

judges at our Provincial as well as county fairs, who could not have told you whether the coffin joint was in the neck, back, or foot, or at the extreme end of the animal's tail; neither could they have told you whether the carb came on the ear or on the hoof. Those gentlemen were not to blame: the fault rested with the communicators who selected them. A man may own and use horses for a life-time, and yet be a very bad judge of the animal. On the same principle, a farmer is not always a proper judge of wheat, although he raises it. If it be asked—then who is? I answer the miller, who grinds it, and spends his whole time handling it and examining it, he can tell you all about it. The farmer may form a pretty correct opinion, but the miller can hardly be mistaken. On the same principle, the judge of a horse should know all his points, and where to look for them; and such men you can only find among the horse dealers, the horse breeders, and the horse fanciers.

WM. HARDY.

Paris, April 15th, 1867.

The Moodlaw Flock.

The following, which we clip from *The Farmer* (Scottish), will be read with special interest by those to whom the names are familiar, and by all as evidencing what perseverance will accomplish in the improvement of a flock of sheep.

The announcement which has been made of Moodlaw having been let to a new tenant will be received in England by breeders of Cheviot with feelings akin to disappointment. "Brydon, of Moodlaw," has been known for such a length of time as a crack designation among Cheviot men, that the disconnection of the names seems almost like the breaking up of an old, time-honoured institution. We quote the following remarks concerning the sale of the celebrated Moodlaw flock from Dixon's "Field and Fern."

The flock has been in the family for nearly eighty years, and the Cheviot pedigree goes back for fully half that time; but save an occasional grey-leg, no trace of the primitive black-face comes out. Mr. Brydon's uncle showed sheep at Stirling about 1830, and won a tea set for the best Cheviot; and in 1840 Mr. Brydon came to Moodlaw.

His great object has been to get them shorter and thicker, especially about the knee, or the butcher's grip, wide between the forelegs, with hard white hair on the crown, deep in the girth, well woolled below and on the arms and thighs, with a fine park-ranging neck, light and elifty in the bone, white on the legs, and black on the nose,—a flat crown and too pointed ears are points he has struggled against; and a fine Roman head, with a full and daring eye, is quite his coat of arms. He also prefers the coat rather open, as the closely planted ones are disposed to shed their wool in the spring, when the new and old coats separate. The wool calculation is five fleeces of ewes and hogs, and three of hill ranging tups to the twenty-four pound stone. If a ewe nurse two lambs, she has one-third less wool, and if she is in the cast she is generally among the shotts. There are 8,000 ewes in the flock, which have generally five crops of lambs, and the cast has gone for years to farmers in the district. The wether lambs are sold in August, and 120 tups are kept each year. Eight sales have been held so far, with about nine scores in each of them, and, as a general rule, the two shears sell best.

Since Mr. Brydon succeeded to the flock, he has been a steady showman, at the Highland Society, Moffat, Thirlstone, Dangholm, Dumfries, and Thornhill. Old Stirling won eleven prizes. He was a sheep of grand style, and sported a thirteen pound coat as a four shear. Old Palley was also all gaiety and life, with a very special coat, and a head which was thought worthy of stuffing. Roughie was of the Sampson kind, and a very useful sheep, but Sampson himself was "not of an off-hand showy appearance." He was the largest Mr. Brydon ever bred, and weighed nearly nineteen and a half stones of fourteen pound, even when his season had sunk him five or six stones. As a ewe-getter there were none to compare with "The Rigglin," for which Mr. Borthwick of Hopesrigg gave £100. Robson, from whom many of the best ewes are descended, was a horned one, and for staple and quality of wool he was unequalled among the tups, and brought £75 at Beattock. Horned Cheviots are generally more hardy and coarser in the coat, but Robson's was a complete contradiction of the rule. Hornie was sold for fifty-five guineas to Mr. Patterson, Twiggles, and Mr. Elliot got his sire, who, like Old Tom, was more of a ewe-getter. The Captain (ninety-five guineas) by Old Palley, went as

a three-shear to Mr. Borthwick; and Mr. Graham, of the Shaw, had the remains of "Heb" in a present who he had been used for five seasons. The old Mawkey ewe thrice shared first prize honours in a pen of five ewes and gimmers, and she had twins every year but two. Out of her twenty-two lambs one of them was Lord Clyde (the winner of eight prizes) by the Duke, and another, Sir Colin, by Heb, who won five prizes. The climate, so far as prices go, was reached, however, at the Moodlaw sale in September 14, 1865, when Mr. Elliot, of Hyndhope, gave £121 for a two-year-old ram; Mr. Plenderleith, Moorfoot, Peeblesshire, £155 for a three-year-old ram; and Mr. Archibald, Duddingstone, £115 for a four-year-old ram. The total of rams sold on that occasion was 169, at a general average for all ages, of £14 8s. 3d. Such prices for Cheviot sheep were unprecedented, but they were only a fitting tribute to the high excellence to which the Moodlaw has been brought by Mr. Brydon.

Fast Trotters not the Best Farm Horses.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—As the time is at hand when stud horses are going on their rounds again, a few words about their trotting qualities may perhaps not be out of season.

To believe that fast trotting denotes necessarily a good horse, is in my humble opinion a great mistake; if anything, I should say the contrary comes nearer the truth. Every well shaped horse, when urged to go fast, is inclined to break into a gallop, and it is those who for some reason or other find it difficult to raise a gallop that make the stuff for the trotters. If you see a horse with a good strong back, long, straight hind-quarters, long muscular thighs, and big hocks, depend upon it, he is not a very fast trotter; it is the want of these qualities that makes them. They have either slack loins, or weak hocks, or short, drooping quarters, etc. etc. I know that, by long and patient training, a thoroughly well shaped horse may get sometimes into the knack of trotting fast, but as a rule they are the least fitted for it. I have had a good deal to do with people who are considered great authorities in matters of horse flesh, both in England and elsewhere, and I can confidently state that these opinions are shared by most of them. Notwithstanding this, I am not so wedded to my views as not to be open to contradiction, and all I wish to do by this letter is to elicit the opinion of other men who have had experience in the matter, so as to settle the point whether a fast trotter as a stallion, for farming purposes, is desirable or otherwise.

X.

Sheep Ticks.

MESSRS. EDITORS;—Seeing an inquiry in your paper from a "Young Farmer" about sheep ticks, I give you a few suggestions. Some say that the best way is to keep sheep fat, and the ticks will not trouble them. Now, I do not believe ticks have any objection to a fat sheep; but the reason why poor sheep have the most ticks is, the ticks have caused them to be poor. It has been the practice with a large portion of wool-growers to dip their lambs, after sheep shearing, in a decoction of tobacco, which, if made strong, is sure death to the ticks, and sometimes to the young lambs also, and is always attended with more or less injury. Ticks injure sheep most while they are at the barn; therefore let them be destroyed when the sheep first come to the barn.

I have had experience with tobacco smoke, which I have always found effectual, and it never injures the sheep or wool; but the greatest difficulty with me has been to find an instrument adapted to its application. Most of the smoke pipes being attached to a common bellows, are very inconvenient, and will sometimes clog and at others blow fire into the wool. I have been using this winter one of Hutchins's Improved Fumigators, which is convenient in every way, and it never clogs, nor can it possibly blow fire into the wool, and will last a lifetime. It costs me with this instrument to smoke 100 sheep, for tobacco 50c, and for labour 50c more. Now, what will it cost to winter the ticks? How many sheep will die in this State before next June from no other cause than ticks? How many lambs will die from no other cause than their dams failing to furnish them with milk, for the reason that their fountain of life is drawn out by ticks? How many pounds of wool will be lost, by the sheep becoming poor from the effects of ticks? How much loss will there be on the lambs by their being stunted from the effects of ticks? Is it not paying a heavy duty on wool and mutton to those blood-thirsty vermin? This State lost by the ravages of sheep ticks, the past year, in all probability, more than \$150,000. Does it pay to destroy them?—*Cor. Maine Farmer.*

A FINE LAMB—WHO CAN BEAT IT? J. C. Hogaboorn, Esq., of Woodside House, East Gwillimbury, has a ewe that raised a ram lamb this season weighing seventeen pounds at four days old, and at thirty days weighed thirty-four pounds. It is of the Leicester breed, and a descendant from the stock of Mr. Miller, of Markham.

PROLIFIC EWES.—Mr. F. Wixson, of Claremont, has sent us the following statement:—"Allow me, through your valuable paper, to give an account of the increase of some of my sheep for the last four years, and especially this year. I have four ewes which have produced in four successive springs thirty-nine lambs, as follows:—In 1864, seven lambs; 1865, eleven lambs; 1866, nine lambs; 1867, twelve lambs. Mr. Ledgett, a neighbor, had three ewes to the same ram this year, from which he had eight lambs; making in all, this year, from seven ewes twenty lambs. We have had a similar production from other ewes. One ewe last year had two lambs, the one 10 lbs., the other 13 lbs. at birth. The ewes and ram were all of the "Hampshire Down" breed, the ram being purchased from Mr. Tye, of Waterloo county, at the Provincial exhibition in Toronto four years ago, at which exhibition he took the second prize."

DISEASED POTATOES—EFFECTS ON CATTLE.—John Haynes, Londonderry, N.H., writes to the *N.H. Mirror and Farmer* concerning the bad effect produced on cattle by feeding them with rotten or partially decayed potatoes. An acquaintance of his fed his cows with them and lost three of the number in a short time. Various opinions, as to the cause of the death of the cows, were expressed, but no one thought of imputing it to the potatoes. A post-mortem examination found the first and second stomachs in a healthy condition, but the third or manifold was discovered to be distended, and one-half or more of its contents perfectly dry and adhering to its walls, the result of inflammation and the cause of death. Subsequently Mr. H. fed his cow a few bushels of diseased potatoes—a peck per day when she was attacked in the same way as were those of his neighbour, when antidotes for poison were administered with success. There can be no doubt that, in both cases, the effects produced were the direct results of feeding diseased potatoes to the cattle. Owners of stock would do well to make note of this.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A FULL-BLOODED ANIMAL?—We have received from a correspondent, signing himself "Ploughboy," the following enquiry, which we insert in the hope of eliciting a reply from some one qualified to express an authoritative opinion on the subject:—"In your next number of the CANADA FARMER you will oblige me by inserting the following question. It is one that appears to me to have been entirely overlooked in our agricultural societies, respecting the blood of cattle. We are told that Canada holds some of the best-blooded short-horned cattle in the world; that I am not going to dispute; for I think it is what every Canadian stock-breeder should be proud of. My question is not whether they are the best cattle for Canada or not; but, assuming that they are, how long are we to cross with them until we arrive at full blood or maturity. Now, the stock master, who shall satisfactorily answer this question, will confer an especial favor not only on me, but on all the ordinary stock-raisers in Canada; and I would suggest that he should designate each cross as he goes along, by such name as is generally known to stock breeders, until he arrive at maturity, beginning with the full-blooded short-horned bull and the pure Canadian cow. For, I must confess, that after a few crosses we appear to be groping in the dark, and do not know where we are, or if ever we shall be able to obtain a place for our stock in the herd book. It is like a witch puzzle to a number of us. I can understand why the issue of a morganatic marriage does not succeed to the crown of the parent; but I really do think it is carrying the thing too far to place the issue of horned cattle on the same level, although some of our great herdsmen would make us believe that it is almost an impossibility to raise an animal deserving the rank of a full-blooded short-horn."