

FARMING

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FARMING

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

We have pleasure in announcing that by arrangement with the authorities concerned, *The Ontario Agricultural Gazette*, the official bulletin of the Dominion Cattle, Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations, will be published in FARMING. *The Gazette* will occupy one or more pages of each of our issues. It will be edited by Mr. F. W. Hodson, the Secretary of the Associations, and be under his complete control. Among other features it will furnish once a month a complete directory of the members of each of the above Associations, and of the breeds of stock they raise, together with brief announcements of the stock that they have for sale. It will also contain all the official and other announcements which the directors of the Associations may desire to issue for the information of members. In addition, by a special arrangement with the publishers of FARMING, Mr. Hodson will, as Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes, use *The Gazette* for his official announcements to officers and members of the Farmers' Institutes of the province. *The Gazette* will therefore practically be the official organ not only of the Dominion Cattle, Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations, but also of the Farmers' Institute System of Ontario. We trust that the publication of *The Gazette* will begin in our next issue.

TOPICS FOR THE WEEK

The Ontario Agricultural Gazette.

As many of the readers of FARMING know, for some time past the directors of the Dominion Cattle, Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations, have had in contemplation a plan of publishing a "Monthly Bulletin" for the purpose of bringing the members of the Associations into touch with one another, and also into touch with the great stock-breeding and stock-buying portion of the

community who are not members of the Associations. The object is, in the first place, to have an easy means of placing before every member of the Associations any information which it would be desirable for them to have; and, in the second place, to bring quickly, easily and cheaply before all possible buyers the names and addresses of all those who have stock for sale, with brief descriptions of this stock. The plan, of course, while it will benefit all the breeders of purebred stock, will be especially valuable and useful to young breeders and small breeders whose business is not yet well established, and who therefore cannot afford to make use of the ordinary means of advertising their stock to the world.

We unhesitatingly declare that we conceive this scheme to be one of the most important and far-seeing that has ever been devised in any part of the world for the benefit of stockmen. What is needed in this day of enterprise is a constant and instant communication between seller and buyer, between breeder and improver. It is not enough that a man breeds good stock; he must let other people know that he has good stock for sale. It is not enough for a man to make up his mind that he needs some good stock; he must know where he can quickly put his hand on the stock he would like to buy. It is the object of the "Bulletin" to bring about this close inter-communication between the man who breeds and the man who wishes to breed.

The older and well established stock-breeders use, of course, the columns of FARMING and other agricultural papers, for this purpose. But there are dozens and dozens—we might say hundreds—of small stock-breeders in the country who as yet have not been able to see their way clear to using the columns of FARMING, or any other paper, for advertising their stock. They say that the expense is too great. The scheme of the directors of the Associations is to give these small breeders, and at the same time all other breeders as well, a chance to advertise their stock practically without cost.

Of course the scheme, if it had been undertaken independently by the Associations, would have entailed a very heavy expense upon the Associations, and this would necessarily have lessened their efficiency in other directions. The secretary, Mr. Hodson, however, asked the publishers of the various agricultural papers to come forward and propose terms upon which they would help carry out the scheme of the directors without entailing upon the Associations an expense greater than they could reasonably be expected to bear.

The publishers of FARMING, believing that the publication of the Bulletin would be of immense benefit to the stock-producing interests of the country, entered into the spirit of the plan with enthusiasm, and proposed such terms to the directors of the Associations as enable them to carry out the plan at a minimum of cost and a maximum of effectiveness.

In other words, by the arrangement made with us, the Cattle, Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations have every advantage which they would have if they issued an independent "Bulletin," and this at a cost that is practically nominal.

On the other hand, we, on our part, trust to gain the sympathy and good-will of the stock-breeders by coming to their assistance, and helping them to carry out a scheme which is intended to benefit every one of them, no matter how humble his circumstances or how small his business; and which will do more to promote the interests of the breeders of purebred stock in Canada, as a whole,

than any purely business scheme that has ever yet been devised.

We have spoken with perfect frankness in this matter, because we believe frankness to be not only good policy, but right. If the stock-breeders who are already our advertisers stay with us, we shall not be out of pocket by the arrangement, and we shall be able to benefit the stock-breeding industry of the country, as a whole, immensely. If they don't stay with us, however, we should be very much out of pocket, and the arrangement would have to come to an end.

We don't anticipate this last alternative. We believe the major portion of our stock advertisers, who are indeed the principal stockmen of the country, will stay on with us as before, and help to make the scheme a glorious success. For they may rest assured that whatever plan benefits the small stock-breeders of the country in any degree, will benefit them ten-fold.

"Dollar Wheat."

The newspapers, not only in Canada, but everywhere in the States, are bestowing showers of congratulations upon the farmer for his recent good fortune, and speaking of the price of wheat as if it meant actually a dollar in the hands of the farmer for every bushel of wheat he sold, and as if, at that price, his income would be far beyond his necessities, and all his debts could be at once paid off with the surplus. Of course, a good deal of this congratulation is intended only as good-natured "chaff," but a lot of it is in dead earnest, and people in towns and cities are assisted to run away with the idea that the farmer this year is rolling in wealth. Farmers themselves, of course, know how very absurd all this is, and especially know that a dollar for wheat at the seaboard by no means ensures a dollar for wheat in the barn on the inland farm. But even farmers allow themselves to be deceived by the glamor of a good wheat price, and forget that, as a rule, wheat-growing, even at good prices, is the least profitable enterprise that they can engage in. We doubt if many farmers have ever taken the trouble to calculate what it costs to grow a bushel of wheat, or what it costs to raise an acre of wheat. The secretary of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture has recently issued a circular in which he gives the cost of raising an acre of wheat in his State, based not only on his own calculations, but on those of many farmers of the State. The cost thus arrived at is \$4.18, which includes \$1.20 for interest on the value of the land, a sum certainly not more than one-half what should be allowed in this country. At this cost of \$4.18 per acre, if six cents a bushel be added for threshing, a yield of 15 bushels to the acre would bring the cost per bushel to 34 cents. A yield of 25 bushels to the acre would make the cost per bushel 22¾ cents. In Minnesota and Dakota careful estimates place the average cost of an acre of wheat at \$6. The cost on an average Canadian farm, must, however, be even more than this; with an average yield of even 20 bushels to the acre, the cost of raising and marketing a bushel of wheat in Canada cannot be less than 40 cents. It will thus be seen that with wheat on the Toronto market selling at from 80 cents to 90 cents a bushel, the prospect of the ordinary farmer being able to indulge his family in "pianos and sealskin sacques," from his profit on wheat is not a very bright one. The lesson to be learned from the situation is simply this: That whereas the present increase in the price of wheat is a very pleasant thing to have, and gives to the farmer a share of that general condition of pros-