

shows, it is only after a study of the wants of the country, as regards the stock, implements and products, (study facilitated besides by the experiments already made on the respective merits of each) that premiums have been awarded to each breed, implement and product, proportioned in some way to the importance of that breed, implement or product for agriculture in general.

But perhaps will it be objected that our provincial shows in awarding these premiums do not reach their object, which is the improvement of our agriculture in general, and not only to encourage a few individuals in particular.

We do not deny the objection, but we think we can explain it in saying, first, that our provincial shows are not yet arrived to this point of perfection (and with the present system we never will obtain it), which alone can allow to encourage specially the production of such a breed, the manufacturing of such an implement, the choice of such a product.

With regard to the improvement of our breeds, what is our starting point? With regard to the cattle, the only means of improvement seems to be the absolute adoption of all the improved english breeds indifferently. Are we sure of the useful effect of this substitution of foreign breeds? Supposing the thing to be possible, would it not require at least a century to operate this transformation, we shall not say completely, but in order to make it sensible? And in the mean time what shall

become of our canadian breed not allowed to complete at our provincial shows, by the prohibition of bulls the best types of which are not considered worthy of being encouraged. Will we abandon this breed of such an incontestible uselessness to the chances of routine not very difficult in the choice of reproducers? Is it not, in doing so, being willing to debase to a greater degree that wretched breed already so much despised. That is however our starting point for the improvement of our cattle; annihilation of our canadian breed, absolute adoption of the improved english breeds indifferently. In our opinion we start from a false basis. More than any one perhaps we are convinced of the importance of the improvement of our canadian breed by the importation of improved english breeds. — In our review of the stock exhibited at the last provincial agricultural show, we have clearly expressed our opinion on the subject. But when we have spoken of those improved breeds, we have remarked to the readers that of all those breeds some are fit to be imported while the others are absolutely not. Amongst the former, the Ayrshire breed takes the first rank, and in all our shows, by the beauty and number of the specimens exhibited, they deserved the praises of all the public. Now if it is true that this breed is the only one which agrees well with our conditions of climate, culture, capital, and the agriculturists seem to have already manifested their opinion on the ques-