

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED BY  
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),  
LONDON, ONTARIO, AND WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

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## Our Action Appreciated.

As far as churning is concerned there is no royal road to buttermaking. The butter is present in the cream as the grain is in the straw, and must be threshed out. The man who professes to make more butter, better and quicker, by adding a teaspoonful of something out of a bottle is likely to be deceiving himself or others. The same is true of the man who has a churn with some mechanical arrangement by which he pretends to churn cream exhaustively in 90 seconds.

It is not impossible. A way may be devised to give the cream as great a shock while you wink as it gets by forty minutes' churning, but it has not been found yet. Our inventive geniuses, especially in the electric line, may continue their researches.

Before you had given to your readers a fair statement of the true value of the "Queen Butter-maker," this churn had been pressed upon our attention, but we did not think it worth taking in hand, and the result of the test you had it subjected to is what we should expect from an examination of its construction. The amount of "plash" produced is no criterion of the effectiveness of a churn. A bull in a rick-yard will thresh out a lot of grain, but is not a good threshing machine. The barrel or box churn by which the whole body of cream receives a concussion at every revolution is more uniform and exhaustive than a paddle or screw acting on portions in succession.

A determined effort has been made to cover the country with the "Queen Butter-maker" churn as an improvement on all the other 3,000 churns for which patents have been taken. For the course you have taken in this matter, to your own immediate loss, your readers should be thankful, and your advertisers especially, as it proves an advertisement in your columns is a certificate of the bona fide character of the goods so advertised.

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## Remedy for British Agricultural Depression.

The Royal Commission, after an expensive and laborious investigation into the causes of agricultural depression in England, proposes that full compensation to tenants for improvements be made, and that the Government advance money on easy terms, so as to enable land owners to carry out permanent improvements and thus make the most of their land. In all probability such propositions will continue to be made, while the depression continues to go on crushing the very life out of many hard-worked rural families. Now that transportation facilities from the great food-producing countries of the world to England have been made so perfect we do not fear that the nation outside of cereal growers will experience any severe want, and therefore, out of sympathy for those who are informed the depression is to continue, we would like to whisper that the Canadian Northwest, over which we have recently travelled, affords great opportunities for able men with a little capital who are willing to put up with some little inconveniences for a few years, and for those who are seeking a comfortable livelihood, rather than riches, the Province of Ontario has just what is needed. The agricultural prospects for industrious Canadians have not for a long time been so promising as now.

## STOCK.

### Our Scottish Letter.

Since I last wrote attention in the Mother Country has been chiefly centered on the visit of Mr. J. W. Robertson, the special commissioner of the Canadian Government, who has fulfilled an important mission in connection with the Agricultural Department in the Dominion; the development of the attempt being made by the traders, and especially the butchers, to wipe out the co-operative stores by means of a wholesale boycott; the sales of high-class Shorthorn cattle, and similar events in connection with Hackneys. Another matter of interest has been the hiring of Clydesdale stallions for service in 1898, fourteen or fifteen of the best horses being under hire at the time of writing. This indicates steady confidence in the breeding of draft horses, but there is an absence of excitement in that market altogether. Terms are ruling easy. A premium of £80, with some such fees as £2 at service, and an equal amount in addition when the mare proves in foal, being sufficient to secure the services of the best of living sires.

Mr. Robertson's visit was admirably planned, and he went through an arduous programme of interviewing and speechifying with the least possible loss of time. It is quite probable that his visit, in conjunction with the more ceremonial visit of Sir Wilfred Laurier, may do more to cement the bonds of brotherhood existing throughout the British Empire than any other feature of the Diamond Jubilee era. Mr. John Bright and his allies were strong supporters of the idea that trade strengthens friendship amongst the nations, and such friendship as Mr. Robertson advocates must inevitably do this. His manly acceptance of the idea that all Canadian products should be sold under their own name has proved an eye-opener to some who imagined that the Colonies always needed to dispose of their wares under the eyes of the Mother Country, and it has rather startled those who thought everything produced in the Old Country was of necessity vastly superior to that which came from even the most highly-favored colony. Quality will eventually win the day, and that which forms the best value will command the consumer's patronage. Mr. Robertson is not afraid of Canadian products when placed on this footing, and he is to be congratulated on adopting an enlightened and farseeing policy. The British farmer has, of course, many competitors, but he has one or two points in his favor of the benefits of which he can never be deprived. He is nearest the best market in the world; he can produce the finest quality if he will only make as determined an effort to accomplish this as his competitors; and with these two advantages fully availed of no foreigner should be able to drive him out of the premier position. However, we do not fear Mr. Robertson's scheme of food supply; it can only nerve the home producer to greater efforts after quality, and that will be good for everybody.

The butchers' boycott is an extraordinary phenomenon in a country like Scotland at the close of the nineteenth century. After leaving the farmer severely alone for some time, the federated butchers and salesmen a few weeks ago formed resolutions demanding that on or before the 1st December next every farmer buying or selling in any of the federated marts should sign a pledge that he would not buy or sell from or to anyone who had dealings of any kind with the co-operative stores. This fairly roused the farmers, who held a crowded meeting in Edinburgh, followed by provincial meetings, at which they pledged themselves not to sign the pledge of the federated butchers and salesmen, and to patronize the salesmen who refused to be dictated to by the butchers and had not joined the federated forces. Leading men in the agricultural world at once gave effect to this resolution, refusing to employ members of the federation, and feeling became greatly intensified when one of the principal auction firms on one day sold cattle for a leading farmer and refused to accept his bid for half-fat cattle which he desired to buy. He refused to sign the pledge. Mr. W. S. Ferguson, the farmer referred to, at once announced his determination never to enter the auction mart in question unless the obnoxious rules were abrogated, and announced his sale of Border Leicester rams to take place in an outside ring, and to be sold by an auctioneer who had not joined the federation. Since this bold movement events have matured rapidly. Speedie Brothers, a firm doing a large business in Stirling and Cupas, announced their withdrawal from the federation, and four days later the butchers and salesmen announced that in deference to the strongly expressed wish of the farmers the proposed pledge would not be exacted, and the 1st December is no longer dreaded by either cattle breeders or feeders. It is generally believed that the federation will go to pieces, and in view of the weapon by which it sought to accomplish its end it will be impossible to shed a tear over its decease.

Shorthorns have been selling at high prices, and

there is a very buoyant tone in the market. Cruickshank blood is in the ascendant, and yet all the other sorts are making very remunerative prices. At the Bapton Manor sale in Wiltshire, chiefly, indeed we may say wholly, composed of Cruickshank blood, 71 head made the splendid average of £55 8s., 25 bulls giving £71 apiece, and 46 cows and heifers making £46 14s. 11d. At Lord Brougham's sale a few days later English-bred Shorthorns were selling up to £126, £105, and £110 5s. for young bulls, and £120 15s. and £105 for heifers; while not to be outdone, at the Calthwaite sale of Bates cattle on the following day 30 females averaged over £50, and seven bulls made £67 4s. apiece. The South American demand has no doubt been a great factor in hardening the market, but it would be idle to deny that the Cattle Diseases Bill of this Government has been a big factor in restoring confidence amongst British breeders of all kinds of cattle.

Hackneys are not so popular or well-known in Canada as Shorthorns, but the best class of no kind of stock make better prices than do the best class of Hackneys. At the Ferryhill stud in Cambridge-shire, owned by Mr. R. G. Heaton, 55 lots of all kinds, but the majority mares, were disposed of, and the average price of each was £93 8s. 3d. Many good Hackneys are now bred and reared in Scotland, and at the Royal Dublin Horse Show this week a large share of the prizes were won by Scottish exhibitors. "SCOTLAND YET."

### Jersey Cattle at Home.

Professor C. S. Plumb, of Indiana Experiment Station, who made a recent trip to the Jersey and Guernsey Islands, writes an interesting letter to the *Breeders' Gazette* giving his observations of the cattle on the islands, from which we quote:

"I do not wish to seem either prejudiced or unpatriotic, but I feel convinced after examining many cattle for three days that the Jersey on the Island as a rule is superior to those in the States in two important particulars, viz., constitution and udder development. The heart girth is strong and there is a fullness back of the shoulders and at the withers which, if not carried too far, are desirable qualities to have, and these Jerseys here seem to possess them. Too frequently our cattle in the States have front udders of decidedly inferior character, terminating abruptly with the front teats, which often hang up much higher than the rear ones. The front udders of the cows on the Island seemed better developed in this respect. I should also judge that the cattle on the Island have a little more scale in size and weight than ours at home. In making these comparisons I wish it understood that I am referring to the average Jersey in the States, whether registered or not. There are herds, to be sure, that are much larger and perhaps superior to any I saw on the Island, but these are exceptions at home, while the ones I refer to here are not.

"We often hear a good deal about fancy points in the States. Years ago England began to demand Jerseys of solid color, with black tongue and switch, and the Islanders catered to this fashion, which was also taken up by the trade in America. Here, however, one sees many individuals of decided merit that are well blotched over with white. I took a photograph of one fine old cow, in what I am told is one of the best herds on the Island, that is nearly as much marked with white as Ida Mari-gold. In fact a pronounced per cent. of the cattle on the Island have more or less white on them, though they are rarely exported. I think perhaps the finest specimen of a Jersey cow I have ever examined was the first prize aged cow at the Royal Agricultural Society Show at Manchester this year. I saw a daughter of hers on the Island when there, in the possession of the breeder of the old cow, that had a flesh-colored nose, and this was regarded as an objection. Yet the day I was there the owner refused \$425 for her. My Jersey friends consider the fancy points a fad, a piece of foolishness, as do many others, and said that less attention was being paid to them on the Island than formerly. The heifers, I judge, are pretty generally bred to drop their first calves at twenty-four to twenty-seven months of age. This may perhaps account for their good constitutions.

"Of the two breeds the Guernseys seemed quietest and most indifferent to handling in the field, the Jerseys being more nervous and less disposed to cultivate familiarity than their cousins. The bulls at Jersey were generally kept tied in the stable, while at Guernsey some of the breeders had their service bulls tethered out near the cows. The very young calves were kept in the stables. Nearly all the breeders on each Island take the calves from the cows when first born and feed new milk from a pail for a week or so, after which skim milk is gradually substituted for this. These little Islands contain many beautiful specimens of the two breeds, and one cannot but be interested in going about among them. Further than this, these two spots in the sea have such charming surroundings and atmospheric conditions that here the busy man can find a change of the most agreeable character. In common with other parts of the British Empire, Guernsey and Jersey are famed with monuments of kings and queens and other worthies of bygone days. Yet it occurs to me that some day it would not be inappropriate to erect a suitable monument on each Island in appreciation of the fame given it by the brute foster mother, the cow."