

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

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A Hint to Other Readers.

An appreciative reader, in the Maritime Provinces, writes us: "Your last issue was a particularly good one. We have organized a dairy company here which will carry on a cheese-factory business this summer, and I think it would be greatly to the interest of our factory and the patrons if they could all be induced to take the old reliable FARMER'S ADVOCATE. I send you herewith a list, to whom please send sample copies. The article by Mr. Miller, in the April 1st number, ought to be read by every cheese-factory patron, while the article on the Harrietsville cheese factory gives us some insight into the possibilities of the dairy business and the dairy cow."

[We take pleasure in complying with the request of our friend in the East, to whom our thanks are due for his efforts in extending the helpful influence of the ADVOCATE, and can commend his example to others. We will be pleased at any time to send samples when so requested.]

The Present Shortage in Beef Cattle.

A reference to our Chicago stock report indicates a continuance of the shortage in cattle deliveries, one of the incidental results of which, we notice, has been a sharp advance in the price of hides, followed by a rise in leather, all of which but verifies the actuality of the shrinkage in cattle stocks. That this was inevitable, for several reasons, has been apparent for a long time past.

The enormous increase in the population of the United States and the rapid settlement of Western lands has encroached upon the ranching area. The low prices of beef of late years discouraged the ranchmen, many giving up and others preparing to leave the business. Thousands of heifers have been spayed, and one of the features of the great Western cattle markets has been the number of heifers and cows marketed, thus permanently diminishing breeding stocks. The cry has gone up, "No money in beef," and those who lacked steadiness of purpose have been diverted into other channels of enterprise. In the next place, as we took occasion to point out in one of our February issues, there has been the remarkable expansion of dairying, not by any means confined to America, which naturally results in less attention being paid to the production of ideal beefes, the supply of which is certain to fall off. In turning over some of the ADVOCATE files, we notice as far back as 1890 and 1891 earnest protests against the indiscriminate slaughtering of calves that goes on every spring in the dairy districts, though it must be admitted that many of these "dekings" gave very little promise of ever being typical feeders. Face to face with a meat shortage, we notice that a section of the New York press cries out for a removal of restrictions and import duties. In fact the clamor of daily papers seems, according to our reports, to have had a panicky effect upon the consuming public, resulting in a temporary shrinkage in the consumptive demand and a drop in prices, householders making a desperate effort to economize by cutting down their meat bills; but with a genuine and general shortage, if such it be, in a staple article like beef, stiffer prices for several years would be looked for, and this should have a healthful influence upon the prices of sheep, swine and cheese, the consumption of which it would undoubtedly stimulate. To the producer we can only repeat a sentence of counsel given in our Feb. 15th issue, which is just as applicable to-day as it was then:—"Hence the necessity for those with whom beef cattle rearing is still the 'mainstay' to keep the ideal type well in view, breeding and feeding according to such a plan as will keep up the highest degree of quality and keep down the cost of production to the lowest possible notch. The present is no time for a retrograde movement."

Now is the time to secure and use the best pure-bred stock.

A Testimonial to Mr. Richard Gibson.

At the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association meeting held in Toronto, Feb. 8, 1895, on motion of Mr. Hobson, seconded by Mr. Linton, it was resolved, in recognition of his long and permanently valuable services as President, to make Mr. Richard Gibson an honorary life member, and to present him with an appropriate testimonial on behalf of the Association, the event to occur at the time of the Spring Horse Show. As members of the Executive Committee, Messrs. Miller and Russell were named to select this testimonial. The time of the Horse Show has come and gone, and the presentation has duly taken place. On the evening of April 19th, a number of prominent members of the Shorthorn Association, including the newly-elected President, Mr. Arthur Johnston, met to tender the honored out-going President their expressions of esteem and appreciation, as well as the magnificent gold watch selected as a tangible memento of their regard. We consider this act very becoming when we remember, besides the many valuable services rendered the Shorthorn industry, that Mr. Gibson also collected the great New York Mills herd, which made by public auction a record that is now and probably will remain at the head of all sale records made by any breed of domestic animals. During the proceedings expressions were made of the great assistance rendered Canadian exhibitors by Mr. Gibson at the World's Fair, in having their animals properly housed together and in many ways helping the exhibitors to obtain at the hands of the management and judges that recognition they so well deserved.

Mr. Robt. Miller, in presenting the watch, expressed himself as feeling highly honored in what he was doing. He also claimed to be highly pleased with the work of the Shorthorn Association while under the Presidency of Mr. Gibson. He said that he felt the Association had been highly favored in having a man so pre-eminently distinguished in breeding circles as Mr. Gibson to preside over it for the past four years.

In acknowledging the foregoing expressions, Mr. Gibson made a fitting reply, expressing his pleasure in being able to render any service in his power to such a worthy organization as the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association.

We are advised that the Exhibition Association of St. John, N. B., have fixed the date of their International Show from Sept. 24 to October 4. W. C. Pitfield, President; J. C. Mitchell, Secretary, and Chas. A. Everett, Managing Director.

STOCK.

East Buffalo Stock Letter.

CATTLE—The cattle markets have suffered a decline of 30c. to 60c. per hundred over the high prices prevailing two weeks ago. The drop has not been due to heavy receipts, but to other causes—what they are is hard to tell; the general complaint, though, seems to be that there is a very light demand for the beef product. Heavy cattle that sold here two weeks ago at \$6.25 to \$6.35 sold here yesterday at \$5.75 to \$5.85. The decline was the heaviest on these grades, the nice, ripe, handy cattle from 1,000 to 1,200 lbs. having not suffered so much, the best of these weights selling yesterday at \$5.25 to \$5.50; the fair to good grades, though, sold \$4.75 to \$5.10. Cows and heifers were in rather light supply and sold about steady with the week previous. Bulls and oxen sold from 10 to 15 lower. Milk cows and springers in good demand, and the choice ones sold \$2.00 to \$3.00 per head higher, while the poor ones sold no better. Veal calves have been in excessive supply and about \$1.00 per hundred lower than last week.

HOGS have suffered a little reaction within the past week with a decline of about 30c. per hundred over the high prices prevailing in March. The Western markets have suffered proportionately more than we have, and values at this market have kept up remarkably well under the circumstances, the heavy grades particularly bringing good values here. The prime heavies continue in light supply, and the few that we do get come from Illinois and Iowa. Top grades sold here yesterday at \$5.30, with good mediums at \$5.20 to \$5.25; Yorkers and pigs, \$5.10 to \$5.15. The demand has been rather good, and the offerings generally disposed of. There has been no time during the past two weeks when salesmen have been obliged to hold over, excepting when stuff arrived too late for the market. The supplies have not been excessive, which has been one of the reasons for keeping the market in good condition. The feeling generally in this department is about steady prices for the near future.

SHEEP—The market on sheep and lambs has been very bad for the past two weeks, and values have declined about 25c. per hundred on the good kinds, and about 50c. per hundred on the fair to common grades. Heavy sheep, or those suitable for export, have suffered the most. Such kinds sold two weeks ago at \$5.40; are now selling around \$4.50. There has been hardly any demand for them even at present low values. Clipped stock is beginning to arrive more freely and selling the best, especially nice, handy, clipped lambs, which sold yesterday at \$5.25 to \$5.30 for the choice kinds, or those weighing around 80 to 85 lbs. Clipped sheep, if good quality and suitable for butcher trade, in very good demand and selling about \$4.25 to \$4.50. The Eastern markets have been very unsatisfactory, which has had a tendency to keep prices down here. Supplies of dressed mutton have been excessive. The outlook for the past few days is improved, especially for choice, handy, clipped lambs, or anything of good quality.

April 23.

An Important Meeting of Sheep and Swine Breeders.

A joint meeting of the members of the Sheep and Swine Breeders' Association will be held towards the latter part of May (probably about 24th, in London, but exact place and date will be announced in next issue.) Secretary Hodson, of Guelph, writes us that the programme will include the following:—1. Consideration of treasurer's report and auditor's statement. 2. Fixing date and place of holding the next winter show; revision, if necessary, of prize list and rules, and the selection of sheep and swine judges for same. 3. Appointment of an Executive Committee for each Association, to carry into effect resolutions adopted, to act as programme committee, assisting the Secretary in preparing for the next annual meeting. 5. Appointment of Experimental Committee for each Association. 6. Revision of Constitution and By-laws, and the consideration of clauses in the Secretary's last annual report, relating to the two preceding matters. 7. Consideration of the reports of committees, discussed but not finally disposed of at the annual meeting in Guelph, appointed to draft model set of rules and prize lists for large exhibitions and township shows. (The officers and directors have been furnished with copies of the foregoing.) 8. Cost and mode of registering sheep and swine, and the advisability of appointing a committee to revise the present record rules, and the mode of editing and publishing the volumes of records. Breeders are reminded that the new Agriculture and Arts Act transfers the control of records to the various associations immediately interested. 9. Appointment of a committee to revise the Constitution and consolidate and revise the by-laws, so as to fulfil the requirements of the new act, provided this cannot be accomplished at the meeting now called.

If the bridle is taken off a young horse quietly, so that the bit comes out of his mouth easily, it will not be long before he will assist in taking it off; but if he is hurt by the operation, he will throw his head to one side or jerk back every time the bridle is removed. There should not be the slightest hitch about taking the bit from the mouth of a colt. In that way many a colt has been ruined.