

STOCK GOSSIP.

In writing to advertisers please mention the Farmer's Advocate.

Mr. J. C. Snell, Snelgrove, Ont., writes:—"The demand for Berkshires, which was somewhat slow the early part of the winter, has much improved in the last two months, and we have made numerous sales lately. Our orders have come from the Southern and Eastern States, and from Manitoba and Quebec, with quite a number from Eastern and Western Ontario. Our fall pigs have come through the winter unusually well, and our early spring litters have come strong and are going on well. The prospect is that first-class pigs older than spring litters will be scarce, as they have been sold pretty closely, but we have some really good ones yet for sale. We look for a good demand this summer, as Berkshires are fast growing in favor in the U.S. as well as in Canada. The demand for Jerseys has been quite in excess of our expectations in view of the scarcity of feed. We have had a great many enquiries and have made a number of sales at fair prices. Our cattle are in nice condition, though not as blooming as we usually have them at this season. We have a very promising lot of heifers in calf and heifer calves coming on."

Mortimer Levering, Secretary, LaFayette, Ind., writes:—"At the last annual meeting of the American Shetland Pony Club it was decided to give a solid gold medal to each of the State Fairs, and the Horse Shows, Madison Square Garden, Philadelphia, and Kansas City, provided a classification was made for pure-bred Shetlands under our rules. It is requested that such Fair Associations and Horse Shows adopt in their Premium List the following classifications, viz.: money to be divided in first, second, and third prizes, registered Shetland ponies, not exceeding 46 inches in height: Stallion 4 years old or over; Stallion 3 years old and under 4; Stallion 2 years old and under 3; Stallion 1 year old and under 2; Stallion under 1 year old; mares 4 years old or over; mares 3 years old and under 4; mares 2 years old and under 3; mares 1 year old and under 2; mares under 1 year old; best Shetland pony in harness; best pair Shetland ponies in harness; best tandem team of Shetlands; best Shetland pony under saddle; best four-in-hand of Shetland ponies, or four abreast to chariot; best Shetland stallion and four of his get. The American Club will give a solid gold medal to the best Shetland stallion in the show."

MR. HENRY ARKELL'S OXFORD DOWNS. Mr. Arkell's fine property lies about four miles south of Guelph, Ont., and comprises some four hundred acres of choice farming land. Mr. Arkell is an enthusiastic and successful sheep man, and is pushing the cause of his chosen breed with unceasing energy. He is undoubtedly the largest breeder and dealer in Oxford Downs in Canada, having succeeded in establishing a very large trade in the West for show-fitted stock, and rams for ranching purposes. At the time of our visit the flock comprised some three or four hundred head, and the lambs were coming "thick and fast," averaging nearly two per ewe of smart, living lambs. Everything about the establishment, which is all under his personal supervision, bore strong testimony to Mr. Arkell's ability as a flockmaster. Of late years he has not shown at the Canadian exhibitions, as he has Western custom for several fitted flocks each year, and Canadian winners are also often bred at this farm, all of which stands in evidence to the general good quality of the flock.

A good herd of Shorthorns are also kept, and young stock of choice quality can always be had at the lowest prices.

MR. ALEX. HUME'S AYRSHIRES. Near Burnbrae, County of Northumberland, Ont., is the home of Mr. Hume, who has been getting together and breeding up for the past eight years a select herd of Ayrshires. It is gratifying to observe among them many very handsome individuals, full of quality and character. First we note Sir Colin, by Monarch (imp.) and from Sprightly 3rd (imp.), winner of first at all the leading fairs the year Sir Colin was dropped. Sprightly 3rd was sired by Royal Chief, a sweepstakes bull at all the leading fairs in '92. Sir Colin has won eighteen first prizes, and is the sire of the first prize heifer calf at Toronto last year, and also of the herd of four calves that were third. A good yearling was seen, sired by the above bull, the making of a very useful animal. Dominion Lad, a beautiful yearling, promises at present to mature into an animal of rare merits. For style, conformation, and color, we think he would be hard to improve. He was purchased from Mr. Douglas of Warkworth, and was sired by Dominion Chief, and out of Amy, a sweepstakes cow at Toronto in '93. Dominion Lad won first premium last year at Toronto as a calf, in a warmly-contested ring. Among the matrons we noticed the imported cow, Eva of Barocheskie, a five-year-old, imported in '95, and now in calf to Dominion Lad, and due to calve in August. She was sired by Craig of Kyle (of Mr. Gilmour's herd), a bull hired by Sir Mark Stewart at a high figure, and considered an exceptionally good stock animal. We find in looking up her breeding that Eva traces back to the great stock bull, Prince of Lessnessock. The five-year-old cow, Nell of Park Hill, bred by Jas. Drummond & Sons, is also a very fine cow. The honors to her credit are third at Chicago as a three-year-old, sweepstakes and five firsts at all local shows as a four-year-old in good company, first as a calf at Toronto, and third at Montreal as a two-year-old. She was sired by Rob Roy, a sweepstakes bull for several years, and due to calve soon by Sir Colin. Annie Lyle is a very fine cow and an excellent breeder, the prize calf above mentioned being a daughter of hers. She was sired by Golden Guinea, a bull owned by Mr. Robertson, of Howick, and is now in calf to Prince of Barocheskie. Lady McNeil is a four-year-old of the right sort; she is out of one of Mr. Nichols' best females, and sired by McNeil, out of Viola (imp.), owned by Jas. Drummond & Sons, and a sweepstakes cow for a number of years. A couple of good yearling heifers were noticed, one sired by White Prince, and one by Nicholas—758—; both now in calf to Prince of Barocheskie, bred by Andrew Mitchell. This herd is coming to the front, and no doubt this year will claim its share of honors at leading exhibitions.

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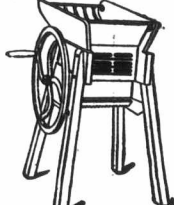
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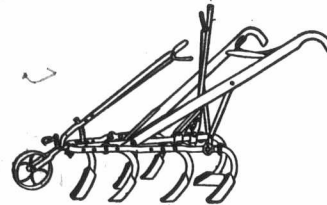
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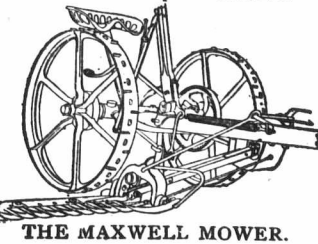
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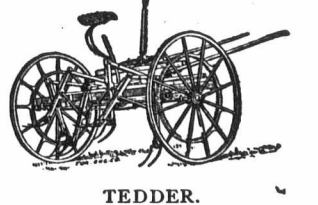
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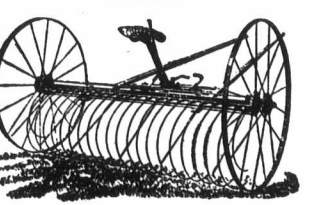
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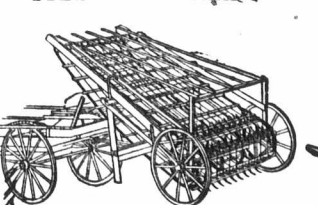
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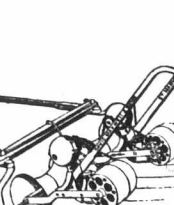
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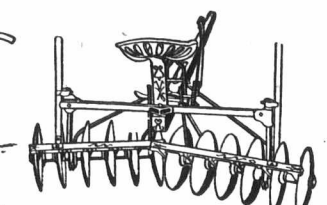
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JOHN MILLER, Markham, Ont.