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THOMAS SHAW, RIVERSIDE FARM, EDITOR.

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THE interesting papers of "Agricola" on the Shire horse have called forth a criticism from the well-qualified pen of Mr. A. McNeilage, the secretary of the Clydesdale Horse Society of Scotland. This criticism will be found on another page. It is with no little pride that we refer to other original papers in each issue of the JOURNAL by regular contributors of a character that will survive the ephemeral life of ordinary newspaper articles. Some of them will, without a doubt, be embodied permanently in the agricultural literature of Canada. The high character of these contributions in the past are the pledge and foretaste of what may be expected in the future. At its inception we determined that the JOURNAL should lead the van, and through the aid of the many kind friends who have viewed our effort favorably, we have been enabled to carry out this determination. It is still our settled purpose that the JOURNAL will continue to lead. We shall not look grudgingly on the success of those who are attempting to follow.

AN article on "Sheep-washing" will be found on another page from the pen of Mr. D. McCrae, Guelph. It will be observed by the reader that the trend of Mr. McCrae's remarks are rather against the continuance of the practice. As Mr. McCrae is himself engaged in the manufacture of wool, his remarks on this subject carry with them a weight which they could not otherwise possess. Sheep-growers would hail with much satisfaction the abandonment of the practice. As the only difficulty in the way of manufacturing it quite as well when marketed in the unwashed state is a lack of suitable appliances, it will be only a matter of time until this is removed, when the disagreeable practice will no doubt be discontinued for all time. From Mr. McCrae's letter we glean what was obscure to us before, the reasons for the hostility of many buyers who are exporters, to the purchasing of unwashed wool. With a tariff bearing more heavily against unwashed wool going into the United States, it is only natural that it should be so.

THE battle still rages in Britain as to whether it is safe to cure fodder in stacks by means of the roller pressure process. In some instances failures are reported, but it is thought that most of these, or all of them, have been caused by some departure from the instructions given by the Messrs. Thomas Pearson & Co., of the Midland Works, Wolverhampton, who manufacture the rollers. We should greatly like to see the attempt made in this country. We admit that curing hay by this process is of less moment here than in Britain, where the climate is so humid, but even here, if it could be made to succeed, it would in many instances be attended with advantage. The action of the frost upon it in winter would, so far as we can see, interfere with feeding it, especially on the outer portions of the stack, but one is not safe usually in pronouncing very definitely on what has not been tried. The importance of curing feed by that process which will best conserve its natural feeding properties is very great, and cannot receive too much attention at the hands of those who are experimenting for the advantage of the people.

THE man who engages in stock-keeping without an ideal is like a mariner at sea without a compass. Like a reed shaken with the wind, he is likely to be swayed by conflicting opinions, and changes his methods so often that high achievement is impossible. He may get up some low Laurentian slope, but will never reach the Alps or the Appenines, and will, during his whole life fail to get a glimpse of the Himalayas. It is no pathway of velvety down which he treads who has an ideal before him, and constantly keeps his eye upon it. Like the traveler on the narrow way, he is traveling a difficult path, but there is a goal before him. He is likely to make some mistakes, but is wise enough to look at them and profit by them. Like the little child learning to walk, when he falls he gets up again. But it is of much moment what the ideal shall be. It is not sufficient that he be able to establish a type with distinctive features. It is all important that the type should possess ability in a marked degree. It is not simply that the Holsteins are black and white in color that they are so highly prized, but because of their great milk and butter-producing qualities. We can fancy one producing a type most perfect in its characteristics, but lacking in intrinsic merit. Like the gourd of the prophet, it will flourish for a day, and when the sun waxes warm it will wither. Utility is always the measure by which the average man gauges his estimate of what is placed before him, and that which can convince men of its usefulness will always be sure of an enduring popularity.

SOME are loud in their outcry against the system of having the awards at exhibitions based so largely upon the finished condition of the animal as to fat and general fleshiness. Some injury has resulted to breeding animals in this way, and deterioration to the offspring. But has not great good resulted in the stimulus given to the mass of breeders to bring up the general condition of their herds to a high standard? The good, we make bold to say, has far more than counterbalanced the evil. For every good animal thus ruined for breeding a hundred have been improved through the stimulus to which we have already referred. There is a far worse evil than this about which much less is said—we mean the deterioration that results from keeping stock in an under rather than in an over condition. For every one offender in the show-rings there are one hundred in the stable. Stock of any kind cannot be kept in an under-condition without deterioration, and a deterioration also of the offspring.

Nor can the plea be urged in favor of this method of keeping stock that the resultant good more than counterbalances the evil. There is no resultant good. Evil is entamped upon the practice in its every aspect, and only evil, and yet oftentimes those who indulge in this are loud in their denunciations of the evils resulting from making cattle over-fat at shows. These evils are less injurious than those which result from making cattle over-fat fitting them up for sales, for in such instances the flesh is usually put on in a spasmodic way and by less skilful hands, inducing an unusual condition of the animal which leads to general disturbance, and sore disappointment in many instances to the purchasers.

PRICES of good Shorthorns have ruled lower for two or three years past than formerly. Though this may not be as the breeders would like to see it, it is just what the keepers of common cattle should take advantage of, by improving the opportunity to make their purchases. The intrinsic merits of this famous breed are just as good as they were many years ago when they sold, some for more than \$20,000 each. Once the real merit of a breed has been established, the low price that they can be obtained for is a reason for purchasing rather than for refraining from doing so. There will probably never be a more opportune time for investing in Shorthorns than the present. Good ones can be bought at \$100 each, and in all probability the time will never come when they can be bought for much less. Of course, where the breeding is very special, and the merit of a superlative order, the price we have quoted is quite too low. Either Shorthorns are better than common cattle or they are not. We hold they are, and will dispute the point with all comers. If they are better, then why not breed them? Some men will change their potatoes and the various cereals from time to time in the search of what is better, but they go on from generation to generation with the same line of stock, which have assisted in keeping both them and their progenitors poor. Beginners should never launch out indiscriminately in making their purchases, but rather in a small and tentative way, making sure of every inch of ground which they cover. They should commence ordinarily with one or two, and thus avoid the running of any pecuniary risks.

THE relative values of pedigree and individual excellence in the choice of a sire are subjects on which it is difficult indeed for breeders to arrive at a consensus of opinion. Perhaps they will never do so. Some it seems can only look at this matter in the light of pedigree, and base their operations accordingly. Others can only look at individual excellence, and are not unfrequently disappointed. Where a due regard is had to both, success is certain. But this regard must view these qualifications in the right order. That must not be put first which should always come second, and we say it unhesitatingly, that individual excellence should have the place of honor. We want pedigree to render the transmission of excellence measurably certain, and we want individual merit to transmit it in the highest form. Pedigree insures prepotency. Prepotency is the ability to transmit a likeness of self or family features, but in its highest form it is a likeness of self. Now if pedigree is to be exalted above individual merit, then it follows that it is better to run the chances of getting the likeness of dead ancestors than the impress of the living sire. But it is the impress of the living sire that we are more likely to get, and all the more so if he is imported. We hazard the statement that any person