

THE CANADA FARMER

IS PUBLISHED

ON THE 1st AND 15th OF EACH MONTH,

AT

One Dollar and Fifty Cents Per Annum,
FREE OF POSTAGE.

It is sent to Great Britain and Ireland by mail, for six shillings sterling, per annum.

No subscription received for a less term than one year, commencing from the month of January.

THE CANADA FARMER is stereotyped, so that copies of back numbers can always be had.

A limited number of advertisements are inserted at twenty cents per line for each insertion. There are twelve lines in one inch of space. Advertisements under ten lines are charged as ten line advertisements.

All letters and money orders are addressed to

THE GLOBE PRINTING CO.,
TORONTO.

Sole Agents wanted in every town and village in the Dominion to canvass for subscribers. Liberal commission allowed. Send for circular stating terms.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, CANADA, DECEMBER 30, 1873.

The "Canada Farmer," for 1873.

With the present number, the issues of this journal for the current year are completed, and, of necessity, considerable space is occupied with title page, and index, to the exclusion of a part of the usual reading matter. The copious, and carefully prepared index will, however, be found of great service in readily turning to any subject which it is desired to examine, while the most cursory survey of its variety, and comprehensiveness of topics, will be sufficient to convince any one that the volume now closing contains a very large amount of useful information on rural matters, and is, indeed, a little family library in itself. We take a justifiable pride in reviewing the ground covered by the present volume, and are persuaded that all attentive readers of the CANADA FARMER will feel that they have been amply rewarded for their investment of subscription money. A NEW SERIES of this journal was commenced at the beginning of the year now closing, with the intention of dealing more elaborately and thoroughly with the great principles on which high farming is based. It was felt that the time had come for energetic effort to raise the standard of practical agriculture, so as to increase the profits to be derived from farm-work. To this end we have discussed soils, and their improvement; implements, and their uses; grasses, and forage crops; the soiling system; the preparation and application of manures. The various aspects and manipulations of dairy farming, have been treated by one of the ablest, practical dairymen on this continent. Horticulture, in its different phases, has been fully exhibited. The breeding and care of stock has received a large measure of attention. There have been scientific articles on agricultural chemistry. Veterinary matters, entomology, agricultural news, and editorials on various important subjects, have occupied a considerable amount of space. The poultry-yard has been a very full department, and bee-keeping has been explained and its progress duly chronicled. No subject of importance to the farming community has been overlooked. In view of the labors of the year, we confidently hope and believe that something has been done toward that con-

summation so greatly to be desired, when good farming shall be the rule, and had the exception, throughout "this Canada of ours."

The performance of this year, may be taken as programme and promise for the year to come. The same aims will be kept steadily in view, and equally strenuous efforts put forth to attain them. Substantially, the same able staff of writers will continue to enrich these columns with the productions of their minds and pens. We trust the public interest in this journal will increase; that those who derive benefit from a perusal of its pages, will endeavor to induce their neighbors to become subscribers also; and that thus the list of our patrons and readers will be greatly enlarged. And, in conclusion, we have to request that we may be favored with more communications from actual farmers, that our columns may be richer in the results of experience obtained in the various fields of practical husbandry.

The \$40,600 Cow Again.

After all, there is no such animal. Mr. Pavin Davies doesn't hold the "champion belt" among Short-horn men. England cannot boast possession of the costliest cow in the world. The wondrous animal remains, at depreciated value, in the United States. Fashionable Short-horn blood has gone down in the market twenty-five per cent.

The facts are briefly these: It was well known at the time of the great sale, that Mr. Pavin Davies' agent, Mr. Kello, had greatly exceeded his price limit, in bidding the enormous figure at which the 8th Duchess of Geneva was knocked down to him. Amid the mad whirl of excitement, he seems to have become completely mystified as to the relative value of dollars and pounds. A doubt was intimated very soon, both by cable despatches and the London papers, whether the purchase made under these circumstances, would be concluded. It now appears, that after Mr. Kello had returned to England, and fully reported the affair to Mr. Davies, that gentleman wrote Mr. Campbell, stating facts which would render it extremely inconvenient for him to consummate the purchase, and requesting him to sell the high-priced cow to the best advantage, on his account. The result has been that Col. Morris, of Fordham, N. Y., has become owner of the animal, at the same price as was paid by Lord Skelmersdale for the 1st Duchess of Oneida, viz.: \$30,600. Thus it would seem that Mr. Pavin Davies loses \$10,000 on the cow transaction, beside interest, and the expenses of his agent, who bought nothing for him except the cow, now re-sold.

We cannot but think that Mr. Davies has acted unwisely for his own interest. The purchase made in his behalf, though at a very high figure, was not so much higher than some other prices given at "the great sale of the century," as to preclude the hope of ultimate gain. It must not be forgotten, that this cow's last calf, only five months old, brought \$27,000 at the same sale. Moreover, the cow was in calf to a pure Duchess bull that sold for \$12,000. Suppose the 8th Duchess to have arrived safely in Gloucestershire, to do well with the calf she now carries, and to live and breed for several years to come; would she not have proved a little fortune to her owner? As the purest and most valuable Duchess cow in existence, not only would her progeny have brought the top prices in the Short horn market, but her presence in Mr. Davies' herd, would have stamped it with a character and prestige that would have attracted buyers from all parts of the world, and thus proved indirectly, as well as directly, profitable. Of course, there would have been a certain amount of risk in closing the purchase, but it is just such risk as is being constantly run in the mercantile world, and it is as true in the Short-horn ring as it is in the mart of commerce. "NOTHING VENTURE, NOTHING WIN."

National Short-horn Breeders' Association.

The second annual meeting of the above body was held at Cincinnati, Dec. 3rd. There was a fair attendance from Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana, with a scattering representation from the other States and Canada. The President, Dr. A. C. Stevenson, of Greencastle, Ind., read an opening address, which was largely occupied with matters of local interest, and alluded but incidentally to questions that might possibly arise for discussion. There were several essays on the programme, on as many topics connected with Short-horn breeding, but several of the essayists failed to appear. Dr. Sprague, of Iowa, read one on the "Conformation, contour and color of Short-horns," which seems to have been an able production, and elicited some discussion, especially on the subject of color. The general opinion seemed to be that a meretricious value was being attached to reds, and that, as a rule, roans were preferable, while very fine animals were often white. Some one objecting that whites were tender and did not winter well, a Kentucky breeder asked why the Almighty had placed white bears in the Polar regions, if white was not a hardy color. Prof. Miles, of the Michigan Agricultural College, read a paper on "In-breeding," showing that close breeding had been resorted to with good effect in some cases, and for a generation or two, particular characteristics being thus fixed, but arguing that the practice could not be carried far, or continued long, without deterioration. The matter was fully discussed, and general concurrence in the Professor's views was brought out.

A valuable paper was read by the President on "Breeding of Short-horns for beef and milk," to which we may perhaps advert more fully hereafter. The New York Mills sale was rather sharply criticised in a paper by Mr. A. S. Matthews, of West Virginia, which led to a sharp debate, and a motion to suppress the paper from the transactions of the association, and also from publicity through the press, which was carried, unfortunately, as we think, since the course taken seemed to betray fear of free speech and fair criticism. The old-time controversy about the Herd-book was renewed, Mr. Bedford, of Kentucky moving a resolution providing "that in recording animals in the American Herd-book, no animal should be admitted that does not trace its ancestry on both sides to imported Short-horns." After a long and hot debate, this resolution was carried by a vote of 34 to 23, many members having left for home before the vote was taken. In view of this, and of the transparent absurdity of 34 men out of the 1,000 or 1,200 Short-horn breeders on this continent assuming to pass such a rule, the matter was subsequently re-considered, and laid on the table. The Hon. D. Christie represented the breeders of the Dominion, and acted as delegate from the Provincial Board of Agriculture, at this meeting. The Association is to meet next year at Springfield, Ill.

Proceedings of the N. Y. State Dairymen's Association.

The winter meeting of this association was held at Sinclearville, Chautauqua Co. on the 10th and 11th instants. The occasion called together an unusually intelligent assemblage of farmers, that filled the largest hall the place could afford, in spite of mud, and almost constant rain, and a railroad accident besides. The wisdom of the executive board in holding its convention in a new locality was verified in the result of this meeting. It carried profitable discussion into a remote wing of the state, and called into activity a new class of minds that, once awakened, will push investigations further. It is to be hoped that similar associations will profit by this example. The session was opened by an address by President H. A. Willard. Mr. W. took a hasty glance at the condition of the dairy interest of the State. Two months' drought