

a period almost as long as in our own country. It may be that in coming time this freedom from disease may not obtain to the same extent, but in the meantime it is the opinion of good authorities, and facts point in the same direction, that the most virulent of the live-stock diseases of other lands do not find the most favorable conditions to development here as in many other countries.

Then the products of Ontario are eminently adapted to stock-keeping. The large variety of grains that we can grow are just such as a stock country require. All the coarse grains best adapted to stock-feeding purposes grow abundantly; and the experience of a few who have tried, make it very clear that permanent pastures are soon to have an abiding home in our country. Although corn will not grow in every county, peas, which answer the purpose quite as well, flourish in almost every part, and roots of one kind or another can be produced abundantly in most sections. It is the capacity to produce so great a variety of foods that pre-eminently fits our country for stock-keeping. To sustain animal life in its integrity requires a variety of produce, and this we can get in our own country without requiring to import a single article in the line of food, not even linseed meal, which is grown and manufactured in large quantities even at our doors.

We call to mind a statement of Prof. Brown, which impressed us at the time. A number of gentlemen were looking at the White Duke, which made so rapid a growth at the College a few years ago. One of the party said to the professor, "What do you feed him?" The reply was, "You might rather ask, what 'do we not feed him,' showing that variety in feeding is advantageous where satisfactory results are to be obtained. Confine breeding-stock to one or two articles of diet and we strongly apprehend that deterioration will follow, and for the reason, amongst others, that variety is more likely to provide all the elements essential to growth.

With the prospect of a good demand for long years to come of first-class pedigreed stock, we should be up and doing. The quantity produced now is but a fractional part of what it might be. It is greatly important, however, that it be stock of the right type. While it is easy to glut the market with inferior types of registered animals, that has never yet happened with superior types. To produce this class of stock should be the aim of every breeder worthy of the name. And to enable the beginner to achieve these results short of *half a lifetime*, it is absolutely essential that he begin right. A mistake here may be a fatal one. The breeder who is wise in his selections at the outset, and who continues to give his stock proper attention, takes the express train to success in his work, while he who does not is condemned, it may be, to go all his life on the mixed.

The stamina of the breeder is more important than that of the line of stock which he breeds. This, in breeding is of more consequence than the climate or even the nature of the feed, for a sluggard, or even a hard-working man, naturally indolent, will not succeed in keeping pedigreed stock, though the other requisites are all that could be desired. That we have some men of the right stamina is certain, as may be gleaned from the present standing of our stock; but whether we have a sufficient number to render Canada in stock-keeping the glory of all western lands remains to be seen.

We would here address ourselves to our farmers' sons; young men, it may be, who, with that restlessness which is the accompaniment of fast-developing manhood, are contemplating removal to other climes,

and earnestly ask of them to take in the present advantages of their position. With so much to favor the keeping of a better class of stock, they should weigh well the probabilities of success at home and abroad. Abroad there is much that is uncertain, at home there is much that is assured. It may be that it will be difficult to get a farm here where land is going up, but in stock-keeping it is not well to divide farms, as two or three brothers in one firm are more likely to succeed than each of them separately.

The field here is wide, and we hope that it shall be well occupied. With all our progress in stock-keeping some counties in Ontario may be found to-day with not a dozen good pedigreed animals in them, all told—counties, too, where the soil is fairly good, and the aids to stock-keeping quite as fair as in other counties which have completely thrown them in the shade. Britain has been busy improving her flocks and herds for more than a century, and even there the cry is ascending that there should be more good stock. If this be true of the land which has furnished the world with her best breeds, with how much of emphasis does it say to us, "be up and doing."

Canada the great breeding centre of pedigreed stock for the western continent! It will sound extravagant to some to read this, but is it not possible? Yea, we may further ask, is it not probable? It is not for the glory of the thing that we ask our countrymen to seek this end, but for its utility. When the products of a country are eagerly sought, rather than admitting them through the narrow gateway of an embargo, it means to that country accumulating wealth, and when outlying countries vie with each other in securing our breeding stock, leaving to us all the phosphates and potash, our country must vastly be the gainer. We ask of every Canadian who reads those lines to do what he can to place his country in the position indicated, and the JOURNAL will try and do the same.

"History of Hereford Cattle."

This is the title of the long-promised work in preparation by the editor of the *London Live-Stock Journal*. Few breeds are so interesting to study or present so enticing aspects for investigation; but no breed's origin and early history, indeed, has been more difficult to trace. This aspect of the subject doubtless has long acted as a barrier to Hereford men themselves who would otherwise have been anxious to have undertaken the writing of such a history. The doings, and even the family history of the chief pioneer breeders had been, to the most "initiated," surrounded in doubt and error. These were enough to keep the most eager from attempting the task. The "history" evidently was in abeyance till some born geniuses or history-makers appeared. These undoubtedly have now appeared in Messrs. Macdonald and Sinclair, the well-known joint authors of the *History of Aberdeen-Angus Cattle*, and than the plan of this book scarcely a better could be projected. That Aberdeen-Angus history was a decided success. The present history follows closely the same general lines as the former—as far, that is, as the history of the Herefords can. The value of a series of breed histories, on a uniform general plan, by the same authors, begins now to be illustrated. In the Aberdeen-Angus history the authors had a great deal to do and say about the various "families" of the breed. In the Hereford history they are entirely silent on this subject. This shows a radical comparative difference in the system of breeding, and regard to the manner of reckoning the tribal lines or alliances. In the registry of the Aberdeen-Angus the female is of equal importance as the male; even more so, and has

separate numbers. In the Hereford the males alone are numbered. This means a radical distinction. In the Aberdeen-Angus the family is reckoned through the female—the true system—and thus the families are differentiated and marshalled into the "chief and staff," and "rank and file," right away according to their chronological deeds in the show-ring battles. In the Hereford this system is entirely wanting, and hence we have the breed reduced, so to speak, to reckon blood connection, from the sire alone. This means that on the other part the animal may be from a recent or more or less distant ancestry. The Aberdeen system is the perfect one, and there is no danger, when selecting the son of a famous sire, in introducing new or crude blood—the dam's genealogy displays to the breeder at once the value of the blood on both sides. Thus the Aberdeen man is able to balance his various families with sires of equal or greater blood composition, the "other half" side of the family.

Otherwise the general plan of the Hereford history is similar to the former, except that in connection with the pioneer breeders, full—fuller than would generally be given in such a history—biographical details are given, as well as of their families. This special feature is conspicuous and is a departure, in advancement, from the authors' first history.

The origin of the breed is traced by means of reproducing the earliest notices obtainable by the authors, who have special facilities for reference to and discovering such authorities. These notices may be taken to be here exhaustively, or, at any rate, if others exist, such will not present any more valuable features. This chapter is of special value for the student of comparative bovine history generally. Next the first-dawn and latter-dawn of improvement are traced minutely—this being done by dealing with the pioneer breeders themselves, and giving a gloss of details of their lives and history, and their pet-pursuit of breeding. The "medieval" and modern history are fully traced with a richness quite luxurious to the Hereford breeder of to-day, who has long been in need of such nourishing abutment.

The characteristics, management and other matters are fully commented on; while the show-yard history receives a chapter to itself, and will be found to contain an immense amount of useful matter; and quite an original index completes this handsomely illustrated volume of nearly 400 pages. Its typography is perfect, while English live-stock portraiture suffers none by comparison with the samples of American art that have been selected for incorporation.

A review of this kind is like a meagre indication of chief contents to the catalogue of a great museum. The book is the museum with its departments and its richly loaded shelves, illustrating each item or article of manufacture or nature. We trust we have said enough to prove to the breeder of Herefords in Canada that this is a book that, after his Bible and herd book, must rank next in his regard. The price of the book is within the reach of all, and it may be stated here—\$2.75. Send a postal note for that amount to the publishers, Vinton & Co., 9 New Bridge street, Ludgate Circus, London, E. C., England, and the great work will be delivered by return mail.

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