

THE
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Original Plans, Devices, and Ideas.

Knowing that there are many original plans and devices pent up in the minds of our readers, and feeling that the publication of such would be of immense benefit to all, we have drawn up a scheme through which we hope to stimulate our friends to help us in the good work of lessening the labors and increasing the profits and pleasures of the farmer. We trust that the offers we append will show that any efforts put forth to aid us in this matter will be warmly appreciated. Not only do you who meet our request add materially to your own store of knowledge through the perusal of the books obtained, but there is the more pleasant feature attached to it of helping your brother farmers to increase the returns from their labors and better their condition. To make clear what we want, and what we will give, we have divided our scheme into three parts:

No. 1.—This division includes plans and specifications of any of the buildings numbered below:

1. Barns, suitable for general farming in any of the Provinces.
2. Barns, suitable for dairy farming in any of the Provinces.
3. Barns, suitable for the raising of breeding stock in any of the Provinces.
4. Farm houses.
5. Poultry houses.
6. Pig pens.
7. Sheep pens.
8. Ice houses and cold storage rooms.
9. Milk houses and farm dairies.

For an accepted plan of any of the above mentioned buildings we will, as soon as your contribution is published, give you your choice of any of the following books, or any of those mentioned under the second and third divisions:

Dairyman's Manual	Stewart	\$2 00
Insects Injurious to Fruit	Saunder's	2 00
How Crops Grow	Johnson	2 00
Cattle and their Diseases	Murray	2 50
American Fruit Culturist	Thomas	2 00
Practical Poultry Keeper	Wright	2 00
Horse Breeding	Sanders	2 00
Feeding Animals	Stewart	2 00

No. 2.—This division includes devices for the saving of labor in performing any work of the farm, or anything that may add to the comfort and pleasure of farming in its broadest sense. Such, for instance, as devices for saving labor in feeding or caring for any of the domesticated animals, in fencing, in any phase of orchard work, and the many other departments of work on the farm that will at once come to mind.

For any device accepted by us we will, as soon as your contribution is published, give you your choice of any of the following books, or any named in No. 3

Swine Husbandry	Coburn	\$1 75
Shepherds' Manual	Stewart	1 50
The Standard of Perfection in Poultry		1 00
The Soil of the Farm	Scott and Morton	1 00
Farm Drainage	French	1 50
The Chemistry of the Farm	Warrington	1 00
Practical Forestry	Fuller	1 50
Fences, Gates, and Bridges		1 00
Silos, Hay, and Silage		50
Barn Plans and Outbuildings		1 50
One Year's Subscription to THE CANADIAN LIVE STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL		1 00
Farm Conveniences		1 50

No. 3—This division includes articles expressing original ideas or experiences in regard to any feature of stock-raising or farming in its many departments; such as, methods of growing the different crops of the farm, especially those used for soiling purposes or as grain food for stock, the breeding, feeding, and management of any of the domesticated animals; the care of the orchard—in fact, anything is a proper topic that comes under the scope of farming and stock-raising in their widest sense. The articles should be short—in fact, the shorter they are the better we shall be pleased.

For any accepted article conforming with the above we will, as soon as your contribution is published, give you your choice of a year's subscription to any of the following publications:

The Canadian Horticulturist	\$1 00
The Canadian Poultry Review	1 00
The Canadian Bee Journal	1 00
The Poultry Monthly	1 25
The Canadian Honey Producer	40
The Northwest Farmer	1 00
The Maritime Agriculturist	1 00

NOTE.—Any article, or the result in letter accompanying any plan or device, should not exceed one of our columns in length, and the shorter it is the better. A writer may adopt any *nom de plume*, if he desires that his name be not published. Remember, this is not a competitive scheme; all that is required to give you a choice of any book, as stated above, is that your contribution be published in our JOURNAL. The contributions must bear the stamp of originality. We want to bring to light these plans, devices, and ideas, and if you are fortunate enough to have all the books and papers mentioned above, by all means let us hear from you for the benefit of your fellows. Be brief and clear. We want the kernel and not the shell.

Our Young Hog Competition.

We have an announcement to make which we think ought to command the attention of everyone interested in profitable stock-raising. Every stock-raiser in Canada has heard of the bulletin lately issued by the Department of Agriculture for Ontario, emphasizing the importance of raising hogs of quality suited to the demands of the present English market. The hog required is a hog eminently fitted for making bacon; that is, one that is small in the head, light in the jaw and shoulder, long and deep in the ribs, wide in the loin, thick in the flank, with hams square and deep, not too strong in the bone, possessed of a good coating of hair, and so fattened that fat and lean are well intermixed throughout the whole carcass. Such a pig commands the highest price in the world's market today; and when such a pig is produced ready for sale at from five to seven months from birth, the producer obtains the very best possible financial results. It is such a pig (no matter of what breed) that we wish to encourage our Canadian farmers to produce, and we wish to encourage them to have it ready for market at the earliest possible date consistent with profit. This, perhaps, will be somewhere between five and seven months from birth.

Our plan at first was to establish a competition among our young stockmen for the production of such a pig; but we have been advised to throw our competition open to all subscribers of THE LIVE STOCK JOURNAL, independent of age. We shall offer a series of prizes, of the values of, say, \$25.00, \$20.00, \$15.00, and \$12.50, for the best bacon-curer's pig of the age of six months from birth. We shall secure a perfectly competent committee to judge the animals and award the prizes. A number of gentlemen have kindly consented to act as judges, and their names will be announced next issue.

Through the courtesy of Messrs. Wm. Davies & Co., of Toronto, whose enterprise in encouraging profitable hog-raising among Canadian farmers is proverbial, we are able to say that all pigs entering for this competition will be purchased by them at the highest market price at the date of the competition. The competing pigs must be shipped to Toronto, to Messrs. Davies & Co. direct, and at their establishment the judging

will take place. For the sake of economy in freight charges, each competitor had better send more than one pig, whether he wishes more than one pig to compete or not. Messrs. Davies & Co. will buy them all, no matter how many they are, and pay the highest market price at the time.

We are happy to state that our prize list, as described above, will be supplemented by other prizes given by public spirited gentlemen interested in the promoting of profitable hog-raising. Full particulars respecting this matter, and all other points connected with the competition, will be given next issue. As no doubt many pigs will be farrowed during the coming month, we would request our enterprising hog-raisers to keep strict note of the time their pigs are farrowed, and also to keep a record of methods of feeding, etc., so that they may be able to enter the competition and comply with the requirements that will be announced next issue. The main requirement in the meantime is to *note particularly the date of birth.*

As this competition was originally intended for our young stockmen, we shall give an additional supplementary prize to any young stockman, under 20 years, who shall be successful in carrying off one of the regular prizes.

Remember that this competition is wholly for promoting the production of what is called a *bacon-curer's pig*. Length of side, with a just proportion of lean and fat meat, will be of prime importance; while squareness and depth in the ham, with the same sort of distribution of fat and lean, will also receive due consideration. The fat must be firm; the lean must show by its quality that the animal has been properly fed. When these conditions are complied with, the final result of the competition will be determined by weight.

We confidently predict that this competition will be one of the most interesting events of the year to the stock-raising fraternity, and there is no reason why any farmer who may become possessed of a promising litter of pigs should not take part in it, even if he doesn't raise a single other sort of animal on his farm.

How to the Line.

Since first apprising our readers of the fact that they were killing their own trade, to use a strong metaphor, by not using more discretion in respect to the sires they use and sell to others to use, we have had many intimations from those who are well informed in stock matters urging us to place this matter as strongly before our stockmen as possible. We have just received from an enterprising breeder a letter, strong and bitter in its epithets, against a breeder for sending to him a well-bred, but inferior animal. Our correspondent, desiring to make an advance on old methods and firm in his belief in pure-bred sires, wrote to a breeder telling him carefully what he wanted, and in answer to his letter he received an animal well-bred undoubtedly, but remarkably poor individually. Not only is the reputation of that breeder forever lowered in that district, but what is more to be deplored, the aspirations of this new beginner have been rudely shattered. Another aspect of the case presents itself—one enterprising stockman in a neighborhood stimulates his farmer friends and soon he sees his methods reflected in the better work of his neighbors, but the result of such condition of affairs as this must act as a damper on further importations in the future. Our correspondent is fair-minded enough to aver that it was sheer carelessness on the part of the breeder, and his opinion we share in. Let it be the aim of every