

Canadian Stock-Raisers' Journal

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THE STOCK JOURNAL COMPANY,

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To Subscribers.—With the present issue appears the fourth regular number of this JOURNAL. Any person forwarding us \$1 either in registered letter or through our numerous agents will receive one copy of the JOURNAL for one year. We cannot guarantee to send back numbers prior to first of January, 1884. Intending subscribers should forward their names at once and thus commence with the new year.

Clubs.—Any person forwarding to us \$4.00 and the names of four subscribers will receive one copy of the JOURNAL free for one year. Sample numbers will be sent free on application to parties desirous of getting up clubs.

To Advertisers.—Advertisements of an appropriate nature will be inserted in the JOURNAL at rates that will be found reasonable. The charge for breeders' cards not exceeding five lines is \$1.00 per line. Special rates for "Farms and Stock for Sale," or "Wanted to Purchase or Exchange." Transient advertisements payable in advance. Parties corresponding with advertisers are particularly requested to mention this paper.

Remittances may be made in registered letter at our risk. The receipt of the JOURNAL will be sufficient evidence to subscribers that their remittances have been received.

All communications to be addressed STOCK JOURNAL CO., 48 John Street South, Hamilton, Ont.

HAMILTON, CANADA, LIBRARY, 1884.

We had decided to write an article defending the Short-horn breeders of our country, in reference to indefinite charges brought against them in certain quarters, which imply that they in some way monopolized the prizes at the recent Fat Stock Show, Toronto. In the meantime, Mr. J. C. Snell, of Edmonton, has forwarded us an article on the subject, published in another column, which repels the implication so fully that further comment from us is quite unnecessary.

ALTHOUGH but the third regular issue of the JOURNAL, we found it necessary last month to strike off 15,000 copies before the forms were taken from the press, not 10,000 as stated in that number. This, we believe, is quite unprecedented in the annals of agricultural journalism in this country, if not, indeed, in any country. While this is very gratifying to us, it must also be pleasing to our patrons, whose interests in the success of the JOURNAL are so closely associated with our own.

MR. T. N. HIGH, of Blackfoot, Idaho, called at our office, enquiring as to where coach horses (Cleveland Bays) are to be found. He wishes them to turn loose into a ranch west of the Rocky Mountains. His experience has been thus far that they cannot be got except at fancy prices. Mr. High is strongly of the opinion that the Coacher is the coming horse, either as a draft or a roadster. He thinks the cross should be that of mares bred from California horses, crossed with Hambletonians. Where are the owners of these horses in Canada? Why not make themselves known?

CORRECTION.—In the description of Fat Stock Show, Toronto, in January number of the JOURNAL, in the ring for "best Short-horn cow," the third prize was mentioned as having been given to "Princess Louise," owned by the Messrs. McQueen. This cow belongs to the Messrs. Groff, Elmira, so that these gentlemen won both first and third prizes in this ring. In other notices of the JOURNAL we refer to this firm as from Waterloo, which we can easily see is misleading. While those gentlemen reside in Waterloo County, Ont., their exact address is "Messrs. H. & I. Groff, Elmira, Ont."

THE success of the JOURNAL is now, it seems to us, fully assured. It would be quite out of place for us to

say anything regarding the management of the JOURNAL or its intrinsic worth. We require but to ask from our readers a perusal of the many letters sent to us by the stockmen and farmers of the Provinces appearing in the different columns of each number, and also of the various notices of the press. Our subscription list is steadily advancing, and mainly through the efforts of our numerous patrons, to whom we again return our best thanks. If each reader is but instrumental in sending a single subscriber, this means doubling our list at once. We can send copies of January number for a short time yet.

IN the January issue of the JOURNAL a statement was made to the effect that the corn crop of the United States was an average one, taking the whole country over. This statement was based on reports from the *Department of Agriculture*. Later reports from the same source give a somewhat different impression. It turns out that the injury from frost is much more serious than was at first supposed, a very large proportion of the corn in the grain being seriously damaged. It is recommended that more attention be given in future to the selection of the earlier varieties for seed. In this Canadian climate our corn-growers will do well to keep this recommendation in mind. The crop might also be made to mature earlier if the ground on which it is planted was but thoroughly underdrained. The soil in this case becomes much warmer, and hence accelerates rapid vegetation.

THE rage for "reds" amongst the Short-horn men of the United States is being somewhat modified. We understand it originated with the ranchmen, who found that red bulls made the most suitable crosses in improving the unsightly colors of the native cattle. Though colors have been so modified that it is of less consequence to them now as to the color of the stock bulls, still the "reds" are preferred, everything else being equal. The color prejudice is another illustration of the omnipotent power of fashion. We have in mind one instance, at least, of a white Short-horn bull calf having been sold for \$2.50 to the butcher, which, at the same age, would have been worth \$100.00 if of any other color. It is worthy of note that not a few of the most noted prize-winners of our fat-stock showings during recent years have been white. We instance "Dominion Champion," owned by John Russell, of Brougham; the white steer, of two years ago, owned by the Messrs. Groff; "The White Duke" of the Model Farm; and the famous "Clarence Kirklevington," of Bow Park.

STOCK-BREEDERS in any of the lines of pure-breds cannot be too chary about parting with the best representative females of their flocks and herds, even though the prices may be tempting. Every breeder should have an ideal and make every effort bend toward the production of that ideal. The possession of some extra good animals of any breed or strain is no particular advantage to a man, providing he continues to breed others of the same strain inferior and quite unlike them. That man will at once be set down as an unskillful breeder. A proper selection of males is all important. Allow all the cheap and inferior bulls to go across the Atlantic. We don't want their services at all, else they will repeat themselves in an inferior progeny. It should be remembered at the same time that the feeding has much to do with the development of any particular type. The experiments of Bakewell well illustrate the truth of this statement. Hence the vast importance of being well up in the art of feeding. Hence also our reason for giving

so much space to the various systems of feeding in the columns of the JOURNAL.

A WRITER in the *National Live-Stock Journal*, of Chicago, remarks that for every first-class shipping steer seen in their stock-yards, there are nine rough ones. While we fancy that the proportion of the roughs to the choice is not so large in this country, it is quite too large. Why should we raise these rough, unprofitable beasts at all? What a great achievement it would be, could we but persuade our farmers to patronize the nearest really good pure-bred bull, even though it entail a little outlay at the first! If skeptical, try in a single instance, as an experiment, making sure that you take good care of the calf you get. "But," says one, "suppose we give another calf the same chance, will it not do just as well?" We reply, no. Just try the experiment. Get one calf from a choice bull, and pit this against the best calf you have, bred on the old principle, taking the same care of both—but let it be good care—and feed liberally. We are satisfied that the one experiment will suffice. The difficulty is this, that nine-tenths of our farmers will not make this one experiment. Could they only be induced to do so, there would soon be a great outcry for pure-bred bulls.

The Lonely Ranch.

Mr. J. W. J. Carroll, of the firm of Armstrong Bellhouse & Carroll, now on furlough in Ontario, has given us information regarding the ranch they have established in British Columbia, located in a sheltered valley between the 50th and 51st parallels, where the Columbia river flows out of Columbia lake. Mr. Carroll represents this secluded valley as very favorable to the development and the fattening of cattle, no hand feeding being required during the year. On the side hills bunch grass grows luxuriantly, in the bottom orchard grass, vetches and sweet peas; spear grass has not been found, nor burs, neither is there sand to produce hoof rot. The company have been operating for a year in cattle from the native stock, improved by Hereford and Short-horn bulls, brought years ago by the Hudson Bay Co. They expect a market for a time from the Pacific Railway, now in course of construction, which will come within some eighty miles of the valley, after which they can forward to the east or west. The capacity of the range is about 4,500 head. Sheep will be introduced the coming season.

Prize Essays.

Two prizes, one of \$30 and the other of \$20, are to be offered by the Provincial Fair board for the best essays, founded on practical experience, on the profit of breeding, feeding and fattening of beef cattle for the market; and two prizes, one of \$15 and the other of \$10, for essays on the best and most speedy method of eradicating each of the following weeds: Canada thistles, wild mustard, wild oats, and quack grass; each essay to deal with one of the foregoing weeds.

While we think the Council act wisely in offering prizes on subjects so vastly important, and bearing so directly on the agricultural interests of the country, we have our misgivings as to the wisdom of fixing the amount of the prize at a not much higher sum than is often given by newspapers for a really good essay. The best talent can not be called out, very often at least, in this way. A really good essay on any farm topic is surely worth much more to the country than a good horse, and yet more is paid by way of prize money for the horse than for the essay.

One giving valuable information on any of the above