

Our Subscription Prize for 1890.

Every farmer should send in one new name and get a copy of our splendid picture, which represents several of the most noted prize-winning stallions of 1889.

The Annual Meetings of the Live Stock Associations.

The annual meetings of the Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association and the Canadian Hog Breeders' Association, will be held about the 12th or 13th of March, in Toronto. We hope all these meetings will be well attended. Subjects of more than usual importance are to be discussed, such as better and cheaper railroad accommodation for the shipment of pure-bred stock, the question as to whether breeders desire their stock kept two weeks on any one fair ground, and the selection of judges capable of properly placing awards. Last year the Secretary of the Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association induced Mr. John S. Pearce, London's well-known seedsman, to give a handsome prize, to be competed for by the various breeds of sheep. This year another prize will be presented to the Society, also one to the Hog Breeders' Association. The members of each of these associations, as well as breeders generally, are requested to be present at the annual meeting, in order that all may have a voice as to what these prizes shall be offered for. A number of good papers will be read and discussed at each meeting. Further notice will be given in a future number.

The annual meetings of the following societies will be held at the time and places named below: The Ayrshire Breeders' Association, February 4th, at 1.30 p.m., at Albion Hotel, Toronto; Dominion Shorthorn Herd Book Association, February 5th, at the Shaftsbury Hall, Toronto. This meeting will open at 10 a.m. A number of good papers will be read. The Clydesdale Association of Canada will meet on February 6th, at 1 p.m., at the Albion Hotel, Toronto. The annual spring show of this Association will be held in Toronto, on the 12th or 13th of March, and from present appearance will be one of the best the Society has ever held. We would advise all interested parties to attend it. Although they may have to travel a long distance to do so, they will be amply repaid. Nearly all of the best Clydesdale horses in Canada will be shown here. We think it a great pity that the Shire Horse Society does not unite with the Clydesdale men in holding a joint show, as well as the members of the Canadian Draught Horse Society. Americans and other purchasers come to this show. It is important for the breeders and the country that this show shall be made as large and good as possible. It is time the officers and members of these last named associations awoke and gave their secretary the necessary assistance in these matters. Surely these gentlemen do not desire the Clydesdale men to do all the work of advertising Canadian horses. Heretofore the Clydesdale breeders have done so, and have reaped, as they should, the major part of the benefit, which was their due.

British Columbia spruce timber is being used in organ-building. The well-known makers of organs and pianos, Messrs. W. Bell & Co., of Guelph, sent a trial order for 25,000 feet of dressed spruce a few months ago to the Brunette Saw Mills Co., of New Westminster, and so great was the satisfaction it gave that the order has been repeated several times since. The firm are greatly pleased with the lumber and will continue to use it regularly.

Two Weeks at Toronto—What the Breeders Say.

Dear Sir,—I much regret to see that the Toronto Industrial has decided to keep live stock on exhibition for two weeks at their next show, thereby following, I presume, the suit led by Buffalo and Detroit. This, I think, is a great mistake on the part of the Association, and hope they will reconsider their intention. Had the Directors been at Buffalo and Detroit, and heard the expressions of the exhibitors, they would hesitate before adopting such an unreaonable rule. At the places named, exhibitors did not fail to express themselves, both loudly and deeply, on the injustice of keeping valuable stock so long at one fair, and the general feeling was to let severely aloof shows that demand such unreasonable conditions. Again, it looks as though now the Provincial was considered a thing of the past, the Toronto Board having no competitor of consequence conclude they can dictate to stockmen as they like, and that exhibitors will go there no matter how arbitrary their rules may be. Let all interested attend the present annual meetings of the various live stock organizations and consider this matter. I feel sure the remedy is in their own hands. Let each speak with no uncertain sound, and, if necessary, pledge themselves not to show at any fair where stock must remain on exhibition over a week. The intention is, no doubt, to kill off the smaller shows. A case of boycotting centralization is the order of the day. And I would just say here, "Farmers, stick to the Provincial," see your M. P.'s, and impress upon them that you are opposed to having the Provincial done away with; reorganize it if you wish, but do not abolish. It has done much, and much remains for it to do, especially in this age of montebanks and dancing women. Let us have one purely agricultural show where stock will be the chief attraction, and not be sidetracked for a third-rate circus performance. Let us have a show where we may take our wives and daughters and sons with perfect confidence, well knowing that the chief attraction will be the stock, whether horses, cattle, or sheep, and not some very ordinary dancers very badly dressed on exhibition, that cause many a lady to blush with shame and leave such a questionable attraction.

RICHARD GIBSON, Delaware, Ont.

Dear Sir—Some time ago you wrote me for my views concerning the programme which is talked of for the Toronto exhibitions for next year. I have no doubt but my ideas will coincide with the majority, at least live stock exhibitors. I think to be plain, its quite unnecessary to have stock there more than one week, and would call it a great disadvantage to exhibitors, as well as to other fall fairs.

T. W. EVANS, Yelverton, Ont.

Dear Sir,—If Toronto persists on having the stock for two weeks, it will be an injury to their show instead of a benefit; besides, it looks selfish to monopolize so much time. What I think the large fair associations ought to do, is to get more direct transport from one show to the other. There is no getting over the fact that it is the live stock that creates the greater part of the traffic on the railway, and in fact makes the show, and yet the railway officials seem to think that the stockmen are not worth minding. In conclusion, I would advise the large fair associations to get greatly reduced rates on the railway, and more direct transit.

R. McQUEEN, Blythwood, Ont.

Dear Sir,—In answer to your request, I do not approve of the two weeks at the Industrial Exhibition, although I suppose I am as near to Toronto as any one who exhibits stock. I think one week is quite sufficient, for when we get our stock up fit to show we want to attend other fairs as well as Toronto, and if it is going to hinder us doing this, or others must be held too early or too late, I can not fall in with their views on the subject, except they advance the prizes considerably.

R. DORSEY, Burnhamthorpe, Ont.

Dear Sir,—We think it unreasonable to ask the stockmen to exhibit their stock two weeks at Toronto. We think the prizes they offer now are too small in our line for one week's exhibit; and, if they insist next year on two weeks, they will have a very small show. Now that the Provincial is dead, we think that the government should continue the grant of \$10,000 for agriculture, and divide it between London, Hamilton, Toronto, Kingston and Ottawa. This would put all of them on a good footing.

W. H. & C. H. McNISH, Lyn, Ont.

Dear Sir,—In response to your request for an expression of opinion as to the new rule of the Industrial Exhibition, requiring stock to be on exhibition, would say: Undoubtedly, many breeders are now in the habit of debating within themselves, "Should I exhibit at the large exhibitions," or is it going to pay me to suffer all the worry and annoyance and risk for the expected benefit. Now, if such possible exhibitor was in that form of mind, as no doubt many are, I should say the "d-bate," when this rule is read, would soon be decided in the negative, and undecided possible exhibitor would at once decide to stop at home. This rule is certainly not in favor of exhibitors, as one would need to be very sure of a prize to spend two weeks in one place, and don't think the society will derive much "revenue" from it. It is a question that the different live stock associations should discuss and pass upon at their annual meetings, and we have no doubt will be heard from with "no uncertain sound." Don't think there is room for much diversity of opinion from an exhibitor's standpoint, and would undoubtedly prefer spending one week at an eastern show, and another at a western. GEO. RICE.

Stock.

Horse Breeding in Canada.

There is no more fascinating pursuit than that of breeding domesticated animals, and the art has been practised from the earliest ages. The oldest writers on agriculture have given directions for breeding and improvement, and among the whole of the English-speaking people there is found an innate love of stock and stock breeding. Amongst the many branches of this industry horse breeding is one of the most important, and in no line has greater change and improvement been brought forth. For this branch of farm industry our soil and climate are thoroughly suited, and wherever our horses have gone they have given a good account of themselves. That the feed and treatment they receive at the hands of our breeders produce horses of good wearing type, is proved by finding the same buyers frequenting our markets year after year to fill their orders.

England and Scotland are yearly exporting, to all parts of the world, horses for breeding purposes, and at the same time are largely importing the cheaper work horses that cannot be bred in sufficient numbers to supply the demand, and are, by so doing, reaping a large profit by the transaction.

The cities of this continent require an immense yearly supply to fill the ranks of those disqualified by the wear and tear of traffic. Canada has done her share toward supplying what are needed in the different lines of work horses, and the sale of these has been a large source of revenue. But our aim should be higher; there is no reason why the majority of our farms should not be able to support one or more of the very best mares of our representative breeds, whether they be of draught, coach, saddle, or any other class, as long as some particular end is kept in view. Our greatest need of reform in horse breeding is to discontinue the use of the low grade all-purpose stallion. The patronage of this class each season, not only produces weeds and culls that no-buyer wants at any price, but lessens the profits of the best bred stallions. Therefore, there are many sections of the country that a good, high priced horse cannot get sufficient patronage to retain his services; for, as a rule, the smaller the fee the greater the amount of business done. We have for example only to look at the position France has attained through the government taking control of the breeding there, by the introduction of the best blood, and also by instituting a measure, by which all stallions used in stud are required to pass an examination, and, when approved, they receive state assistance, and are exempted from taxation; the result has been a wonderful improvement in the quality of their horses, and a corresponding lucrative demand.

If Canada is ever to become a successful breeding ground, some such measure is required, for the best horses cannot be introduced without large expenditure, and those that are enterprising enough to bring in good specimens require all the encouragement that the different districts can give.

The number of horses in European Russia is 21,000,000, including six government studs, besides a large number of private ones. The Russian government devotes annually \$80,000 to the purchase of stallions, and, so widespread has been the interest of late years in improving this stock, that races, trotting-matches, and shows have been largely increased all over the country.