

### Ram Letting.

The practice of letting rams instead of selling them has been in fashion in Britain for many years past, and seems to have proved of great value in enabling the tenant farmers to improve the quality of their flocks at a much less expense than would have been the case had they been obliged to buy out and re-sell each year at a loss. It is also of advantage to the great ram breeder, who can now, through the facilities of transit by rail, send stock great distances at small expense, and consequently those who have acquired a high reputation for the careful breeding of rams of a high standard of excellence in quality, can readily dispose of all they can raise at highly remunerative prices. We are not quite certain as to the custom connected with ram letting in Britain, but believe that the rams are put up by auction in a lot, to be bid for, so much each, one at a time, the first choice falling to the purchaser of the first and therefore highest bid. As each is knocked down, the purchaser of that bid takes his choice and removes it out of the lot.

The rams are usually first let as shearlings, and can be returned to the owner as soon as the season is over, when if one proves a good stock getter it is again put up the next year, and so on. By this method the expense and trouble of keeping the rams over between seasons is saved to the user, who can obtain one from another ram breeder next year, and so prevent too close in and in breeding in his flock; which in the case of sheep is always to be avoided. No ram can be successfully and profitably used in a flock for more than two seasons consecutively, and good sheep breeders consider a change of rams every season to be best.

With the extension of railways over Canada, and the facilities we now possess for the transportation of stock, it would be well for those of our sheep breeders who reside at easily accessible points, to give particular attention to the matter of breeding rams of a high standard of excellence, and adopt the British practice of letting rams instead of selling them. We are confident that in this way a much larger demand would arise for them, and the idea of saving the cost of several months' keep, the annoyance of having to hunt up a purchaser for the ram in use before getting another, would induce many of our farmers to pay more attention to breeding sheep of a high standard of excellence, and give as much, or perhaps more, for the lease of a good ram for the season, as they would to purchase it. No loss could result to the ram breeder, as each ram returned would be available for sale another season till three years old, by which time the butcher or the compost heap should get its carcass. The purchaser for the season in all cases should take and return the ram at his own cost.

### Weaning and Rearing Five Hundred Calves.

An English exchange gives the following account of an experiment on an extensive scale in rearing calves artificially. It states that:—

"Five hundred calves are at present being weaned at Buscot Park by Mr. Campbell. Far too many together, some of our readers may rejoin; but whether the criticism be just or not can only be proved by the result. Certainly, Buscot presents facilities for a work of this kind possessed by few farmers. It is an estate of well nigh 4,000 acres, all in the hands of the spirited owner."

The following is the method of treatment pursued:—"First, they receive very little milk, but are fed first upon milk, and gradually changed when about a fortnight old on to a diet of gruel. At present, Indian meal and a little linseed cake ground fine are the materials used, and the general method adopted is based upon the same principle as was enunciated by Mr. Henry Ruck before the Cirencester Chamber of Agriculture three years ago.

"The leading idea, both at Buscot and Mr. Ruck's farm, was to wean calves with the smallest possible amount of milk, and Mr. Ruck has not hesitated to state that any number of calves may be reared on his principle, say after the first fortnight, with little or no milk at all. Indian corn meal is the staple of the gruel used at Buscot, and this is diluted with the requisite amount of water, and given in buckets to the calves at the temperature of new milk. Mr. Ruck's method is rather more complicated, but it must be remembered that young animals will repay extra trouble and attention, and that a method of feeding may be so simple as to become monotonous to the animal and scarcely fitted to the special requirements of individuals.

"Mr. Ruck's plan may be thus described: 7 pounds of finely ground linseed cake is dissolved in two gallons of hot water, and to this are added two gallons of hay tea; 7 lbs. of mixed meal, consisting of equal parts of wheat, barley, oat, and bean meal, are also added with two gallons of water. This mixture, which may be described as 7 lbs. of linseed cake ground fine, 7 pounds of mixed meal, two gallons of hay tea, four gallons of hot water, is given to the calves as follows:—Two quarts in the morning, further diluted with two quarts of water; and two quarts mixed with two quarts of water at night. Upon this gruel the calves thrive well, and are weaned at twelve weeks old, having cost not more than from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. per week. Mr. Ruck is fully convinced of the practical character of the method of weaning calves just described, but insists upon the importance of strict personal supervision and attention to the wants and peculiarities of appetite of each."

### A Drover on Fattening Cattle.

Mr. Bela S. Hastings, who is one of the leading drovers from Vermont, in supplying cattle for the Boston market, gave his experience and observation in relation to fattening stock, at a late meeting of the Caledonia Co. Farmers' Club:

He said the main object of the farmer was to get the most out of his fodder. It does not pay to feed grain to a poor creature, one that does not take on flesh rapidly. Farmers will do better to dispose of such stock for what it will bring, and procure animals of good style. He believed that one-half of the grain fed was wasted by not being fed to good cattle. Another important point is, farmers do not feed heavy enough. He would commence with as much feed as they could bear at first, and then increase. In feeding twelve quarts of meal, the last four quarts are worth twice as much as the first four for fattening purposes. Some farmers complain that they do not get pay for the grain they feed out, but he had noticed that it was only those that fed light that thus complained. Whether the animal was to be fed a long or a short time, he would recommend heavy feeding. Mr. Hastings said he knew nothing better than corn meal. The cob is not worth much, if anything. Those persons of whom he purchased fat stock, who were the most successful, and made it most profitable, were those who fed meal largely. If a farmer has potatoes or other roots, it is well enough to feed those in part, but a farmer will do better to exchange some of his roots for corn than to feed roots altogether. It is important to feed regularly and not too often, as the stock will eat and lie down and ruminate. It is better to feed cattle but three times a day, and sheep but once.—N. E. Homestead.

### Judging Cattle by Points.

Cannot our Provincial Board of Agriculture get together a small committee of experienced men, with the view of framing a set of rules for the judges of cattle to go by in awarding the premiums at exhibitions. It might be tried first in one class only, say the Shorthorns, and if it was found to work well and proved satisfactory, the same plan could be gradually introduced into other classes. It is always a difficult matter to obtain the most desirable men as judges in a particular class, and it must be conceded that unless really first-class judges and men of experience can be obtained, there is always more or less dissatisfaction with the awards.

In framing the rules, regard should be had to the value of each point in the particular breed to be judged upon, and by fixing a sort of arbitrary scale, the acme of each point being designated on the set of rules by a number, and graduated according to the value or desirability of the presence of that particular point, so as to make up, when all