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A STRONG reason in favor of the better education of the farmers' sons is found in the fact that the uneducated farmer is much less able to adapt his methods to the altered conditions of our agriculture. The uneducated man has only the experience of a neighborhood to draw from, while he who is educated and a reader draws from the experience of the world. When the former finds that his system is unremunerative, he can only depend upon hearsay as to what is the next best thing to do, unless some of his neighbors are more fortunate than himself, while the latter can ascertain without any real difficulty the way the current is setting and may adjust the rudder accordingly. All the treasures of the gatherings of the past in the line of agriculture are within the reach of the educated man, while but a few crumbs fall to the share of him who is not an intelligent reader.

THE man who is careless in informing himself as to which is the right road when on a journey is pretty sure to come out wrong in the end, and has often to retrace his steps and journey a much longer distance to get to the place which he is seeking. Careful enquiry and vigilance would save all this. Thus it is with the farmer who is content to follow a certain rut because his father has trodden the same. In these days of rapid changes he will have to retrace his steps unless alive as to his methods. If the price of wheat had always kept good, it might have done to have continued to make its growth a principal object, but it has fallen from 50 to 100 per cent. The farmer, then, who continues to make wheat the principal object of his search by continuance in old time methods of production, will find that he will not reach the goal he is seeking. A few years ago many millions of bushels were exported from Ontario, while now the quantity is dwindling and the price so low that the returns are less than the outlay. A few years ago and not a dollar was received for live-stock exports or for the export of live-stock products. Now the export of these foots up many millions annually. Grain-growing farmers must take more pains to enquire the way.

THOSE whose whole lives have been devoted to the improvement of live stock have been termed speculators, and they have been stigmatized as men laboring to produce a "boom." The results of their labors, it may be, as in the case of the owner of Mary Ann of St. Lamberts, has been to draw favorably the eyes of other nations toward the land in which they labored, and to concentrate the efforts of thousands upon the improvement of the breeds of stock that have been the object of their special concern. Booms, as has been well observed by the *Breeders' Gazette*, are not of long duration, and we may well add that they confer no positive benefits on the community at large. But the so-called live-stock booms in Canada have led to the shipment of hundreds of thousands of creditable steers to other shores for many years past, in addition to the permanent improvement made in the hundreds of thousands sold at home every year for beef. A similar improvement has been effected by this class of men in the improvement of horses, sheep, swine and fowls. The full extent of the material blessing those men have given the country can never be fully known. It is no matter of wonder, then, that others, seeing the good fruits of their labors, are falling in line, so that the corps is constantly increasing. May they continue to increase down to the end of time.

THE capability of every man to improve his farm is usually very great where the desire for this is strong. We, of necessity, need not have a very large proportion of ill-cultivated or untidy farms. Where the ideal is clearly defined in the mind of the owner, and he keeps his eye steadily upon the goal, the object of his ambition is usually attained, though he may have to wait long years for the complete realization. Ambition may be so strongly developed as to make its possessor unhappy, but this is not the case with most of us. On the other hand, the farmer devoid of this will never make his mark. If one has no cherished desire to surpass his neighbor in the race, he will never do so. The possibilities that lie before most of our young men who propose making farming their future life work are surely very pleasing, even though they can only be reached by the winding road that leads around the hills of attainment ever upward in its ascent. A good, well tilled farm, ever increasing in fertility, is within the reach of the coming farmer. It is quite possible for him to make it so neat some day that it will be the envy of his neighborhood. The stock upon it may be of the best in the section, and in addition there may be a bank account which, if not large, is always secure. What a magnificent spectacle our country would present if all our farms were thus tilled, and how happy would our yeomen be!

LIVE STOCK has been frequently compared to the "hub" of the wheel which carries on the farming interest in Britain. The same may be said of it in Canada, though probably, as yet, in a less degree is this truth applicable. The live-stock industry overshadows every other branch of farming in its extent and importance, and the variations are more and more in favor of this interest as time moves on. There cannot then be too much importance attached to the improvement of this line. As it is fast becoming the chief source of revenue to the Canadian farmer in one or other of its forms, it follows that when carried on upon the best known principles it must be more profitable than when done in a slipshod way. The best way of breeding cattle, of feeding them, and of handling their products, should all be objects of careful study on the part of the farmer, nor should any be satisfied

without having so far mastered his particular branch of the business that he could rightfully claim a place in the front rank of his line. The young men of the country who are to lead in these lines must be up and doing. They cannot afford to watch the dancer on the tight rope when judging is going on at the exhibitions, nor will they spend their evenings in idle gossip when so much is to be learned from books and the agricultural press in reference to their future life work.

It is a practice all too common to turn almost any and every form of mare that may have met with a mishap, into a brood mare. It is a fatal mistake. A mare that would not make a profitable brood mare when sound will not prove such when she becomes disabled. There may be instances, however, where mares good enough to breed from, wanted for other purposes, become disabled for the uses to which they have been put, in which case it may, and often is wise to retain them for the purpose of reproducing their kind. When a mare becomes unfit for regular work it does seem unwise not to utilise her as a brood mare, for she may be absolutely useless for any other purpose. But if not suitable for the production of good foals and yet devoted to foal-rearing, the first loss may multiply itself repeatedly, for no inferior horse can be reared to the age of three years any more than an inferior cattle beast, but at a loss. The character of the horses of a country cannot improve rapidly where the majority of the farmers are indifferent as to the character of the mares they breed from. Indeed they require to be more vigilant in the case of mares than of cows, for the latter can be disposed of for beef, but in the case of the former the temptation to get some good out of an inferior mare for breeding, the only use it may be to which she can be put, overcomes the better judgment of the breeder.

THE difference in the ultimate returns of the two systems of grain-growing and stock-keeping is more and more in favor of the latter as time advances. Let one settle upon new lands and his returns from grain-growing and grain-selling will be greater at the first than from stock-keeping, as stock-keeping requires greater outlay to get a start, and some time must elapse before there is much return, but gradually the returns from grain-growing diminish while from stock-keeping they increase, and this process goes on continuously, till in the former case a point would be reached, if nothing were given back to the soil, when there would be no return. The elements of fertility would be so completely extracted that there would be nothing left but a superficies of unproductive soil. This, it may be, never actually takes place in practice, because when a farm becomes impaired in productiveness to the extent that its owner cannot pay his way, it passes into other hands. But such would be the final result if the process were to be continued long enough. With the stock-grower the process would be reversed. What is grown upon the soil would be given back, which, along with the overplus uneaten by cattle, and the stores of nutriment deposited by the rain, and atmosphere, the productive capacity of the farm will continually increase, and therefore the annual return will increase also. Facts corroborate this theory. In hundreds of instances in Ontario farms are to be found getting richer every year by means of stock-keeping, and in thousands of instances others are getting poorer in consequence of continued cropping and removal of the crops. As to which of the two systems has the advantage, our farmers need not take long to determine.