

station is equal to it for more than 100 miles each way. Village or town lots bring a good price. There is a farm just back of the station on the bottom land, on which is a house, orchard and clearing; the land is black and rich, and the price asked is only \$10 per acre; other farms are offered for \$7 per acre. The upland on the opposite side of the station is much dearer, but what, in the future, millions and millions of acres in this part of the county will be worth, we cannot conceive. Some of the land looks good, but grass does not grow as with us; a great deal is flooded to the depth of three or four feet by a sudden rain. Millions of acres have been taken up from the Government and the State, and have fallen back again into the hands of the State, because the taxes could not be paid. People at a distance have been tempted to invest; it appears all very fine to be the owner of a million acres, but millions of dollars have been sunk in attempting to hold land. It has proved a most ruinous investment for capital. We would rather own one acre of good farming land that we have seen in England, Canada, New York State or Michigan, than a thousand acres of land that we have seen in Missouri and Arkansas. From the one acre a profit could be realized; from the thousands we have seen we do not believe one cent of profit can be realized in this or the next generation. Still there are spots and localities to be found where people can and will do well in this country. The climate is most relaxing; the energy and vim is soon taken out of a man and they settle down into a kind of careless, indolent, shiftless state; still they can talk, and one might almost think they were living like princes. But on going to the houses there is not one-fourth part of the comforts and luxuries to be found that there are in the bleak, cold, snow and ice-bound country of Canada.

At the right season of the year the South may look pleasant, but danger lurks unseen and will show itself most assuredly in many ways undreamed-of. We do not condemn all the Western and Southern States; there are some good localities and openings in both. But we have yet to learn if there is a finer and better place for farmers on this continent than Ontario. We cannot advise you to go to Missouri, Arkansas or Kansas; we say from anything we have yet seen in either of these States, stick to Canada, and you will be wealthier, happier and more contented.

February is considered by many the duller month of the twelve; by others the most important. It is considered that a heavy body of snow and continued frost throughout this month are of great importance; if the bare ground is seen the prospects for the other twelve months are not so good, as this month is said to govern the year. Your plans for this year's labors should now be fully planned. If you intend to use ice for the dairy, you must now get it. Building material should now be on the ground, and the planting of trees or vegetables should be now planned. If you intend to reduce your arable land, and seed more to grass, prepare now for the change; and if you intend to have a creamery in your neighborhood, be up and doing. Have a Farmers' Club established; we hear of good, useful information being disseminated at such.

The annual election of officers of Agricultural Societies took place during the past month. The law applying to the necessary payment of subscriptions previous to the commencement of business, will cause all interested in such societies to make punctual payment in future. Some officers have lost their seats and others their votes by not duly attending to this subject.

### Breeding Cattle for Export.

BY A. C.

Now that it has become an established fact that cattle can be exported to the British markets at such rates and at so moderate a risk as to give shippers a fair margin of profit, many of our farmers will find it to their interest to commence grading up their cattle to the highest standard of excellence in regard to size, early maturity and feeding quality. Already the demand for first-class beefs exceeds the supply. For many years to come the grading and feeding of cattle for exportation is certain to prove a grand source of revenue to those farmers who will begin in the right way and persevere through to the end. Three things are necessary to success—good stock, good feeding, and comfortable quarters in the winter.

To commence with, large framed thrifty cows and heifers should be procured. Cross them with a Shorthorn Durham bull of good quality and unexceptionable pedigree. A grade bull, no matter how good he may appear to be, has not that concentration of blood in him to ensure his being depended upon to bring good progeny. No Shorthorn can be considered thoroughbred unless the pedigree shows a direct descent on both sire and dam's side from animals that trace back to direct importations recorded in history or the herd books. Our Canadian Herd Book Record is faulty in this respect, that it admits animals to record that can show four crosses. In many of these they end only in a common cow, not a shorthorn, or entitled to any record. Once the crossing of Shorthorn blood is begun it must be preserved in, and the further up it can be carried the better will be the results. The produce of a first cross of a shorthorn bull upon a common cow will be half shorthorn; the next cross upon this produce, if a female, will be three-fourths pure blood; the next seven-eighths, and so on. Let the calves be kept in a thrifty growing state while young, and the males steered when very young. Good pasturage and water in summer, with plenty of feed and warm quarters in winter, will bring them on rapidly so as to be ready to put up to fatten at three years old, by which time the young steers should average 1,400 pounds live weight, if not more. The heifers had better be retained for breeding, and fed off after having had two or three calves.

If it is not considered desirable for the farmer to feed up for beef these young grades at 3-years' old, they ought to fetch good prices from those who make a practice of feeding on a large scale. A common scrub would be dear to a feeder at 2½c. per lb. live weight, when a good grade would be cheap at 4c. per lb. If a fair price cannot be had from a drover, do not sell, but feed yourself, and the exporters will find out where good animals are and pay full value for them. Steady perseverance in breeding only a high class of stock will soon bring up the standard of excellence of the general run of our cattle to a much higher point than they can show at present.

The article in this issue by Professor Arnold on "Coloring Cheese and Butter" deserves perusal. Question:—Would it not be well to withhold prizes from butter and cheese artificially-colored at our Exhibitions?

It is stated in the *Michigan Homestead* that one bushel of barley is worth about two bushels of oats for feeding purposes. As the cost of production is not materially greater than that of oats, bushel for bushel, the profits of the crop as stock feed must be much greater than is generally supposed.

### Mr. Slow and his Friends.

BY T. H.

Now that we are on the commencement of a new year, let us consider the situation and see what can be done to remedy the existing state of things. The true and only remedy may, in my opinion, be condensed in a very short sentence, namely—Good Management and Strict Economy. The first should be practiced at all times, and the latter should be only relaxed as the circumstances of the individual may justify, from increased income—the result of good management.

Now, what can we do at this season of the year to contribute to these ends? Much can be done. 1st—To solemnly and sincerely determine that, with God's blessing on your efforts, you will honestly and earnestly endeavor to improve the position of yourself and family; that you will practice the strictest economy until your paying power has increased sufficiently to pay your way as you go; that you will contract no debts whatever that you can possibly avoid in the meantime. 2nd—That by good management of your farm or business you will strive to so increase its productiveness that the increased returns will enable you to reach that position which every man should aspire to, viz.: "To pay as you go!" This should be every man's motto. And an endless amount of vexation and annoyance would disappear, and this fair country of ours would appear in a new light, and to possess charms and beauties which many of her sons to-day cannot see and do not believe she possesses, simply because they are enshrouded in a mist through which they cannot see their way, said mist being largely composed of debts, dues and demands, in every imaginable shape and form, from a mortgage to a shoe bill, till the frightened and wary traveler comes to the conclusion that this is a dreadful country to live in, and he must seek a home elsewhere. Poor man! He little thinks where the fault lies. In nineteen cases out of twenty the fault lies with himself, and good management and economy practiced during the past ten years would have removed all these obstacles from his path and enabled him to see clear. Now, having formed this resolution, which may be called the foundation of future success, he must next think, and while he is thinking he must act; in fact these two factors must be kept constantly in operation, allowing only proper periods for rest and nourishment; and he must be always vigilant, he must keep a watch over himself, and see that his old enemies, idleness and extravagance, &c., do not again ensnare him, and so once more reduce him to slavery. Having resolved to stick to his new friends, "Good Management" and "Strict Economy," he must study their component parts, individually and collectively; he must know them fully in detail; he must study them like his multiplication table; he must be able to place his finger on the very figures he wants at any moment. The more he studies the more he will learn, and the more he learns the more he will study, because he will find it profitable. Let us now proceed to examples. Good Management says: "Mr. Slow, those cattle of yours are getting poorer every day, and the sheep are no better, they require better food and attention. I know they are only scrubs, but still, since they are all you have, you should provide them better food and shelter, and, mind you, they want something better than snow to slack their thirst. If you have no roots or meal to give them, you can at least procure them water, and stick up some temporary shelter, and make up your mind to provide better food for them next year. Those calves are poor and lousy, and those sheep are full of ticks; try and destroy them at once, and let the poor things get