

EDITORIAL.

Announcement.

The publishers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE respectfully request the assistance of its friends everywhere in extending its circulation during the subscription season now begun. By so doing you will benefit others and do us a good turn.

In order to facilitate making up our extensive mailing lists, we ask all our present readers to *renew promptly*.

Agents or those desiring to secure new subscribers will be specially interested in the splendid list of premiums offered on another page. Read it. The proper time to begin work is *now*.

Sample copies and terms will be sent on application.

A couple of thousand swine died in about a week near Champaign, Ill., breeders and feeders both losing heavily.

The announcement was recently made that the German Government had scheduled United States steers and beef because of the discovery of Texas fever in a couple of cargoes landed.

Elsewhere we begin an interesting and seasonable series of papers on the system of management of draught horse breeding pursued on Old Country farms, prepared originally by as competent an authority as Mr. Archibald MacNeilage.

The Australasian, of Melbourne, states that the Department of Agriculture has undertaken the shipment of eggs, geese and turkeys to London, Eng. Producers are advised to send the geese and turkeys alive to the Department, and they will be killed and frozen at a nominal charge.

It was no small honor, as reported elsewhere in this issue of the ADVOCATE, for Canadian stockers to have beaten the Scottish-bred steers as feeders on their own ground. The experiment was conducted by an able and careful man, whose faith was pinned to the Old Country steers to begin with, and who, in order to avoid reaching an erroneous conclusion, repeated his test before giving the public the benefit of the results.

Stock of all kinds should be kept free from disturbance while feeding. This is especially true regarding sheep, owing in part to their natural timidity. Besides being quick to detect the presence of strangers, they have an instinctive dread of dogs. Good sense and gentleness of disposition are qualifications that every feeder should possess, in order that the most friendly relations may exist between him and the dumb dependents whose wants he is supplying.

Denmark has been so repeatedly held up as an example for Canada to emulate that many have come to think of it as a land literally flowing with milk and money. However, a recent report by Capt. J. C. Lacour, for the year 1893, speaks of the "universal depression" in agriculture in that country, among the obstacles cited being the growing competition of Australia in the English butter market; low prices for farm produce, with the exception of pork; cattle disease, and consequent prohibitive measures on the part of other countries.

The condition as regards available food supplies for stock confronting the Scottish feeder this season is as follows:—(1) a fair supply of bulky fodder; (2) a deficient crop of turnips, and (3) feeding stuffs at a lower level of value than has been experienced for a series of years. The man who, under these circumstances, follows the same old beaten track pursued when feeding stuffs were 30 to 40 per cent. more costly than they now are, is missing an opportunity which should be seized so long as it presents itself. "Mutton," observes an Old Country exchange, "is a fairly good price, and it will pay to give feeding sheep a liberal supplement either of home-grown grain or of purchased feeding stuffs, or what is probably preferable to either of these alone, a mixture of both. Beef is commanding such a poor price that it is difficult, if not impossible, to suggest any sort of diet which would make the production of that kind of meat profitable to the feeder. But the low market price of cakes, grain, &c., affords stock-owners a favorable opportunity of doing their young cattle well, so as to have them in excellent order in the spring when the grass comes, on less turnips than heretofore." Besides these considerations, there is the further enrichment of the land following the use of concentrated feeding stuffs.

Our Illustration.

The portrait gracing our front page is a life-like representation of the two-shear Lincoln ram Vulcan, Can. Sheep Record 158, *alias* Royal Idlewild, lately sold by Capt. T. E. Robson, Ilderton, Ont., to C. C. Rice & Co., Idlewild Stock Farm, near Chicago, Ill., for a good long price. He was bred by Messrs. Gibson & Walker, Denfield, Ont.; sired by Riby Conqueror, bred by H. Dudding, Riby Grove, Lincoln, England; imported by Gibson & Walker in 1891. Vulcan's dam was also bred by H. Dudding; sired by the 100-guinea Biscathorp. John Geary, in speaking of Vulcan, said: "I consider him the best sheep in America." Although just in nice breeding condition, he is a massive, well-proportioned animal, bearing a remarkably even fleece of superior wool. Col. C. C. Rice, 178 Michigan St., Chicago, Ill., is at the head of the company now owning this valuable ram.

Capt. Robson's flock, from which Vulcan has been sold and upon which he was used during the past autumn, contains a lot of splendid ewes. In 1893, ten ewes were selected from a flock of 50 just imported by Geary Bros. They were a grand, heavy, healthy, hardy lot, just the sort to form a foundation upon which to build a splendid flock. One of the old ewes is still alive, and Mr. Robson informed us that she raised two good lambs this year, and has again been bred. It is also noteworthy that the first prize three-year-old Columbian Victor over a "Royal" winner was the product of this flock.

Two years ago a few ewe lambs were added to this flock, purchased from John G. Robson, whose foundation stock came from Mr. R. Gibson's importation of 1872. John G. Robson bred from these the ram that won first prize at the Centennial in 1876.

This year a few more ewes were added to the flock. They were bred by H. Dudding and imported by Gibson & Walker. The rams used upon the flock besides Vulcan, *alias* Royal Idlewild, were: Geary's '93, bred by Arthur Garfit, Lincoln, Eng.; Geary's '95, bred by Robt. Wright, Lincoln, Eng., and Geary's O, better known as King Tom II., bred by H. Smith, Nottingham, Eng. The breeding flock now consists of 25 ewes.

Besides the Lincoln flock, Capt. Robson owns a herd of Shorthorns that are not inferior to his sheep in breeding or individual excellence. The herd consists of a dozen breeding cows and a few heifers and calves. To describe each animal minutely would demand more space than is just now available. We will refer to a few, which will, to all intents and purposes, represent the rest. Golden Robe = 20306 = stands at the head of the herd. He is a beautiful roan yearling, with as fine a coat of soft, mossy hair as we have seen for many a day. He was bred by John Isaac, Markham, Ont. His sire is Knight of St. John = 17012 =, dam Golden Bud (imported) = 23015 =. In addition to the merits of his pedigree, Golden Robe is a model in conformation. His well-developed quarters, well-sprung ribs, deeply-fleshed back, with straight upper and under lines, makes him a worthy animal to head any herd. The thirteen-year-old roan cow, imported Wimple = 5233 =, has been a money-maker of no insignificant character. She has been a regular breeder of splendid stock, is now in calf, and looks like producing several more before her time comes for superannuation. She was bred by S. Campbell, Kinellar, Scotland, imported in 1882 by J. & W. Millar, Brougham and Claremont, Ont. Her daughter, Wimple Birdie, sired by Indian Chief = 11108 =, is now an important individual in the herd. She was one of Cockburn's splendid herd that went to the World's Fair, and was sold at his sale for \$300. Although she was fitted up to high show condition just a year ago, she has returned to nice breeding fix without a sign of roughness or patchiness. Her age of two years, beautiful red color, general appearance, history and breeding give her a standing of no minor importance. Mysie's Gem = 17046 =, a seven-year-old roan cow, is one of the right stamp, an undoubted showing animal when in condition. She was got by Royal Victor (imported) = 4126 =, dam Mysie Thirty-eighth = 4105 =, a Provincial winner. Of the younger members, we may mention Lady Zoa II., a grand yearling heifer, out of the daughter of a Royal winner. She is a beautiful roan, with a splendid mossy coat. The remaining four yearlings are by Cockburn's British Chief, and do him great credit as a sire.

Mr. Robson, very wisely, does not keep his stock overloaded with fat, but in nice breeding condition. It is of rare occurrence that a female misses breeding for a single year after commencing. The dairy qualities of the herd are of a high order, as the udders which several of the matrons swing would indicate.

British Columbia.

Without a visit to the Pacific Province a very indifferent idea of her vast resources is obtainable. Her wonderful fisheries, immense timber supply, unlimited mineral wealth, and great agricultural capabilities, combine to make her a marvel, and fill the mind of the beholder with the deepest interest. Of the agricultural industry, its present extent and requirements, together with the continually increased demand upon it, in supplying the rapidly increasing population, we place before our readers a few interesting facts. The great advantage of a home market, of such importance to the agriculturist, is assured in this Province at present, and no doubt for some time to come, from the fact that about \$3,000,000 worth of farm products are imported annually for home consumption. Beautiful fertile valleys, with climate and conditions of growth which will produce in abundance, fruit, vegetables and cereals, remain in part or wholly uncultivated. Ranches, with accommodation for thousands of cattle, with luxuriant grass, and a plentiful supply of water, are still awaiting the arrival of the thrifty settler. While this obtains, the consumption of agricultural products is being constantly augmented by the extension of mining operations and other industries. With such conditions, agriculture in British Columbia, whether viewed from a provincial standpoint, or that of the agriculturist, is certainly full of promise, and demands most careful attention—first in order, to the retaining of millions of money in the country now sent abroad; and, secondly, on account of the pleasant and profitable employment to be afforded in its pursuit. Probably no country has a greater variety of climate. Within its borders are localities admirably adapted to mixed farming in general, or for any special branch in which one may wish to engage, while for fruit growing, the magnificent displays seen at the agricultural exhibitions throughout the Province give only a faint glimmer of the immense possibilities in this direction. Among these displays were to be seen in almost endless variety, apples, pears, plums, etc., of such perfection in size and quality as to leave no room for doubt in the mind of anyone, of the complete adaptability of this Province for fruit growing. Although the autumn was so far advanced at the time of our visit that many choice varieties of plums were out of season, yet numerous varieties were seen, and these were of such exquisite quality as to convince us that it is a plum country "par excellence."

To be continued.

Sunflower-Seed Cake.

Among the many artificial stock foods, the product of the sunflower is receiving considerable attention in stock rearing countries. Recent analysis in Germany have shown it to be rich in albuminoids and fat, there being 44.44 to 47.62 per cent. of the former, and from 12.02 to 12.50 per cent. of the latter.

Where it has been used, agriculturists differ in opinion as regards the best forms in which to utilize the meal, some being in favor of mixing it with water, while others prefer to use it in the dry state. The objection to the former method is that it falls as a precipitate to the bottom of the vessel. The dry method, in which the meal is merely sprinkled upon roots or chaff, is upon the whole, preferable. Most oil cakes can readily be broken up into a fine meal, but sunflower cake is an exception. It is so hard that cattle find some difficulty in chewing the larger pieces. For this reason it is thought advisable to grind it before use into as fine meal as possible, in order to render it more digestible.

Many agriculturists prefer to use the cake coarsely rather than finely ground, thinking that the greater mastication increased digestion from the action of the saliva. Dr. Theodor, a German experimenter, points out that albuminoids and fat are not acted upon by juices before reaching the stomach and intestines. Just here is a valuable point in favor of coarse grinding starchy foods, as the ptyalin of the saliva changes starch to sugar.

The question of sunflower growing for this purpose is worthy of consideration and investigation by farmers and experimental stations.

"Owing to the great increase of factories," says an Australian exchange, "the export of butter from Victoria during the coming season will be greatly increased, and it is anticipated that between 10,000 and 12,000 tons will be exported this year, against 7,652 tons in 1893-4. The improved appliances recently introduced and invented in the colony in connection with the dairying trade will also have a beneficial effect upon the quality of the article, and it is expected that over £1,000,000 will be distributed amongst the producers."