

## EDITORIAL.

Judging from present indications in many parts of Canada and the United States, dehorning bids fair to become about as general a practice as docking lambs.

In order to preserve the purity of their register, the American Jersey Cattle Club are systematically prosecuting any person found guilty of falsifying pedigrees, thus making themselves amenable to the law.

The next great event in breeding circles will be the second annual Canadian Horse Show in Toronto on April 15, 16, 17 and 18, so successfully inaugurated last year, under new auspices, as a successor to the old Provincial spring stallion show.

The English *Mark Lane Express* reports that an upland farm of 150 acres, near Canterbury, upon which the owner pays £18 a year tithe, has recently been leased for a term of three years for £10 per year. At this rate the owner loses £8 a year for owning the land. The farm has a good residence and homestead, and would have rented at one time at from 35s. to 40s. per acre.

"Decided improvement in the horse trade," is the encouraging substance of our horse market report in this issue. The inevitable results of the abandonment of horse breeding, together with a rapidly increasing trade with Great Britain, are already making themselves felt. Those who persistently endured discouraging conditions and aimed at high quality will appreciate the silver lining now spreading over the cloud.

When a farmer fails to secure a "catch" of clover two or three years in succession, it seriously interferes with his rotation. In view of this it would be wise to adopt every reasonably practical measure to obtain a successful seeding next spring. Where the soil to be seeded is not already well supplied with vegetable matter, a light coat of horse manure put on this winter will have a very advantageous effect. Not only will it supply fertility and hold moisture, but it will also add to the soil myriads of the microbes to convey the nitrogen of the air and soil to the young clover plant.

## Our Frontispiece.

Our first page illustration in this issue represents half a dozen steers selected from a group, fed experimentally, at the Missouri Experiment Station. No. 1 is a pure-bred Angus; No. 2, grade Angus; No. 3, pure-bred Hereford; No. 4, scrub; No. 5, pure-bred Shorthorn; No. 6, grade Shorthorn. In all, there were some twenty head, made up of pure-breds, grades, etc. We were rather surprised, in looking over the voluminous record of the experiment published, at the high cost of feeding these apparently good animals, which varied from 6.01 to 7.17 cents per lb. live weight, indicating lack of judgment or experience on the part of the feeder. One mistake evidently made was keeping the animals on their feet far too much of the time between morning and night in stall feeding. While giving easily digested food, in small quantities and often, to very young or delicate animals is a wise course to pursue, the same method cannot give the best results with such food and stock as were used in this case. Again, we believe it is a fact long since proven that grain fed in more than very limited quantities to fattening animals while on really good pasture is largely lost. (The utility of mere breed tests is now regarded by many as very doubtful.)

Again, it should not be forgotten that even among beef breeds there are special purpose sorts, the Hereford finding its most favorable environment in good grazing conditions, while others, as a result of breeding and training for generations, do best in stall feeding. Such points as the foregoing may account for the high cost of the beef. That they were about as good animals as could be obtained at the time we would infer from the account given of their selection, as well as from the portrait which we reproduce. Even the so-called "scrubs" were not so "scrubby" as might be supposed. Of course, that term does not convey any very definite idea as to the breeding or quality of the animal bearing that discredited name. According to this test in stall feeding, animals from two and a half to three years old gave the most profitable results in this respect—Angus, Shorthorns, grades, and Herefords ranking foremost, and scrubs in rear. In point of early maturity, in power of attaining heavy weights, palatability,

and juiciness of flesh, and in certainty of commanding a market at profitable prices, the improved beef type of animal takes the front rank, with the scrub at the bottom of the list. In beef, as in all other products, it is not only necessary to keep down the cost of production, but even more important still is the imperative demand on the part of the consuming public for quality, quality! QUALITY!!

## Nova Scotia Farmers' Association.

BY A REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR.

The Farmers' Parliament of Nova Scotia, organized last July, held its first regular meeting in Kentville, January 21-22. In the absence of the President, John B. McKay, S. C. Parker, Berwick, First Vice-President, presided, assisted by Second Vice-President Geo. C. Lawrence, Hastings, C. B.; Paul C. Black, Secretary. The interest and enthusiasm manifested by those in attendance exceeded the most sanguine expectations, all of the sessions being largely attended. The following delegates were in attendance, representing the different agricultural societies of the Province:—W. E. Armstrong, Granville Ferry; P. Innis, Kings Co. Agricultural Society; Edward Harris, Pictou Co. Society; E. Foster, Dartmouth Agricultural Society; T. R. Trotter, Antigonish Society; Hugh Munroe, Earlton Agricultural Society; John McDonald, Shubenacadie; S. W. Low, Pugwash Agricultural Society; E. J. Moore, Musquodoboit Agricultural Society; A. K. Patterson, Aylesford Agricultural Society; A. G. Goodacre, Kings Co. Agricultural Society; and others. The meeting opened with an address by Mr. J. W. Ryan, Mayor of Kentville, welcoming the farmers in behalf of the City Council and citizens. "In conclusion," said he, "not only as citizens of Kentville, but as loyal citizens of this great Dominion, we heartily wish the Nova Scotia Farmers' Parliament a pleasant and profitable session, and a permanent and successful career of the highest usefulness to the Province." M. G. De Wolfe presented an address of welcome on behalf of the Kentville Board of Trade. He spoke of the recent formation of the Kings County Board of Trade, the first County Board of Trade in Nova Scotia, its members and officers being made up chiefly of farmers. Kings County was proud of this fact.

Responses were made by Messrs. Laurence, Elderkin, and Hon. Isadore Le Blanc. B. W. Chipman, Esq., Secretary for Agriculture, presented the regrets of Premier Fielding, who was unavoidably absent.

Judging at Exhibitions.—Mr. William Young, in his address, expressed dissatisfaction at the way prizes were awarded. Exhibitions properly managed, with competent judges in all departments, and a proper scale for judging, would be an education to the farmer. He spoke strongly against granting prizes to "hit or miss" exhibits. In choosing judges select only those with a thorough knowledge of what they are to pass upon. A scale of 100 points as a standard was recommended. Nova Scotia was not yet a rich Province. Only classes of cattle, horses, sheep, swine, etc., that had been tested and found suitable for Nova Scotia should receive the prizes. In breeds he advocated the granting of prizes to those found in greatest abundance. Shorthorns should be given higher prizes than Polled Angus or Herefords. He opposed the Holsteins as a breed with too much water in their milk, and thought it would be better to get "milk from the Jerseys and water from the pump." It was a question, however, whether Jerseys were hardy enough for this Province; Ayrshires had proven hardy. He advised placing equal prizes on these two breeds, and favored granting the bulk of prizes to grades. Horses should be placed in three classes: Driving, General Purpose, and Draft. The first two most common in use. The difficulty with sheep raising was too many worthless curs. It was more profitable to raise good dogs than "curs." Laws should be made regarding this matter. Mr. Young thought Leicester sheep were the most profitable. Shropshires, being a made-up breed, were liable to deteriorate. Cheviots were too small. Mutton sheep should be the prize-winners. Among swine the two most popular breeds, in his judgment, were the Berkshire and Chester White. All the prize money should be divided between these two breeds. In poultry prizes should be given to only the most worthy breeds. He recommended that horses be judged as to what they were kept for. Those that were blemished should not receive prizes. Dairy cows should be milked on the exhibition grounds, milk tested, and butter made there. He insisted on more honesty about exhibitions.

The address naturally provoked a lively discussion. It was thought by some that there should be a uniform system of judging for the entire Dominion. The regulations used by the Industrial Exhibition of Toronto were adopted for stock, and the fruit scale was referred to a committee.

E. B. Elderkin, Amherst, spoke on *Annual Exhibitions*. He was in favor of an annual Provincial exhibition, where farmers and producers of all kinds could meet, compare notes, and thus, by keeping up to date, hold our place in the best markets against keen competition. The farmer should know that when he plants seed in the spring he will have the chance of exhibiting it in the fall, thus creating a healthy rivalry. The Local Government has assured the present Association that they would do everything in their power

to advance the interest of the Farmers' Association, financially and otherwise. The City of Halifax had offered \$50,000 towards new grounds and buildings, the Province to raise an additional \$50,000. It was the hope of the Executive of the Association that it would be the means of bringing the young men to see the great opportunities of agriculture, and inducing them to remain upon the farm.

*Some Important Points in Fruit Culture* was the title of an address by Prof. E. E. Faville, Director of the Nova Scotia School of Horticulture, to which was given an entire evening. The points taken up were applicable to all parts of the Province. Agriculture depends at the present time more on mental effort than upon physical effort; education was as essential to the agriculturist as it was to any of the other professions. Dwelling upon the condition of fruit culture throughout the Province, cultivation of the orchards should be carried out more fully; sod in orchards prevents proper aeration of the soil, serves as harbors for insect pests, and promotes fungous growths. The object of cultivation was to conserve moisture, and the preparing of the food for the plants by stirring up the soil. Subsoiling should be practiced in planting orchards on heavy soil, and in no instance should any orchard be planted in ground not properly drained. Stock raising in Nova Scotia was not extensive enough to supply manure to the soil, so commercial fertilizers should be used. Clover, peas, and beans supplied nitrogen on account of their power to collect nitrogen from the air. Crimson clover has never been tested thoroughly, but seemed promising. Nursery stock should never be grown in an orchard, as it is such a heavy eater and drains the food supply from the soil. The winter work in the orchard was very important, especially in old orchards; pruning of large limbs should be done, then covering the wounds with coating of paint. Scions cut early in winter are more vigorous growers. These should be kept in leaves. Scurfy bark should be scraped off and insects beneath destroyed. Bark lice could be killed by application of a mixture of soft soap and washing soda. In planting orchards a warning was given to beware of purchasing too many novelties; buy chiefly the standard sorts. In grafting, only the scions from healthy and productive trees should be used; as in breeding cattle, care can be exercised in selection. Observations in the London market convinced the speaker of the need of more care in packing fruit; sorting, grading and marking should be noted carefully. Thinning of fruit, wherever practiced in the Annapolis Valley, had been attended with good results. Intensive fruit culture was rapidly becoming the watchword in Nova Scotia, and a large number of ten-acre orchards were being planted.

*The Best Cow* (by J. E. Hopkins, Nappan Dairy Station) was dealt with in a brief and practical way. He was not prepared to point to any special breed of cows, but it was quite evident that a better class of cows was needed. The great drawback to the creameries was the poor class of dairy cows. The improvement of the grades would work the greatest progress in the future of the dairy industry.

*Cold Storage in Relation to Agriculture* was discussed by Major Wm. Clark, of Halifax. He had recently returned from London, investigating the best methods and systems of cold storage, in view of the new cold storage plant about to be established in Halifax. He pointed out the large quantity of perishable products lost each year by the producer, because of a lack of proper means of placing the product in the hands of the consumer. Only the carcasses need be shipped in the meat trade. The Furness Steam Boat Line was ready to co-operate at once. In fruits it would aid the large and small fruit grower in marketing fruit. The consignor would be able to draw from sixty to seventy per cent. at the bank on warehouse receipt. Pears, tomatoes, and early apples would at once find a market in England.

Prof. Craig, of Ottawa, spoke of the benefits to be derived from the establishment of a cold storage plant. Markets for the products should first be secured. He hoped that trial shipments would be made the next season. Ventilation was very essential, especially in fruits; natural heat causes decay, so that certain stable temperatures were needed.

The Association passed a resolution advising the establishing of a cold storage plant in the City of Halifax, and, further, asked the Government to assist the promoters of the scheme by public aid.

Other speakers on the subject of cold storage were Geo. E. Boak, Halifax; Hon. Isadore Le Blanc, and J. E. Hugill, Manager Furness Company.

A resolution was passed by the Association, recommending to the Legislature the holding of an annual exhibition in Halifax, and that grounds be secured at once and buildings erected; the control and government of the exhibition to be under the management of the City of Halifax and the Province. The annual meeting of the Association will be held in July.

## A "Practical and Up-to-Date" Premium.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR, The copy of "A Book on Ensilage" duly received, I have glanced through it and find it right up to date and very practical.

S. A. BEDFORD,  
Superintendent Experimental Farm,  
Brandon, Man., Jan. 27, 1896.