

may be knee deep with muck of three or four years standing, which for want of removal is rotting away the sills of the surrounding buildings.

The present system of barn-yard management cannot be too strongly deprecated: our farmers generally locate their barns and out-buildings on a rising ground, so that the yards may be dry and the nasty washings run off, perhaps into the road or stream; by this much the greater part of the liquid excrements is lost, and, by suffering injurious fermentation, a large quantity of the organic gases escape, and the soluble and consequently most valuable portion of the manure is washed away by drenching rains. These evils every one familiar with farm management must have observed. The direct loss to the individual by such a reprehensible practice is great, while the indirect loss to the community is inestimable.

No farming can be profitable when the manure is thus shamefully wasted, and nothing is plainer than that the crops of the farm and the profits of the farmer are in direct proportion to the amount and value of the manure made on the farm. The great aim of the farmer in the management of barn yard manure should be, first, to preserve all the liquid; second, to keep up a slow fermentation, never letting the heap heat or ferment violently and thus throw off its ammonia; third, to prevent leaching during heavy rains and melting snows. Were these three conditions properly attended to, the value of the manure on most farms would be at least doubled.

There was a very visible improvement in the different breeds of horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs, exhibited at the several Township Agricultural Shows in this county during the past year, both as regards quantity and quality; and we find that the generality of our farmers are giving their particular attention to raising stock, and surely no country in the world is better adapted to the raising of cattle and sheep than this, where land is not only cheap and plentiful but of unequalled fertility, yielding rich natural grasses in great abundance.

This undoubted fertility of the soil for grazing purposes, the fine dry climate, the cheapness of land and the high price of labor all point to stock raising and wool growing as the most profitable department of farm economy in this Province. Therefore the improved breeds of cattle and sheep can be

profitably introduced into this county, and it is gratifying to observe that some few of our enterprising fellow-farmers are making praiseworthy efforts to improve their breeds of cattle by importations from the United States and Europe.

The introduction of improved breeds of cattle has already added thousands of dollars to the wealth of this County; and though much has been done in this direction, there is still abundant room for future improvement. The great majority of cattle sent to market in this section of the country, though of a very inferior order, might be very profitably crossed with a Durham or Devon Bull. It is doubtless important to have both parents good, but in the case of ruminants the predominating influence of the male in determining the qualities of the progeny is so well ascertained, that the selection of the bull is a matter of prime importance. Judging from the number of well-bred bulls exhibited at our County Spring Show of last year, we should say that our farmers are not aware of this, and at last waking up to the fact that it is quite as easy to breed good animals as poor ones; and that the cost of labor for the one is no more than for the other, while the difference in the nett profit is amazing.

The Durhams and Devons have each their respective advocates here, but it is generally contended by all that the Durhams are the best breed for rapid feeding and early maturity, being perfect at three years old; and a cross between a Short Horn or Devon and a native cow is considered the most valuable for dairy purposes.

Much attention has of late years been bestowed on raising sheep and wool, and improvement in the various breeds is quite apparent to all; flocks of pure Leicester, South Downs and Merinos are to be met with in all quarters, while the long-legged, shag-wooled, ill shaped Canadian sheep (like the Aborigines of the country) are fast disappearing and giving place to the now favored breeds. A cross between the Leicester and South Down is becoming a general favorite here, and appears to be a hardier sheep, producing more wool and mutton than either its progenitors. The climate and soil are admirably adapted to sheep raising, and although large numbers are annually exported to satisfy the increased demand of the United States