

Dr. Bell.*To the Editor.*

SIR,—The late Dr. Bell used to reside here in old times, when he was tutor in the family of the late Hon. Adam Fergusson, and when the family visited us in summer for a few months. He was then the Rev. Mr. Bell, and was well known in this place. He had a very pretty little model of his reaper with him, which he left in Fergus when he returned to Scotland before he got his parish. The model, however, disappeared some time after, and no one could tell how.

Mr. Bell's first open trial took place, according to London's *Encyclopædia of Agriculture*, in 1828, but I am pretty sure the first *practical* trial was in 1825 or 1826. The machine Mr. Carter refers to was most likely, as your correspondent from Cobourg suggests, that of the late Mr. Smith of Deauston, which, according to Mr. London, was tried in 1815. Mr. Smith's invention, although very ingenious, has, I believe, been dropped, and unquestionably Mr. Bell's, with improvements, is the successful reaping machine of the day.

Fergus, August, 1869.

F.

"Thoroughbred."*To the Editor.*

SIR,—Will you be good enough to inform me what is meant by the term "Thoroughbred Shorthorns?" I ask so as to satisfy the curiosity of myself and friends in this neighbourhood, who are thinking of making some entries for the City of Ottawa Agricultural Exhibition. One of our number has a bull entered in the Canadian Herd Book, but some of his progenitors are marked with an asterisk *, showing shortness of pedigree.

Is this bull eligible for entry in the Provincial Exhibition of Ontario? If so, he must be eligible for the City of Ottawa Exhibition, as I understand their rules, as regards pedigrees, are framed from the Provincial. By noticing this question in your next issue, you will much oblige.

ST. LAWRENCE.

Prescott, Aug. 27, 1869.

NOTE BY ED.—The answer to the first enquiry will be found in the Canadian Herd Book, which defines such an animal to be one whose pedigree shows not less than four crosses with Herd Book bulls. This is the rule adopted in the English Herd book, and has been followed in our own. The occurrence of the asterisk, as we understand it, indicates not so much any want of purity of blood, as some deficiency in the documents respecting pedigree. It is presumed that there is satisfactory evidence of purity of descent, if any bull is admitted into the Herd Book. Consequently, we do not think that the mere fact of there being a starred bull in the pedigree of any Shorthorn, should exclude him from competition in the Shorthorn class at any agricultural exhibition. We understand that this is the principle on which the managers of the Provincial Exhibition will act.

A Small Cheese Factory.

A Constant Reader asks :

"Supposing a person kept twenty milch cows in the Eastern Townships, would it pay to establish a small private cheese factory for them? What would be the cost of one large enough? How many hands would it be necessary to employ, and what would be the best breed of cows to keep?"

ANS.—It would undoubtedly pay, especially in the neighbourhood of so good a market as Montreal. The cost for one to use the milk of twenty to thirty cows need not exceed five hundred dollars, including buildings. One good boy to attend to the cows, feed and water them, help to milk, and two dairymaids to make and cure the cheese, would be sufficient. The best breed of cows for that section would be the grade Durhams crossed with Ayrshire. If Stilton and such of the extra fancy grades of cheese were made, and the work well done, there could not be enough made to supply half the demand for them at Montreal and Ottawa.

ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THE CANADA FARMER should in every case be sent in to the office of publication not later than the 7th of each month. Particular attention to this notice is requested, as advertisements received after the above date will be too late for insertion.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, CANADA, SEPT. 15, 1869.

Notes on the Weather

The past month of August, though not quite so wet as July, has been unusually so for the season, and the coldest August we have had for twenty-nine years, with one exception, that of 1866, which was three degrees colder. The crops are not turning out as well as was anticipated, and in the northern counties especially, are very late in ripening. At this date, Sept. 1st, but few fields of spring wheat have been cut in Huron County, and further northwards. The first autumn frost occurred on the night of 31st August, during the prevalence of a cold northwest wind.

The highest mean temperature of the month at Toronto was 63° .6, being 2° .5 below the average of twenty-nine years, and 3° .6 colder than last year. The highest temperature was 89° on the 20th, the lowest 43° .5 on the 6th.

There have been seven clear days, six entirely clouded, and eighteen partially so. Rain fell on eleven days to the amount of 4.273 inches, of which 1.150 inches fell on the 21st. There have been five thun-

der storms during the month, of which, two were pretty heavy and severe.

The prevailing winds have been westerly, with a northerly inclination.

Taking the summer as a whole, it has been one of the coldest and wettest that has been experienced in Canada during the last twenty-nine years. The mean temperature of the season has been 62°, or 6° below that of last year, and 2° .8 below the mean of the series; the total quantity of rain during the three months has been 13.256 inches, while the quantity during the same period last year was only 4.289 inches, and the average since 1840 has been 9.062 inches.

But little really warm weather has occurred, and the nights have been almost invariably cold, so that no sooner does the sun shine out than evaporation goes on so rapidly as to prevent any accumulation of heat, either in the soil or the atmosphere. This coldness has moderated the tendency to rust in the spring crops, wheat especially, and also checked the increase of insect enemies, so that though the midge is seen in nearly every wheat field in the back townships, it does not seem to have done any considerable damage.

Agricultural Exhibitions.

During this and next month the various Agricultural Societies will hold their annual shows. First, we have the Provincial at London next week (21st to 25th Sept.), which is every year attracting greater crowds, and will this year be graced with the presence of our noble Queen Victoria's third son, Prince Arthur, as well as that of the Governor General of our Confederated Provinces. No farmer can visit it and see the magnificent specimens of our herds and flocks, the vast array of the productions of the soil, and the ingenuity of our mechanics in constructing labor-saving implements to meet his various wants and those of his family, without returning a wiser and better man. Let the farmers not forget that much is being done to elevate their calling to the rank of a profession, and that it is their part to give all the encouragement they can to our agricultural societies, not only by their presence along with their wives and families at the show, but also by contributing specimens of their skill in turning to the best account the productive powers of nature. Let none be deterred by the trifling expense or the trouble involved. It is a mistaken economy that will induce the farmer to withhold his countenance and aid from a well-conducted agricultural society or exhibition worthy of the name.