

Lucerne Clover.

Editor Canadian Live Stock and Farm Journal:

SIR,—I was surprised to see a letter in your paper from my old friend, William Rennie, on "Lucerne Clover." I have had it on one of my farms for twelve years, and would not be without it on any account. I had twenty five (25) tons of hay last year, and it is the best hay I had. Cattle will eat it before any other. It will only take a few years before our farmers would not do without it on any account. If our dairy farmers would grow it they would be able to sell one-quarter more butter and cheese than they do now, for they would have plenty of feed in the summer when all other grasses are dried up.

My second crop last year was fit to cut at the time we were making timothy hay. Instead of cutting I put on it a carload of culled steers, and I never saw steers gain so fast. They brought £16 5s. per head in Liverpool market. I think the ten acres put on \$6 per head on the load.

On the 13th of May last I gave eighteen steers the run of nine acres when the lucerne was eighteen inches high. They tramped some of it down, but have eaten it since. They have plenty of other grass, but I nearly always find them on the lucerne.

One of my neighbors has quite a number of good fat hogs on lucerne clover alone, without grain, and I think they are too fat to fetch the highest price.

I could say a great deal more in its favor. I have thirty acres sown, and I find that all stock thrive well on it. Mr. James Griffith, London, has had a field of lucerne for some eleven years. Ask him what he thinks about it.

ALBIN RAWLINGS.

Forest, Lambton, Ont.

Editor Canadian Live Stock and Farm Journal:

SIR,—I notice that you ask persons who have had experience in feeding lucerne to give their opinion as to its value as a fodder plant. I have fed it for the last few years on the farm, and have had no trouble with it. It should be cut early, and when properly cured, it makes a first-rate fodder. For pasture it cannot be beaten. Cattle, sheep, and horses eat it greedily. After it gets once established in the land it lasts for a number of years, and gives both an early and late herbage. We have cut it three times in a season, and then had a good growth afterwards.

Birdsall.

R. E. BIRDSELL.

Editor Canadian Live Stock and Farm Journal:

SIR,—I noticed Mr. Wm. Rennie's letter in last JOURNAL re lucerne clover, also "Subscriber's" letter of enquiry.

To myself, who have learned to look upon lucerne as a necessity, Mr. Rennie's letter would be alarming were it not that, having grown and fed lucerne for twelve years, I cannot recollect a single case of impaction in my herd in that time, while I have a distinct recollection of some bad cases before I commenced its use.

Perhaps, at the experimental farm, it is grown alone. Mine is generally mixed with other grasses. This year will be an exception, however, as, on account of extreme drought, I have hardly anything else. My land is, in great part, dry, light, or gravelly soil, purchased from time to time, when completely worn out, because it happened to adjoin my own. On one of these farms, where not a ton of hay was raised for several years before it came into my possession, and on which it was believed no hay could be raised, I have repeatedly harvested about forty tons of hay, besides having more pasture and grain than was grown formerly. I do not think such results can be obtained on such land, with ordinary culture, without lucerne. On the soil described, a regular system of rotation is neither practical nor desirable, and lucerne is more permanent than any other clover.

After experimenting with various grasses and "permanent pastures," I have prepared a formula of my own that suits my circumstances. I aim to sow, per acre, 4 lbs. red clover, 4 lbs. lucerne, 4 lbs. timothy and 2 lbs. orchard grass, substituting alike for lucerne and red-top for orchard in low spots. Lucerne and orchard grass are inclined to grow in bunches. The red fills up the first year and that is the last of it, and afterwards, there is generally a sod of the other three. Lucerne usually lasts several years, the only exception being the spring of 1893, when it heaved, in this locality, worse than other clovers.

Read, Ont.

J. C. HANLEY.

Special Stock Reviews.

Oxford Downs at Sylvan and Brant Stock Farms.

Messrs. Turner and Jull, who are, respectively, the owners of the above farms, are conjointly breeding a flock of very superior Oxford Down sheep, which, for numbers and uniform excellence, compare favorably with any of the breed.

The foundation stock were principally of Adams and Brassey extraction, while the last ram used, which sired the fine lot of shearlings at present on hand, was bred by Mr. H. Arkell, Kempford, England. This year's crop of lambs were also sired by this sheep, which appears to have done his propertors good service, as his get appear to have been uniformly good.

As a tribute to the shearing qualities of Oxfords, we were shown three shearing ewes which had clipped 45½ lbs. of wool, or 15, 15½, 15¾ lbs., respectively, while some of the rams, we were told, did nearly as well. Others did better still. However, the sheep were so big after being stripped that one could easily understand why they are such heavy producers of wool.

There are a fine lot of shearing rams, which display plenty of good Oxford character, some of which show extra good development, while no one could help being pleased with the beautiful lot of shearing ewes on both these farms.

The lambs evidently had been dropped early in the season, as they were well grown. Among the ram lambs, of which we counted upwards of twenty five, were some great, lusty fellows which will be large enough to do service next autumn. These, with the fifteen or sixteen shearing rams, will be well worthy of the attention of those on the lookout for rams to head flocks at next mating season. Messrs. Turner and Jull will have some good things of all ages to dispose of, and Oxford breeders generally will find it to their advantage to pay them a visit, or write them for particulars.

Oak Lodge Yorkshires.

Few breeders have made as great a success in their respective departments of improved farm stock as has Mr. J. E. Brethour, Burford, who not only has proved his skill as a Yorkshire breeder, but has gained the confidence of his patrons through a desire to give satisfaction by sending out the best individuals that can be produced. Oak Lodge Yorkshires have obtained a continental reputation through laurels won at every leading show in Canada, culminating in the achievements at the Chicago World's Fair, the history of which is still fresh in the minds of our readers.

In no manner do we find former efforts relaxed at this establishment. The same strict attention to details has been followed as formerly, while judgment in mating and generous care have been pursued with a view to produce a hog at once suitable to the feeder and bacon-curer, and neither expense nor trouble has been spared in getting together the best individuals of the breed. Neither has there been any falling away in numbers; on the contrary, we find the herd stronger numerically, with a greater choice in good specimens than in any previous year.

Seven boars and over forty breeding sows form an array showing careful selection difficult to duplicate in any line of breeding, while the meritorious display which their offspring exhibit is a fitting tribute to skillful mating. Three of the seven boars are imported. Dominion 3rd and Kincroft Hero were both bred by Mr. Walker Jones, Little Mollington, Chester, England, while Holywell Emigrant was bred by Mr. Sanders Spencer, Holywell Manor. Dominion 3rd won first in his class at Toronto, and also headed the first prize herd, and again won the special premium for boar and four of his get. At the London Western Fair he was equally successful, and he has also proven himself equally valuable as a breeder. Kincroft Hero, which, by the way, is an own brother to the sow Marion that has done so much for the Oak Lodge herd, has done good service, as the pigs by him testify, while Holywell Emigrant is also pleasing his owner by getting some grand young things.

Of the pigs bred in the herd Mr. Brethour speaks highly of Oak Lodge Diamond, and claims that he is one of the best boars he has ever used. He is of combined Duckering and Ashworth breeding. His dam, Lady Duckering, which was imported from the former herd, won first in her class at Chicago, while his sire was bred by Mr. Ashworth, one of the most noted English breeders. Oak Lodge Diamond has been a prominent winner at Chicago and in Canada. To attempt to describe the vast array of sows and give a detailed account of their breeding would entail a greater task than we have time to undertake here. At the same time we would mention a few such celebrities as Oak Lodge Primrose, which, at local shows, fairly beat those that had previously won at Toronto and London. The immense scale, great length, and

smooth finish of this sow are remarkable. Oak Lodge Rose and, that won first in the class for sows over a year when thirteen months old at the last Industrial, has done wonders, and will be apt to come to the front again, although her pen companion, Oak Lodge Donna, is likely to be a still stronger competitor for the same class at the coming shows. She is, indeed, a superb specimen, and is a yearling sow hard to beat in any company.

Among the choice young things we especially noticed the pair that won second in the bacon-curers competition at the Fat Stock Show, Guelph. At five and a half months they weighed 213 and 220 lbs., respectively. They have developed splendidly since, and are now a beautiful pair. Several pens in the piggery were filled with grand young sows of suitable ages for mating, while others have been bred to supply customers with something especially good in this line. In going our rounds among Yorkshire breeders we frequently meet with boars from Oak Lodge, and although the demand for these taxes the capacity of this excellent herd, still we noticed some especially good individuals which should make their mark wherever they may be placed.

As an idea of the volume of business transacted Mr. Brethour has shipped 275 pigs during the last year. These have been sent to no less than ten of the adjoining states, from Maine in the east to Washington in the west, while each of the provinces of the Dominion has claimed its share, pigs having gone as far as British Columbia in the west, while Mr. Brethour informs us that he has done as much business in Prince Edward Island as at any other point. It will repay anyone who is interested in breeding swine to pay this establishment a visit, as Mr. Brethour has made a thorough study of the business, and is now ready to show his stock and impart any useful information.

Meadow Brook Fruit and Stock Farm.

The proprietors of this establishment are Messrs. Samuel and W. H. Collinson, and it is situated near St. David's, in the famous Niagara peninsula, which has been long known as favorable for fruit production. The farm contains two hundred acres of fine land, and, although it has only been a few years in the possession of the present proprietors, yet they have already planted out some seventy-five acres in fruit, and the growth the trees have made in four years speaks of constant cultivation, and a liberal application of fertilizers.

While many peach orchards have suffered badly through the continued frost, there is a prospect of abundance of fruit at Meadow Brook, the dense foliage having done duty in protecting the fruit, a fact which Mr. Collinson attributes to the fertilizers used, as other orchards in the same locality which have received less attention and have a scanty covering of leaves are destitute of fruit.

Of the seventy-five acres fifty are set with peach trees, fifteen with grapes, six with pears, and four with cherries and quinces. The best varieties of peaches have been planted, and include Crawford, early and late, Fitzgerald, Crosby, Foster, Early Rivers, Alexander, Mountain Rose, and Longhurst, and it looks just now as if the fruit department at Meadow Brook will pay handsomely.

It is, however, the herd of Holstein-Friesian cattle with which our readers will be most interested, particularly as this is built up of choice individuals. The royally-bred bull, Count Mink Mercedes, holds premier position at the head of the herd. He was bred by Messrs. Smith Bros., Churchillville, and sired by their Mink Mercedes Baron, which won first at Toronto in 1888, 6-11 at the Provincial in London in 1889, and carried the sweepstakes at the same show, while he is equally well bred in producing lines. Belle of Orchardville, the dam of Count Mink Mercedes, gave 1,720½ lbs. of milk in thirty days as a three-year-old, 54½ lbs. in one day, and 5,093½ lbs. in five months. She won first at the London Provincial in 1889, and the diploma as the best female of the breed; she also won first as a three-year-old at Toronto. Count Mink Mercedes, therefore, comes honestly by his grand individuality, and will be found a hard nut to crack at the next Industrial, should he be forwarded there this autumn. In fact, we consider him one of the best bulls of the breed we have yet seen.

The cows are also a grand lot, and have evidently been selected from a high standpoint of utility, as size, quality, and high milk production are all embraced in their make-up.

Of the five which were first purchased in founding the herd, we were first shown the six-year-old cow, Aggie Gem and. She was bred by Messrs. Yeomans & Sons, New York. She is well bred in Aggie blood, is a cow of great substance, and is a heavy milker. A heifer of hers of last July, sired by the stock bull already mentioned, is equally promising. Lady Wedo 4th was bred by Mr. W. M. Sexton, Holly, Michigan. She is a cow of large scale, and her

record of 48 lbs. of milk per day as a two-year-old gives an idea of what she is to-day. She has also been a good breeder, as her handsome two-year-old heifer and fine bull calf attest. Rosalin Bonheur was bred by Messrs. G. D. Seeley & Co., Hay City, Mich. Her dam is Rosa Bonheur (imp.), which has a milk record of 17,406 lbs. of milk as a two-year-old. Rosalin Bonheur is a large, heavy cow of neat quality. She has a bull calf that is worth looking after, if size and milk production are the object. Bixx Funny and, bred by Mr. N. H. Nolmes, Holly, Mich., is another grand milker. This cow has already produced three heifers which are exceedingly promising. Both sire and dam are from imported stock from Holland. She has a milk record of 5,548 lbs. in 180 days, and has given 56 lbs. of milk per day after milking seven months. The six-year-old cow, Annie B. and, was bred by Miss Abbott, Lapeer, Mich. She has a two-year-old record of 59½ lbs. per day. She also gave 1,672 lbs. in one month, and 7,915 in six months. She is a large cow that looks like business, while a yearling bull of hers should be at the head of some herd, bred, as he is, in such high-producing lines.

The herd now numbers twenty-one head, with some five bulls for sale, and as they are all sired by Count Mink Mercedes, out of exceptionally good producing cows, they are worthy of the attention of those wanting bulls of this breed.

Berkshires, Cotswolds, and Jerseys at Messrs. J. G. Snell & Bro.'s.

Many years of prize-winning, frequently repeated importations, and a reputation for breeding the highest class of Berkshires are principles which have placed Messrs. J. G. Snell & Bro., Edmonton, Ont., in the front rank among the Berkshire breeders of this continent. It is not necessary, however, to dwell upon past records, for it is doubtful if, in any previous year in the history of the herd, there could be found the grand material which it now contains.

No less than six wonderfully good boars have been in use, all of which have been first-prize winners, and many of which are likely to repeat the honor before the coming campaign closes. Star One, that won first in the aged class at the last Industrial show, is among these. This was the only place at which he was exhibited since his importation. He will now be retained only for breeding. He was bred by Mr. J. P. King, Wallingford, England, and belongs to that gentleman's celebrated Ruby family. Those who saw him will remember what a lengthy, good one he was. He has wonderfully heavy bone, and is particularly wide behind, with exceptionally good hams, while in character he lacks nothing.

Lord Ross won first for his owners in the next class last year, and first the year previous in the class under a year. He is a good one to-day. He was sired by Messrs. Snell's Enterprise (imp.), his dam being a descendant of Ruth (imp.), of a family which are contributing the most successful prize-winners of the day.

Regalia, a year younger, is a capital pig. He is a thick, heavy, and long pig, that weighed 540 lbs. at the last Industrial, where he won first prize under the year. He, also, is by Enterprise, his dam being Lelia, a Moulford sow by Ruler, also a first-prize winner.

Rosebery is another good one, and properly bred. He is by Royal Brown, while his dam is Royal Lady, which we shall mention below.

Baron Lee 4th, however, is the star of the company, and is, without doubt, the best Berkshire boar we have seen for years. He was bred by that noted breeder, Mr. N. H. Gentry, Sedalia, Mo., and is from stock purchased from Messrs. Snell. He was sired by Mr. Gentry's most noted boar, Longfellow, while his dam is a sow by the late Mr. Arthur Stewart's noted Lady Kingscote family, which, together with his grandsire, Charming Duke, was purchased from Messrs. Snell. Royal Charming, the dam of Charming Duke, was a most successful prize-taker, and was sold by Messrs. Snell at \$250, while Minnie Lee, the imported sow, the founder of the family, is considered by Messrs. Snell to be the best sow they ever imported. Baron Lee has all the qualifications that are now being sought after. He weighed 602 lbs. at fourteen months old, and yet is as light on his feet as a pig weighing 200 lbs., while in smooth finish, length, and depth of rib and superb character he is unexcelled. Along with the capital class of sows in this herd, he should prove of untold benefit to Berkshire breeding interests.

Although the boars just mentioned are high class, yet the sows are equally good. Such is Royal Lady. She won first in the aged class at the last Industrial, and one and four pigs of her last spring's farrow carried the family prize for best sow and four of her progeny. She was sired by Royal Winner, which, many contend, was the best English-bred boar that ever was brought into this herd. As his name implies, he won first at the Royal English Show, the year he was imported, in the class under eighteen months.