

Dairy-cows.—The favor with which the English dairy-farmer regards the Shorthorn dairy-cow is not a thing of yesterday. More than fifty years ago we remember the numerous herds of these superb milk-producers in the hands of at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of the country from the borders of Scotland to the county of Gloucester. The border counties between England and Wales kept a few Herefords, infinitely more for beef-production than for any other purpose; Norfolk and Suffolk had a few Red-polls; Devonshire, Somerset and Cornwall, kept Devons; and the aboriginal black cattle, or *runts*, had a strong hold on Wales; but generally speaking dairies were supplied with milk by either pure-bred or crosses of Shorthorn. And so it is to-day.

Not very long ago, at a "London Dairy Show," of the three premium cows in each breed, the three prize Shorthorn made an average score of 122.1 points; the three prize Jerseys, 88.5; and the three prize Guernseys, 90.76. And yet, adds a correspondent, in the face of this, there are men in the country who presume to say that, for the dairy, you should by all means choose one of the "specifically-bred" dairy breeds, and avoid the "general purpose" cow. The Shorthorn, in the above instance, is the cow that gives the most milk, out of which is made the most butter, the most cheese, and produces a calf which, if a male, can be converted into a steer worth raising. And she does this, according to Prof. Whitover, of the Vermont Experiment Station, in an annual expenditure for food of about \$3.50 more than for a Jersey. It by no means follows from the facts brought out by milking tests that a cow, claiming excellence in one thing only, is necessarily superior, in that particular, to a cow claiming excellence in two or more qualities.

Flaxseed.—It is astonishing to hear that American writers on farming still recommend giving uncrushed flaxseed to cattle. Soak it in cold or hot water for ever so long, and the seed is so completely protected by the integument that by far the greater portion will, after being fed, leave the animal undigested. Mrs. Jones, in an article we quoted in our last number, very wisely advises the use of flaxseed-meal for weaning calves; but a crusher would not cost much, and the profit of the intermediaries would be saved. Besides, in hot weather, those who steep the seed, unless they are very careful, run great risk of having the flax-

seed turn sour—a very dangerous food for calves.

As flaxseed is often to be bought in the neighbourhood of Sorel, St-Hyacinthe, etc., for from 70 cts to 80 cts a bushel of 54 lbs., it follows that the cost is only 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cts a pound. Now, for a cow in full milk, about a pound a day is a fair allowance, and this, added to half a bushel of carrots or mangels, and four pounds of pease, ground up with the flaxseed, will, with a little hay, and straw *ad libitum*, be full feeding for her. For fattening, the quantity of flaxseed may be doubled, and the pease and roots as well, of course regulating the quantity by the size or weight of the beast. How much steeped flaxseed, uncrushed, would be the proper dose, we are unable to say, for a Mr. Parker, of Middlesex county, Mass., writing to the "Country Gentleman," says that he is in the habit of giving his cows 7 lbs of uncrushed flaxseed a day, a clear proof that the interior of the seed passes in an undigested form through the animal, for if it were digested, the butter would be so soft and oily as to be unsaleable, except for cart-grease, to say nothing of the extreme looseness of the bowels produced by the superabundance of oil in the seed.

The English crusher consists of two rollers of equal diameter, through which the seed passes from a hopper that delivers it equally over the whole width of the rollers at once. A simple cracking is sufficient, so the labor is slight.

Hay-making.—Mr. Macfarlane's article in the last number of the Journal contains a great deal of good advice on a subject on which much good advice is needed in this province. We regret to see so many fields of second-crop clover left uncut this season. Have our seasons so altered that the shortness and mildness of the winters justify us in being less careful in providing food for our stock during those periods?

Carrying hay.—When should hay be carried to the barn, or preferably, to the stack? The answer, of course, is: when it is fit. But that is the very point: when is it fit? Hay, in this part of the world is, in nine cases out of ten, over-made. First of all, it is allowed to stand too long before cutting, because it is likely to give less trouble to make it; secondly, because either the cows want milking, or the turnips need hoeing, and so the hay is allowed to remain an extra day in the field, during which a hot sun, accompanied sometimes by a brisk wind, dries up every particle of