

The Kennel.

A COLLIE FARM.

Correspondence of the (London) Live Stock Journal.

Several years ago, the Countess of Bective conceived the idea of establishing an association for improving the usefulness of shepherd's dogs—the Collie. The utility of these faithful companions can only be realised by those who are conversant with the extent and wildness of the mountain sheep runs of the northern counties. Miles and miles of unenclosed mountain lands are grazed by the hardy Herdwicks, Scotch black-faces, half-breds, and Cheviots, and were it not for the intelligent four-footed Collies, the labor of collecting the sheep would be impossible to the tenant-farmers who depasture their flocks upon the mountains. The sweetness of the mutton of these breeds of sheep have formed themes for the lake poets. On many of these farms a flock of heath-going sheep, varying from 100 to upwards of 1,000, are let with the farm, and the tenant, breeding from the same year by year, is required to leave the same number on giving up his farm. It may be asked how is the lambing time got over, and the clipping of these flocks accomplished, in districts where frequently the farmer's own family supply the whole work of the farm, and where extraneous labour is difficult to meet with. The reply to the first is that, owing to the hardy nature of the breed, they require little or no attention in parturition; and at clipping times the dogs bring down the sheep from the mountains, and the farmers hold what are known as "boon" days—that is, a certain day is set apart for the clipping of the flocks of each farm, and all the farmers, and their men, for miles around attend, and give their aid, making short work of the denuding of the fleeces. The tenant on whose farm the clipping takes place provides food and refreshment, and the night generally winds up with a dance for the younger folk, and cards for the elders. Thus kindly feelings and neighborhood are promoted. When the work of clipping is in progress there are no laggards or bunglers, each outvies the other in celebrity and deftness, and quick eyes are eager to discern "scamping" in clipping, and no delicacy is felt in exposing such.

Realising the necessity of improving the breed and training of the Collies, the Countess of Bective's initiative was quickly taken up by the leading landowners of the northern counties, and for several years past the Northern Counties Association for the improvement of Sheep-dogs have held trial days in Cumberland, Westmoreland, Lancashire, and Yorkshire alternately—working trials, at which handsome money prizes and silver cups have been distributed. Thus it came to pass that Collies have risen in public estimation in these northern counties, and thus it happened that whilst spending a brief Easter holiday at Kirkby Lonsdale, near to Underley, the country seat of Earl Bective, I learnt that the place possessed a Collie farm.

The news that Dr. James was a successful exhibitor of Collie dogs was no new news, but I had no idea of the dimensions of his possessions in that line. I found that he had rented a small farm, called the Lime Kiln Farm, a short distance from Kirkby Lonsdale, and that his stock of Collies was now upwards of 40 head. The kennels occupy considerable space, with the exercise grounds. One building is devoted to the preparation of the food for the dogs—certainly a not over savory one for the olfactory nerves; "but," said Blamire, the attendant, taking a knife and cutting into a hanging round of beef, "there are thousands of human beings who would enjoy a slice of that."

We agreed with him, although acknowledging that it was a trifle "gamey," just as many like their venison and winged game. One kennel is the Irish patent one, with every convenience as to water, facility of feeding, ventilation, &c. The other is larger, the centre being composed of a railway passenger coach, the seats forming the beds for the dogs, with smaller iron kennels at each end. Each compartment has yards railed off, some five yards by three, with floors of concrete, and are kept scrupulously clean, the dogs being bedded with clean straw, and both kennels have an extensive grass run surrounding them, for exercise, being enclosed by walls of corrugated iron some six feet high, and these have circular-topped iron railings, about ten feet high, so that it would require a wonderful jumper to escape.

The Collies comprise both smooth and rough-coated, the latter being numerous. There are also black-and-tan, and sable, the latter color predominating, as being more fashionable. Amongst the smooth-coated are Lady Help, we believe never yet beaten, and she is in beautiful condition; and Gazelle, also a young bitch, as to which some law proceedings are pending between Dr. James and Mr. Geo. Hall of Kendal, relative to the purchase of the same. Of rough-coated Collies, Highland Chief is certainly a gem of the first water, rich sable color, with splendid white frill; a sweeter head and better tempered face it would be difficult to conceive; he has won many prizes. Amongst other well known prize winners, are Our Friend, Clover, Lingo, and Wolf, all stud dogs. In bitches we found some beauties in Marigold, Frounce, Slyne, Snowflake, Tony Lass, and many others, most of which, we suppose, will be for sale. Thus, it happens, that having retired from the practice of his profession, Dr. James finds pleasure, and, we hope, profit, in his Collie farm, to which he adds the breeding of poultry, geese, and ducks. Our time did not permit an inspection of the latter, but as we left the Lime Kiln Farm we saw three grey geese disporting themselves in a small pond, and which we were informed had won the first prize at the Crystal Palace two years in succession.

SHORTHORNS AND ENSILAGE.

A correspondent of *The Agricultural Gazette* says:—"I had a look through the Underley Shorthorn herd, and, to my regret, found that the venerable and fine old dairy cow and regular breeder, Underley Darling, had died in October last. She was a grand old cow, and has left behind her a numerous and promising family. Under the care of the new bailiff, Mr. Ormiston, who hails from Midlothian, the whole of the cattle are looking well, and should the owner decide upon a sale this autumn there will be some choice young stock for disposal. There was an unmistakable odor of ensilage about the building, and Mr. Ormiston reports favorably of its use. Various experiments are in progress, but it is yet too early to report definite results. There are four silos, composed of seed-grass and clover, meadow grass, and oats, all of which were put in after being cut, and all having turned out well. The oats have a somewhat strong acid taste. The fourth was filled with rough park grass, uncut, and some turnip-tops were also put in. The latter were not useable, and the rough grass has a stronger smell than the other, and is cut up and used with other foods. Mr. Ormiston is of opinion that sweet silage can be made without pressure, by simply excluding air, and as the silos are to be extended another year, and as expense is not allowed to stand in the way with Earl Bective when experimenting for the

benefit of his tenants, no doubt this also will have a trial. On taking off the silage from the Shorthorn cattle and substituting roots, the milk was tested, and the cream was found to have decreased from 13 to 11. A similar experiment was tried with some ordinary dairy cattle, amongst which was the milk of a Jersey cow, and the cream dropped from 16 to 13. It is also claimed that there is a great improvement in the butter when ensilage is fed. Experiments have been made with calves, by substituting calf meals, &c., for whole milk, and to all appearance the calves which have been fed from birth on Bibby's preparations, and have never tasted whole milk, are doing just as well as the others. At Underley, nice plots of land are set apart for gardens for the laborers on the estate."

Live Stock & Kindred Markets.

OFFICE OF THE CANADIAN BREEDER
AND AGRICULTURAL REVIEW,
TORONTO, May 28th, 1885.

There has been no change of an important character in the British cattle markets since the date of our last report. The Whitsuntide holidays have not improved the trade, in which a generally dull feeling has prevailed. The tendency has been towards weakness, although not to a quotable extent, the demand having dragged along slowly at the late decline. Latest cables report trade dull and the demand very weak owing to the holidays, but make no change in values.

Quotations at Liverpool on Monday, being calculated at \$4.80 in the £, were:—

Cattle—	£	s.	per lb.
Prime Canadian steers.....	0	14	to 0 00
Fair to choice.....	0	13½	to 0 00
Poor to medium.....	0	12½	to 0 00
Inferior and bulls.....	0	9½	to 0 11½

TORONTO.

Monday being a public holiday, business in the Toronto live stock market has been very quiet this week. The run so far has been the smallest for months; the receipts on Monday and Tuesday being about seven loads. Tuesday's market was quiet, and owing to the light supply prices were generally firm. Butchers' cattle sold about ¼c. per lb. higher. Other quotations show no change.

CATTLE.—The demand for shippers continues good and in consequence of light offerings prices are firm. Choice cattle have been selling readily at 5¼ to 5½c. per lb. and good at 5c. The sales were generally in small lots. Only one load was reported as being sold; it consisted of fifteen head averaging almost 1,500 lbs. each at 5½c. Butchers' cattle also sold in small lots bringing for choice 4¼c. and the general run of good 4¼ to 4½c. A few common were bought at 3¼c. It is probable that for an extra choice lot 5c. could have been obtained. The advance is however not likely to continue as heavier offerings will cause an easier market. There were not many milch cows in the fresh arrivals, but a number which had been left over from last week were offered, making about 30 in all. The demand was rather better and sales were made at \$30 to \$50 a head.

CALVES.—Continue plentiful. The demand is fair and prices unchanged.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—The market shows no change. The supply is light, but a large movement would cause a decline from present prices, which are the same as they were a week ago. The offerings yesterday were a few small bunches of sheep of fair quality which sold at \$6 each. Spring lambs are not offering and are wanted at prices quoted below.

HOGS.—Continue in good demand. Stores are wanted. Supply is light. Prices are unchanged. Stores sold yesterday at 5, 5, and 5½c. per lb.

Following are the receipts of live stock at the Western Cattle Market here for the week ending Saturday, May 23, with comparisons:—