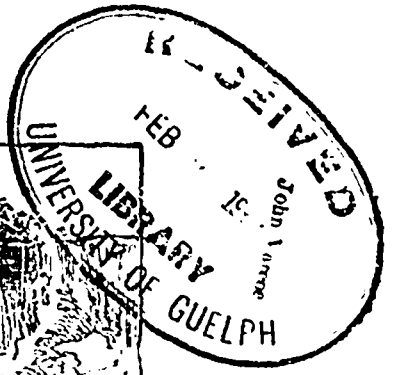


PER
S
1
C32
v 6 # 49
1884



AND ORGAN OF THE ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

VOL. VI. - WHOLE No. 1
No. 49 - 309

WELLAND, ONT., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1884.

TERMS: ONE DOLLAR
Per Annum
IN ADVANCE

THE SHORTHORN OR DURHAM.

Of all the improved breeds of cattle the Durham is the oldest, and was far a long time considered the best. It is, in fact, an excellent beef producing breed, equal to any other if the production of beef alone is concerned, and whose form and countenance are never probably to be surpassed.

The history of the Durham breed of cattle is interesting and may be related in a few words.

More than a century ago, a farmer named Waistell, who was endeavoring to improve the native breed of cattle of his neighborhood, (he was living on the shores of the river Tees) happened to meet a bull calf which drew a great deal of attention for the neatness, elegance and compactness of its form. He went to see the owner and enquired what price he would take for the animal. Forty dollars was all that was asked for, but this sum, small as it seems, was then exceeding the ordinary value of such a young beast, because the Durham breed had not yet acquired that fame which it got later on. Waistell could not make up his mind to pay such a sum, and went away without making any bargain. On reaching home he met one of the two brothers Collins, (Robert) who were living near by, and who, like himself, were trying to improve the native breed of cattle. Waistell, laying much confidence in the sound, practical judgment of that breeder, whose name began already to spread as a stock breeder, induced him to come back to see that young bull and to tell him what he thought of him. Robert Collins examined the bull calf with the utmost attention, did not say much, but could not help showing enough his admiration of him as to decide his companion to buy him. The next day Waistell came early to the owner's house and bought the calf. Just as he was going to leave he saw Robt. Collins who was also coming, (too late however) to purchase the young bull calf, and who returned home in the company of Waistell. On the way he was clever enough to buy from Waistell half of the ownership of the bull calf.

This was in 1777.

Four years later, Charles Collins, brother of Robert, bought this bull, which was none else than the renowned *Hubback*, one of the fathers of the improved Durham breed. *Hubback's* principal points were the width and depth of his chest, very small bones and a remarkable mellowness of the skin, all characteristics of great fattening qualities. *Hubback's* fattening tendency was such that his owner had much trouble

to keep him in such a condition of fat that he could be used for breeding. These exaggerated, but special qualities he had inherited from his dam, a remarkable cow, well known of all the breeders and owned by Mr. Snowden, of Hartworth, in the county of Durham. Mr. Snowden was then Sir James Pennyman's tenant, from whom he had bought *Hubback's* mother, known under the name of *Wilton's cow*. Sir James Pennyman had bought this cow from Sir W. Saint-Quentin, who was then the owner of the best animals of the Durham breed.

It is the opinion of those who have made a history of the Durham breed that its origin dates from much farther back

taining to the breeding of sheep for wool and sheep for mutton. Our country is so large, and some sections so distant from market, that breeders find it easier to clip and transport wool than mutton, and they therefore direct their attention to those breeds that excel in wool production, the consequence is that no people in the world have such inferior mutton as we have. It is impossible to find a dozen first-class sheep in one hundred that arrive in market that may be classed as excellent. Such sheep have been neglected in order to produce wool. It is easy to estimate the difference in cost between the production of wool and mutton, for, allowing that wool is worth fifty cents a pound, the value

pounds of wool to the clip will not compensate for lack of size and quality in the carcass. In England they find the profit in mutton is so great as to make sheep a necessary adjunct to the farm, which would not be the case if they bred for wool. With the increase of population in this country comes a greater demand for mutton, for we have but little of it, and that demand is certain to increase. As it increases, the field for breeding sheep is also widened, and if we are to compete with Australia and demand a tariff to protect us, we will at least be safe and secure against foreign competition in the mutton supply. Of course we find mutton in our markets, but such mutton could not easily be sold in England. The usual flocks that come to our markets are very inferior. The people are anxious for mutton—good mutton—and it will be profitable to the one who sends it to market.

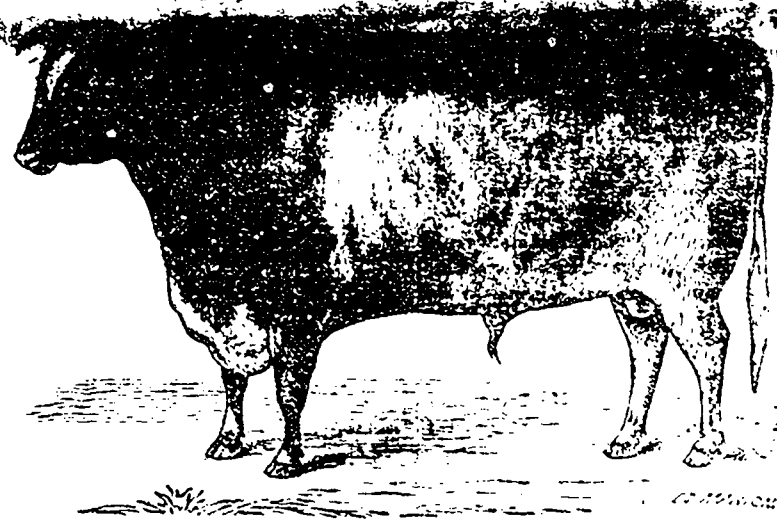
Subscribe for the Farmer—Only 50 cts. from now till January, 1885.

MANURING.

ED. CAN. FARMER.—I think that it is of the greatest importance that farmers apply all fertilizing matter in the best possible manner. There is a diversity of opinion amongst farmers in every section of the country. When doctors disagree who shall agree? Every farmer should know how to apply manure to his land so as to get the best crops. This should vary with the seasons, whether wet or dry; but who can foretell the weather to a certainty. In a dry season manure should be plowed down deeper than in a wet one, and so in a dry soil. Twenty years ago some farmers in this section spread manure on the grass ground and then plowed the land about a foot in depth, putting the manure under the sod, but this practice is mostly abandoned, and now the ground is plowed and the manure spread on top of the soil and harrowed. In this way the manure is mixed with the surface soil and made available sooner for the nourishment of the crop. It is the opinion of many that manure should be kept near the surface of the soil, and it is practised by nearly all of our best farmers. Two years ago I plowed a piece of land for cucumbers; after it was plowed I spread on the manure and harrowed it into the soil. Although the season was one of the driest, I harvested the best crop of cucumbers that I have ever grown.

Yours truly,
AN OLD FARMER,

Oxford.



DURHAM BULL.

and that the brothers Collins did not start their herd with common cows. Collins founded his herd with two then well known cows *Old Favorite* and her daughter *Young Strawberry*. These two cows were bred to *Hubback* and the offsprings were the heads of the most illustrious families of the Durham breed.

(To be continued.)

SHEEP FOR MUTTON.

Wool is more important in this country than mutton, and with the claims that the wool interests are not fostered by the Government, the breeders of sheep, instead of using their animals for all the purposes to which they are adapted, confine themselves to a single production only, and complain that sheep are not profitable except under circumstances that permit only of unlimited range over free pastures. But wool, while seemingly more important than mutton, is really not as valuable if we take into consideration the facts per-

of a fleece is not a large sum; but if breeders will endeavor to breed sheep that possess desirable carcasses, with something also besides the ribs and legs, not only would the increased weight be a source of great profit, but we venture to say that the extra quality of mutton that is produced expressly for market would of itself add an additional item to the receipts, thereby increasing the profits. On some railroads sheep are transported to market at so much each, and the large sheep are, therefore, the cheapest, as they sell by the pound when they arrive at their destination, and, although wool is easily baled and shipped, there is still considerable labor in shearing and preparing the wool for shipment. There is a portion of profit also from the best mutton breeds in the shape of wool, even though it may be inferior, but it is enough to pay the expense. The profit from sheep should be made as large as possible, and the addition of a few more