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THOMAS SHAW, RIVERSIDE FARM, EDITOR.

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HAMILTON, CANADA, APRIL, 1886.

Please examine your address tag. If it reads, Dec., '85, your subscription expired with that issue, and so of any month, and we will be obliged if readers in arrears will renew at once.

A number of our subscribers have lately complained of not getting their JOURNALS regularly, which to us is a matter of regret. Every subscriber's name is printed on our subscription list and the JOURNALS addressed by a mail despatcher, so that a mistake on our part is almost impossible. We believe the fault lies more frequently with the post offices, but hope our readers not receiving their JOURNALS regularly will always let us know at once.

THE idea is somewhat prevalent that the term *scrub* applies only to inferior classes of cattle. It is oftener used thus, it may be, but it is certainly as applicable to inferior classes of horses, sheep and swine, and the loss resulting from keeping scrub animals of any of these classes is correspondingly great. We do not think that the number of scrub cattle is proportionately larger than that of any of the other kinds referred to, if indeed so large. The free application of the term to cattle is bearing its fruit, inasmuch as a good many are trying to wipe away the reproach upon their methods; and we would that all could so be wrought upon. A Kansas cattle man has stated, that had he purchased good cattle when he commenced business some years ago, he would to-day be worth \$10,000 more than at present. How much more would not the Dominion be worth to day did every farmer but possess good stock; and how much richer would not every individual farmer be, if every beast now a scrub was instead an improved animal? Answer, our western contemporary, thou champion defender of the scrubs.

MAN suffers, pines, and prematurely dies, who is not kept supplied with a sufficient quantity of pure air. Under these conditions we never find him at his best, nor can he properly fulfil the ends for which he was intended. Pure air and plenty of it are as essential to the well-being of quadrupeds as to that of the human

race. Dark and overcrowded stables react very injuriously upon the inmates, and on no class of them, perhaps, so much as upon the horse. According to the *North British Agriculturist* a minimum space of 300 cubic feet should be given to each horse, and it is better for them where they can have 1,200 to 1,500 cubic feet. The same writer recommends raising the floor a foot above the surface level, and using as a material for the same a concrete of ashes, gravel and lime. A beast properly kept will invariably give better results than one which is not, and therefore it is the duty of all to place every animal which they may take in charge under those conditions most favorable to the security of the best returns. The humanity side of the question we have not touched upon.

THE *Chicago Breeders' Gazette* in a recent issue has a trite sentence bearing on sheep husbandry, which reads thus: "Upon the shepherd rather than the Congressman must they (flock-owners) depend for "prosperity in sheep husbandry." Weigh it well, ye stock-owners in every line. It is to the concentration of your efforts upon your own branch, and the bringing to bear upon it your best energies, that ye are to look *mainly* for success. The Government may do a good deal by way of protecting you from diseases incident to live-stock, but they cannot do very much toward lessening the size of bone and increasing the proportionate amount of flesh. That must be done by judicious mating in the first place, and following this up by judicious and liberal feeding. The Government may say that wools may come into this country free, which may have a bearing on the price, but it cannot put ten pounds of wool upon the back of every sheep in the flock, where but six grew before—that must be done by the breeder. A self-reliant and persevering industry is an excellent form of protection.

It is always a question with young men as to which calling will give the best return for the outlay, and very properly so. It is not natural that a man should spend his strength for naught, nor would it be wise. It is well, however, that young men in choosing a life work, should consider the extent of the *competition* that they must encounter on its threshold, as well as their natural fitness for the work and advantages of its situation. In most lines the competition is very keen, and one who wishes to keep abreast must work with all his might. Yet even in farming there are lines which are less crowded than others. The keepers of good stock, though in the aggregate a strong army, are numerically small compared with the grain growers, and therefore in their line the competition is less keen. For many reasons a large number of our farmers do not choose to make stock-raising a leading interest, and though this is to be deplored, it leaves more room for those who lead in this direction. The early bird is the one which is surest of a full break fast. So he who is first to introduce good stock into his neighborhood is likely to be foremost in reaping the reward.

It is a great matter that an interest in good stock be awakened, and whatever will tend to move men in this direction is a blessing to the community. It matters not so much in which direction the current of this interest flows. The great thing is to start it flowing. Waters that do not flow, in their dank stagnation carry blessing to no one. So where there is no progress, the odors of a fatal miasma brood over neighborhoods, fatal to their best material interests. It has been said, and truly, that there is no such a thing as standing still in the domain of spiritual life. Where

there is no advance, indolence is engendered, which in its turn corrodes, so that deterioration or retrogression is the order. Whatever creates an interest, therefore, is to be hailed with welcome, whether it be the exhibition, the newspaper, or the object-lesson taught by him who successfully introduces a better class of stock. It is simply marvelous the apathy that is shown in this matter in so many sections of the country. One would suppose that, where so many good animals are exhibited, increasing interest could not but be awakened, even in the minds of the most sluggish. And so it would, we believe, but that so large a number fight against the awakenings of impulses that would lead them onward, through a process of false reasoning, having its seat in the ancient ruts of old-time practice. The work of doing something to awaken this interest is relegated to every stockman by an expectant country. And a great work it is. Its ramparts extend from sea to sea. Yet there is no reason for being discouraged. Of late years the advance has been great, and the time draws on when this mountain shall become a plain.

Why Stock Feeding May Not Pay Sometimes.

Quite a number have tried stock-feeding in the stall on a limited scale, and after one or two trials which resulted in a balance sheet on the wrong side, have given it up in disgust, with the conviction that it cannot be made to pay. It is not with the decision that we are so much disposed to quarrel as with the steps which have led to it. While we cannot attach blame to any one for casting aside a venture which has not been attended with any profit, but rather loss, we may at the same time deplore the mistakes that may have led to this, and the baneful effect upon others.

That it can be made to pay, and pay richly, has been demonstrated over and over again in hundreds and thousands of instances. We can name farmers by the score who have amassed money in this way, which makes it abundantly clear that it *can* be made to pay. The fact, too, is very significant, that with but a very few exceptions the medal awards for the past six years have been given to farms largely devoted to the breeding and feeding of stock, and yet the number of farmers is very large who labor under the delusive idea that stock-feeding (in the sense of stall-feeding) cannot be made to pay; nor is it an idea consisting of mere sentiment, but one arrived at as the result of experiment made by themselves.

There are reasons, then, for these unfortunate conclusions, and we propose in this paper to trace what some of these may be, with a view to their removal.

(1) Some do not succeed because of a *natural inaptitude* for the work. There are those who never make any business pay them, whatsoever its nature. If set up in business to-day, by the expiration of one year they would be struggling amid difficulties. They may eke out a living in the rut in which they have all along jogged, but seem incapable of turning over one single leaf in the line of practical progression. Stock-feeding is expensive, and unless he who engages in it has tact sufficient to keep the eaters making the most of their diet and pushing well ahead, he will not succeed.

(2) Others fail because of the *inferior class* of stock chosen for the experiment. It is only reasonable to expect that parties who have made feeding a business and a study for years, will have a better knowledge of the work than any beginner, however well up in the theory of feeding. Now the fact is very significant, that such experienced feeders will not touch an inferior animal, under the conviction they cannot stall-