

EARLY MATURITY VS. UNDUE FORCING.

In connection with fat stock shows there is doubtless very much to be learned. The slaughter test is unquestionably the true one, but so recently has this been applied in such a way as to render it of any "educational" value that even the most practical breeders and feeders are comparative novices with regard to some of its most important features. It has been the fashion to award the premiums to the animals that had put on most fat, and yet it must be admitted that retailers and their customers are beginning to look upon the meat product of these phenomenally fat animals with suspicion if not disfavor. In buying really first-class beef at a corresponding price the careful housekeeper has a decided objection to have the purchase include an undue proportion of suet. Of course suet is all very well in its way, but everybody knows that it is not worth anything like the price charged for really first-class beef. It is customary for butchers to urge in defence of beef that is so loaded with useless fat as to be objectionable to customers, that the greater the proportion of fat the better the quality of lean meat associated with it. Within certain limits this may be true, but it is very doubtful if it holds good beyond a grade of beef that is "well marbled." It is a generally accepted theory that an animal has "matured" when he has put on his full complement of lean meat, and that after maturity has been reached he merely puts on fat. If this be true, the sooner an animal is killed after maturity the more "economical" will be the character of the beef produced. It is a question well

too far, but until such a result can be shown it is but fair to conclude that the limit of undue forcing has not been reached.

This is merely one of the problems yet to be satisfactorily worked out by feeders, and fat stock shows will in all probability furnish the readiest and most satisfactory means to that end.

CANADA'S JOHN BULL 8,338

Is believed to have no equal among Jersey bulls in point of symmetry and point of breeding. At the present time the Stoke Pogis 3rd-Victor Hugo family, to which Mary Anne of St. Lambert belongs, is leading all others. Canada's John Bull is solid silver grey, with dark shadings. He is the most inbred Stoke Pogis 3rd-Victor Hugo bull alive. He is large, but not in the least coarse, with a magnificent constitution; great depth of body; very short legs; splendid ribbing; great depth from first rib to hip bone, and from hip bone to tail; wonderful length of barrel; long neck with grand crest; extra good head, and wonderfully

His weight at 2 years 7 months and 17 days of age was 1,350 lbs.

A careful study of the pedigree of Canada's John Bull will show that he has no outcross from the combined blood of Mary Anne of St. Lambert, 36 lbs. 12½ oz. of butter in 7 days, and 867 lbs. 14½ oz. of butter in less than a year, Ida of St. Lambert, 65 lbs. milk in a day and 30 lbs. 2½ oz. of butter in 7 days (the two greatest butter cows in the world), and Allie of St. Lambert, 57 lbs. milk and 24 lbs. of butter in 7 days. Ida of St. L. Mr. Fuller believes to be the heaviest milking cow of all Jerseys, 63 lbs. of milk per day for days in succession. Allie of St. Lambert, her full sister, is milking at the present time on winter feed 55 lbs. of milk per day for Mr. George Smith, of Grimsby.

Mr. Fuller refused to entertain an offer of \$15,000 for this youngster, and says it pays him better to breed him and sell his calves. In thus refusing to let so grand a bull go out of Canada, Mr. Fuller is conferring a boon on all Canadian Jersey breeders.

THE SPEED RING AT FAIRS.

We are quite aware that we are treading on dangerous and delicate ground when we attempt to discuss the propriety of speed trials for horses at fairs. On the one hand exhibitors complain that the attractions of the horse ring dwarf all others, and that, having paid for space in the main building, the implement building, or the machinery hall, they cannot induce anybody to look at their exhibits simply because visitors are watching what is going on in the horse ring.

On the other hand, managers of fairs find that a few races (called speed trials) will attract more people in proportion to the money they cost than any other attraction they can devise. They are anxious to meet the views of their patrons as far as is compatible with the success of the show, but they cannot go beyond a certain limit in the matter of pecuniary sacrifices.

There is no doubt something to be said on both sides of the question as it now stands. There can be no doubt that the prizes offered for speed at fairs are too often carried off by outlawed "ringers" that dare not appear on any National Association track in the country. Of course money won by these outlaws of the turf does not go as far toward fostering the horse-breeding industry as it does toward keeping alive a gang of sharpers who wander about from one fair to another solely for the purpose of scraping together a few dollars, honestly or dishonestly as circumstances and surroundings may dictate. Of course when these people furnish the entertainment for the crowd it is but reasonable that they should receive the money, but unless we are greatly mistaken, a way might be devised for amusing the crowd without the assistance of these outsiders



"CANADA'S JOHN BULL 8338." Property of Valancey E. Fuller.

large prominent eyes, very mellow hide and rich. He gives his grand constitution to all his get, as also his depth of body, ribbing, head, and eye; he has a remarkable power to impress his likeness on his calves, probably from his inbreeding, and they can be picked out of a number in a pen owing to their striking resemblance to each other. All his calves are solid color. One son has been sold at four months old for \$3,000. He has 96½ of the blood in Mary Anne of St. Lambert, the outcross being Lydic, who gave 12½ per cent. of her blood to Ida of St. Lambert, 30 lbs. 2½ ozs. (official test). He has 75 per cent. of the blood in Ida of St. Lambert, the outcross being Pride of Windsor (16 quarts, at 14 years old, on grass only), and who is G. G. Dam of Mary Anne of St. Lambert. He is more inbred to Stoke Pogis 3rd 2238 than any bull, having 62½ per cent. of his blood. He has been a most successful prize-taker—1st as yearling, Toronto, 1882, T. S. Cooper, judge; Sweepstake—first as best bull of any age, Hamilton, 1884; at the head of Mr. Fuller's herd who won Champion Cup for best herd, Canada's Great Central Fair, 1883. These are the only occasions on which he has been exhibited.

worthy of consideration, however, whether this period of actual maturity can be hastened by a very liberal system of feeding. It is certain that it can be materially delayed by starvation, or to put it more mildly, scanty feeding, and from this it would appear that it might be hastened through the adoption of the very opposite course. Everybody who has bred young animals knows that even the growth of the frame of a young animal can be hastened by a particularly generous diet, and, this being the case, it would seem strange indeed if the less substantial tissues which go to make up the muscular system did not quite keep pace with the frame which they are intended to cover. In the case of animals intended for work, for breeding, or even for the dairy, where a long period of usefulness is to be taken into consideration, the propriety of inducing exceptionally early maturity may reasonably be questioned, but in the case of youngsters bred only for the butcher's block the quantity and quality of the meat and the cost of producing it are the only considerations to be taken into account. If it can be shown that the quality of the beef has been injured by inducing early maturity then it must be admitted that the "forcing" has been carried