

EDITORIAL.

Mr. Henry Arkell's Oxford Down Sheep.

Mr. Henry Arkell, of Arkell P. O., has for many years held an enviable reputation for breeding high-class Oxford Down sheep. His practice has been to import the best sheep obtainable, many having been showyard winners in England, and from these the majority of the flock he now has is descended. Mr. Arkell was one of the first to introduce this grand breed of sheep into Canada, the first importation having landed on his farm in 1881. Before this date he had been breeding Cotswolds extensively, and had been very successful in establishing a reputation for fair dealing, which doubtless has rendered him great assistance in disposing of his Oxfords. In the frequent importations he has made during the last twelve years he has drawn on the most noted flocks of England, and as his selections have been taken from the flocks that have carried winnings in each year, he of necessity now has in his possession a variety of blood and the best blood of the greatest English flocks.

It is, therefore, not surprising that he has been foremost in the fray at showyard meetings in Canada during the last few years, and sheep of his own fitting have been quite able to hold their own in the highest company. The story of his winnings at the Toronto Industrial and at the "Columbian," Chicago, has already told what he has done towards upholding the sheep of his choice and the credit of Canadian breeders through the season that has just drawn to a close.

The illustration that appears on our front page for this issue is only a fair representation of such specimens as he generally imports: Such sheep as British Wonder, Doncaster Royal, The Nob among his rams, and Millie Miles among the ewes—the latter having distinguished herself by winning first as the best ewe of any age or breed at Detroit in the open class.

Having gained a continental reputation, Mr. Arkell has found it very difficult to withstand the drain upon his flock occasioned by the increased demand that he has found for his sheep. This has been partially overcome by purchasing from those breeders to whom he has sold sheep of his own breeding and importing in former years. Thus he is enabled to do these breeders a good turn by finding a market for their sheep, and at the same time can supply his customers with sheep equal to his own in breeding and merit.

If the land is not all thoroughly underdrained, open up the water furrows so that the water can get off the land, and the farmer will not be kept waiting for weeks in the spring for the land to dry.

This is a good time to weed out all unprofitable animals from the herd. It will pay to keep only those which give a good return for the feed. All others should be fitted for market as rapidly as possible and disposed of.

The young stock will need special attention at this critical period of their growth, for if a calf or foal be stunted the first year, it will seldom recover the lost ground. It must be kept in a thriving condition, if it is expected to turn out well in the spring.

Live stock has been recognized as the pillar of agricultural prosperity in Great Britain for the last three-quarters of a century, and the only hope of our Dominion is to pursue this industry. Farm lands can be made to produce double the present capacity, if those who occupy them will only make the production of live stock and live stock products their first aim. It is the direct benefit that the farm receives through crops being fed at home that gives the indirect profit to farming as a business.

November is usually one of the busiest months of the year on the farm; what with threshing, fall plowing and preparations for winter, all the spare time is required. A few suggestions will not be out of place. Upon the farm, as indeed in everything else, much depends on prompt action, otherwise much time will be lost; and this applies with additional force to work in fall and early winter. We must remember that everyday's work done on the farm in the fall means a saving of time and labor in the spring, when everything needs attention at once. As long as the present open weather continues, every effort should be made to finish the fall plowing, for just on this work much of the success of next season's crop depends.

There will be plenty of work to be done in the orchard and garden this month. Grape vines should be cut back, only leaving spurs of new wood, containing two or three eyes each, for next summer's fruit. In some parts of Canada it will be necessary to protect the vines in some way. This can be done by laying them down and covering either with earth or some waste material.

Raspberries and blackberries fruit only on last year's growth, hence the old shoots should be cut away and the young shoots shortened up.

Pruning at this time of the year will save much work in the busy spring, though one advantage of deferring the work to the spring is that in exposed positions the thick clusters of shoots and bushes will collect the snow, and thus protect the bushes.

An application of manure between the rows of small fruits will protect the roots in winter and feed them in the early spring, thus increasing the size and quality of the fruit. As soon as the ground is frozen, cover the strawberry beds lightly with marsh hay, coarse manure, or some other light protection.

Thin out the young wood of gooseberries, to give plenty of light for what remains. Red currants bear mostly on short spurs on the old wood, and except with young bushes where larger growth is required, the last year's growth should be cut back to the third eye from the old wood. The black currant fruits from last year's spurs as well.

Doubtless the most important work that can be recommended for this month, in regard to the destruction of insects, will be that of burning all prunings and brush in the orchard. Also, if all weeds, leaves and other brush found in fence corners and around thickets, are raked together and burned late in the season, and before winter sets in, it will serve to destroy many of the insects which have secreted themselves, and expose many others to the effects of the frosts, birds and other enemies. This is recognized as an important means of lessening the damage annually caused by insects.

Miss Omerod, the well-known entomologist of Great Britain, has received a report from her correspondent in Norway, to the effect that the Hessian fly is now for the first time doing considerable damage in that country. Specimens of infested straw showing the presence of the flat, brown chrysalis of the *Cecidomyia destructor*, which so resembles a flaxseed, arrived with the report.

It is now one year since the obnoxious restriction was placed upon the free entry of Canadian cattle to the inland market of Great Britain. The reason given at that time was that disease had been found among the cattle shipped from the Dominion, and although the promise was not exactly made, yet Canadians were given to understand that as soon as the members of the British Board of Agriculture were assured that no disease existed within the Canadian boundary, our cattle would be again placed on the same footing as before. From time to time the FARMER'S ADVOCATE has dealt strongly with this subject, and has always contended how much the welfare of cattle feeders and shippers depends upon the advantages of free entry of finished cattle. In this opinion we stood almost alone, as the Canadian press, with hardly a dissenting voice, held that access to inland markets was no advantage to us, and as long as our finished cattle were allowed at certain ports and slaughtered within ten days of landing, that was all we required; and, doubtless, these arguments caused much of the apathy of the Dominion Government in not dealing more promptly with the subject at the time. One year's trial has proved most conclusively that our contention was only too well founded, for the unanimous verdict given by those in the shipping trade is, that there is a loss in any event of \$10 per head, when the cattle are landed in the best possible condition. This is because carcasses of beef are depreciated in value from the impaired appearance of the meat through being shipped from the seaboard to the point of consumption. Several of our British contemporaries, who are naturally antagonistic to the trade, claim that it was generally hoped that the restriction would ultimately kill the shipment of live cattle. The only conclusion that we can arrive at is, that although Great Britain is presumably affecting free trade, she is pursuing as far as the live cattle trade is concerned a highly protective policy, under the pretense that our cattle are diseased.

Gather in and store under cover all tools and implements not in use. The leak caused by neglecting this is one of the great factors in sinking the farmer's ship.

If you desire an ice house, it had better be built now. If put off until cold weather sets in, it will not be likely to be built at all, and for another year you will have to do without one of the cheapest luxuries in the world, and one of the most essential things for dairying.

Although the hay crop was more than usually heavy throughout the Eastern Provinces, yet there is very little bulk of straw, and in many localities roots and corn are very light crops. It will, therefore, be well to economize as much as possible, for although prices of coarse grains and hay are now cheap, there is likely to be a substantial advance before the end of winter. There are many ways in which feed may be more cheaply supplied, but chiefly through chaffing hay and straw. Farm horses, which have many idle days throughout winter, are too often allowed all the hay they can cram into them, while much is trodden under foot and wasted. If hay and straw are chaffed, dampened, and ground grain and bran added to the mixture, the horse will be much more cheaply wintered, and will be kept in better condition.

Take an early opportunity of thoroughly cleaning out and repairing all stables, sheds, henhouses, and all places where stock is to be housed. Repair all windows and put in fresh glass where it is found wanting. All the light that can be obtained is needed; none should be lost by filling the windows with old clothes, bags, etc. See that the doors are in good repair, and that they will shut tightly. In other words, get the stables ready for the stock in plenty of time. It does not pay to use feed grain at any price to keep the animals warm, and the animal heat must be kept up in some way. Thousands of dollars worth of feed are wasted in this way every year, which might have been saved by spending a few cents for lumber and tar paper in the fall. Keep the stock comfortable, if you would receive any profit from them. Do not be afraid to put them in the stable too early in the season. Some farmers think that the longer they can put off feeding their stock in the fall, there is just that much gained. Stock of all kinds, and especially dairy cows, should be housed as soon as the nights begin to get cold, otherwise they will fail in flesh, and the milk will grow less in quantity.

Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union.

The good work that is being done by the above institution, through the system of co-operative work in testing fertilizers and new varieties of grains, is becoming known beyond the province, for the London Live Stock Journal has the following complimentary remarks to make regarding it:—One of the most important features of the Ontario Agricultural Experimental Station is its system of co-operative work in agriculture which has been established in the province. Fertilizers and seeds are distributed annually among the graduates of the college through their association, known as the Agricultural Experimental Union, and also among other interested and progressive farmers throughout the province. In the spring of the present year, no less than 322 packages of fertilizers, 894 of fodder seed, 1230 of root seed, and 3110 of spring grain, were sent out to Ontario farmers. This system of co-operative experimenting was started upon its present basis in 1886. In the first year of the work there were only twelve experimenters; in 1887, sixty; in 1888, ninety; and since that date the work has had a steady and substantial growth in accordance with the development of the station and the demands of the province. There are at present upwards of 800 experimenters with spring crops; 400 others can be supplied with winter wheat.

Good Shorthorn Sales.

There have been some very successful Shorthorn sales held lately in Scotland, but that of Wm. Duthie, Collynie, capped them all with an average for the twenty-one bull calves of £50. 15s., Jas. M. Williams' dispersion sale at Stoneytown coming next with an average of £37 on fifty head of mixed Shorthorns of both sexes and all ages, all of Scotch breeding, followed by the Edengrove sale (of principally Booth blood) at which 34 head averaged over £31, and the largest sale of Bates cattle coming fourth with an average of £33 on forty-six head.