

travelled over our land to aid and boom the plans and gain the confidence and approval of the farmers, the schemes have failed. The farmers now begin to see through the plans. The exhibitions that were once conducted beneficially have now descended so low that prizes are too often given to the exhibitor, not for the best exhibits. Many honorable farmers have been discarded from offices by the use of moneys raised to purchase votes from those who never had any interest in agricultural affairs. Even the grounds the farmers owned have thus been wrested from them. This system is on the increase. We have noticed the growth of corruption and demoralization for the past twenty-one years. We have exposed many dangerous national misfortunes, which at the time were either silenced or erroneously refuted, but which, to the loss and cost of our nation, have each proved to be correct.

We have been falsely condemned by partizans for having written for party purposes. Our platform is and always has been the interest of agriculturists morally, mentally and financially; and that is the only platform on which you can hope to retain power—the only platform on which we can hope to preserve peace and prosperity to our nation. Will you give us your aid and support to attempt to carry out the necessary improvements?

At the Rossin House, Mr. T. Laidlaw, of Toronto, greeted us. This gentleman was one of the original founders of the Provincial Exhibition, and also an active Canadian representative at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia. He is a native of Scotland. He deplors the present drift of agricultural exhibitions, and looks on them as demoralizing booms that must burst.

Mr. Vantassell, of Belleville, also called to see us. He is one of our old subscribers, and highly approves of our attempt to advance the interest of the farmer. He informed us that the farmers in that vicinity had for years combined to sell their barley together. By this means they had been able to receive the highest price, as they saved all commission. This combination is an independent one, and not under the influence of the Grange. He says that every device possible is being tried to disunite the farmers from this combination, but as yet unsuccessfully. This Bay of Quinte barley has always had a high reputation, if not perhaps the highest. He also informed us that a farmer in Prince Edward county was left in the lurch by a hired hand leaving in the barley harvest; he could not procure any other as all were busy, and his barley lying out. He went to a blacksmith, got him to make a few long steel teeth, and attached them to his hayloader, drove into his field, and loaded his barley alone. Now the other farmers are adopting the same plan. How true the adage, "Necessity is the mother of invention." These self barley loaders will be made by manufacturers this season.

Mr. Heinzmann, whom we met at the Colonial Exhibition, chatted with us about it and Old London. It is pleasing to meet old friends we have been with in distant parts. We accompanied each other on a visit to Kensington Palace, upon an invitation of the Marquis of Lorne. He informed us that their firm have sold ten times as many pianos in England as any other firm.

The Shorthorn Swindle.

Now that the suspense is over, the manipulators having carried their point by a large majority, the time for calm deliberation has arrived. The deep depression in the Shorthorn business created alarm amongst the dealers, and gave impetus to an effort for relief, which culminated in circumscribing the herds in such a manner as to restrict competition, causing a loss of tens of thousands of dollars to many of the most honorable breeders of the Dominion.

At the outset of the controversy we believed that the owners of Roger stock were concerned only in their own interests, but there was a misapprehension here. It was first thought that only the Roger stock suffered, but afterwards, when it was discovered that many other animals of good pedigree and fine quality also became ineligible for registration in the Dominion Shorthorn Herd Book, the Roger men then bravely championed the cause in its entirety.

The great victory of the manipulators, however, has turned out to be worse than defeat. They could not win their game without exposing the frauds they perpetrated, the result being that the depression is now more seriously felt than ever, and, what is still worse, they have lost the confidence and respect of all honorable farmers who would otherwise have embarked in the Shorthorn business, and of our small breeders who would have engaged in it more extensively. The opportunities for the perpetration of frauds by designing breeders in all herd books are manifest, and when it is considered that the manipulators of the records have also a share in the disreputable deeds, and have lost the confidence of the community, the prospects of success are slim indeed.

What says the history? Fraudulent breeders and dealers have purchased barren cows of good pedigree at low prices and placed grade calves at their heels, which the owners succeeded in getting registered, and by a stretch of conscience they made themselves believe that the favored pedigree influences of the cow would be transmitted to the calf by contract. Where purchasers look for individual merit as well as pedigree, instances have been known in which good animals with poor pedigree have been sold in place of poor animals with good pedigrees, giving the good pedigree, and suppressing the bad one. Many thousands, if not millions, of dollars have been made by these sorts of frauds, and no law or any other power can prevent it. This by no means gives the whole category of the styles of fraud; and as it is impossible to weed out the fraudulent men, as well as the fraudulent pedigrees, there is no hope for salvation.

This is the character of the American Shorthorn Herd Book, and our own manipulators attempt to soothe their brother breeders, whose stock is ineligible for registration in the Dominion Herd Book, with the flattering consolation that they can get their stock registered in the United States. Judging by the past history of booms, the time is coming when our herd book will be in just as disreputable condition, and the frauds may continue for many years before any exposures are made.

But what is the remedy? Aye, there's the rub. If the herd book falls into such disrepute that pedigreed animals will bring prices little or no higher than those of grades, the remedy will be complete, for nothing can be gained by registration, and this seems to be the present tendency

of affairs. The failure of farmers to embark in such a risky undertaking will cause a glut of Shorthorns, and prices must fall. An effort should be made to educate the farmers in sound principles, by which they will see that they must by all means look for individual merit, and get pedigree with it if they can. But there is little hope of accomplishing this end, so long as our Model Farm authorities aid the manipulators by giving pedigree twice the value of individual merit. They now call it "source," which may have a wider signification than pedigree. There is too great a tendency to mystify, instead of shedding light, in all these matters. The greatest "source" of the evil lies in the existing system of management of our so-called agricultural exhibitions and fat stock shows.

Another remedy would have its source in each breeder keeping his own records. This system would be specially advantageous in its application to dairy stock, where the quantity and quality of milk could form a source of valuation, and the register could also include the pedigree. There are hundreds of breeders in our country whose word is a better guarantee than any herd book—either those which have collapsed or those which must yet collapse, and it would be impossible for any breeder to fall lower in public estimation than our herd book managers. The business could be placed on the same foundation as other enterprises, each man standing on his own merits, and when a breeder has established a name for honesty and ability, let him push his business in the same manner as all other concerns are pushed. His fate would then be in his own hands, and not in the hands of rings and rascals. A wrong can never be righted by being modified; it must be eradicated.

Our Prize Essays.

The recent changes which we made in the conditions of competition have had a stimulating and wholesome effect. During the past few months it has been positively painful to us to have to withhold from public edification many of the excellent practical essays, our space being too limited to devote much attention to any given subject.

Some of the oldest and most popular writers of Canada and the United States are now on our list, but it may appear strange that the first prize is often carried off by some obscure writer whose name is not known to us or to the public—even with an essay which betokens a lack of ordinary education in the writer. What we and our readers want is sound, practical sense, not so much those grand literary effusions, with windy introductions, written to captivate the fancy, or play upon the passion strings. There is nothing in our conditions to exclude competitors from any part of the world; we have had many Americans as competitors, but the name of the first successful one appears in this issue. Mr. Ives is well known to the readers of the American agricultural press, amongst whom he enjoys a high reputation, but we hope Canadian writers will not feel discouraged at the appearance of this formidable competitor. In all cases, strict justice will be meted out in the awarding of the prizes.

We often wonder why our farmers should continue to pay money out of their pockets for those government prize essays—many of which would not come up to the standard for publication in our columns—when they can enjoy so many admirable essays free of cost.