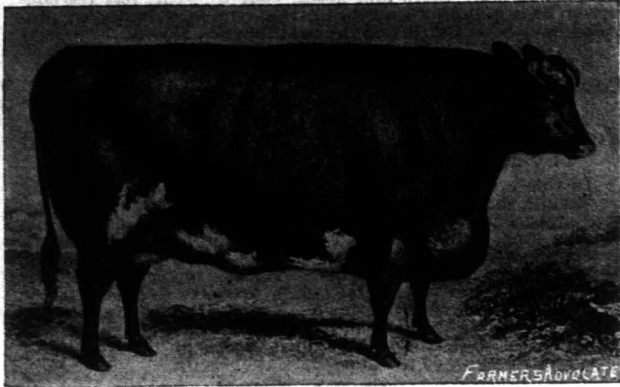


PLYMOUTH, 1865.

Lord Chancellor (20100); bred by Jonas Webb, Braham; exhibited by Mr. Sharpe, Courtlands
Corrine, Vol. XVI., p. 398, bred and exhibited by Mr. Woods, Stanwick Park.

1865 brings to notice that Jonas Webb could not only breed Southdowns, but could breed cattle to win at the Royal. Lord Chancellor was by Usurer, the Mason bull, bred by Lord Spencer, and bought by Lord Ducie to cross upon the Duchesses. Usurer was a blot upon the escutcheon of the Duchesses of Wetherby and Tortworth for a time, but the wisdom of the out-cross was eventually proved. The dam was of Mr. Bates' favorite Cambridge Rose family.



NECKLACE.

FIRST AT THE ROYAL, 1842. TWIN WITH BRACELET.

Two years' shows were withheld on account of cattle plague.

LEICESTER, 1868.

Commander-in-Chief (21451); bred and exhibited by T. C. Booth, Warlaby.
Lady Fragrant, Vol. XVII., p. 568; bred and exhibited by T. C. Booth, Warlaby.

1868 was a memorable year for Warlaby, as Commander-in-Chief, a bull of mighty presence, won in aged bull class, and Lady Fragrant in cow section, while Jolly Queen, a beautiful cow, was 2nd. She was afterwards imported to the U. S. *Butter* here put in his first appearance, and won as a yearling. His old coat had been preserved (he was a light roan), and the old hair was stained and discolored—looking rusty, as it were—but nothing could approach him in straightness of outline. I asked the herdsman how he preserved the old coat? "Sure and it's buttermilk." "Externally?" "I just dab him with it, and he gets a quart of sour buttermilk in his new milk." Here probably is the secret of the starter for buttermaking. An illiterate man was using this sour buttermilk as an aid to digestion thirty years ago, and those who attended the Royal shows in those days did not fail to be struck with the wealth of flesh and extraordinary coats carried by the young things Mr. Meadows showed.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Mr. Crossley on the Horse Question.

I have read the two articles on the horse question from April 1st issue and agree with practically all they say. It certainly has always appeared to me strange that a government which has deemed it advisable, through the medium of the Farmers' Institutes, to give a series of lectures throughout Ontario on almost every known branch of farming, has so far almost entirely neglected one of the most important branches, namely, that of horse raising.

However, whether this subject could be advantageously added to the series to produce any practical good is to my mind an open question. Certainly a lecturer who could not carry his examples around with him would be somewhat at a disadvantage as compared to the one who can make his butter on the spot whilst he is explaining the process of manufacture. A few general remarks might, however, be given with advantage. It must not, however, be forgotten that the showyard is the best school in which to learn the practical lessons of breeding and crossing of all kinds of animals. There is hardly a district in Ontario which does not receive this opportunity for self instruction through the generosity of the Ontario Government towards its local show. Many a man has made his first exhibit at some one or other of these shows, and has gradually worked his way up until he has become a sweepstakes winner at the Industrial.

There are undoubtedly many evils in connection with horse breeding throughout the country. Anybody would think that it was an easy matter to remedy them; in fact, one would think that a farmer's own common sense would show him the remedy. Yet such is not the case. Everybody thinks that he was born to be a farmer, just as everyone at some time of his life has thought that he was especially brought into this world to serve Her Majesty in the army or navy. Unfortunately, farmers are not heaven-born, and every farmer knows, just as is the case in business, that nine farmers make a failure where perhaps one makes a reasonable competency or even a good living. Having attended hundreds of breeders' meetings, agricultural shows, and so forth, at which I have met thousands of farmers, it is natural that this subject has been discussed in my presence many times. There are scores of different opinions on this matter, but I have never yet heard of a practical suggestion for a remedy of any one of these evils.

Some talk of governmental interference—for instance, licensing stallions. Well, one can hardly say that that is a practical suggestion. It is an inherent right of every Englishman to do as he likes with his own money. No government in the world would dare to dictate to a man what stallion

he should use, and even if they dare, what course would they pursue? Judging by my own experience, there is one pedigree stallion in Canada for from sixteen to twenty non-pedigreed, useless animals. Even the system of recording animals leads to abuse, as follows, and is illustrated in every country in the world:

There is a fashion for a certain breed, which naturally creates a large demand, followed by increased prices. Every male is, as a consequence, recorded, probably sold and used for breeding purposes, just because everyone must have a horse of this breed with a pedigree. The breed becomes deteriorated at once through the increased demand and the consequence which follows of keeping entire animals which would not make good geldings.

Mr. Innes speaks in his letter of the plan of insurance adopted in this country. I must say that I entirely agree with him. I often hear of the abuses of breeding in Canada, but do not think they can compare with the abuses of this system of travelling horses. I do not agree with Mr. Innes about the price of stud fees, but think myself that for the class of horse generally used they are too high, and are made so by this very practice. We will take a horse that cost \$1,000. He has 100 mares a year at \$15 per mare, of which 50 per cent down. He would realize right away \$750. Fifty per cent of his mares ought to be in foal, so that he would still have \$375 coming to pay all his expenses. There are few horses which travel and are really worth more than the above sum. If there were no insurance at all, but a moderate fee were charged, it seems to me that a stallion owner ought to make a good season and pay for his horse in four years, when he would still be worth 50 per cent. of his original value and he would still have made a good profit. Say, for instance, 100 mares at \$7.50 paid down. This would realize \$750, of which \$250 to capital account and \$250 to profit, and still his horse would fetch \$500 at the end of four years. In my experience, the farmer when he puts his mare under the insurance plan often does not care whether he gets his mare in foal or not, as is shown by the fact that though the stallion travels two months, at least 50 per cent. of the mares never come until the end of the season. As a consequence the owner does not get anything. It appears to me unreasonable that a stallion owner should be treated in this way, but so long as this system prevails the owner is compelled to charge more than he should.

There are many ways in which a government can help the horse industry; for instance, by bonusing stallions travelling in certain districts at stipulated fees (low). The different governments of Canada have tried different ways, but probably the European countries have had the most experience. As a consequence, it has always seemed to me that Ontario or the Dominion ought to appoint a commission for the purpose of thoroughly sifting this matter before taking any steps to remedy the abuses complained of. HORACE N. CROSSLEY.

A Cattle Exporter's View.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—Regarding the report that Argentine competition would yet drive the exporters of cattle on the hoof into dead-meat shipment instead, I may simply say: The present method is adopted because the English purchaser pays more for what is killed in England, and enough more to make the other method by contrast undesirable. So soon as the purchaser decides that Canadian-killed cattle are, say, as good as English-killed Canadians, we may expect the difference saved in cost of carriage of dead animals to induce that method of shipment. I think there is no prospect of the English taste so degenerating as to prefer mussy handled, and even very slightly musty, meat to the article which now sells freely as English-fed, and of which a large percentage is Canadian-grown.

Governments might blunder into such experiments as carcass shippers, but not the sensible business men engaged in this trade, unless they saw sufficient compensating advantage in a money bonus from a soft Government. There is no danger of Argentina having any influence upon the question raised (the system of shipment).

The price to be realized for Canadian cattle will of course be influenced by whatever competition presents itself in the market, and you do your best possible service to the cattle grower in developing the best methods of producing the best animals. Such ringing editorials as yours of March 1st—Away with Scrub Sires!—show the ADVOCATE to have an eye on real preventable grievances, and knows how to show them to its readers.

The balance of trade has been and is severely against the farmer, and shipments of cattle from Ontario show the poverty of the country, both in quantity and quality, but under the conditions existing, prudence in the selection of sires and stock retained for stock purposes becomes more than ever necessary. Let the farmer work both his head and his hands, and maybe he'll see a lot of things that can be remedied outside the farm also—all reducing the drain on his estate.

The so-called grievance of the trunk lines and steamship lines offering lower rates to American than to Canadian cattle does not seem preventable. Canadians can no doubt secure the same advantages through American soil, and on their vessels, when in a position to avail themselves of it. There is no set price, as far as steamships are concerned, for space. Sometimes half a dozen shippers will have

as many prices as there are shippers. When you go to take space you go to a "Jew shop," so to speak, with apparently the same principle—"get all you can," and that's one reason why the farmer should not ship. As a last resort to fill the vessel sometimes an American is quickly wired a very low rate. It's what they call "business." You can't help it. No ship company is an exception to this rule. The Allans did once, and priced to all alike. So honorable were they that in those old days the price of freight was sometimes not known until the vessel was down the river with the stock. The shipper was told it would be "current rate and all alike," and it was so, and their price *always*, I think, was as high as their full anticipations, and sometimes much higher. A change has come over the scene—it's still "business," and you must know the game to stay in it.

However I have digressed, say what you like of this to your people—all if it please you; and believe me in full sympathy with the farmer and the ADVOCATE. Respectfully yours, W. A. WILLIAMSON.

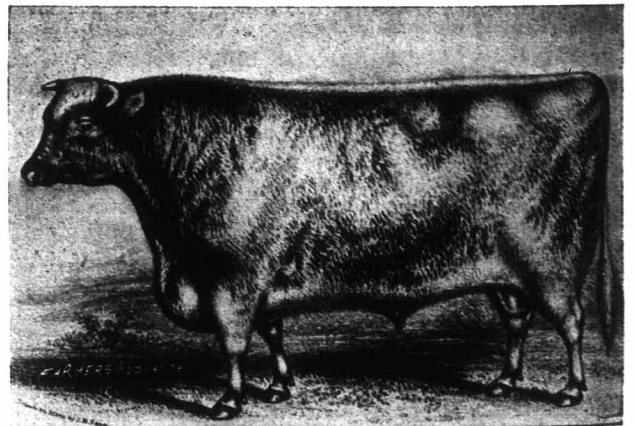
Montreal, March 27, '99.

Turning Out the Flock.

BY J. M'CAIG, PETERBORO, ONT.

The change from winter-feeding to pasture is rather a violent one if not made with some care and judgment. Grass contains about 80 per cent. of water, and it is to be expected that an abrupt and complete change from stored foods to grass will bring on a strong flushing of the animal processes. Diarrhoea will be followed by a great lowering of temperature, flaccidity and relaxation of the muscles. If the digestive processes go wrong in a sheep, it goes down very fast. Its digestive machinery is very strong, but its vascular and circulatory system, on the other hand, is very weak, so that it cannot throw off adverse conditions easily. Its capacity for self-restoration is not nearly so great as that of the horse or cow. So much is this the case that if a sheep takes sick it is generally expected that it will die. They seem to be hard to diagnose and hard to cure. A western man, who started in with a band of a thousand and lost them all the next year, without being able to tell what was the matter with them, went out of the business, saying that he "didn't like to be handling stock that would die without a cause." It is impossible to emphasize too strongly the necessity of prevention in sheep rather than cure, and more particularly with reference to the business of nutrition.

The aim of the shepherd should be to make the change as gradually as possible. This can be done by making the winter-feeding and grazing overlap. The grass-feeding should not constitute the whole food of the flock for ten days at least after the first turning-out, and night shelter will be necessary for still longer. The first time they go out it should be only for a couple of hours in the warmest part of the day, and for sun and exercise rather than grass. If the grass is too short to make a full bite, all the better, as there will then be no possibility of gorging, and the sheep will still have some appetite for inside food. For this reason it is hard to get them out too early. Besides, the spring air and sun are fine for the lambs. There is nothing more wholesome for either shepherd or lambs than the moving spring breeze, with the sun shining on it. It is the time at which the doctors talk of ozone. Let the little fellows out on the side of a dry hill, and let them stamp and race around the little knolls: it will increase their capacity for food and growth. The morning hours are better than the evenings or afternoons. After the more than customary exercise, it would be a mistake, especially in the case of very young lambs, to let them lie out on the damp



FORTH (17866).

FIRST AT THE ROYAL SHOW, 1864.

ground after the sun's heat begins to fail. They should be active outside, but should rest inside, in their dry, well-littered pen. After four o'clock the air gets chilly.

If it is good for ewes with lambs to run out early, it is still better for ewes that have not lambed. Grass is a great stimulant to milk secretion, and it is generally the case that pregnant ewes on heavy grass are more subject to udder trouble than those that have lambed in March, for example. For this reason such ewes should go out on short pasture, so that they will have to rustle for what they get, and thus check by exercise the tendency to rapid milk-secretion.