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THE CANADIAN FARMER

AND GRANGE RECORD.

AND ORGAN OF THE ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

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TERMS: } ONE DOLLAR
For Annum,
IN ADVANCE

OUR FAIR NUMBERS.

150,000 COPIES.

This year we intend to issue our Special Fair Numbers as we have been doing for the past four Fair seasons. This, the Fifth, Fair issue will be sent out first on the 16th of August, and will be issued every week until October 18th, thus taking in not only all the Provincial and the Industrial Fairs, but the different District, County and Township Fairs as well. We will issue each week 15,000 numbers profusely illustrated, the articles of special interest on Agriculture, Stock, Apiary, Horticulture, etc., everything in fact in any way pertaining to the Farm, Apiary and Garden. During the period previous to the fairs the extra numbers will be sent to prominent farmers throughout the country, and at the different exhibitions they will be distributed on the various grounds. We will thus reach an immense number of people for the ten weeks, and the FARMER will be the best medium advertisers can find through which to reach that portion of the public they desire to.

STOCK.

COVERED YARDS.

An exchange says: "Few farmers in America have yet considered the value and use of a covered cattle yard. In England such are not uncommon, and they are coming daily more into use, both there and upon the continent. In this country, where building material, especially wood, is more abundant and cheaper, we feel convinced that their adoption would, in many cases, be found to pay. Properly constructed, they protect cattle from the inclement weather, and allow of their being turned out many more days in the year than would be otherwise prudent. They also make the yard more comfortable and cleanly for the cattle to lie down; and they protect the manure from leaching or washing by rains. In its way alone a roof would often pay a good percentage on its cost. If to the roof we add also a pavement, with a covered cistern in the centre, into which all surplus moisture is conducted, we shall then have completed one of the most valuable improvements that a dairy or stock farm can possess.

"THE AMERICAN EXAMPLE."

The London Agricultural Gazette having editorially cited the Americans as setting an example to English farmers in some respects, and particularly with reference to care in the breeding of live stock, a correspondent of that journal writes a letter disputing the statement, from which the following is an extract:

"In your leading article (p. 516), you seem to me to draw an unfavorable conclusion as to the intelligence of the British farmer as compared with his American or Canadian cousins, apparently arriving at those conclusions from a comparison of the contents of the leading British and American farm journals. * * * You say that the Americans are ahead of us in breeding trotters and dairy cattle. Is it so? As to trotters, we know that they are ahead of us to speed, but the style of horse that pleases them we should put in a butchers cart; something more showy and stately appears to suit our buyers better. Then you quote the cow Eurotas as being something wonderful as a milker. On the next farm to mine is a cow that gives 20 pounds of butter when in full profit. In the first week of February, I bought from this farm the calves, the produce of his two cows. On inquiring how much butter he had last week, I find that these cows produced 31 pounds, after taking what milk was required for the house; and then where do many of our best horses and stock go? Why, abroad to our neighbors. So that I think that the inference that we are behind in stock-breeding is not justified."

On which the editor makes the following interesting comments under the heading above quoted:

Our excellent correspondent, B. W., to whose criticisms we are glad to give as prominent a place in our journal as we can, takes exception to the contrast which we drew the other day between the dislike of English farmers and the readiness of their American brethren to publish their experience. There are no agricultural journalists in this country who have less reason than ourselves to blame the silence of the practical man. We have every week three or four dozen communications for our readers from as many farms and other country places all over the counties—generally twice as many, we venture to say, as any of our contemporaries can produce; and this is the outcome of a long established conviction that it is the business of an agricultural journalist, not so much to teach his readers, as to get them to teach each other. It is in this way that every week we get an altogether unrivaled mass of information and discussion from hands

who hold both the pen and the plow.

The American example, nevertheless, is one that might be much more generally followed. In their report to the Royal Agricultural Commissioners Messrs. Read and Pell declared that they found among farmers in the States an energy and enthusiasm in the prosecution of their business almost beyond belief. * * * The American cow Eurotas, whose record is to ordinary ears on this side of the Atlantic altogether incredible, is, according to B. W. and his neighbor, nothing so extraordinary. But if the neighbor whose cow he tells us yields 20 pounds of butter weekly when in full profit, had followed the American example, and claimed publicity for his experience, we should have all been on the *qui vive*, and we venture to say that B. W. would have had to pay five times as much for her calves as he has hitherto bought them for. In nothing, indeed, more than in marketing, or which the practical man in this country prides himself, does he come so ridiculously to grief, or does the American example better deserve his study. We have heard four or five dealers on a railroad platform talking over the business of the fair they had just been attending; and the history of a horse or cow which had passed from hand to hand with a profit, as they called it, at every step—a deal loss we should rather call it in the summation of it all to the original practical man with whom the first deal took place—was what we should unite with our American friends in describing as "a caution." The utter failure of the grower or the producer in this country to get anything like what the consumer has to pay is the great agricultural scandal. It is this to which for weeks and months together we would gladly devote half the pages of our journal, if only we could thereby reach its myriad victims.

But not one in 200 of those who suffer, ever in this country see an agricultural journal, and many, it is possible, read it like B. W., when they get it, "for amusement, not for information." Let us have a little more of the American example, not merely in their many, compared with our few, who write of their experience for their neighbor's good, but in the hundreds of thousands who there read and study for their information as compared with our dozens, scores or hundreds. Then perhaps the agricultural press would become a real power in the land, and even B. W. might be ready to acknowledge its utility.

SALT your cattle and sheep regularly. They should not be fed less than once a week, but three times a week is better

DECREASE OF SHEEP IN ENGLAND

The diminution of the number of sheep in Great Britain has been set forth elaborately by an article in the London Times. Since 1868, up to 1881, the decrease has been 7,712,000, or 21½ per cent. The present number of sheep in the United Kingdom is in round numbers only 27,882,000, while in the United States in 1870 there were 28,478,000, and the tables of the census of 1880 will show a large increase in stock of this description. There has been in Great Britain no replacement of sheep by an augmentation in herds. In the thirteen years under review, the increase in cattle was but nine per cent. Or, to repeat the figures in another form, while there was a falling off in sheep of 7,712,000, there was a gain in cattle of \$22,000. Reckoning each head of cattle as an equivalent to six sheep, the combined cattle and sheep stock has diminished in the whole kingdom during this period three per cent. The money value represented by the decline is nearly \$35,000,000. All the English counties except three have less live stock than in 1868. The decrease in live stock, moreover, has occurred not merely upon the same, but upon a larger total area of cultivated land, and upon a greater number of acres, namely, 3,777,000, devoted to fruit crops, or more than 10 per cent. This extra acreage means not an accession of wealth, but an increase of expenditure, since a smaller head of stock is kept.

The decrease in live stock reckoned as sheep, per one hundred acres of permanent pasture, is twelve per cent. of the whole kingdom. The diminution of the crop of lambs during the thirteen years was three million, or 23 per cent. The increase in cows and heifers in the same time was but 9,000. Besides the falling off in farmers' capital, other causes have aided the decline, the seasons not favoring an increase, in some instances, and other reasons, influential in part, being as signed. The main fact remains that a grave diminution in live stock in Great Britain has taken place, while in our own country a decided advance could be reported.—N. Y. Herald.

IMPURE and stagnant water ought not to be tolerated for young animals. The first few months of an animal's life are the most important period in its existence to its owner. If it is neglected and stunted, or, on the other hand, overfed, no subsequent treatment can make good the injury done except at a cost that represents no inconsiderable sacrifice of time, care and money over what would have been required under judicious treatment from birth to maturity.—Exchange.