

he pay a membership fee of one hundred dollars? This means that though Canada should have a herd book to-morrow, with identically the same standard as the H. F. H. B., he may not import animals from Holland, and get them registered in the latter without first paying a membership fee of \$100. But if he purchases from an American breeder whose animals are recorded, he can get the offspring of these recorded without paying a membership fee, and yet the Americans recognize the Netherlands, Friesian and North Holland herd books, in which the imported animals may have been recorded. It is equivalent to saying that the animal imported by a member of the H. F. A. of N. America is one thing, but if imported by one who is a non member it is entirely a different thing. Is not this the first time in the annals of live-stock breeding that the intrinsic merit of the same animal is made to hang upon the question of membership or non membership of an association on the part of its owner?

(4) "No imported animal under one year of age shall be examined (by the inspector) or accepted for registry." Why not? If a Dutchman wants to sell a Holstein calf to an American eligible for record in the herd book, why should he be debarred from doing it? or if an American desires to buy the same calf, why should he be told to go home without it, and either come on or send for it next year, if he is to get it?

(5) "The registry fee of each imported animal shall be twenty dollars, and an additional fee of five dollars for each animal is to be paid for its inspection. Pushing the statement to its extreme limit it means that persons desirous of importing one favorite from Holland, before he can get the same recorded in the H. F. H. B., he must pay \$125, although the beast may have been registered in Dutch herd books recognized by the H. F. A. of N. A.

Doubtless the American Holstein breeders can manage the affairs of the association without any gratuitous assistance from us, but if they are minded so to hedge in the affairs of the association for the benefit of the few and the powerful, to the detriment of the many and the weak, we in Canada should be very guarded lest we fall into a similar mistake.

We know the subject is full of difficulty, hence the breeders should meet in conference, take council as brethren who are seeking only what would prove the greatest good to the Holstein interest at large, and lay with the utmost carefulness the foundations of an organization that ere long may wield a powerful influence in the increase of the profits of the dairyman and farmer.

The Dorset Horn Sheep.

The few specimens of this breed as yet in Ontario are confined entirely, so far as known to us, to the flocks of Mr. V. E. Fuller, Hamilton, Mr. E. Stanford, Markham; and Capt. Rolph, also of Markham, Ont.

Owing to the fact that they may be bred at almost any season of the year, and that the lambs may thus be made to come in the month of November, so that by the time Easter comes they may be made great and heavy, the probability is strong that they will grow rapidly in favor with the people of this country, more especially those of them who live upon its heavily undulating portions. In England they are confined almost entirely to the counties of Dorset and Somerset, but they are grown in great numbers there, as on Poundbury fair day (29th September), in Dorsetshire county alone, no less than 12,000 to 16,000 ewes pass through the hands of a single auctioneer.

Mr. Chas. Harding, owner of the old established flock at Montacute, near Yeovil, keeps a flock of 350 breeding ewes, and he is but one of many very largely interested in the fortunes of the breed.

The Mark Lane Express says, in regard to them, "No sheep can come up to them in fecundity. In hardihood of constitution also they surpass most others, and yearn with such little difficulty and with so few losses that their owners seldom have any necessity to make lambing folds for them, unless the weather is very severe when the crop of lambs fall. They have always been considered to do best on grassy slopes, plains and hills of moderate elevation, having in their improved state a semi-mountain character, causing them to take well to a wide extent of country, neither too elevated nor too marshy."

They are a strong and vigorous breed, and take on flesh readily. At the Smithfield show of 1884 the average of the prize pen of ewes was 246 lbs. each; in 1885, 287 lbs., and in 1886, 271 lbs. Out of 3547 ewes bred in 1884, the property of seven breeders, only 60 ewes were lost, and they reared 4,425 lambs, or 125 per cent. of an increase.

We have much land in Canada of the character described as most suitable to the growth of these sheep, and if experience demonstrates that they take kindly to the conditions of this country, they cannot fail to become a popular breed. Our epicures will enjoy a roast of lamb considerably more in the months of January, February and March than in those of June, July and August.

FOR THE CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

Agricultural and Arts Association's Examinations.

BY F. J. SLEIGHTHOLM, HUMBER, ONT.

My reason for penning this article is not by any means that of the chronic fault-finder, but is rather that of one who desires, by all means within his power, to further the interests of agriculture generally, and Ontario agriculture particularly.

The following is a shadowy outline of the course of reading prescribed for the examinations held during the past summer (July):

FOR THIRD CLASS CERTIFICATE.

1. Soils—composition, texture, etc.; land exhaustion and restoration; farmyard and artificial manures, uses of same.
2. Tillage operations.
3. Rotation of crops; good and bad cropping.
4. Live-stock—kinds, management, etc.
5. Food—composition of Ontario foods and fodders; materials necessary for growth, for heat, maintenance and flesh production; feeding and fattening of animals.

FOR SECOND CLASS CERTIFICATE.

Same as for third, together with the following:

1. Roots; cultivation, etc.
2. Green fodders.
3. Land drainage.
4. Breeds of cattle, horses, sheep, and swine, with their management, common diseases and remedies, etc.
5. Diseases of crops and their remedies.
6. Orchards; treatment, diseases, etc.
7. Forestry.
8. Entomology.

A first-class course of reading, says one, and I heartily endorse the statement. But (and this is my principal reason for writing this article) not one half of this course of reading was required to enable the

candidate to pass successfully the examinations for second class certificates held last July. To the writer this seems a too palpable error; not that the study of the subjects unasked for in the papers would be any drawback to the student. On the contrary, they are subjects upon which all who are seeking eminence in the agricultural profession will do well to spend more than a casual thought.

If the object of the association is, as it says, to promote the development of a taste for reading and the acquisition of valuable information on the subjects mentioned in the syllabus, then why not *all* the subjects?

Is entomology a subject of so little import that it may be entirely overlooked, and that by an agricultural association? Is forestry not worthy of even a passing notice? Are the youths of our province to grow up with no knowledge of a science which has for its object the prevention of forestal denudation? Do the votaries of horticulture need no encouragement? When we consider that, with the exception of a few small areas, first class, well kept orchards of desirable fruits are the exception rather than the rule, an answer to the question is not far to seek. If the economic side of botany were a little more read and studied, the universally talked of depression would be no worse.

But what shall I say of the treatment which the breeding, management, etc., of first-class live stock received? A mere question or two about an industry which, in real value, stands above, yea, pre-eminently above, all other industries. Comment stands still.

By the time this article appears it may be the association will be sending out the course of reading for 1888; and shortly after the examination papers will also be ready. Now if there is a lack in the existing state of things, why not try to remedy it?

With all respect to the association, and with a sense of my own inability, I would briefly suggest two ways of improving the present system.

First, make the number of examination papers *six* instead of three, the present number.

Second, avoid devoting a whole paper, or more, to one subject.

Were these suggestions carried out, I fail to see why these examinations would not do a great good to Ontario agriculturists, and at the same time be a greater credit to the association from which they emanate.

The Imported Clydesdales of Cairnbrogie.

A reading was given in a number of the JOURNAL of 1886, of the Clydesdales of this famous stud. At the time when that writing was penned we considered them one of the finest lots of Clydes that ever came to Canada, but what was our surprise on our recent visit to Cairnbrogie, to find them nearly all supplanted by another lot of even a finer all round quality, that had been imported by the Messrs. Graham Bros., the youthful but spirited and enterprising owners of Cairnbrogie.

From the introduction of their private catalogue, just issued, which we consider one of the fullest and most complete of the kind that has ever fallen into our hands, we clip the following:

"These horses are selected in person by one member of the firm, and every care is exercised in the selection of that type of horses which has been found most useful for breeding purposes on both sides of the Atlantic. In making these selections no horses are chosen which do not possess proper shapes, a high degree of quality and a pedigree rich in blood that has been famous in old country show rings. Hence