

our government in regard to the public management of our agricultural affairs; also we condemn them for the management of our postal arrangements as far as they affect the farmers. Do these two facts convict us of being "political?" We are only doing our duty; were we to be silent and allow these things to pass unnoticed, we should not be true to the name we espouse.

We may not always raise the standard of "Non-Political!" when we strike our colors—if we ever should. It is not our intention to deceive you, but we hope to unfurl such a banner in the breeze that we shall be no more ashamed of than we are of the Union Jack or the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

Export of Cattle to Colorado.

Since our last issue we have had a visit from Mr. J. W. Prowers, of Bent County, Colorado. Having heard of this establishment he called at our office for the purpose of enquiring where he could purchase Durham cattle. We gave him the required information—as far as we were able to—and he made some extensive purchases of really good animals, as follows:—

3 Durham Bulls from Mr. F. W. Stone, Guelph; 1 Durham Heifer, do, do; 1 Hereford Bull, do, do.; and 1 Hereford Heifer, do., do. 2 Durham Bulls from Wm. Douglass, Onondaga; 2 Durham Heifers, do., do. 2 do. do. from Thomas Fletcher, Elgin; 2 do. do., from William Martin, near Elgin; 1 do. do. from Samuel Day, near Elgin; 1 Durham Bull from Chas. Ross, Malahide; 1 do. do. from Thos. Friendship, London; 2 Durham Heifers from Col. Taylor, London. Total cost, \$5,500.

We had a long and interesting conversation with this gentleman, in regard to cattle, sheep, climate, customs, crops, &c., of his part of the world. It is really astonishing to us to hear of the extent to which cattle and sheep farming is carried on there. This gentleman has 2,100 head of cattle. They run in herds of about 300, one man having to look after a herd of that number, and sometimes a larger herd. The duty of the herdsman is to keep them together, which is sometimes a difficult task. The habits of the cattle are to lay about the river side during the day; towards evening they go out to the pastures, travelling often five or six miles in one single file; then they separate and wander about for feed; they lay down once or twice throughout the night, and feed again in the early part of the morning, returning to the river side about nine or ten o'clock. They are never fed anything; no winter disturbs their feed; they grow and fatten well; and at three years old the steers will average 1300 lbs. The cattle in Colorado are far superior to the Texan Cattle on an average. Mr. P. says that his cattle are better than the average he has seen in Canada, and some are quite as good as the pure bred Durhams, but he has no pedigree to them.—He is intending to have as good a herd of pedigree cattle as any to be had, and in a few years he will ship Durhams to the east. The value of the cattle there is another subject of astonishment to us. Just before he left home, he sold 300 head of 3-year old steers at \$45 per head. This

gentleman keeps between 30 and 40 bulls for his own cows.

Mr. Prower also takes with him a car-load of sheep—120 head—and a car-load of horses. It will take twenty days for the cattle to reach the nearest station to his ranch, and then 60 miles drive. The cost of a cattle car from London to his nearest station is \$500. His passage cost him \$100 to this place.

Mr. P. is but a small cattleman compared with some. One person has 35,000 head of cattle. Another has 100,000 sheep. The country appears to be well adapted for sheep; no disease is known to exist, and no winter feeding is required.—There is plenty of room for any number of such men and such flocks and herds there. The sheep are worth from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per head; they are a small class of animal, weighing from 70 to 80 lbs., and only clip 1½ to 2 lbs of wool per head. The wool is more like hair than wool, but brings from 25 to 30 cents a pound; this year it reached 25 cents. Wild animals do not appear to give much trouble; the inhabitants have got rid of them with strychnine.

The price of cows in Colorado varies from \$25 to \$100: average price about \$40. Bulls \$75 to \$100, common stock. Three year old steers, \$25 to \$35 on the ranches, and increase according to quality and the distance eastward.

No grain crops can be grown without irrigation. The streams are dammed, and the land along their margins is overflowed when required. They have no dew and very little rain; when the rain falls there is no pretension about it, but a perfect deluge; there are ample gullies to carry it all off. Wheat averages 30 bushels per acre, oats 75 to 100 bushels, corn only about 35. No fences are used; all cattle and stock must be herded. There is a range between the Platte and Arkansas rivers about 200 miles wide, capable of keeping millions of cattle and sheep. The climate is much colder on the Platte river than on the Arkansas; and owners of cattle on the Platte have had their herds driven across to the Arkansas by storms. Rather a nice hunt to find them—200 miles wide and a month's journey in length.

The taxes are a mere myth in comparison to what we have to pay. Unless a person owns property worth over \$2,000 he pays no State tax; if over that, he has to pay from three to five per cent., according to the requirements of the State. The school tax amounts to from one to two per cent.

It is by no means as healthy a place as Canada for horse or cattle thieves, or other useless lumber. Gangs have been formed of thirty or forty, but their whereabouts is soon found out. Some have been put in the penitentiary, but that is often a rather slow process. Others have been notified that if they remained in certain localities they would get hurt. This is known to be a sufficient warning, and such parties get a chance to move a few hundred miles away, and are very apt to be cautious in future.

To use Mr. P.'s expression, if a man is neither dog nor dirt he will be helped along and will go ahead. The meanest, lowest scum of the earth may be found hanging round the small stations where grog is to be had, but the real thriving population are scattered over the country. The inhabitants settle along the streams

or rivers: the vast open prairie is not destined to be inhabited by a stationary population, but will remain the feeding ground for stock to roam over. The grass on the plains does not grow as with us here or on the north-west prairies; it is only found in tufts, then a piece of bare ground, so that a man or an animal may be traced anywhere.

A person may pre-empt a claim by settling wherever he can find 160 acres of land, unoccupied, and when the land is surveyed he may have it by paying \$1.25 per acre. After the land is surveyed he may settle on a lot of 160 acres, and have the deed presented to him by the government after a residence of five years.

In Texas they have matters so arranged that owners of cattle do not lose them. All are marked; if any are found unmarked after the 1st of April, any person may mark and claim them. Cattle are sold by the marks. Sometimes a person may be desirous of selling a few hundred head; he drives up his herd, and if one-third belong to other parties he sells them, and the brands are all noted. When the cattle are taken from the grounds there are regular stations at which they must pass out, and officials to check the marks. The other parties whose cattle are sold may live a hundred miles away, and some of his neighbor's cattle may be there. A check is kept, and the different parties receive the price for their own stock.

Farmers' Institute, at Washington, Iowa.

We extract the following from the Prairie Farmer. Various subjects were discussed, and it would weary you if we were to quote them all. We will only give the following. This gives us another instance of the benefit of ladies being interested in agricultural affairs. Surely if American ladies can go before these agricultural meetings, and deliver public addresses, some of our fair readers might sit down of an evening in the kitchen or parlor, and pen a few remarks for your Farmer's Advocate, just to show what Canadian ladies can do. Let us have at least one page for our next issue, from our fair readers. Send in short articles and plenty of them, to the point, on the farm, the garden, the dairy, the house, or any subject that will be of interest or benefit to your sisters in your most useful sphere:—

THE HOG.

I. P. Roberts, Superintendent of the State College farm, proceeded to expatiate on the vast importance of the dirty and disgraceful animal "the Hog." He spoke of the immense crop of corn which is one of the glories of Iowa, and its natural medium of transport to market, in the shape of sweet, juicy, tender hams, shoulders and breakfast bacon.

It is not the best policy, the speaker said, for a farmer to sell his corn in the streets, but to crib it, and write on the sides of the crib "Not for Sale," at least till the purchaser would call for that product the same as for fat steers or a pen of swine. The list of best breeds of hogs may be reduced to about three varieties, viz.: Poland-China, Chester-White and Berkshire. The first are not as yet found as hardy as the Berkshire; a judicious cross of these favorite breeds will be productive of the best results. The Poland-China, with proper care and feed, will produce more pounds of pork than any other breed. Still, if asked for the one breed best suited for the million, taking and having indifferent care and feed, all things considered, the Berkshire is the breed.—They seem to have the best and strongest digestive organs, and hence their ability to do well on ordinary fare and care. The

practice of breeding too young is to be deprecated. Never allow a sow to farrow under one year of age. Both male and female must have their physical development matured, else we fail to get the best possible progeny.

For breeding, select a male of medium size; with small head, clean limbs, round, straight body and well rounded hams.—The female may be a little more rangy, but not too much so. Don't try to breed too extensively, only what can be well cared for and well fattened. Numbers are not synonymous with pounds avoirdupois of marketable pork.

BEE KEEPING.

Mrs. Ellen Tupper related her experience in bee-keeping and culture. She keeps her bees, during winter, in the cellar, piling the hives up promiscuously like so many empty boxes; not particular as to ventilation. They need to be kept in the dark and moderately cool; danger of keeping too warm; perfect darkness is indispensable. In the spring I have removed over one hundred stands of bees from the cellar without finding a teacupful of dead bees from the whole. In the spring take every means to foster and strengthen the swarms—so that when the honey harvest arrives, (which is during the time clover is in blossom) the bees will be strong and ready to save it up. Never try to winter weak swarms, but combine two or more in one. Has but little confidence in patent hives. Have used many kinds of hives, patent and otherwise, among them the American hive, and find but little fault with them. The lecturer here exhibited artificial comb filled by the bees with honey, and the cells capped with wax. Gave all the facts yet known in its favor. Then spoke of swarming. Thinks the non-swarming hives will be likely to prove a failure. Prevents swarming by dividing. Usually divides swarms about the last of May or first of June, when the nights are warm and honey plenty; but not particular otherwise.—Prefers by all means the Italian bees; after years' experience would have no other. Have taken 300 lbs. of pure honey as the season's result of one stand in the spring, valued at \$10. Consider bee-keeping true woman's work; she can do it better than man.

Iowa, Missouri and Kentucky are the best bee pastures for the United States, and the United States are superior to Germany. Mrs. Tupper spent a full hour in an easy, conversational style, which was exceedingly interesting and instructive, and there was a general expression of regret that we were obliged to adjourn for dinner, notwithstanding it was nearly an hour past the usual time for adjournment.

Good News.

We notice a statement from Washington to the effect that instructions have been sent to the custom officers to admit free of duty all cattle from Canada intended for breeding purposes. We have much pleasure in giving the above information, which we earnestly hope will prove correct. We cannot help feeling somewhat elated, as we have long advocated such a measure, and are gratified to see that our labor has not in this case been in vain. It is to be hoped that this is only a foreshadowing of good things to come from that direction, as no doubt the effect of this will largely increase the exportation and value of such stock.

The Canadian Illustrated News, published in Montreal, has made great improvements in its illustrations. The number for the 22nd of April is by far the best we have seen. It gives the scene of the royal wedding, the likenesses of the bridesmaids, and several other large and well executed engravings, that cannot fail to please all, and the ladies especially.

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