

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE. *

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

VOL. XXXVIII.

WINNIPEG, MAN., AND LONDON, ONT., MAY 20, 1903.

No. 574

Editorial.

The Stockman's Hope.

That the prospects of a good demand for pure-bred stock in Western Canada are bright, there can be no doubt. For some time the market for blue blood has been improving, and the consensus of opinion among breeders now is that the market is in a fairly satisfactory condition.

In looking backward to trace the evolution of events, it becomes reasonable to expect that well bred animals should by this time be finding favor in the eyes of the old-time wheat farmer. This is, of course, not a country where the beginner in farming, with small means, can extensively embark in pure-bred stock breeding. Over the greater area the dollars must first come from wheat; but after the farm has become well under cultivation, and comfortable buildings are erected, a worthy and commendable ambition is the possession of a small herd of pedigreed stock. The years of plenty which the pioneers of this country so richly deserved have come, and hundreds of farmers can now boast of that which is needful to gratify, it may be, their life's desire. In consequence, the well established stockman has sent out much of his surplus to become the foundation of new herds. Down in old Ontario has our Western buyer been present, and from the best herds of that Province not a few favorites have been secured at fancy figures, to supplement our already reputable herds or become the rock upon which to build a new one.

A noticeable and commendable feature of the present tendency on the part of many to begin breeding pure-bred stock is that they are beginning in a small way. This is desirable, because genuine success can only be expected where practical experience is the guide. Some of the greatest disasters which have befallen the pure-bred cattle industry of Canada and the United States were brought about by men of capital and no experience in stock, who desired to swing suddenly to the front in the realm of stockdom. What this growing country needs is more farmers to take an interest in high-class stock, either by starting a herd or purchasing superior blood to build up the stock already on their premises.

There can be no danger of over-production of well-bred horses, cattle, sheep or hogs in this country. The demand is sure to increase steadily. Not only will the improved conditions of the agricultural classes have this effect, but the rapid inrush of settlers and the population of new districts makes the prospects encouraging, almost beyond comprehension. Moreover, our fertile soil, from which has been reaped so many bountiful harvests without apparent diminution of fertility, must in time give way, notwithstanding what is thought to the contrary. Nature's storehouse in the soil never did and never can continue for upwards of a half century under similar conditions to give to the sower the same returns for his energy; hence the time will come when the land must have a rest. Larger areas will be seeded to grass, and stock-raising will become more popular in Manitoba and the Territories.

The present state of our cattle trade with Great Britain demands that greater attention be paid to breeding in Canada. Much as may be gained by better finishing of all stock sent to the foreign market, top prices will never be realized until there is a general improvement in the breeding. Happily, however, there is a tendency for good bulls to be more appreciated and better

patronized throughout the country, and as this is the chief medium through which improvement must be expected, the situation may be regarded as presenting some encouragement as far as Manitoba and sections of the West is concerned. Taking all things, therefore, into consideration, the signs of the times undoubtedly point to bright prospects for the breeder of pure-bred stock.

Siftings.

The weeds are beginning to grow; nip them in the bud.

* * *

If there was not time to plant the vegetable garden during the mighty rush of seeding, give it a little attention now. Some varieties will do very well even yet.

* * *

Tell the young men of your district about the "Farmer's Advocate" gold medal for stock-judging. Encourage them to take a hand in the game.

* * *

The question of establishing a Winter Fair has been receiving serious consideration at Brandon. What about Neepawa, Portage la Prairie, Carman and other towns having claims to advance?

* * *

The time for plowing matches will soon be here. Boys, get into line; it's a worthy ambition to be able to turn a good furrow. Send along the date and particulars of your next match for publication.

* * *

Don't fail to read the letter in another column on a Dominion Exhibition for Winnipeg, by L. S. L. There are some mighty important ideas in it that should interest you. Send us in a few notes, giving your opinion of the proposition.

* * *

In certain parts of the United States, where winter fattening of sheep is practiced, good profits have been made this year. In Australia, the great sheep-raising country, the flocks have become reduced to an alarming extent owing to drought. The sheep business shows signs of brightening up in this country.

* * *

The summer fairs will begin during the last of June. Have you decided upon the extent of your contributions to the exhibition. Support it to the best of your ability, and in so doing you will be furthering the best interests of your district.

Clover and Grass at Brandon Experimental Farm.

The clovers and some of the newer grasses which are under trial at the Brandon Experimental Farm were recently inspected by a representative of the "Farmer's Advocate." Although in an exposed position, they have all wintered well. Mammoth Red, Common Red, Alfalfa and Alsike clovers have each a good stand, and are shooting ahead in a very satisfactory manner. Bromus Arvensis, a new Brome grass in Manitoba, has also come through the winter safely, and promises to be suitable for Western cultivation. Red-top, although not sufficiently thick for a good crop, is also doing well, and appearances indicate that it has come to stay. It has wintered equally as well as the other varieties; its thinness being entirely due to the seed being of inferior quality.

Horticultural Trial Stations.

At a meeting of the Western Horticultural Society, held in November last, a paper was read by Melvin Bartlett, Secretary of the Association, pointing out the necessity for and advantage to be gained from having horticultural trial stations in different parts of Western Canada. A few weeks later, when the annual convention of the same association was held in the City of Winnipeg, the advisability of undertaking this work was discussed and unanimously approved of. As certain difficulties appeared in the way, however, it was referred to the executive committee for fuller consideration, to whom authority was given to put the proposition on a working basis, if possible.

Since that time the matter has received due attention on the part of the executive in charge, and a definite announcement has been made that horticultural trial stations will be established under the direction of the Western Horticultural Society.

During the eight years that this organization has been in existence, a work of immense value to the whole country has been done. More particularly, perhaps, may this be said of the last three years, for in that time the membership has increased from 30 to 148, forming an association both influential and useful. It is questionable, however, if during its existence a more important movement was ever set on foot than the present one, which is calculated to determine by actual experiment in different parts of the country the plants, fruits and shrubs best suited to each locality. At Brandon and Indian Head we have two experimental farms that have been of untold benefit to the districts in which they are located, and, in a smaller degree, to the entire country, but the climate and soil conditions of Western Canada are so varied that each district must, to a large degree, determine for itself its real position in regard to horticultural development. A tree that succeeds at Brandon may not suit the Dauphin country, while others that will barely grow at the former may be a pronounced success in parts of Southern Manitoba.

The early settlers in this country never dreamed of such successes in fruit-growing as have been already recorded, and yet in the light of present-day developments, it is questionable if we have yet touched more than the fringe of that horticultural discovery which awaits the researches of the present generation. To effectually promote this work the Western Horticultural Society are determined. They mean to carry it out, too, without an extravagant expenditure of money. The plan, as at present outlined, is to select certain districts in which there are persons willing to co-operate with the association and who are in a position to do careful and conclusive work. These experimenters will be supplied with trees, plants and shrubs, which the nursery companies are willing to place at the disposal of the association. They will, also, be required to make periodical reports as to the progress which is being made, but in return they will become the owners of all collections of plants supplied, and in all probability will be allowed their expenses while attending the annual meeting of the association. It is hoped to establish these trial stations at such points in each locality as will command the greatest attention from the public, who are to be the principal benefactors.

This is a proposition which is worthy the appreciation of every person in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, and its development, if wisely directed, should result in a universal improvement on our present status in horticulture.