

STOCK GOSSIP.

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

Mr. Geo. W. A. Reburn (St. Anne's (P. Q.) Herd Jersey) writes:—"The frontispiece in the January 1st issue of the Advocate, I think, the finest of its kind that I have ever seen, and is a credit to your Journal. Your artist has excelled all his former work of this sort, and has drawn the scene true to life."

Mr. J. C. Snell, Edmonton, Ont., writes:—"The demand for Jerseys continues with increasing activity. The results of the past year's business have shown that, tried by the severe test of financial depression, no branch of farming has stood the strain of the hard times so well as Jersey dairy farming. The farmer who has fed his grain and hay to good Jersey cows has realized good prices, and has never had to beg for a market or wait for his pay. We have sold over forty head of Jerseys during the past year by private sale, and have a grand lot of young heifers and a few good cows for sale now."

MESSESS. SIMMONS & QUIRE'S SHORTHORNS AND BERKSHIRES.

In these days of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations, there may be danger of estimating too lightly the hard-learned lessons of ordinary experience. Without in any way reflecting upon these agencies for increasing the sum total of agricultural knowledge, we must never lose sight of the slower, substantial teachings of the field and the feed lot, the stable and farm herd. The life work of an observant, thoughtful man cannot but teach lessons of the greatest value. On recently looking over the highly cultivated fields comprising the fine farm of Mr. C. M. Simmons, of Ivan, in Lobo Township, his out-buildings, and more especially his herd of Shorthorns, the writer was impressed with the thought that here was represented very largely the outcome of a life work in breeding, feeding and general management, just one of those examples that the young farmer or breeder would do well to ponder, because theoretical knowledge can never take the place of actual experience;—what a man has wrought out for himself he actually knows. It was twenty-five years ago that Mr. Simmons began breeding Shorthorns.

In the matter of cattle rearing, having been through the whole course, from the purchase of breeding-stock right on to the milk pail, on the one hand, and the British market with the finished heaves, on the other, the teaching of all this experience stand in evidence about the Simmons' stables to-day. The advance of dairying on the one hand could not be ignored, but the ideal steer for the feeder and the British butcher was never lost sight of. Scotch Shorthorn blood dominates, but still there has not been that fatal in-fatness for pedigree that refuses to cross a given line to get a good breeding animal when required. Then, again, in herd management the non-exercise heresy has never reached the extent of confining cows with a chain or stanchion for six months at a stretch. Bulls as well as cows and youngsters get their daily allowance of fresh air and sunlight and a walk to the water trough, filled automatically from a windmill tank; and then in the matter of foods, too, we noted the generous use of roots and properly saved ensilage from well-matured corn, with plenty of wholesome variety in other foods. Naturally we find robust healthfulness in the stock. Of the fine robust healthfulness in the stock of Short-horn females in this herd, I choose to say that the Mina, Strathallan, Golden Drop and Myie females are represented, and a number of capacious, well-formed udders speak for their milking capabilities. At the head of the herd stands Royal Saxon =1037=, a massive, sappy roan, with, as one authority puts it, "plenty of character," or as Hon. Mr. Dryden remarked in his paper published in the Jan. 1st FARMER'S ADVOCATE, possessing "a noble bearing." At the last Toronto Industrial he was good enough to carry off premium honors in his class. He was calved June 16th, 1888, being bred by Mr. W. J. Biggins, of Clinton; got by imp. Excelsior; dam Matchless 19th =388=, by Statismar. His competitor and successor in the herd is Bampton M. =1820=, another roan, bred by J. & W. B. Watt, Salem, Ont.; got by Bampton Hero; dam Mysie 41st =1724=, by Corporal Crimson =1551=. He was calved Nov. 13 h. 1892, so that he does not yet quite disclose what his full development will be. Though not now possessing the great substance of Royal Saxon he shows correspondingly well in front, and is rather better in a couple of other points. When the show-rings of next fall are reached he ought to make a place for himself toward the top, if present promises are fulfilled. His calves are right good ones and coming evenly. The predecessor of Royal Saxon was Arthur Johnston, Greenwood; =13670=, bred by Arthur Johnston, Greenwood; by famous old Indian Chief; dam Mina Lavender; who brought glory to the herd and the herd-man (Lauchie Cameron) at the last Industrial by being the sire of a rare quartette of red beauties that captured everything there was to be taken in the heifer class—1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th. That surely, was enough to satisfy any reasonable contestant on wonderfully well, but some might incline now to place the second prize winner to the fore, though not possessing quite the finished bloom of her mate. Another trophy for Mina Chief progeny at the last Industrial Fair was the winning of 1st premium by the bull calf Stranger (dam Elvira), now the property of Mr. Wm. Werry, of Salina, Ont., who is more than pleased with him. Prior to the advent of Mina Chief, Sir Christopher =3877=, got by imp. Prince of Northumberland; dam Ury 7th; bred by John Isaac; stood at the head of this herd. Results in the show ring, and otherwise, have demonstrated the sagacity displayed in the choice of the foregoing series of bulls. Among the choice young stock that especially attracts notice was a young red and a little white calf, by Royal Saxon, dam Golden Drop by old Bampton Hero, that will make a show winner, barring accidents. A noticeable characteristic of all the stock, bulls included, was their uniform docility and good temper. A few miles farther south, near Delaware village, is located the grand grazing and general stock farm of Mr. James Quirie, Mr. Simmons' partner, on which Berkshire swine breeding is made a specialty. It is enough to say that they are of the prize-winning, money-making sort that the every-day farmer can make no mistake in breeding and feeding.

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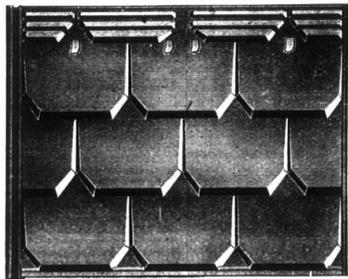
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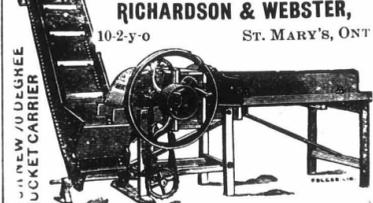
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