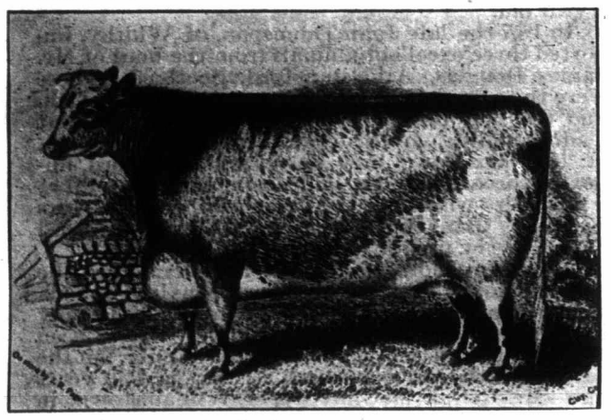
record as a show cow in Great Britain, having won for Lady Pigot, by whom she was bred, in two years upwards of five hundred guineas in prizes. She was a daughter of Mr. Booth's Valasco and of Rosy by Master Belleville, and cost Mr. Cochrane 235 guineas, or about $1,175. She was a model Shorthorn and had an unbroken run of success as a prizewinner at leading shows in Canada and the United States, and proved a capital breeder as well. Baron Booth of Lancaster was sold shortly after importation to J. H. Pickerell, of Illinois, the present editor of the American Shorthorn Herd book, in whose hands he made a splendid record as a prizewinner and a sire of winners. From this time and throughout the following decade importations were made on a large scale, in some cases numbering thirty to fifty head of cattle, Mr. Cochrane being one of the largest operators. It was in 1868 that he paid Capt. Gunter,



ROSEDALE =2243=

IMPORTED IN 1867 BY HON. M. H. COCHRANE, COMPTON, QUE.

of Wetherby, 1,000 guineas for Duchess 97th, the highest price ever paid up to that date for a female Shorthorn, and in 1869 came Queen of Diamonds, a magnificent show cow, which had won many prizes in England, and had a successful career in the U. S. Of this cow so good a judge as Richard Gibson has written: "She was, after Queen of Athelstane, the most symmetrical little cow I can call to mind."

In 1870 Mr. John Miller, of Brougham, made an important importation, which included, among others, the fine show cows, Cherry Bloom and Rose of Strathallan, which had been prizewinners in the old land, as they were at the leading shows in Canada, as well as proving exceptionally good breeders, the last-named cow having become famous by the prizewinning records of her descendants, which are highly prized at the present time.

In 1871 Mr. James I. Davidson and Mr. John Dryden made their first importations of Cruickshank cattle from the Sittyton herd. It was in this year that Mr. Dryden brought out the matronly cow Mimulus, by the famous Champion of England, the most potent influence in moulding the character of the greatest herd of its day. Mimulus was the dam of a number of superior bulls, including the celebrated Barmpton Hero =324=, himself a champion, and whose sons and grandsons made a phenomenal record in winning championship honors at leading shows in Canada. Repeated drafts from the same source, made in succeeding years, rendered the name and fame of these breeders well known throughout the American continent, Mr. Davidson having for several years had practically a monopoly of the Sittyton stock coming to America, of which he imported largely. Important importations of Scotch-bred cattle were also made in the seventies by the Thompsons, of Whitby; the Hunters, of Alma; the Isaacs, of Bomanton; J. S. Armstrong, of Fergus, and others, and from that date importations were numerous, and the breed was firmly established in the Dominion on a sound basis in the hands of many skilful breeders, who have well maintained the reputation of the breed both at home and abroad.

How Shall We Produce the Ideal Bacon Hog?

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—The farmers who are engaged in the swine industry and are aiming to produce the ideal bacon hog are at present much confused as to the proper breed of hogs, and, when this difficulty is ended, how to feed them to produce good firm bacon. We farmers go to hear someone who, it is said, knows all about the best breed and feed. This gentleman will tell us to get a Tamworth or Yorkshire boar to cross on our sows; then to feed no corn and but very little grain of any kind, give lots of exercise, and all will be well. Then comes another gentleman who also knows all about hog-raising. He tells us to get a Berkshire boar, and feed grain, shorts, corn, barley and rape, and to force our hogs as quickly as possible up to the desired 180 or 200 pounds, and we will be money in pocket. Now, how do we know which to follow? Then we hear the question asked, "Does feed or breed produce the soft bacon?" Now, we have been breeding hogs for the last eight or ten years, and during that time we have fed fifty to one hundred hogs per year, and have tried all the most prominent breeds, viz.: Berkshires, Poland-Chinas, Chester Whites, Tamworths, and, lastly, the Duroc-Jersey. We have also had a wide experience in feeding, and have come to the conclusion that any breed of the above named will produce good firm bacon or very soft bacon. I know that the Tamworth or Yorkshire are the most apt of all to produce soft bacon if they are not properly handled. Any breeder knows that they are a large, coarse hog, and their forms require a longer time to ripen than any of the smaller and finer breeds. We find that it is impossible to produce good firm bacon in less than eight or ten months with Tams or Yorks, but taking the Berkshires on the same feed they will make firmer bacon at five or seven months. We find that the Duroc-Jersey will ripen a little ahead of the Berk, and the pork will be as fine, if not finer, than any of the lot if properly fed.

Our method of feeding to a finish is this: Having a good place for the pigs to run in, say a well-grown patch of rape or clover, we feed barley and oats (chopped) in equal parts, with some shorts fed one day in the week; and for the last two weeks all the corn they will eat. This fall we had eighty pigs, all pure-bred Durocs, and our buyer gave us $5.15 per cwt., while he bought hogs of all other breeds and their crosses for $5, and he told us that ours were the cheapest from a bacon point of view and would make him the most money. Any hog must be made ripe, and this point can only be reached by age. Forcing will not ripen, but has a tendency to extend the time, if anything, of maturity. We have been told by many gentlemen who know all about it that we must go more into Tams and Yorks, as they will produce leaner pork. This we believe to be true, for we find it impossible to fatten them until after they are one year old. First we were told to kill at five or six months, then again we are told that we must not kill until eight or ten months of age, but I think that farmers will do as well to use their own judgment a little and not trot to every whim that the "know-alls" think fit to tell them. From our experience we favor breeding only from pure-bred sires and dams. If cross-bred pigs have proved in some cases profitable feeders, it is only another evidence of the value of pure blood, and there is no evidence that pure-bred pigs will not give fully as good results, and the prices that pure-bred pigs are selling at now need not debar any farmer from having them.

Kent Co., Ont. R. L. JARVIS & BRO.

To Induce Œstrum.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In ADVOCATE of 16th January I see a recipe recommended to bring cows in season, also your note on same. I will give my method. I use rennet (stomach of calf). For a large cow I would cut from a dry rennet a piece the size of a walnut. Soak it over night in about half a cupful of warm water. In morning pour off liquid and add to as much dry salt, and let the cow eat it. Have got liquid rennet from cheese factory, but prefer making liquid myself. I have used rennet for years and it always had the desired effect. I never noticed any bad effects from its use. I wish you continued prosperity. SUBSCRIBER.

Scalding Pigs.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In your paper of January 16th, 1899, a reader wanted to know how hot water should be to scald pigs, and the reply was that the water should be at a temperature of 185° or 195°. In your paper of Feb. 1, 1899, a correspondent says he has scalded lots of pigs and finds that 145° will take the hair off young pigs, while for older ones up to 160° is required. Now, I have scalded many hogs, using a thermometer. I have scalded hogs at 158°, but had poor results, as the water was too cool. I find good results when I use the water from 164° to 170°, but no hotter, for it sets the hair. If the water is up to 185° or 195°, I don't think there would be much skin left on when the hair would be off. I would like the man to explain how he can scald pigs with a temperature below scalding point, which is 150°. I also use ashes in the water, which is a great advantage to scalding. THOMAS SLOAN.

Elgin Co., Ont., Feb. 6th, 1899.

Docking and Castration of Lambs.

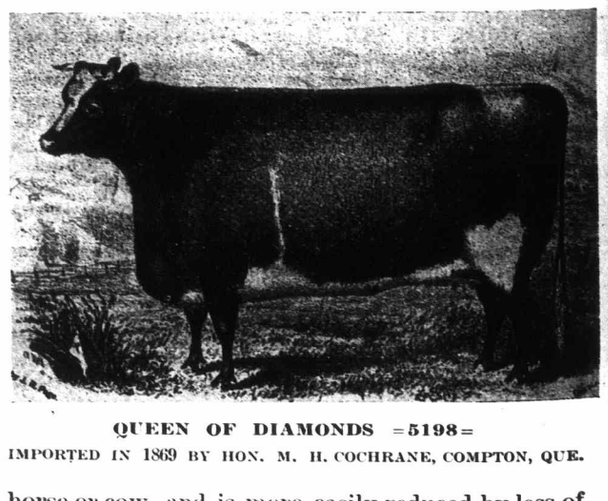
BY J. M'CAIG, PETERBORO, ONT.

It should be almost unnecessary to speak of the operations of docking and castration. Both operations are simple and easily performed, and the purpose of each well understood by the ordinary shepherd. However, there are still a good many sheep-owners—they cannot be called shepherds—who neglect both operations. Of course, the man who is raising stock for breeding purposes does not castrate, but among the other breeders who are simply raising lambs for the butcher's block, it will generally be observed that it is the farmer who is raising the worst scrubs that usually leaves his ram lambs uncastrated. There are good reasons for both castrating and docking of lambs intended for the butcher. In the first place, wether lambs flesh up better on the back than ram lambs; they are better handlers. The ram may be heavier than the wether, but he will not be as nice quality. Even if he is heavier, he will have taken more food to produce a given weight than the wether will have taken, as he is not such a quiet feeder. In the second place, any rams, except the one with which the ewes are coupled, are more or less of a nuisance if not sold in August. This, of course, only applies to rams to be sold for mutton. The breeder of stock rams is rewarded for his extra work by better prices. If the ram lambs have been castrated, they may run with the ewe lambs all fall and winter, if it is necessary to hold them over for better markets. Though all the ram lambs of a flock of pure-breds may not be suitable sizes, the breeder of such stock generally has to let all rams go uncastrated, as young stock is much harder to judge than old stock. An "unlikely" looking youngster may stretch out well by autumn, or a promising looking one go very small and stunted.

The advantages of docking are perhaps just as great as those of castrating. The danger of leaving them undocked is that on heavy lands and succulent grasses they often become soft behind and maggots are developed at the sides of the tail, frequently causing death if neglected. A lamb looks heavier, squarer, and more attractive to the butcher when docked, than he does with the brush dangling behind him, just as the Clyde colt looks better filled in the ham by shortening the tail.

To castrate the lamb, have an assistant hold it against his body, grasping both fore and hind legs, pulling the hind legs well up, so as to have the belly and scrotum well exposed between the thighs. Cut off one-third of the lower end of the purse and draw each testicle out with a slight jerk. Many find no bad results from cutting off two-thirds of the purse, including the testicles, with shears. This would be better done before the lamb is ten days old. Any time before three weeks old is better than after that time. The lamb should be not less than a week old and growing properly. The time chosen should be a warm, dry day, and the pens should have plenty of dry straw, as it is dangerous to have a newly-cut lamb lie in a cold, damp place. The morning is the best time for the operation, as the lambs can be stirred up if they lie down and have not the courage to suck right away, and cases of bleeding can be watched. In the case of well-grown lambs over five or six weeks old the scrotum should not be shortened, but a slit should be cut in each side to allow the passage of the testicle. The surrounding membrane should be opened and slid back, and the testicle scraped and severed back three or four inches on the cord. Bleeding is prevented by severing with a hot iron, instead of by cutting. Lately instruments have been devised by which the cord is severed by crushing or torsion, rather than cutting. These elaborate methods, however, are not necessary except in the case of lambs three or four months old.

Lambs may be docked at the same time that they are castrated, if the operations are done when the lamb is young. This is a matter of convenience. As far as the lamb is concerned, it would doubtless be better to dock at a week old and castrate at two weeks old to lighten the shock to the system. Have the lamb held as in the case of castration and sever the tail at one cutting. The proper length can be better judged from below than from the upper side, as the lower side is bare of wool. The tails should be pretty short. There is no dangerous results from cutting the tail off almost at the spine if the lamb is quite young. There is no need of making them quite so short as this, although some exhibitors think they get a squarer and solider looking butt by leaving no stump at all. This is a little unnatural, however, even for show sheep. The ewe lambs may be left with three-quarters of an inch and the ram lambs with fully an inch. It gives strength to the appearance of a ram lamb to have sufficient dock at least to lie flat across the rump. If the dock is too short it will not lie down at all. It is a matter of no small importance to have a ewe with a short dock. They require less trimming in the fall, and do not get so foul on soft food in the spring. A sheep has less blood in proportion to its weight than the pig,



QUEEN OF DIAMONDS =5198=

IMPORTED IN 1869 BY HON. M. H. COCHRANE, COMPTON, QUE.

horse or cow, and is more easily reduced by loss of blood. Where the tails are taken off with red-hot pinchers, which is sometimes recommended, the arteries are sealed up in the act of docking. In cutting, however, an occasional case of profuse bleeding may occur. The stump may be tied tightly with three or four laps of cord for a day or two in such cases. If the ligature will not stop the bleeding, then searing with a red-hot iron may be resorted to. The application of cold water will be effective in most cases. Another remedy is the application of powdered sulphate of copper (bluestone) immediately after cutting. It would be advisable to dust a little of this on in all cases to check bleeding. Though fatal cases seldom occur, it would check unnecessary loss of blood. Pure-bred sheep bleed worse than common sheep, and precautions are more necessary in their case.