

est trouble about it is that it will not mix with the common barley. We do not know yet whether it will supersede the common barley or not.

OATS.

There has been greater excitement raised about oats this year than about any other cereal for some years past. The Surprise and Norway oats have both had a run, and as regards a change of seed, they have done some good, but for a permanent and long continued cultivation they are not destined to take the place of the Maine or Tartars. The New Brunswick oats offer to be in the greatest demand. The White Polands are also required for, and we must endeavor to supply the demand to the best of our ability. We are in want of some really good White Polands.

POTATOES.

Perhaps of all new varieties of seeds that have been introduced, none has done more good than the spread of the new varieties of potatoes. They appear to have undergone a wonderful improvement just at the time we needed it, as the old varieties began to fail. The excellent quality and productiveness of the new varieties quite astonished all those that procured them. The Rose and Goodrich varieties have done us a good turn; they have been the early varieties. The Peerless is a white and roundish potato, and is rapidly gaining favor; it is spoken of in the highest terms as regards quality, and we know they are productive enough. The Willard Seedlings are also in favor with some; they are of good quality, the skin red in color, and are a very hardy variety. The Climax is an early variety, and many speak highly of them. The Excelsior variety also has its votaries, but is a later potato. They are both of good quality. In some sections Calicoes are preferred; we find them a really good potato. The great \$50 potato, the Bresson's—King of the Earlies—we do not consider as valuable as many of the above varieties. They certainly attain a very quick and early growth, perhaps the quickest of any, but with us the quality of the potato has not been first-class, and the crop not large. Of course all of you have them, and know how they answer in your localities. You should have the above-named varieties if you have not yet procured them.

Thanks to Our Patrons and Supporters.

We thank you for the prompt manner in which you have renewed your subscriptions to your Advocate. We never felt such real and substantive encouragement before; your numerous approving and satisfactory letters prompt us to increased exertion in your behalf, and we hope and believe we shall be able to give you a better paper this year than you have yet had; we intend to advocate your interests as well as our abilities will permit, and hope, by the aid of our already numerous correspondence, to which we wish to add many more of your names, to make this paper not only profitable, useful, and amusing to all that take it, but an actual necessity to every thrifty farmer's house, and one that every farmer will look on as part and parcel of his property.

Farmers' Clubs.

There are very few in the country, in comparison to what there ought to be.—We give the following very practical addresses that were delivered at *The Darlington Farmer's Club*. We would request our subscribers to forward us clippings from any of the local papers, where any really good discussions are held that are of general interest. We receive hundreds of papers that we never open, so the mere sending a newspaper might not ensure our attention. Cut out the article, put one cent on it, and mark it "printer's copy." This will also pay for manuscript

that is for publication, if marked "printer's copy," but if a business letter should be sent with it it would all have to be paid at double the usual rates!—

DARLINGTON FARMER'S CLUB.

The club met on the 1st Dec. Mr. G. Start read the following essay on the management and care of Sheep:

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I feel sorry that it has fallen to my lot to introduce a subject of so much importance, namely, the care and management of sheep—and as it is the first time that I ever attempted to bring any thing before the public, I shall only glance at a few points, and that briefly. In glancing back over some 26 or 27 years we cannot but notice the marked improvement in this department. A run at the straw stack, and a hole under the barn, were considered sufficient accommodation for the flocks during the long winter, and the results were as might be expected: in the ensuing fall, when the sheep were considered fit for the butcher, the ewe and lamb, or lambs as the case may be, would be driven to market and sold for about \$2 or \$2.50 for the lot. And then, sir, the boys and dogs of the village would be called together to drive the poor affrighted creatures into the slaughter house, and perhaps the instrument of death would be a rusty broadaxe, and at a stroke its head would be severed from its body. These, sir, were scenes not uncommon in the days not long ago. But we rejoice in the fact that to-day our flocks are better provided for, and the farmer has been well rewarded for his toil.

The first thing we shall consider is the shepherd's work in early autumn. A watchful eye should be kept over the flock during the months of October and November, and if any are unusually tender, we should say prepare them for the butcher; if any are weak from other causes, remove them into another apartment, and feed a few oats once or twice a day,—but find out the cause. It may be the pasture is getting dry; but all flocks are more or less subject to ticks; and where they are found in large numbers they will greatly impoverish the animal, and the sooner they are relieved of them the better. We have occasionally used tobacco water and soft soap, and found it to answer the purpose; but of late we have used Miller's Tick Destroyer, and would recommend it. It can be had at any drug store, with full directions how to use it.

The next thing we shall consider is, their winter quarters. And here, sir, by your permission, I will simply lay before you a plan of my own for a sheep house, which I think is somewhat convenient and not very expensive. Say we winter over 40 or 45 sheep, a building 28x50 will be sufficiently large to accommodate that number. We would use fourteen feet posts. Allow eight feet between the floors, and that will afford a good loft above. We will say for convenience the building runs east and west: in the west centre we have a door—here we enter the feed walk, three feet wide, which runs through the entire building, boarded up say three feet high. On either side we fix our racks for feeding. In the first place we would set down a few sound blocks, fourteen inches high, lay a plank on the top, bore the plank on the inside edge with 1½ inch augur, 4 inches apart from centre to centre; set in the bars; bore a strip 1½ inches by 3 inches for the top; this, with a few stays on the top, makes a very good rack. On the outside edge of the plank below nail a board, allowing it to come two inches above the upper edge; this forms a good manger for feeding turnips, grain or salt when required; it also receives the droppings from the rack, such as the leaf or the flower of the clover, which otherwise would be wasted.

We would say in this building there should be four apartments at least; a few hurdles will divide it at your pleasure.—We think the more we can divide up our flocks the better they will thrive. We would have an open yard at the east, extending around the south side and a part

of the west end. A few hurdles will divide it, so that a yard will be attached to each apartment, to which the flock should have access at all times except when stormy.

As to the quality of food, it can best be determined when we see the condition of our flock. But we would say at least, feed a little clover morning and evening, turnips at noon, and as much pea straw as you please through the day. We will find if we watch the flock when feeding, that all do not feed alike. Some are easily beaten back, and after being driven back a few times, fail to come to their feed.—These should be removed, with the weakest of the flock, to an apartment to themselves; this can readily be accomplished—by going through a small door at the end of the walk. They will require a little more care. Perhaps a few oats once a day will make them equal with the rest.

We would recommend in the spring, as soon as the ewes have their lambs, they should be removed to an apartment to themselves; where they, for a few days at least, should be fed often with a few turnips, a few oats, or a little bran, nicely moistened, with a little clover; this will increase and enrich the milk, and be a great benefit to the lambs as well as the ewes. Should we desire to bring the lambs on early for the butcher, just allow them a small corner where they can run in and out at their leisure, and feed them a little peas or commeal; they will soon find out what it means, and it will help them amazingly. Castration in some cases becomes necessary; this should be attended to when young, we should say when two weeks old. It can then be accomplished readily by the operator, and with less suffering to the animal. As to summer treatment, I leave that untouched for the present; and fearing lest I should become tedious, I will close my remarks.—And now, sirs, we are face to face; these are no borrowed ideas, but our own simple thoughts on the subject, therefore they will bear qualifying. We invite free discussion on these and other points, and hope they will be a benefit. Now, Mr. President, having in a few words faintly introduced this subject, by your permission, sir, I will take my seat.

The subject being thus opened for discussion, each speaker gave Mr. Start credit for the plain practical way in which he had placed the subject before them.—As the discussion went round several other important points were ventilated. Among others, the fact that great losses were often sustained by some farmers in the spring, from ewes having dead or inverted lambs. It was argued that cases of this kind generally arose from causes entirely under the shepherd's control; and where proper care was taken, cases of this kind were comparatively rare. Where sheep are allowed to run in the same yard with cattle, to be tossed about on their horns at will; where they go in and out at a door that is allowed to swing with the wind, so that they may get jammed and struck by it nearly every time they pass; or where attendants or children are permitted to frighten them till they will almost jump over any enclosure, trouble at lambing time may be confidently expected. The relative merits of the Cotswolds and Leicester breeds was thoroughly canvassed. It was generally conceded that although the Cotswold yielded more wool, and at present realized higher prices for breeding purposes, still the Leicester sheep attained their growth sooner, were easier kept therefore, and more profitable to the butcher. Some thought that by crossing the two breeds with each other, larger and better animals were obtained than from either of the pure breeds; while others said it answered well only for the first cross, citing instances where good flocks had been ruined by the introduction of cross bred rams. However, it was argued that no matter how correct it might be with cross bred rams, where pure bred males were used, good results would follow crossing. The necessity of washing sheep, arising from the impos-

sibility of selling unwashed wool to the Bowmanville buyers only at the ruinous reduction of one-half the weight, instead of one-third, as it should be, was strongly deprecated. The risk run in washing heavy fat sheep, on a warm day, in a cold stream, was considered too great, many valuable animals having been lost in that way.

The next meeting of the club was held on Friday, Dec. 29th, when the subject of the "Horse" was introduced by Mr. C. W. Smith:

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I feel sorry that a subject of so much importance as the "Management and Care of Horses," was not placed in more able hands than mine; but, feeling the need of a Farmer's Club, I felt as a farmer, interested in trying to advance the Darlington Farmer's Club. I cannot lay down a rule of management that will suit all classes of horses, but will endeavour to confine myself to the course I think should be pursued by the Canadian farmer with farm horses.

The horse above all other animals, is the most valuable and useful to man; consequently should engage his most careful attention. We have all noticed, with much pleasure, the spirit of many of our enterprising farmers in importing thorough bred stock, from England to Canada, which has added very much to the improvement and value of our stock; and I can safely say that Canada bids fair to become one of the first stock countries in the world.

I will now try, very briefly, to consider the care of the horse. When a colt is young, the mare should not be worked so as to heat the milk, which is injurious to the colt; if the mare must be worked, she should be allowed to cool before the colt sucks. The colt should be weaned in September. If the mare must be worked, both will be better separated than allowed to run together at this season. The first winter the colt should have extra care, as the first start in growth often makes the best horse. Young horses, of any age should have a stable large enough to allow them to stand as they like, and not be tied. When breaking commences they should be handled with great care and quietness, and not be whipped or abused for any little fault, which often makes them more vicious and wild. They should be mated with a good steady horse, and laded light at first. As the horse is, in the front Townships, almost the only beast of toil, great care should be taken of them when worked. The driver should always try and drive his team so as to do his day's work as easily as possible for the team (not for himself, as is too often the case. We can speak when injured.)

We often see horses driven fast on the roads and heated, and then tied to a post, and allowed to stand and cool in the cold. Horses so used, seldom look well, and such treatment often lays the foundation of disease. When driving on the roads, allow your horse to walk some distance before stopping, and he will cool gradually. In winter they should be blanketed when they first come into the stable for a few hours. If the stable is good, I think they are better without blankets on through the night. When so used, they feel the good of a blanket when standing out in the cold. In endeavoring to find the best and cheapest way of wintering a horse, in the front Townships, where the farmer has got his farm well fenced, and all necessary buildings erected for his use, he has very little for his horses to do on the farm during winter, and as the horse is a very great consumer of feed, the farmer must endeavor to find out how he can winter his horses when not working as cheaply as possible and have them in good condition in the spring; feeding hay and oats is very expensive feed. Cutting machines are very little used, not so much as they should be. Cutting hay and oat sheaves is a very great saving in feeding. Good clean wheat chaff is very good to feed occasionally, say once per day, roots should be fed plentifully with it as it is very binding. A little bran mixed with the above named cut feed, and wet with water, makes very good feed for horses. I think farmers generally do not feed enough of bran and roots to their horses; they want more opening soft feed than they generally get. Dry hay and oats although considered good feed to work on, and generally used most, should be fed very carefully; hay especially; none but the best timothy hay should be used or they are almost sure to get the heaves if fed on bad hay; which renders them unfit for hard work.

But allow me here to say, that it is impossible for me to say exactly how every person

does not pay Heavy stocks at very high old. A heavy stock left over, money.

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