

single stalls in a comfortable stone stable. Brood mares are also kept in the stone stable in loose box stalls. The colts and fillies all run loose in a well-ventilated frame stable, which remains at a moderate temperature.

We find it necessary to keep our working horses and driver shod most of the time. When the calks begin to get worn down we have them reset and recalked in order to save the shoes and keep their feet right. We prefer the natural coat of hair to having horses clipped. In order to keep their coats short and slick we blanket in the stable even though it is at a comfortable temperature.

York Co., Ont.

J. B. COWIESON.

#### Maritime Notes.

##### BETTER LAMBS WANTED.

While talking lately with one of our largest buyers of sheep, he complained of the large number of small, light lambs that were offered for sale. They are totally unfit for export, and have to be disposed of at a very low price for local use. In fact, there is no money in them for anybody. Of all the animals upon the farm none should give better returns than the sheep, and none can be so cheaply and easily reared; but no matter what care may otherwise be bestowed upon them, really good lambs cannot be raised when sired by the scrub ram so generally used. With fifteen ewes the use of a good ram will produce enough extra each year to pay for him, even though the ewes receive no better care than is at present bestowed upon them, and better care will produce proportionately better returns. Breeding ewes can be well and cheaply wintered upon roots and straw, with an occasional feed of hay. I have often read in agricultural papers that roots must be fed in very small quantities to ewes before lambing, and possibly this may be true in cases where they are fed upon good clover hay, with a daily ration of grain, but these conditions do not generally exist here, and I have never known any trouble to follow a liberal use of roots. After lambing, hay should be substituted for the straw ration of oats, and bran should be added and maintained until the grass is far enough advanced to supply the ewes with all they need. Another matter of which buyers complain, and which causes a loss to the seller, because something is always taken off the price in consequence of it, is that a large number of the lambs are not docked and the rams castrated. These operations are very simple and should be performed when the lamb is about three weeks old. Still further improvement might be made by weaning the lambs about the last of August, or at least by the middle of September. They should then be put upon good grass, preferably a piece of second-growth clover, and, if possible, a little grain should be given them daily until sold. The sale of the lambs is one of our chief means of income; try and make it yield as much as possible.

##### PORK-PACKING INDUSTRY WANTED.

The William Davies Company, of Toronto, has lately had an agent in New Brunswick looking up information with a view to establishing a plant for packing pork. It was interesting to watch the discussions which took place in the St. John Board of Trade and elsewhere. Those who had the good of the country at heart were for giving all the assistance possible to the scheme, while those who can never see any good in a progressive movement, and those who thought they saw a menace to their local trade, raised all sorts of objections and difficulties—the company would likely want certain privileges granted them—the supply of hogs was not sufficient—the farmers could not increase the number of pigs they kept—we could not compete with Upper Canada and the West when grain was cheap—anything and everything which was calculated to discourage the project. Then the farmers began to be heard from, and in no case were they otherwise than glad to welcome a scheme that would give them a steady and sure market for their hogs. The end has not yet been reached, but every person having the interest of their Province at heart must hope that the final report will be favorable. The number of pigs at present kept upon our farms is very small, for the simple reason that we have no market for them. There are no curing and packing establishments and no export trade, while our local trade is largely supplied by imported cured meat. If we had to depend upon grain for the production of pork we certainly could not compete with Upper Canada; but we can grow clover and roots to perfection, and with these and a little grain can produce the finest kind of pork, but we will have to use good boars in breeding, and of a type suited to the demands of the trade. The large fat hog with heavy shoulders and hams is a thing of the past; it has been supplanted by the long, rangy, deep-sided pig, that will turn the scales at from 150 to 200 pounds at six to eight months of age. Wake up, farmers, your interests are at stake in this question; try and help establish a new industry among us!

Antigonish County, N. S.

[NOTE.—Our last issue contained an interesting announcement from Mr. Macdonald re the establishment of a large and well-equipped packing-house in Prince Edward Island. —EDITOR.]

Attend to your "Farmer's Advocate" subscription early, and avoid regrets for oversight.

#### The Smithfield Club Show.

From December 6th to 10th the Smithfield Club Fat Stock Show was held at Islington, London, England. This was the 99th annual uninterrupted anniversary of the 1st show held under the auspices of this Club. The President this year is the Marquis of Huntley. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has accepted the Presidency for the Centenary Exhibition, which will be held in 1898, when it is expected the event will be marked by an extraordinary revival. The changes in this show from year to year in the ordinary course are not marked, the number of entries remaining fairly constant. In 1895, 716 entries were made; in 1896, 712, and this year 703—a slight falling off, it will be noticed, due, no doubt, on this present occasion to some alterations in the classifications, such as grouping in some of the classes where heretofore single animals were shown, and to the active season's sales which have removed many fatted animals from intending exhibitors. The number of cattle exhibited this year was 364, or 30 more than in 1896. The total was composed as follows: Devons, 35; Herefords, 20; Shorthorns, 50; Sussex, 26; Red Polled, 12; Scotch Polled, 57; Highland, 22; Welsh, 23; Small Cattle, 31; Cross-bred, 69; Extra Stock, 16. The cattle contest is always keen and the animals are invariably of a high order of merit. The sweepstakes this year was a blue-gray, from a Shorthorn dam and Galloway sire, weighing 1,890 lbs. at an age of 1,033 days, an average daily gain from birth of 1.82 lbs. He was owned by Mr. John Wortley, who carried off the Smithfield championship honors in 1888 and in 1891. The reserve champion was the Earl of Rosebery's Aberdeen Angus, Scottish Queen, that won the championship the previous week at Edinburgh, but as neither of these animals conformed to the condition of having been bred by the exhibitor, another beast had to be sought for the Queen's Challenge Cup, which honor fell to the Shorthorn-Aberdeen heifer, Blue Bell, bred by J. Douglas Fletcher; the reserve falling to the same exhibitor's Aberdeen-Angus steer, Prince of Ethie.

Royal exhibitors were, as usual, well represented. The Queen showed three Devons, two Herefords and four Shorthorns; the Prince of Wales, a Shorthorn heifer, a cross-bred, and four pens of Southdowns; and the Duke of York, nine Red Polls, as well as two exhibits in pig classes, good



CROSS-BRED STEER, "GENERAL."  
Champion at Norwich, Birmingham, and Smithfield Fat Stock Shows, 1897.

premiums being taken by each of the regal contestants. There was a considerable decline in the number of sheep, the total being 199, against 220 last year. The principal falling off was in Shropshires and Oxford. The champion plate for best pen of three long-wooled sheep or lambs in the show, viz., Leicesters, Cotswolds, Lincoln, Kentish, Devon, Cheviot, Mountain, etc., was won by Lincoln shown by Mr. Henry Dudding; reserve, J. McDowall's Cheviots; and for best pen of three short-wooled, viz., Southdowns, Hampshire, Suffolk, Shropshire, Dorset, and Cross-breds, the plate was secured to Mr. J. J. Coleman on his Southdowns; reserve, T. B. Buxton's Hampshire.

Pigs made an interesting show, the championship pen being a cross-bred lot (Berkshire with Large White). It is thirteen years since cross-bred pigs secured this honor.

#### Notes on New Brunswick Live Stock Conditions.

BY JOHN ROBERTSON, LATE DAIRY SUPERINTENDENT.

In New Brunswick there are several localities which are admirably adapted to the breeding and raising of horses, cattle and sheep. The county of Westmoreland contains large areas of strong marsh land which yields large crops of hay. Much of this land is dyked in and has been broken up and seeded with timothy and clover, and gives large crops of hay, a considerable quantity of which is baled and shipped to Boston and other American cities.

In the Sackville district 20 years ago there were some excellent herds of Shorthorn cattle fed for the English market, but when the market gave way and the price came low many of the feeders lost money and gave up the business, and for some years both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia imported from Ontario a considerable number of beef cattle to supply their own needs.

Prince Edward Island is in a better position both as regards horses, cattle and sheep. The farmers there have given more attention to breeding and raising horses and other stock, their land being more level and easier cultivated and more fertile than the most of the upland of the other Provinces.

In Kent County there is some good pasture land for dairying and stock raising, but there is great need of improvement in the stock, both of cattle and sheep. There is great need of education along these lines in order to farm successfully.

In King's County, especially in the Sussex district, there has been a very decided improvement in farm stock, and the interest is still increasing.

In Charlton County there is some good stock, but nothing like what there might have been if farmers had studied the

raising of stock more carefully, and if they had sold less hay and oats both the farmers and the farms would have been in better condition than many of them are in to day.

In nearly all the counties of New Brunswick there are districts where horses, cattle and sheep could be successfully raised if proper attention were given to the business and the right kind of stock utilized.

The breeds of horses in the Maritime Provinces are pretty well mixed up. There have been a number of English Shire, Clydesdale, Percheron and Cleveland Bay horses imported which have improved the breed of horses very much; also a few Standard-bred trotting horses have been imported, which have produced a very good, useful driving horse for light work. Since street cars are now mostly run by electricity there is not the demand for what may be called good hard-legged general purpose horses.

The class of horses that pay to raise are either good sound heavy draft horses fit for dray work or good sound saddle, cavalry and carriage horses; these classes bring fairly good prices; but, like the cattle, the great want is the want of the right kind of females. Pure-bred mares are not very plentiful either, and they are costly; many farmers grudge to pay for service, although their offspring would likely be worth double the money the offspring of a mongrel would be. "Penny wise and pound foolish" is not out of date yet.

Cattle. The general run of stock may be characterized as mostly native purposeless cattle, with some improvement here and there by the importation of a few Shorthorns for feeding, and a few Ayrshires, Holsteins and Jerseys for dairying.

The Shorthorn breed stands at the top of all the breeds for making beef, and where a farmer wishes to follow that line of practice the nearer pure-bred he can have his stock the better, and the more profit he will make if he understands his business properly.

In them we now have embodied the skill and the knowledge and the experience of the best minds of the best cattle-breeders for generations, and it takes careful breeding and feeding to maintain the stock in the state of perfection to which it has been brought by our best breeders.

The next best cattle for feeding where pure-bred Shorthorns cannot be attained to is an Ayrshire female crossed by a Shorthorn male. They are not so heavy, but make fine meat.

Dairy breeds—Ayrshires, Holsteins, and Jerseys. It is a matter of choice by the individual farmer which breed he may use. The location and surroundings should be taken into consideration. If near a town or city, and buttermaking is to be practiced, then the Jerseys are to be preferred; there is no breed equal to the Jerseys for fine butter, but they need good treatment.

If producing milk is to be the chief aim of the farmer, then the Holstein would come into place, but she needs special conditions, as she is large in size. She needs level ground and good pasture so that she does not have to labor much to get her belly filled; these are the conditions she has in her native home, and the nearer to these conditions she is kept the better for her.

If producing milk and part beef is to be followed, with general mixed farming, then the Ayrshire takes her place; perhaps she is what may be termed the best general purpose cow for the common farmer. They are an old-established breed, they have a history for nearly 300 years. They are not very large, although some of them attain good size. They have a sound constitution and give good returns for the food and care they receive. By using pure-bred Ayrshire males and breeding from only the best milkers of common or grade stock the common stock of the farm can be more quickly improved and graded up to a higher standard of usefulness and profitability than by any other method I know of, but don't use an Ayrshire male one season, a Jersey male next season, and perhaps a Holstein male the next. Whatever breed you choose, stick to it and make the most of it.

Sheep. There have been several importations of sheep introduced in the past, but they soon get mixed up and very few pure-breeds are to be found. Too many different breeds have been introduced. There is a uniformity in conditions in the Maritime Provinces and there is no need for a great many different breeds. Two or three good breeds would be sufficient, and keep them separate. Leicesters, Cotswolds, Cheviots and Southdowns are among the most useful breeds. The same line of breeding is necessary with sheep; use only pure-bred males. The first cross lambs may do fairly well, but cross a cross lamb with a cross male and there will be poor, delicate stock.

These arguments are true in regard to *Swine*, only they have mostly a short time to live. Pork-packers want hogs 8 months old to weigh 160 to 180 pounds live weight, and one to one and a quarter inches of fat on the back when cut up. The Tamworth, Improved Yorkshire and Improved Berkshires are the most desirable breeds for English bacon.

No difference what the article may be, quality determines the value. The higher the quality the higher the price. The first consideration should be, quality next cheapness of production, but never sacrifice quality for cheapness.

#### C. P. R. Freight Rates Reduced.

In accordance with the agreement made by the Dominion Government with the C. P. R. and ratified at the last session of Parliament, when the Company was given the contract for building the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, a new freight tariff took effect on Jan. 1. On agricultural implements, binder twine, household furniture (new or old), and certain building materials (not including lumber), the rates are reduced 10 per cent.; on coal oil, 20 per cent.; and on fruits of all kinds, 33 per cent. These very material reductions will be especially appreciated in Manitoba and the Northwest, but apply all over the C. P. R.