and the further north, as well as the further south we travel, animal life becomes more and more stunted. Iceland ponies are smaller and less comely than Shetland ponies, and the latter cannot be kept down to the desired size on the more luxuriant herbage of the low country so easily and so surely as on their native heather. The Clydesdales of the bleak western islands of Scotland—Mull, etc., cannot be grown to the same size as in the Lowlands of Galloway; and Clydesdales reared in the Midlands of England are larger than in the Highlands of Scotland. The pasturage accounts for most of the difference. The color of a race can also be modified by the nature of the food on which its members are reared; and as we all know the thickness of the skin and hair is greatly affected by the climate. It is not an exaggeration to say that placed under the same climatic influences, the Galloway and the West Highlander would soon become as thin and soft in the skin as the Aberdeen-Angus or the Shorthorn, and *vice versa*; and it is easy in a spring show yard to distinguish the animal that has been wintered out and the one that has been reared in the house. This susceptibility to change from comparatively simple causes when carefully observed may become a most important factor in the improvement of a breed.

There is, however, a more powerful means of improvement at hand. The influence of environ-