

MR. JAMES McDONALD, the accomplished editor of the *London Live-Stock Journal*, expressed the opinion publicly, some years ago, that the producers of first-class meat in Britain had little to fear from American competition, which he thought would be especially strong in second qualities. In a paper read before the Kingscote Agricultural Association in December, he stated: "Since then I have watched the subject very closely, and I have seen nothing to make it necessary for me to, in any way, modify those conclusions." Mr. McDonald gave it as his opinion that first-class beef would bring from 7½d. to 8½d. per lb. He had no doubt but that the dead meat trade would modify the price of meat of first quality and prevent it from becoming excessively high, but nothing more. The cattle of the prairies were too coarse to command a first price in the British markets. He thought there was more danger from the competition with cattle well finished in America. Let us heed the statement. This is what we have been advocating from the first. If we rear the very best stamp of cattle, and give them the best finish that we can, the price will take care of itself. The more the subject is discussed, the more apparent it is to us that we should send only well-finished animals into the British market.

### Stock-Taking and Book-Keeping.

Merchants usually take stock once a year. This, to use the definition of an old treatise on book-keeping, enables him to know the exact state of his affairs, whether he is gaining or losing, and to what extent in either case. In this way he is enabled to determine whether he will be justified in the continuance of his business, either on the same footing or on some other. The farmer might here profitably take a leaf out of the merchant's book and take stock at least once a year. If he is going down he should know it. Looking his accounts square in the face at least once a year will tell him very plainly how to regulate his affairs.

Indebtedness accumulates without one being aware of it, when interest is to be paid, and even when it has not, unless the cash system, more excellent than gold seven times refined, is adopted. The same time of each year should be fixed upon for the purpose. It matters not what time that is, so long as sufficient leisure can be secured to attend to it. The end of the year is a very good time, as it is then less likely to be forgotten. But it is not at all likely to be overlooked by those who once commence the habit, the wisdom of the work to such is so apparent.

We would not say to a man who finds that he has lost during one year to throw up the sponge, nor even two years successively, as adverse seasons or particular misfortunes may afford an explanation in cases where the balance sheet is not largely on the wrong side, but where the deficiency is considerable, and from year to year, it is very unwise to remain in the sinking ship simply to show one's determination.

Farmers who keep books do a wise thing, even though it is nothing more than a debit and credit account. The writer has frequently saved the repayment of small sums by having an entry of them in a cash account kept much after the fashion of a diary. Where such is attempted the record must be made daily, or the accuracy of it is rendered impossible. Where nothing more is attempted, a small book with the receipts on one side and the source of them, and the disbursements on the other, and the why and wherefore of these, will answer a good purpose. At time of stock-taking the farmer is easily enabled to trace the sources of his revenue, and the chief objects

of outlay, as his transactions are very limited compared with those of the merchant. He can also estimate very readily the cost of living to himself and family, which is sure to astonish one not accustomed to keeping such account. Many farmers credit the farm simply with their gains, which is very unfair, as the cost of living, which comes out of the farm, may be three or four times the amount of the gains. Keeping an estimate of the cost of one's living not only exalts his calling in his estimation, but also calls forth more charitable feelings to the professional man in reference to his charges, particularly that class of them who labor in the noblest calling under the sun.

To ascertain the exact sources of revenue, the particular products from which the gains or losses arose, and the extent of these, would necessitate a more extended system of book-keeping, such as the ordinary farmer, unused to keeping books, would not likely be enabled to perform accurately. Young men commencing should adopt the more extended system. It is not likely that old men will take the trouble.

Some men, we admit, are naturally of a turn of mind so shrewd that they, as it were, intuitively divine the sources of their gains, and pretty accurately, without keeping books at all, but the number is very limited. Usually men who keep no accounts drive in the ruts made by the wagons of their fathers. Leaving these they follow the rut, that is most travelled, no matter where it leads. The export fat cattle trade and the flourishing cheese industry were never brought to their present state by men of this class.

### The Rival Herd Books.

The above caption sounds ominous in a young country such as ours, and all the more so when we recall to mind that we possess no more than 30,000 head of pure bred cattle of all the breeds combined. Yet so it is, the breeders of Shorthorn cattle are supporting two herd books, where there is certainly room for but one, thereby entailing additional expense, and confusing the minds of beginners and those not fully initiated into the intricacies of the business, and worse than that, keeping smouldering an animosity that never should have existed between breeders, who should to a man stand shoulder to shoulder in supporting and advancing the interests of this noble race of cattle.

We have been asked to give our opinion more than once by readers of the *JOURNAL*, and as promised in the last issue we now accede to their request, in the hope that whatever may be our conclusions, our friends the Shorthorn men will not for a moment doubt the honesty of our intentions.

One who has in no way mingled in this fray of other years is certainly better fitted to give an unbiassed judgment than those who have gone down to battle, and whose garments yet bear upon them the tokens of strife.

No person will dispute that the Agricultural and Arts Association were the rightful custodians of the Shorthorn herd book up to the time of the formation of the British-American Shorthorn Association, June, 1881. Whether that guardianship was exercised at all times in the best possible manner is more than open to question, otherwise there would in all probability have been no "British-American" herd book. It has been more than hinted that the editor, the predecessor of the very excellent secretary of the Agricultural and Arts Association, and also editor of the C. S. herd book, was very remiss in the discharge of his duties, which is confirmed by the fact that only one volume appeared from the year 1872 to 1875, and but one from 1875 to 1880. It appears that up to the

completion of the second volume of the herd book no animals were recorded unless such as could trace to imported pedigree stock on the side of both sire and dam in all the crosses, after which the unfortunate system was adopted of admitting animals tracing through four crosses to registered sires for cows and five for bulls. This step was a sad blunder on the part of the well-meaning promoters thereof, who seemed to forget that the progeny of common cattle could not be expected in four generations to equal those of the old country, which had been improved upon by the interminglings of Shorthorn blood for perhaps a century. It should here be mentioned, however, that the four cross standard was adopted by the Americans for a time, and that it is the standard still adhered to in Great Britain. One result was that our American cousins ceased to recognize our herd book altogether, inasmuch that our Shorthorn breeders who were looking to the splendid markets of the west as an opening for their cattle were necessitated to register only in the American herd book.

The British-American Shorthorn Association, soon after its formation, approached the Agricultural and Arts Association by deputation, and requested of that body in substance as follows: That as the C. S. H. was in a hopeless condition, that its guardianship be handed over to their association, without, it seems, offering any remuneration to the former body, which certainly savors of the foreigner's plan of dealing with the lands of the red Indians of former years.

The council then called a public meeting of the Shorthorn breeders, to be held in London in conjunction with the Provincial exhibition, extending a full invitation to all interested to meet them there to advise in regard to the matter, and announcing the same in their prize list. This meeting was held on Sept. 28th, 1881, when the Shorthorn men came out in large numbers and discussed the matter fully and freely. This discussion culminated in the following motion, which was carried by a majority: Moved by Cap. Gordon, seconded by J. C. Snell, "That this meeting approves of raising the standard for entry into the Shorthorn herd book, so that no animal be entered unless the pedigree traces in all crosses direct to imported stock." This motion, as we understand it, had a retrospective aspect, and therefore virtually struck out everything that did not trace to imported stock.

The Provincial Board then appointed a committee, consisting of Messrs. Drury and Carnegie, to confer with representatives of the Shorthorn Association with a view to amicable adjustment. Cap. Gordon represented the breeders at this meeting, which was held in Toronto. The representatives of the council there agreed to adhere to the standard as required by the resolution of the London meeting, as recorded above, and to leave the revising of the unpublished volume to a standing committee, to consist of two members, to be appointed by the Shorthorn Breeders Association, and one appointed by the council, to include also Mr. Wade in his capacity of herd book editor. This committee was also to pronounce judgment on all applications for registration. When these terms, with which Cap. Gordon seemed satisfied, were presented to the Shorthorn Association, they were rejected, which broke off all further negotiations.

The Shorthorn Association then determined to publish a separate herd book, to be known as the "British-American Herd Book," with a standard for registration similar to that embodied in the resolution passed at the London meeting. The council afterwards passed the following resolution in reference to