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*Omnium rerum, ex quibus aliquid acquiritur, nihil est agriculturæ melius, nihil uberius, nihil homine libero dignius.—Cicero: de Officiis, lib. I, cap. 42.*

VOL. IV.

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No. 5.

OUR correspondent, CLOVERDALE, calls attention to a subject of really practical importance to farmers,—the propriety of establishing markets for sale of live stock. Markets such as he speaks of <sup>stock raising is to</sup> be carried on effectually. In Britain and Canada, such country fairs or markets, held at stated times, at given points, have grown out of the necessities of the trade. Active cattle feeders, exporters and butchers cannot afford to waste their time visiting every man's barn.

*Editor Agricultural Journal:*

Sir,—The success which has attended the recent ventures in the export of cattle to Britain, has no doubt caused much encouragement to the farmers of Nova Scotia, and the production of good, heavy beef will likely become with us a more decided object in consequence. My present purpose in writing is respectfully to suggest to the public some improvement in the method of transacting business in cattle, between parties who raise cattle to sell without fattening, and those who buy them to fatten for exportation; and those two classes of farmers are quite distinct in this country, as in England and Scotland. Until now, our trade in fat cattle has been so limited and uncertain that the whole method of dealing has been rather left to adventitious speculation. It is true, that certain parts of this Province are comparatively more favorable to the fattening of cattle than to raising them, as Kings and

Annapolis Counties; other parts, again, as Stewiacke and Musquodoboit, and districts further to the eastward, are better for light grazing than any other kind of farming, and are, therefore, more favorable than elsewhere, for raising of cattle on foot from east to west in Nova Scotia. I believe there are annual fairs in North Colchester, whereby the farmers who grow hay and potatoes in Cumberland, can know where and when to buy their stock, grown further east; but for all the numerous droves that move annually from east to west across the Shubenacadie canal, there is neither locality nor name of a market; and every one knows that, in consequence of this, the farmers on both sides lose immensely through intermediate traders, who are well enough in their way, but whose occupation would be found of much less use or benefit to the farmer, if the first seller and ultimate buyer knew of some established time and place of meeting, and all parties could transact *their own* business speedily and satisfactorily. Now, nearly all the cattle droves from South Colchester and Pictou, northern Halifax and Antigonish and Guysborough counties, bring up at Stewiacke station, and it is certainly true to say, that of all the cattle driven thither, their condition cannot be at all bettered by any further driving, and they have arrived at a station where they might be taken on railroad trains for the westward, or, if driven as much farther as to Newport station on the western line, they could then be taken up for any western point.

According to these premises, then, the conclusion seems natural that AN ANNUAL CATTLE FAIR might, could, or should be established at Stewiacke station, on the Intercolonial Railroad. And, in order to ~~more~~ <sup>bring this end</sup> it would seem that resolve on the part of farmers east and west, which might be carried into effect through means of Agricultural Societies. Surely the matter is worth consideration.

CLOVERDALE.

WE have had several inquiries lately as to the best mode of keeping and using bulls in Societies, so as to make the bulls self-supporting. Very much depends upon local circumstances. Where a good bull is well located in a populous settlement, the fees for service should be sufficient to cover expense of keep. Sometimes, however, from a variety of causes, bulls are not patronized, and the Society loses by them. Such accidents cannot be avoided. The Board, believes, however, that the fees for service should be so regulated as to cover, as far as possible, the expense of keep, the Society's funds being reserved for purchase of new stock.

THE Plain Dealer is a new weekly paper published in New Glasgow, which promises to give valuable aid in promoting agricultural education and improvement. A sensible article on the improvement of exhausted soils we will reprint for the benefit of our readers next month.