Breeder and Grazier.

The High Price of Meat.

There can be doubt that the continued high price of meat, both at home and abroad, is beginning to attract considerable attention, and the fact offers an extra inducement to our farmers to raise better stock and more of it. These high prices are caused of course by an increasing demand. The population of all our principal cities has been very largely augmented within the past few years, and not only of the cities, but suburban towns and villages as well. The last census showed that we had then to feed a population throughout the Dominion of about a million more than we had ten years before. Similar remarks apply to Britain and other European countries which have now, do what they will, to import large herds annually to supply their home consumption. It is in view of this fact that a Canadian Company has recently been organized in Sherbrook, Quebec, for the sole purpose of purchasing and slaughtering Canadian cattle, and shipping the prime joints to England. That company, it is expected, will employ over two hundred hands, and slaughter four hundred animals every week.

Since Confederation too, our animal exports have more than doubled, as may be seen from the following:—

Year.	Value of Exports.
1868	$ 6,893,167
1869	8,769,407
1870	12,138,161
1871	12,582,925
1872	12,416,613
1873	14,243,017

From this it may be pretty safely averred that at no distant period the value of our stock exports will be considered of greater importance than that of the exports of grain and other produce of the farm.

In 1873 alone this Dominion exported 25,637 head of cattle, 5,335 hogs, and 315,832 sheep; whilst the imports during the same time were 2,757 head of cattle, 6,000 hogs, and only 5,770 sheep—showing thus a money-value difference in favor of our exports of $1,504,858, and this not taking into account at all horses or poultry, which again show a difference in our favor of $944,614. With a continuation of such a traffic—and it not only continues but increases as we observe from year to year—meat must still rise in price. It therefore behoves our agriculturists to turn their attention more rigidly then ever to stock farming. Many portions of Canada are admirably adapted for it, and with good stock, well tended and provided, we see nothing to hinder our farmers to enrich themselves and benefit meat-hungry humanity at one and the same time.

Productiveness of Corn for Fodder.

The severe drought of the past season will have a tendency to induce farmers, and especially such of them as are to any extent cattle breeders, to cast about them for something more reliable than the grass which "springeth up" only to "wither in an hour."

We have frequently recommended, in these pages, the use of corn for fodder, giving at the same time ample directions as to its culture and manner of curing; and it is gratifying to know that all those who have practically tested the matter are, so far as we are able to learn, abundantly satisfied with the result. It is from a full conviction of the importance of the subject, that we thus give "line upon line," and although the article which we are about to quote may in some respects be considered somewhat out of season, the facts given are well worthy of being stored away for future reference. The writer, a correspondent of the *Farmer's Union*, says:

Few wide-awake, practical farmers at this day doubt the value, for all kinds of stock, of corn, sowed or planted, for feed; but few, I think, are aware of its great productiveness. For several years I have weighed the crop from small areas and with almost identically the same results. I will state, in short, the conditions and the result of one year's experimenting.

One-third acre was planted in drills, about two feet nine inches apart; one bushel of seed used, a large kind of dent, scattered a little and covered with the hoe. Planted it the first week of June, on good land in fair condition for a corn crop. It was somewhat weedy, but weeds were kept down by cultivating three times, when the luxuriant growth so shaded the ground that no weeds could grow. In fact, corn planted and cultivated in this way, is a sure exterminator of any weed, however pertinacious or pig-headed. Even witch grass had to wilt, as I found years ago in the east. In August the growth was heavy, but by no means extraordinary. I have, in other years, raised a heavier burden. After reaching its full growth, but while yet green, I cut and bound in bundles the product on exactly one-half a square rod in two different places of the tract, and immediately weighed each lot. The green weight in one case was 189½ pounds, or almost exactly at the rate of thirty tons to the acre. Weighed each lot two or three times a week for three weeks. The first three or four days it lost nearly one-half its weight. The last week showed very little loss; two last weighings none at all, though fine weather. The first lot showed at last weighing seventy-six and one-fourth pounds. The second lot weighed seventy-four and three-fourth pounds. Total loss of weight was three-fifths of the green weight, the dried product being two-fifths of the weight when green. Yield per acre, twelve tons of the dried crop. I have in other years found the per cent. of the weight of the dried product to the green, to be uniformly almost exactly forty per cent.

Its value for feeding purposes has been variously estimated; but every practical stock man knows, who has tried it when well grown and cured, that horses, cattle, sheep and hogs all love it and thrive upon it. East and west its use is rapidly increasing year by year by the best dairymen and stock feeders. I believe from experience of years, that its feeding value in winter, when grown as above described and well cured, is equal to the best hay, ton for ton, and far superior to the wild hay a large proportion of the animals of the west have set before them. Its very great value as green feed in summer and autumn is now so generally admitted that most enterprising farmers have a patch of it. But if the product of one acre of corn fodder is equal to six acres in heavy grass; or if one hundred tons of good corn fodder can be grown on eight and one-third acres, and equal in value to one hundred tons of hay grown on fifty acres, is it not an object for farmers to know it? Or if six times the stock, making six times the manure, can be provided with winter food from the same farm by raising fodder corn rather than hay, is there not money in it? Roots are the great stay and dependence of the English for the growth and fattening of stock. Must not our great stay and dependence be corn fodder and corn.

Care of Team Horses.

The following good advice to teamsters has been published in the form of a poster, and sent out by the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. It is signed by Daniel H Blanchard, and endorsed by several veterinary surgeons, agents of railway and express companies, and by Charles A. Curner, special agent of the society:

Potatoes or carrots may be given once or twice a week, to good advantage.

See that your horse is kept clean, warm, and comfortable, with plenty of bedding.

A piece of rock salt should always be left in the manger.

See that his harness is kept soft and clean, particularly the inside of the collar, which ought always to be smooth, as the perspiration, when dry, causes irritation, and is liable to produce galls on the shoulder.

The collar should fit closely, with space enough at the bottom to admit a man's hand. If too large it has the bad effect of drawing the shoulders together.

On no consideration should a team, or any work horse, be compelled to wear a martingale, as it draws the head down, and prevents him from getting into an easy and natural position.

The check rein may be used, but only tight enough to keep the head in a natural position, and it should never be wound around the hames.

See that the hames are buckled tight enough at the top to bring the draugh-iron near the centre of the collar. If too low, it not only interferes with the action of the shoulder, but gives the collar an uneven bearing.

Caution should be taken that the girth is not buckled too tight, particularly on the strong teams, for when the traces are straitened, it has the tendency to draw the girth against the belly, and distress the horse.

See that the horse is kept well shod, with a good stiff shoe, always calked at the toe and heel on hind foot, as it is there where all the propelling power comes from when heavily loaded.

Keep the feet good and strong by not allowing them to be cut away too much by the blacksmith.

The best of judgment should be used in loading, taking into consideration the condition of the street and the distance to be travelled.

Never overload, for by so doing you only distress, strain, and discourage your horse, and do him more injury than you can possibly gain by carrying the extra load.

When your load is hard to pull, stop often, and give your horse a chance to breathe.

No good driver will ever resort to the cruel practice of whipping or beating his horse. A light whip may be carried, but there is seldom use for it. Much more can be accomplished by kind treatment and good judgment.

Remember the horse is a very intelligent, proud, sensitive, noble animal, the most useful known to man, and is deserving of the greatest kindness.

A Model American Merino.

At a meeting of the South-Eastern Wisconsin Sheep Breeders' and Wool Growers' Association, the secretary, George Lawrence, jr., of Waukesha, presented the following as his idea of a model or standard of perfection of an American merino:

No. 1. Carcass.—Unquestionably the first point to be regarded, because on the proper constitution or proper structure and connections of its parts depend the health, vigor, and hardiness of the animal. Plump, good size for the variety; the body should be round and deep, not over long, and both the head and neck short and thick. The back should be straight and broad; bosom and buttock full; legs not over long, well apart, straight, and strong, with heavy forearms.

No. 2. Folds.—Good, heavy neck folds, particularly on the ram; a short fold or two back of the elbow, and some small ones round the roots of the tail and on the breech, the latter running in the direction of lines drawn from the tail to the stifle; and a good deep flank.

No. 3. Fleece.—The body and limbs should be densely covered with wool of as uniform a length as attainable; the wool should stand at right angles to the surface; except on the inside of legs it should present a dense, smooth, even surface, externally dropping apart nowhere. Density and heaviness the leading considerations.

No. 4. Evenness of fleece.—Evenness of quality in every part of the fleece, so far as this can be attained, is one of the first points of a well-bred sheep. Fur is objectionable, and is the indication of bad blood, or a defective course of breeding.

No. 5. Fineness and softness of fibre.—Wool should be of equal diameter from the root to the point of the fibre. Wool is said to be sound when it is strong and elastic.

No. 6. Style of fleece includes the combination of useful and showy properties, which gives value to choicest wool, viz: fineness of color, lustre, uniformity and beauty of curving, and that particular mode of opening on the body which indicates pliancy and softness.

No. 7. Yolk.—A liberal quantity of yolk in its most fluid form, and a moderate quantity of external gum; but neither in excess, to spoil the value of fleece.

No. 8. Head.—The head should not be over long, with a good foretop, descending in a curve on the nose a little below the eyes, circling around the eyes a sufficient distance, so as not to obstruct the eyes; should be of good length and dense, and the wool standing at right angles with the forehead. The ears should be small, coated with thick, soft, mossy hair about half way to the roots, so as to give a feeling of thickness and softness, and the remainder of the outer surface should be covered with wool.

No. 9. Legs.—Should be well covered to the hock with wool of even quality, good length, and standing at right angles with surface. The armpit and scrotum are necessarily bare, but these cavities should be as small as the freedom of movement will permit.

No. 10. Belly.—Densely, well-covered belly, with wool of equal length, and equally as good in quality as any part of the fleece.