

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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SHORTHORN COLORS.

In its report of the recent Duthie-Marr sale of Shorthorns in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, an Old Country exchange says:

"Mr. Duthie had something to thank for his colors, some fourteen of his calves being almost perfect blood-reds, and that meant much at a time when reds are so much wanted to correct what is less fashionable in complexion—and the color difficulty is one which all Shorthorn breeders have to face, and which means a great deal in totalling up the ultimate financial results."

The idea that red as a color for Shorthorns is becoming popular has probably arisen from the fact that buyers for the South American trade favor that color, presumably because it is preferred on that continent, but, fortunately, no such fad has taken hold of the friends of the breed in Great Britain or North America, where color counts for little, so long as it is a good Shorthorn color—red, white or roan, or a mixture of these. While red is a good color, it is no better in any sense than the others mentioned; and if we are to judge by the relative standing of the reds and roans in the prize awards of the principal shows at home and abroad in recent years, it is safe to say that the roans have made by far the best showing, not because of their color so much as for their quality of flesh and hair and handling, and for their robustness of constitution. Some reds are as good as the best roans or whites in all these respects, but the friends of the breed will do well to guard against a repetition of the color craze which possessed speculators in Shorthorns in the boom period of the early 80's, when none but a red bull was considered by many breeders good enough to breed from, and a roan or white of superior quality and conformation was discounted on account of its color, with the result that hundreds of herds degenerated into weeds, and many herds formerly notable for individual excellence were seriously degraded—so much so

that the "Sage of Sittytton" himself is said to have admitted in sadness that much harm had been done his herd by catering to the demand for red cattle in North America, which at one time was practically the only market of consequence for the type represented by his herd.

SECRET OF RELIABILITY.

More time and effort are expended in revising, reviewing and preparing the matter that goes into these pages than is spent in selecting and writing the articles printed in many inferior publications. Eternal vigilance is the price of reliability, and the vigilance of our editorial and business staff is unremitting. This explains, in considerable measure, the confidence reposed in "The Farmer's Advocate" by its readers from end to end of the Dominion—a confidence which finds habitual expression in the assurance, "I saw it in 'The Farmer's Advocate.'" We do not, of course, endorse all the opinions of our correspondents, but even in contributed articles care is observed to insure accuracy in statement of facts; while the editorial opinions expressed are deliberately considered, and written, for the most part, from the standpoint of practical experience. This is one secret of our success.

PROTECT THE GAME.

A subscriber living in Middlesex Co., Ont., called at the office of "The Farmer's Advocate" last week to suggest an article drawing attention to the importance of farmers taking steps to protect the game upon their lands. So far from being a churlish or narrow-minded member of society, our friend evinced by his conversation that he was a kindly and sympathetic nature student, and his plea for the preservation of game animals and birds was based on humanitarian and æsthetic as well as utilitarian grounds. The value of insectivorous birds as allies of the farmer is not half realized, but the interest and companionship of such animals as squirrels is seldom considered at all. Among other things, our caller instanced a certain black squirrel which had its nest in a certain spot year after year, and became very tame, allowing one to approach almost close enough to stroke it. So interested did our friend become that he prized its presence almost as much as that of any chicken or other domestic creature on the farm, but a hunter passed through one day, and claimed it as tribute to the prowess of his aim. So persistent were the sportsmen in his district that, on one recent morning, after a light fall of snow, many farmers were out warning gunners out of their woods, often receiving impertinence for their pains. Even signs were ignored, so that, to make an example, a couple of young city fellows had to be fined.

All this is unpleasant, and should be unnecessary. The farmer owns the land, and has a right to protect the game thereon. If wild animals become too thick, he can keep them down himself. It would be well for every farmer to put up a few signs, "No Trespassing," "No Hunting or Shooting," in his bush, and see that every hunter is kept out, prosecuting a few if necessary. Wild game and birds are all too scarce in the old-settled districts. Let us protect what we have left.

By going back to his farm, and declining to accept an official position as Director of Immigration in England, Hon. Nelson Monteith has again shown his good sense, and greatly enhanced his reputation among the sound-thinking farmers of Ontario. Here, at least, is one ex-Minister of Agriculture who appreciates the farm enough to live upon it, and devote his energies to it. The lustre of office has not dazzled his eye nor turned his head. He realizes what too many of our young people are prone to forget, that agriculture is the ideal occupation for Nature's noblemen.

OUR MARITIME LETTER.

A FEW OBSERVATIONS ON RECENT THINGS.

The whole country has been in such a ferment over the elections that there was little use expecting much consideration for the common topics which engage the attention of ordinary correspondents till it was over; and still, if we analyze the speeches of the party haranguers, from one side of Canada to the other, there cannot be anything but wonder in our minds at the sort of pabulum which seems to satisfy the generality of people, and secures the votes with which Governments are made or unmade. This recent campaign has, perhaps less than any other, been directed to farmers particularly. Indeed, the general contention was often made in rural districts that everything went so well with them that it would be mere folly to formulate anything contemplating their betterment. From one side to the other of the country they were so convinced of the truth of the contention themselves, that in few if any constituencies they insisted on the discussion of fiscal questions at all—at least, those arising from the adverse working of the present tariff. We heard little of the price of the farmer's tea, sugar or cotton, as was the case in other days; not that any of these items are cheaper or better, we fear, but because all the parties are at a unit in support of protection as it has obtained in Canada since 1878; and as long as the products of the farm sell at a price sufficient to enable the farmer to buy those necessities with ease, there is not so much cause for complaint.

The farming community is easily served, anyway. It will be found, we really believe, that fewer farmers, proportionately, vindicate their right to represent their profession than any other section of the population. Of course, the lawyers are out in preponderating numbers always; theirs to prey, anyway, on the others. The peculiar thing about it all to us always, too, is the aversion with which a farmer generally regards the candidature of his brother farmer. A lawyer, doctor, merchant, gentleman of means—anything but a farmer—is received as to the business of representation born; let him, then, stick to his furrow. And still, there are many things—the most of things—which should be better advanced by a farmer's voice and vote in the House than through those of others; there is much in which he is interested beyond all others; there are more of his kind to represent than of all others, and, be it said, there are many of his kind better qualified to represent him than any of the others so willing to sacrifice themselves for him in a representative capacity.

Take these Maritime Provinces, for example, where the recent battle of the polls was waged so fiercely, and the result so surprising from many points of regard. We have no real farmer representatives at all. The Garden of the Gulf, almost entirely a farming community, nominated not a single one, but must depend on three lawyers and a gentleman of leisure to consult the best interests of agriculture. Indeed, of the four defeated candidates—all were turned out who represented the Province previously—not one had any connection with the Island's main interest. This is really remarkable in a class that so persistently asserts its right to representation by its own in the interim. The machine, perhaps, dampens their ardor when the sortition comes round. Whatever the cause, the fact remains that farmers are excluded.

There are several changes down here which are peculiar. Apart from Prince Edward Island's turnover, New Brunswick has, despite its recent banning of the Local Liberal Party, elected all but two of its Federal representation from the ranks of the Liberals. In Nova Scotia, the "Solid Eighteen," of which so much was said, has given place to a readjustment on a two-to-one basis, in favor of the dominant party. And all this, where least expected. In the Island, the feeling that the Government was coming back to power, with the stronger conviction that the Tunnel could only be secured from an administration which the Province supported solidly, seems to have affected the result. Certainly, there is only one great question for the Island, and that is the Tunnel. And, notwithstanding the ridicule which the ignorant pour out betimes on it and its advocates, there is no saner undertaking, at a cost of ten million or thereabout, which a country, committed to continuous communication daily, summer and winter, with the railway systems of Canada, could engage in. The present arrangement costs much more than that, and satisfies nobody; the other is Sir Douglas Fox's—Britain's greatest tunnelling engineer—plan and estimate; and that enterprising and astute constructor of great works, M. J. Haney, of Toronto, is ready to undertake it to-morrow at that figure. The Prime Minister will now look seriously into the question, we are assured.

The Canadian community is a sober, sensible, patriotic community, too. The result of the polls once announced, all immediately turn to the instant duty of making a greater Canada than ever out of this favored land. Victory has none less its triumph than its responsibilities.

A. E. BURKE.