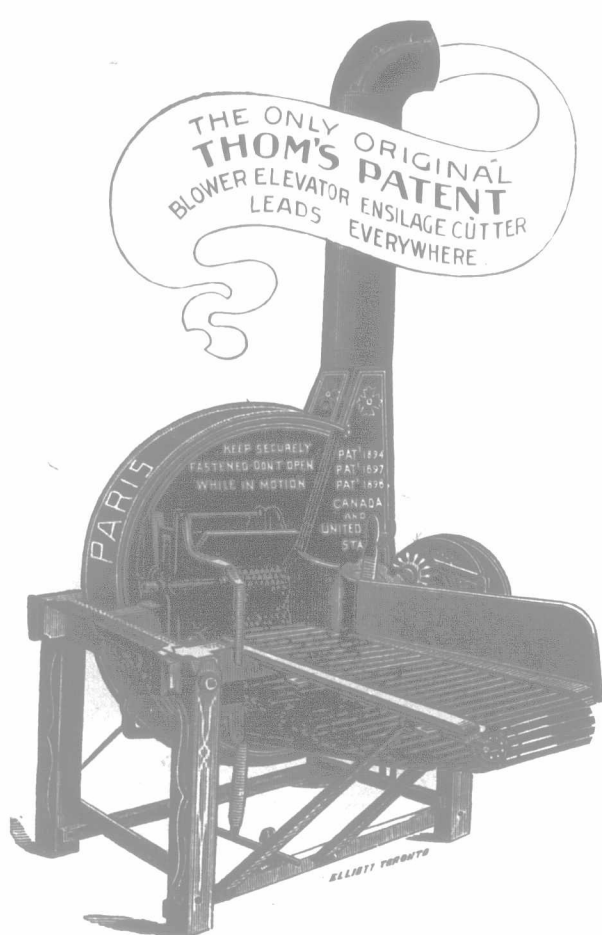


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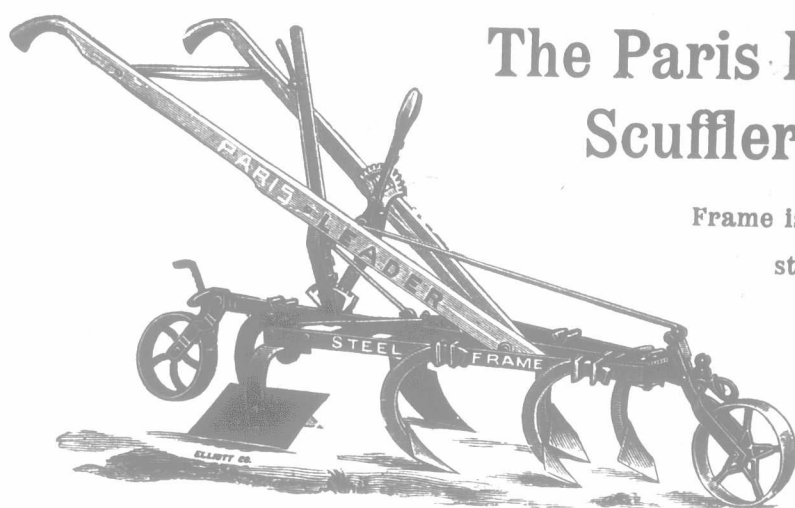
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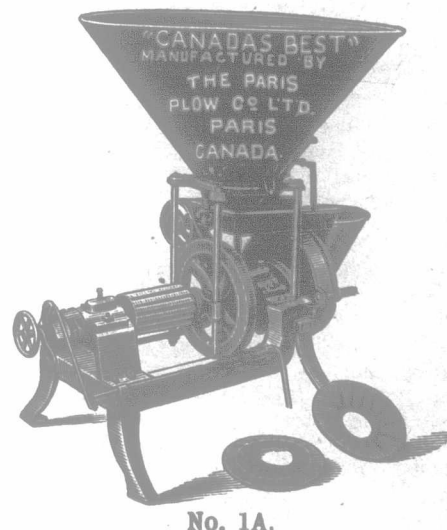


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GOSSIP.

PROMISCUOUS BREEDING OF CATTLE

The above definition is applicable to the methods of cattle breeding too much in practice. Time and experience have proved to me that the best way to obtain the class of cattle one requires is not to cross at all, but to improve the individual breed considered most suitable for one's object. Everyone who resorts to crossing takes a step in the dark. The first cross of two breeds may happen to produce what the breeder aims at, either to improve the milking propensity or increase the size of the carcass, and an aptitude to fatten where beef is required. But after the first cross comes the difficulty, and as a rule each subsequent cross will prove disappointing, until the original qualities of each breed are quite lost sight of.

Some years ago a herd of cross-breeds were found on a prize farm, which were much praised by the judges and commented upon in the press, but in a few years' after, when the herd was dispersed, they had degenerated into a most ordinary herd, to use the mildest term possible. Many farmers and small breeders detest the word pedigree, but it is the abuse and not the use of the pedigree animal that has caused the prejudice. It is an old saying, "The bull is half the herd," and so it would prove under reasonable circumstances; it is the way the bull is chosen and treated that often renders the old adage untrue.

Our large shows and sales of pedigree bulls are said to be conducted for the benefit of farmers and other breeders, and a nominal reserve only is allowed in some cases to further this object, but it is the way the bulls are compelled to be fed to render them free from ridicule at such exhibitions that is at fault on the one hand, and the irrational after-treatment on the other, that causes so

much prejudice against pedigree. The bulls are mostly reared on new milk and other forcing foods up to the day of show and sale, and have probably never been used. This may be looked over to a certain degree where his progeny is required for breeding purposes only, as it shows his aptitude for laying on flesh, but where milking properties are required careful breeders will never think of buying a bull before seeing his dam, and satisfying themselves that he is descended from a type of good milkers with well-shaped udders.

Now, after the pampered bull is bought, what too often happens? He is tied by the neck and gets no exercise except when required out for work, and is often fed on what the cows or other cattle leave, or some rough food, and expected to serve all cows as they come in season, and possibly those of one or two neighbors. The consequence is he sinks in condition and has a dejected appearance, which the owner attributes to pedigree,

WHITMAN'S "WORLD'S"
LARGEST & MOST PERFECT
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Do you know that three barrels of Bordeaux mixture, costing 26c., and 8c. worth of Paris Green, at a total cost of 34c. each barrel, through a SPRAMOTOR, will prevent both the blight and bugs, and change your yield from practically nothing in a bad year to 400 bushels per acre? Full particulars free.

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saying a "cross-bred would feed where he would starve," and who can be surprised if the calves sired by him are weak and puny, and cast a lasting stigma on pedigree, whilst it is the fore and after treatment (the two extremes) that is at fault? I do not know which is most to blame—the breeder or purchaser. Possibly the latter, for if he would only buy animals in good store condition the breeder would cater to his requirements, and if the purchased bull was properly fed and exercised and used judiciously, the result would be sound, robust progeny that would satisfy the ideal of each breeder and render crossing unnecessary. If proof is needed of what I have said, take the improvement in the classes for "pedigree milking Short-horns" since Mr. R. Stratton first moved in the matter, also see to what perfection the Shire horse has attained, and all has been done by pedigree and not crossing.—(Herdsmen, in the Live-stock Journal (British).

Concerning the Suffolk Punch horse, Ontario, Mr. Thos. Early, V. S., of Tillsonburg, writes: "I have known him for years. It would be an easy matter for parties concerned to come to Oxford and inspect his stock. He has served more mares than any other stallion that ever was here, and as a heavy sire, his equal has never been here. Parties wishing to see his colts should come to Tillsonburg, and it will be a pleasure to me to show them."

MORE CLYDESDALES FOR CANADA.

Mr. Robert Ness, Howick, Quebec, has sailed from Glasgow with a carefully-selected lot of thirteen stallions and mares. He had seven Clydesdales, purchased from Messrs. A. & W. Montgomery, Netherhall and Banks, Kirkcudbright; two Clydesdale—a four-year-old and a three-year-old stallion—purchased from Mr. James Kilpatrick, Craigie Mains, Kilpatrick; three French coaching horses, purchased in France, and one Hackney mare. Amongst the Clydesdales are two typical bay fillies, got by the Glasgow premium horse, Royal Carrick (10270), which also gained second prize as an aged stallion at the H. & A. S. Show, at Inverness, and several high-class district premium. These are very like mares that would prove highly satisfactory as breeding animals. Amongst the stallions may be specified a three-year-old got by the famous £1,300 yearling, Lord Colin Edwin (9280), afterwards the Glasgow, West Lothian, and other districts premium horse; a big, handsome four-year-old horse, got by the celebrated Ethiopia (5750), so long stud horse at Kerr, out of a mare by that great Cawdor Cup champion, Prince of Caruchan (8151); and a beautiful two-year-old stallion, bred by Mr. Adam Gray, Ingleston, and got by the champion sire, Baron's Pride (9122). Other Clydesdales in the shipment are got by the favorite breeding horse, Up-to-Time (10475), and other noted sires. Mr. Ness is an old hand at the business. He knows what suits his clients, and this time he has a good lot of sound, typical Clydesdales of the best breeding.

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