

Stock Department.

The Winter Coat of Horses.

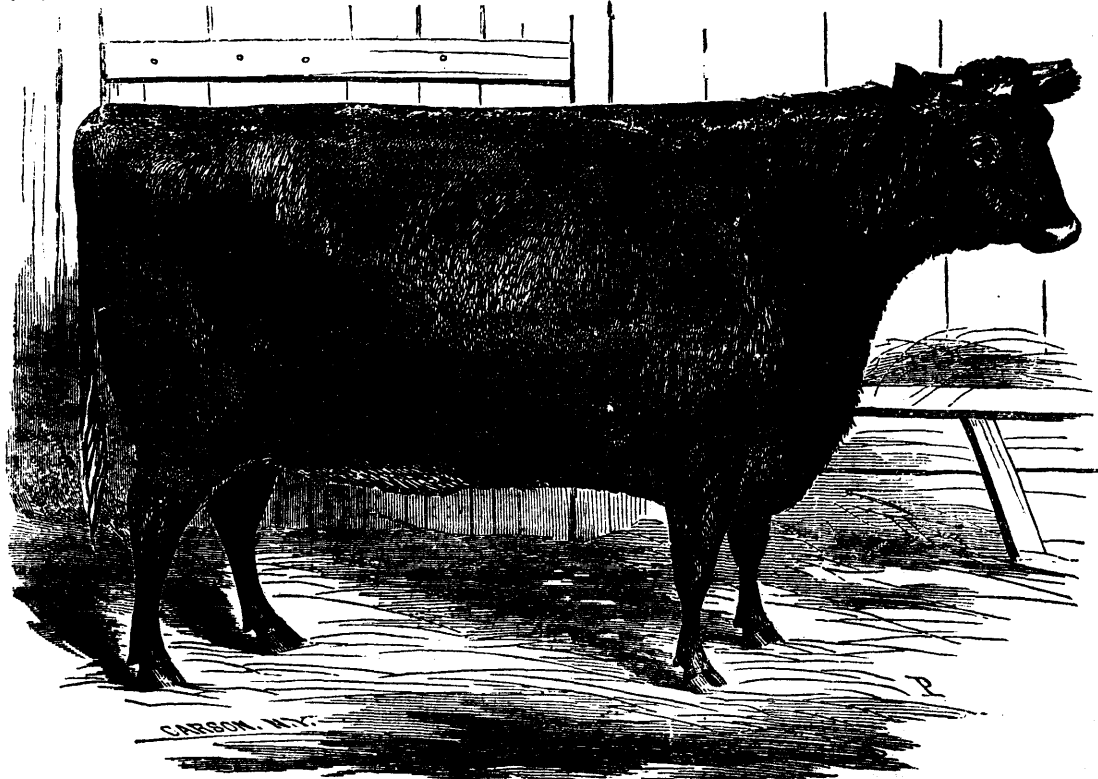
HAIRS and all strictly analogous formations are periodically produced, increase by continuous deposition of fresh matter at the base, and are at length shed, and replaced by a new, and precisely similar growth. When this happens simultaneously all over the skin, the whole coat is changed. The bird moults and comes forth with new and brilliant plumage, and the quadruped casts off its old covering, and acquires a new, fine and glossy garment. These changes are so timed, moreover, as to correspond to the varying temperature of the seasons. The fine short hairs, when first formed, composing a comparatively cool covering for the summer heat, become, by the advent of winter, when they have acquired their full length, a warm and sometimes a shaggy coat, well adapted to defend the body against the rigours of this period of the year. In the horse, and especially in those that are natives of such a climate as ours, this change in the coat is very marked. The increased warmth of the winter covering is ordinarily set off, as it were, by a less glossy appearance. This is partly

minimum, should find many strenuous advocates. We do not think the custom adapted to this climate, though in the milder and moister atmosphere of England it may be really beneficial. The English hunter, and even, at times, the roadster, are called upon to make violent exertions, which will necessarily excite a profuse perspiration. If in this condition, with the natural thick winter coat of hair, the animal is brought into a warm stable, it will be a long time before the coat will become dry, and the horse is very apt to take cold, from long standing with a wet skin. The clipped coat obviates this danger, saves the groom a vast amount of trouble, gives the animal a degree of life and sprightliness very agreeable to the rider, and apparently exhilarating to the horse, for the same reason that a human being if turned out into the cold with scarcely any covering would be forced to "step lively" in order to keep up the circulation of the blood. To our taste, the practice even in England is no improvement as regards appearance; we prefer nature's finish to man's fantastic docking and shaping. But tastes differ, and fancy in horse-flesh is not guided by artistic rules. In this climate, however, on the ground of these severe cold and the sudden and extreme changes of temperature, we cannot think the practice in question either safe or judicious.

PEDIGREE.	DAM.	Colour of Dam.	Breeder of Dam.
Dam.....	"Duchess 92,"	Red	Captain Gunter.
g. d.....	"Duchess 84,"	Red and White.	Captain Gunter.
gr. g. d.....	"Duchess 72,"	Roan	Captain Gunter.
gr. gr. g. d.....	"Duchess 67,"	White	Earl Ducie.
	"Duchess 59,"	Roan	Thos. Bates.
	"Duchess 56,"	Red and White.	Thos. Bates.
	"Duchess 51,"	Roan	Thos. Bates.
	"Duchess 41,"	Roan	Thos. Bates.
	"Duchess 32,"	Red and White.	Thos. Bates.
	"Duchess 19,"	Yellow Red....	Thos. Bates.
	"Duchess 12,"	Red and White.	Thos. Bates.
	"Duchess 4,"	Red and White.	Thos. Bates.
	"Duchess 1,"	Red and White.	Chas. Colling.

SIRE.	Sire's No.	Colour of Sire.	Breeder of Sire.
"4th Duke of Oxford,"	11887	Red and White.	Earl Ducie.
"Archduke,"	14099	Roan	Capt. Gunter.
"4th Duke of Oxford,"	11837	Red and White.	Earl Ducie.
"Usturer,"	9769	Roan	W. Hall.
"2nd Duke of Oxford,"	9046	Roan	Thos. Bates.
"2nd Duke of Northumberland,"	8646	Red and White.	Thos. Bates.
"Cleveland Lad,"	8407	Rcan	Thos. Bates.
"Behvdero,"	1706	Yellow Red....	Thos. Bates.
"2nd Hubback,"	1423	Y. Red & White.	Thos. Bates.
"2nd Hubback,"	1648	Y. Red & White.	Thos. Bates.
"The Earl,"	646	Yellow Red....	Thos. Bates.
"Ketton 2nd,"	750	Roan	Chas. Colling.
"Comet,"	155	Roan	Chas. Colling.
"Favourite,"	252	Roan	Chas. Colling.
"Daisy Bull,"	186	Roan	Chas. Colling.
"Favourite,"			
"Hubback,"			

obviated by the practice of blanketing, whereby the moisture of the skin and an abundant secretion of its natural oils are promoted. The extra artificial covering is also in most cases advantageous as a fit and grateful protection to the animal, in the peculiar circumstances attending domestication and the service of man, against the extreme severity of our winters. In this climate, and with such stables as are found in most farm steadings, the blanket is of essential service, if it is properly employed; but too often it is irregularly used, and serious mischief results. The blan-



"DUCHESS 97th,"—The Property of M. A. COCHRANE, Esq., Compton, Quebec.

"Duchess 97th."

WE have much pleasure in presenting our readers with a life-like representation of "Duchess 97th," the costliest Short Horn importation ever made into this country. When Mr. Cochrane brought "Rose-dale" to Canada, he placed on our soil the finest known specimen of the Booth family of Short Horns, and "Duchess 97th" is not a whit her inferior as a representative of the Bates family. The story of her purchase, voyage, and arrival has already been told in our columns, so that we need do no more at present than supply her picture and her pedigree. It is a source of pride to all stock men in this country that we possess these choice animals, and Mr. Cochrane has universal good wishes that he may find his large outlay a profitable investment.

PEDIGREE.

"DUCHESS 97TH," Red. Calved March 27th, 1867. Bred by Capt. Gunter, Wetherby Grange, Yorkshire; got by "3rd Duke of Wharfedale," 21619, Roan, bred by Capt. Gunter.

ket should not be used upon a horse at all in the winter, unless it is used faithfully. The great trouble in its use arises in this way: When a team has been driven a few miles to market, or the same distance for pleasure, blankets or robes are put on; but when drawing logs to the saw-mill, or doing other heavy work, they are made to haul large loads a mile or two, and return at a brisk trot, then stand unblanketed while another load is being put on. Or perhaps while driving upon the road—sleighing good, speed high—a friend is met and half an hour spent in talking; the horses cool suddenly, take cold, and the owner wonders how it happened. By such inconsiderate treatment more harm results in the use of the extra clothing than if it were omitted altogether. With due care, nevertheless, it is of essential service in the trying winters of Canada.

While the additional covering seems the consistent supplement of the warmer natural coat, it is somewhat strange that the practice of clipping or singeing the hair, before the advent of winter, so as to reduce the protection of the skin against the cold to its very

Oldest Horse.

PERHAPS the oldest horse in Ontario is owned by M. Yoder, of Springfield, Elgin County. Old "Jerry" was bought at Mitchell's Corners (now Aurora), twenty years ago. He was sold at that time for an old horse. Twenty-five years ago he was a dashing roadster on Yonge St. He is no doubt now over thirty, and as fat, plump, and handsome as a four year old colt; will not bear the least touch of the whip, and is as shy and notional as he was at his prime. If this is noticed by anyone around Aurora who remembers the horse, will he please send his

exact age to the CANADA FARMER, as no doubt many would like to know the age a horse may live to with proper care, and be useful.

Would it not be well to have high prizes at Agricultural fairs for the best old horses? Any one can have a good colt, but it is only a good, kind horse-man that can show a sound, active old horse. We see many horses at twelve that are old, prematurely old, every joint out of place, and the owners will boast of heavy loads drawn and long drives.

Old "Jerry" may not be the oldest horse in Ontario, but he would be matched for strength, roundness of form and mettle against any horse over twenty-five in the New Dominion.

The Merino ram, Golden Fleece, owned by Messrs. Mason & French, of New Haven, Vt., recently died of lung fever, or pneumonia. He was valued at \$10,000.

The Iowa Homestead has an article designed to show that "the extra large breeds of swine are not so valuable for general use as the medium weights."