

NORTH-WEST CATTLE RANCHING.

The present troubles in the North-West will doubtless have a temporarily depressing effect on the cattle ranching interest. As yet, however, the Blackfeet, Bloods, Piegans, and Sarcees are quiet, and if they remain so the ranchmen have little or nothing to fear, but should they join the uprising it is of course not improbable that they would help themselves rather liberally to range cattle. At the same time, as they have always lived on terms of friendship with the ranchers, it is not likely they would indulge in any wanton destruction of property, but rather help themselves to what cattle they happened to want for beef and leave the rest unmolested. Meanwhile, however, the red-skinned neighbors of the ranchmen are not on the war path and it is earnestly to be hoped that they will remain at peace with their neighbors. In the meantime the position of some of the white settlers in the northern part of the territory is really pitiable, and even if relief were to reach them to-morrow it would take months of patient industry to place them in as favorable a position as they enjoyed prior to the outbreak. It is earnestly to be hoped that the trouble will be confined to the localities in which it has already broken out, as in that case it ought not to take long to put an end to it.

THE BEST DAIRY COW.

An intelligent correspondent writes us for information as to the best "Dairy Cattle" to be found. Supposing we possessed the information necessary to furnish convincing proof as to which was the best breed of cattle for the dairy, it would be worth many a fortune to Canada and the United States. The truth of the matter is that farmers, breeders, and dairymen all over this continent are trying to solve this very problem and to-day there is no very well defined consensus of opinion on the subject. It might perhaps meet the views of a majority of dairymen, and cattlemen generally, to say that for butter the Jerseys and the Guernseys are considered to hold the lead, while in the matter of cheese and milk the Ayrshires and Holsteins are the favorites. And even this disinterested statement as to the respective qualities of our leading dairy breeds will doubtless meet with dissenting protests from individual breeders. If it does, so much the better, for, if a general discussion on the subject of dairy cattle be stirred up, our enquiring correspondent will be able to collect a great deal of valuable data, and possibly be able to answer the question he has propounded to his own satisfaction at least.

THE SHIRE HORSE STUD BOOK.

Some two months since we criticized, with some severity, the character of the entries in a volume of the Shire Horse Stud Book then before us. We have now a letter before us from the secretary of the Shire Horse Society,

in which the writer, while admitting the laxity which characterized the entries upon which we were then commenting, calls attention to the fact that the regulations for the government of current and future entries are much more stringent in their character. An animal foaled since 1880 is absolutely prohibited from entry unless the pedigree of the dam is contained and recorded in the Stud Book as well as the sire's pedigree. After explaining this the writer says:—

"It has been impossible as yet to make stringent conditions for the old horses, but very soon it will be impossible to register any horse unless the dam's pedigree is as clear as the sire's."

VICINO.

On the 15th of March Mr. John Forbes' bay mare Bonnie Vic dropped a brown filly foal, with a blaze and a little white on one hind foot, by imported Strachino. The youngster will be called "Vicino." This is one of the most richly bred fillies in Canada, uniting, as she does, the blood of Parmesan through Strachino, that of Glencoe, Tranby, and Boston through her grandsire Vicksburg, and that of Queen Mary, Annandale, Catton, and Diomed through her granddam Bonnie Brae.

CATALOGUES.

We have received W. A. Sanborn's catalogue of trotting stock in the Larchmoore Breeding Stud, Sterling, Illinois. The list contains description and pedigree of some 80 animals of the best of their class, with Capoul, 2.28, at their head. Capoul, bay horse, foaled 1874, bred by Messrs. McDonald & Pepler, Franklin county, Kentucky. Sired by "Sentinel," dam "Rose Clay" by "American Clay."

Received G. F. Taber's catalogue, Red Polled cattle, Ravinewood Farm, Patterson, Putnam county, New York, giving pedigree and description of some thirty head.

Attention is directed to the advertisement elsewhere in this paper of The Toronto Hardware Manufacturing Co. Every description of cast and wrought iron, brass, bronze, and nickel plated stable fittings, such as hay racks, mangers, horse weights, hitching rings, harness and saddle brackets, stall guards, &c., all of the best manufacture.

The catalogue of the Morse Stock Farm, Kewana, Fulton county, Indiana, is to hand, containing particulars of Imported French Percheron horses, personally selected in France by Mr. E. D. Morse in the country districts and bought directly from the breeders. Communications addressed to 804 West Madison street, Chicago, Ill., will receive attention.

WINDMILLS ON THE FARM.

The great value of windmills to the farmer, consists in the aid they give in pumping water for flocks and herds, and, in this respect, their services are so important that in the near future no advanced farmer will be without one. They form an ornament if properly constructed, and wherever seen, at once impress the traveller with the idea that enterprise is to be found on that farm.

It is to be regretted that so many of our farmers are intellectually indolent men, and so slow in calculating for themselves the advantages of any labor-saving machine. Regarding the introduction of such, they are more frequently guided by the action of neighbors than by judicious decisions, the result of careful calculation. How many farmers have travelled hundreds and thousands of miles in the course of a life-time in driving to and fro with languid limb their herds to the nearest stream or pond. Suppose the watering place is 200 feet away, not a great distance you will concede. Let us say nothing about the countless journeys the farmer has made during the first 20 years of his life, as then he was young and lithe, and didn't mind a tramp much. Grant that during the next forty years of his life he goes over this ground three times a day (some one must go that often), and how far has he travelled in the forty years? Only 9,954 miles! "Incredible!" you say. It is not incredible. There are 5,280 feet in a mile. Make the computation yourself. We venture to say that with a stream that distance from the barn, you have travelled 25,000 miles, or around the entire globe, as, with watering horses, cattle, etc., of different ages, more than six trips are made in a day. But you say that "this is only for the six winter months." We answer, in summer the distance is multiplied by, perhaps, a dozen fold. To the objection that "many turn out their stock and allow them to go themselves," we reply, who cuts open the ice? and remark further, that we sincerely hope that no farmer in the land is so foolish as to allow valuable cattle to meet around an icy watering place in winter without close supervision. In travelling the 9,954 miles allowing 30 miles per day of ten hours, 351 days, or almost one year in forty of constant travel have been spent in watering the stock. If 25,000 miles have been travelled, 833 days, or considerably more than two years have been so spent. The use of a self-regulating windmill would save all this travel, and would be attended with other advantages of great value. By its aid the water could be brought to a trough in the barn-yard free from taint and impurity, having a constant supply always on hand. In this way, all the droppings which rapidly accumulate around a watering place would be saved. If the water is to be brought into the stables in front of the cattle this may be easily accomplished. Pure water at seasons could be furnished, of inestimable importance to dairy stock, and, indeed, to all kinds of stock, having an important bearing also on the health of the household.

Where the farm is large and water can be secured by boring and drilling, the aid of a windmill in some one of the remote fields is of great importance in the summer season. If placed where four fields come together, with troughs in each, we get an additional advantage, and may, in this way, keep a constant supply on hand for all classes of stock, at that season when this is of the first importance. The herds are thus saved those weary tramps during summer heat, which must be made to the distant watering place when they should be lying down at rest in some inviting shade.