

Outhwaite he hired Baron Killerby, an unattractive bull, with, so it is expressed, "a cat's face and the horns taking opposite directions, one up, the other down," but, withal, an extra getter, and unpurchasable from his owner. The hiring fee was £50 (\$250) for a season. When discussing the crazes for family pedigree and color, Mr. Bruce told the story of a once-noted bull, Baron Oxford 5th, bought by Sir Wilfrid Lawson from the Duke of Devonshire, Holker Hall, for £500. The bull died soon after his purchase, and on the new owner being advised of it, he went to see the remains, and on the spot composed the following lines:

"Here lies Baron Oxford, stark and cool,
Bred by a duke and bought by a fool."

In the herd at Byres, Lochabers, are Broad hooks, Circes and Syringas, the herd bulls being from the Sittyton Orange Blossom and Clipper families. The narrator was also given the method by Mr. Bruce by which he prepared and kept the bland oil-like cheery fluid, whiskey, but being a temperance man withholds these methods as not relevant to this paper.

Bruces are legion, and at Heatherwick there are two, father and son, who manage a farm of 300 acres in sight of Sittyton. This farm has been worked by the Bruces and their ancestors for 107 years, and the rent has risen in that time from £70 to £460. Bruce major has retired from active participation in farm duties, and the burden now falls on the son, who is also Secretary of the Aberdeen sales of pure-bred stock. At Heatherwick is Prince of Archers, a massive, well-covered roan bull, with a good touch; he is by Scottish Archer. In the herd of over 100 head are Nompereils, Augustas and Marigolds, and from this herd many have journeyed to Canada.

Anderson, of Ballachraggan, is the type of farmer which we in Canada can afford to be better acquainted with; he combines business principles with his farming. Two herds are kept, one Angus, the other Shorthorns. With the latter we are more concerned at present. At the head of the herd is Challenger, illustrated in the "Advocate" some time ago, a stylish roan, with an extra covering of flesh over his lower ribs, which are well sprung, a bull masculine in appearance, wide and thick in his crops, square rumped, and with deep thighs, perhaps a bit high on the leg and bare on the front of the shoulder, but a breeder, as his stock show. The average price got for bulls from this herd at the Inverness sale in 1902 was £35, and, if my memory serves me right, John Graham, of Carberry, is the authority for the statement that Wm. Duthie purchased a bull from this herd at the Perth sale and gave a long price. Mr. Anderson fed many a Canadian store, as did D. C. Bruce, and liked them. He also breeds Clydesdales and Border Leicesters. In addition to his own holdings, he manages 1,500 acres for others. Speaking of stockers or store cattle, he is much opposed to Ayrshire blood in them, especially the Galloway-Ayrshire cross. Thomson, of Balbegno, is one of that fine old type of British farmer yet to be found in those isles. He has bred Shorthorns in

Aberdeenshire, and still continues to do so. His residence is part of the old castle of Balbegno, which has a banqueting hall whose vaulted ceiling has no doubt rung with the acclaim of doughty knight on his return from a successful foray. This venerable pile dates back to 1560. Not far away is Feltercairn and Queen Victoria's arch, built to celebrate a cross-country drive of her late Majesty with the Prince Consort. INTER PRIMOS.

(To be continued.)



THE SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE.
Experimental Farm, Agassiz, British Columbia.

The B.C. Experimental Farm at Agassiz.

The wisdom of a Government in providing for the expense of experimenting, and thus save the farmer from pecuniary loss, is not questioned in these practical days, unless it be by a political fanatic or a hardshell back number. Stretching across Canada we find located at Nappan, N.S.; Ottawa, Ont.; Guelph, Ont.; Brandon, Man.; Indian Head, Assa., and Agassiz, B.C., a system of farms, each differing in some respects from the others, yet all working on the same plan of experimentation. The most western of the farms is just as useful as are the others, but is probably not as well known, on account of several reasons, few modes of access to it, and the smallness of its constituency. While British Columbia is a country of considerable area, the amount of



DORSET SHEEP.
At the Experimental Farm, Agassiz, British Columbia.

land under cultivation by farmers, ranchers, dairymen and fruit-growers is comparatively small, yet bound to increase as the years go on. The correspondence of the farm shows that the definition applied by the present Minister of Agriculture in his report, "Bureaus of information," is lived up to by it.

A visitor to the farm, which lies in the valley of the Fraser, and is overlooked by Mt. Cheam, is at once struck by the fruit trees in various stages of growth. Fruit culture is the agri-

cultural industry at which B.C. excels, and it is a growing one, on account of the Manitoba and Territorial markets to the east; consequently, a great deal of attention is given to the introduction of new varieties and their fitness for the country, as well as usefulness as producers of what the markets call for. In this respect the experimental farm is particularly useful; the new-comer engaging in fruit-growing cannot afford to plant worthless varieties, and if he avails himself of information gratuitously supplied from the farm at Agassiz, he can save himself loss of time and money, and a lot of annoyance. Diseases of fruit trees are attended to, new remedies tried and reported on, a watch being kept incessantly for parasitic or fungoid pests, and the conclusion one comes to quickly is that the Superintendent is a busy and versatile man; by the queries submitted to him the questioners evidently accord him encyclopedic qualities.

Among other things being tried is the suitability of the benches (to the tenderfoot, these might be described as shelves or terraces on the mountain ranges) for fruit-growing, the comparative inaccessibility making these places of little value unless for such purposes. Vegetation is exuberant, the fern (bracken) being several feet in height in June, a hard plant to get rid of, the dead roots being very slow to rot. Other weeds are also very persistent, the mild winters proving harmless to them. Nature gives very little aid here in weed suppression, the humidity supports the plant through infrequent sun-scorchings.

Farming in this country of mountains and valleys, dyked lands and meadows, is not a profession to be trifled with, although such is the impression one who is used to the strenuous farm life of Ontario or the Northwest gets. Excuses may be mentioned for such a condition of things, namely, the persistency in weed growth, the lack of humus in the soil, and its natural sequel, soil leaching, and a climate conducive to taking life easy. I am referring to the lower mainland country, and I might add another excuse, the heavy work to be undertaken in order to clear the land.

Amongst other difficulties is the tendency of a crop of the preceding year to appear out of its turn, buckwheat being a bad offender. If the fertility of this land is to be kept up and increased, clover-growing and plowing under to get humus is essential, and it is not hard to get this valuable legume to work. Manure is best applied as a top-dressing on the grass; the method, as above described, being followed by Mr. Sharpe, the superintendent, with success, as is evidenced by the growing crops. The Superintendent recommends drawing away the manure to the field as it is made, a method suitable in this wet climate for the farmer without a manure-shed. By this means the valuable soluble constituents of the manure are not lost entirely, being arrested on the downward passage by the grass roots. The keeping of live stock is evidently part of the scheme of agriculture to be followed, and, as is to be expected, at the Experimental Farm we find a small working herd of useful-looking Shorthorns, and a flock of Dorsets thriving on the clover aftermath, which some three weeks previously had yielded heavily. Sheep do well, and when asking about the prospects for working with the golden-hoofed, Mr. Sharpe expressed the opinion that the lower mainland was especially suited to winter or early lamb raising, climatic conditions being so favorable; yet, withal, a word of warning, well worth consideration, was given: "Stock can no more suffer exposure here than elsewhere, the cold, wet fall rains being just as detrimental to the live stock, or more so, than a much lower temperature under bright, dry conditions!" The B. C. farmer does not begin to supply the Province with small ruminants, thousands of muttons being imported yearly from the States.

Bees and poultry are also kept, and fill out a plan of diversified agriculture well within reach of an energetic farmer. The Agassiz farm buildings are not built on an extravagant plan by any means.

The avenues, shrubs and tree belts were at their best on the occasion of my visit, some of the ornamentals being especially attractive, a light-colored leaved relative of the Manitoba maple and the Caragana being very noticeable. The soil in this part of the country seems to be deficient in mineral constituents, notably lime and potash; the water is very soft. The growth of grass under the sprayed (with lye) trees was much more vigorous than out from under the area on which the spray would drip.

"NOMAD."

While keeping step with the most advanced agricultural thought of the age for the benefit of progressive students, it is at the same time the policy of the Farmer's Advocate not to "shoot over the heads" of the rank and file to furnish information that can be applied with success in everyday practice. Point this out to your neighbor who is not yet a reader, and induce him to subscribe.

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