

dropped during the past few weeks; yet they were as large as most calves are when the summer is half over.

The young bull, "Earl Barrington 2nd," a yearling, is no disgrace to his sire; he promises to grow into a strapping animal.

In the straw-yard we noticed some good grades, by Holstein bulls, out of common cows; the dams were pointed out to us, and the appearance of the offspring was a decided improvement. Their owner informed us that he intends to keep on crossing these grades with pure-bred bulls, and by that means get a lot of improved milch cows.

Mr. Shunk is also a breeder of first-class horses, keeping a fine specimen of a Canadian-bred Clydesdale stallion upon the premises, and some excellent draught mares. Besides these there is a handsome pair of well-bred carriage mares, prize-winners at many fairs, including the Toronto Industrial. We were shown a pair of last year's colts, from these mares, for which the handsome figure of \$400 was refused last fall. Here is another example of the benefits to be derived from breeding with high-class animals of all descriptions. In this instance, more can be had for one colt, when only a few months old, than could be realized for most full grown colts, as ordinarily bred by our farmers.

Passing up Yonge Street, near Richmond Hill, we called at

LORRIDGE FARM,

the residence of Mr. Robert Marsh, to have a look at his celebrated flock of Southdown sheep, and, as was to be expected, found them in first-class condition, with their owner daily expecting a crop of lambs. We have before described LorrIDGE Farm, so shall refrain from doing so now.

This valuable flock of sheep is another living testimony to the value of pure breeding, if it is only in the prize ring, where Mr Marsh annually carries off about \$500; while the expense of attending the various fairs does not amount to much more than one-third of that amount. Then the sales are away up with brisk demand; while the price received for a single sheep would suffice to purchase a small flock of inferior bred animals. The wool also fetches higher prices, and the weight of fleece is heavier. The establishing of a flock like the LorrIDGE one cannot be done without the exercise of judgment and a considerable outlay of money; and unless a person has the taste for breeding sheep, he had better keep aloof. Mr. Marsh tells many interesting stories of his earlier struggles, and the obstacles to be overcome before reaching the top notch.

To obtain the best sheep he frequently has had to pay prices which would have staggered many breeders; but securing the best, at no matter what cost, has amply repaid the enterprising owner. To keep up the high reputation of his flock, Mr. Marsh has yearly to import from the best flocks in the Old Country. This is because Southdowns develop earlier in England than they do with us; besides there are many fine flocks to select from, and the honour of possessing winners of firsts at

the Royal Show greatly adds to the reputation of a flock in this country.

MARKHAM FARMERS' CLUB

is one of the strongest organizations of farmers in the Dominion. In addition to their periodical meetings for discussing topics of importance to the farmers, they annually have an extra gathering, in the shape of a banquet, which is graced by the presence of the wives, daughters and lady friends of the members of the club. After dinner, addresses are delivered to the older members, by gentlemen prominently connected with the agricultural interests; while the younger ones trip the light fantastic toe along with their fair partners.

The success of this year's gathering was materially interfered with by one of the heaviest snow storms we have experienced this winter, blocking up the roads and almost completely stopping travel. A meeting of the few members present was held, at which it was decided to postpone the annual meeting to the following week; and what should have been an instructive, sociable evening proved disappointing to those who had assembled.

STEELE, BROS. & CO.'S SEED WAREHOUSE.

Although it cannot be described as a rural ramble, yet a description of a seed establishment will doubtless prove of interest to those of our readers who have not had an opportunity of seeing one themselves. For that purpose we paid a visit to Messrs. Steele, Bros. & Co.'s, of Toronto, one of the largest establishments of the kind in Canada.

The front portion of the ground floor, overlooking Toronto's hay market, is the retail store—a fine, lofty apartment. In rear of this are the offices, in which five or six book keepers are busily engaged. Behind the offices, the warehouse stands.

Up the elevator we went to the top story, which we found filled with bags of seed, piled up to the roof, tier after tier. All these had to undergo a thorough cleaning, although to an ordinary person this seed seemed as free from foreign matters as possible. The front part of this spacious room is divided off. Here we saw all the appliances for bag-making and printing labels, Messrs. Steele's business being so extensive that it actually pays them to have all this kind of work done upon the premises.

Descending to the next flat, we found the rear occupied as a cleansing room; two fanning-mills were raised upon a platform about five feet high. Into these mills, —driven by a fine engine situated in the basement—the seed is conveyed by shoots from the upper floor. Our first impression, on looking at the seed before it entered the mills, was that it was wasting time; but, after it had passed through, and we saw the quantity of foreign seed and dirt separated from it, we were compelled to alter our opinion. We mention this fact to show how careful wholesale merchants are to send out only the best seed.

Another part of this floor is used for the grass department. Seventeen varieties of grasses, besides clover, were stored in large bins. A farmer ordering any par