

The results of these experiments are most satisfactory as regards Cotswolds. From thorough trial and practical results it is known these sheep lose none of their renown in this country. Being very hardy our winters have no injurious effect upon them, no matter how much exposed. They are easy keepers, having great inclination to take on flesh, and are free from many of the diseases prevalent among sheep. In my opinion, the Cotswolds hold the relative position among sheep that Short-Horns do among cattle; and I have no doubt that experience will prove that they yield more wool and mutton than any known breed. And I trust the day is not distant when our markets may contain valuable results of the crosses from this blood, instead of the poorly bred and poorer fed carcasses, called mutton, which are frequently, and I may say generally, offered to consumers.

Good mutton sheep of this blood are readily disposed of in our cities at 10 to 12c. per pound, while at the same time the market is flooded with common mutton at 6 to 7c.—the producer obtaining double the weight of wool, and two or three times the weight of carcass.

Intelligent farmers must see the advantage of improving our flocks. If they want precedent to prove this, only let them reflect what the use of Short-Horn blood has done for our cattle. It only remains for them to select which blood they think will produce the desired result to greatest advantage and profit to themselves. If these few facts, imperfectly put together, assist them in their determination, it will have accomplished the object of your reader.—X. Y. Z.—*Country Gent.*

Re-organization of the Agricultural Societies of Lower Canada.

The re-organization of our agricultural societies should be the occasion for the Township to inaugurate the most progressive policy with regard to the management of their rural affairs. In several counties the annual exhibition appears to exhaust all the available energies of the Board of Directors. Cattle, sheep, swine, horses, dairy and field productions are brought in quantities on the exhibition grounds, judges are appointed to give prizes right and left, a good dinner terminates the proceedings, and all disperse to meet again next year and do likewise. Full of confidence in the wisdom of their course the officers of those societies would never think of extending their operations

to field competitions, or the importation of thorough bred stock.

Still, how absurd it must appear to the sound judgment of every practical farmer to give prizes for the best half dozen carrots, mangold-wortzels and turnips? The worst cultivated acre of ground may give such a small number of superior roots, if the farmer will only take the trouble of choosing them from the whole field. The same with corn crops. A bag of superior oats, barley, wheat, peas or rye, can always be obtained from the worst crop if time is taken to single out by hand the desired quantity. This system is simply ridiculous and has been given up long since by all the agricultural societies who pride themselves with a show of plain common sense in their operations. Surely the time has come when not a single society should be found wanting enough in progressive spirit to tolerate any longer the absurd practice of squandering to no purpose the agricultural grant, which might be so beneficially applied otherwise.

Field competition is the first step to be taken by every agricultural society. Judges are appointed who visit the competing fields and farms. A thorough examination takes place on the spot, and well established superiority is rewarded. Prizes may be offered for the best cultivated farm, for the best field of potatoes, mangolds, turnips, beans, corn, &c.

The second step should be importation of thorough bred stock for the use of the members. Five French Percheron stallions have been imported by societies since 12 months, why should the Townships be behind the times? If the Clyde or Percheron do not suit them they may import a Suffolk Punch or a stallion of some other breed. Durham, Ayrshire, Hereford and Devon Bulls are also wanted. Leicester, Cotswold and Southdown Rams, Berkshire, Suffolk or Yorkshire Boars are not numerous enough, and we look to the county agricultural societies to supply the farming community with them. It is altogether a mistaken notion to believe that the Board of Directors have done all they are expected to do when they have given away their annual revenue by awarding prizes at the annual exhibition.

More than that is expected. Thorough bred stock, improved implements, a better system of farming must be found in the limits of their trust. We know that these slow organizations are the exception. That the great majority of our societies are moved onward by a lively spirit we have full evidence in their annual reports.—[*Agricultural Review.*]

FACT IN FEEDING STOCK.

Under the above heading a correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* has the following remarks:—It is astonishing to see the good effects produced by judi-

ous management of stock of all varieties, each generation becoming superior to its ancestors, if fed and treated in a better way, and if a wise discrimination is used in the proper mating of the parents; as witness the sheep of the present day compared with those of 40 years back, and see how very much finer the descendants of the Arabian horses are in England, in spite of the pernicious practice of over early training.

It is not altogether the liberality in feeding that tells on the colts, the calves and the tugs—there is a certain watchfulness and are combined with a nice preception of what is required, which none but an experienced person knows how to exercise to benefit the young animals, from the time they are born till perfect in their full growth and beauty. It is useless for people who think they know everything, to cavil at this statement, for I assert that there shall be, say 20 colts, 20 calves and 200 tugs put under one man's supervision, and a like number under another's, each having equal facilities in every respect, growing what they please, and choosing whoever they like to wait upon them; yet there shall be double or treble a superintendent's salary difference in the value of the two lots when they are a year old. Last spring I saw colts and calves which staggered from weakness, and were naught but a frame of bones, when there was everything at hand to have made them fat, if there had been any tact on the premises. It is so in many instances; the animals want a change in their lodging, food, air and exercise; require to have some sunshine on them; or there are some simple laws of nature neglected through ignorance, probably, for the manager may be excellent in his way—he may know how to mend everything on his farm, but the live stock; he may say "come along" to every man who work with him, but not get along the young animals which ought to be in a continual thriving state; in short, be totally deficient in knowledge of the proper treatment of cattle, &c., excepting in cases of "hollow horn" and "tail evil."

Sale of Choice Stock.

A sale of Stock belonging to the estate of the late Jas. M. Hill, Harriston, Illinois, U.S., took place by auction on the 29th Nov. last. His herd of Short Horns, 51 head brought \$13,539, the highest price being \$1,260 for a bull 2 years old. One cow brought \$800. 58 head of 3 and 4 year old grade steers averaging 1,250 lbs. each brought \$4,384. 100 Berkshire swine of all ages brought \$1,638. A few Cotswold ewes sold at \$40 to \$60 each.

Some Canadian breeders attended the sale, but only one animal fell to them, a cow, "Lorena," bought by J. Miller of Pickering for \$450. The sale netted \$24,000, not a bad result from a beginning in 1837 with two Short Horn cows.