

exhibitions to encourage the raising or importation of stallions suitable to produce hunters, light harness, or coach horses according to the mares served. The prizes which they purpose offering for these stallions in England are very liberal. On this point the authority already quoted says:—

“From the details which have been given, it is evident that much care has been taken in arranging the proposed classes. It is intended that there should be two classes for thoroughbred stallions—the first for ‘Thoroughbred horses suitable for hunter stallions which have not been previously used for stud purposes;’ and the second for ‘Thoroughbred stallions, not exceeding 16 years old, suitable for getting hunters, which have been used for stud purposes.’ In the first class there would be one premium of £50 and a silver medal, another premium of £25 and a silver medal; and in addition three silver medals, to be awarded, in the discretion of the judges, to animals of merit. It is proposed that in the second class there should be one premium of £100 and a gold medal; two premiums of £50 each and a silver medal; two of £25 each, with silver medal; and three additional silver medals, to be awarded as in the other class. In this programme, owners of thoroughbred stallions have certainly very substantial encouragement, and it will be more than surprising if it should not draw out one of the best collections of thoroughbred stallions ever seen in England. The second class, that is, for sires which, as sires, have already been tried to some extent, will, of course, be the most important one, and we think the committee has acted wisely in offering for it more than the usual number of prizes. There are for this class, it will be seen, no fewer than five handsome money prizes, in addition to eight medals, so that owners of good horses will have a much better chance of obtaining a valuable reward for the merit of their animals than is usually afforded at our leading shows throughout the country.”

In conclusion the same article says:—

“It is wisely provided that none of these prizes will be obtained for any animal which, in the opinion of the veterinary surgeon in attendance, is not free from hereditary or other diseases detrimental to the breeding of sound and healthy stock. Another provision of great importance is introduced, with the very worthy object of having the use of the sires which win these prizes placed within the reach of farmers at moderate fees. The provision is to the effect that ‘the owners of stallions winning prizes must guarantee to offer 20 subscriptions for the use of tenant farmers’ mares in the United Kingdom at a fee not exceeding £2 10s.’ It is stipulated that unless this condition is fulfilled the prize-money will be withheld. We attach great importance to these conditions of service, and we hope that farmers will eagerly avail themselves of the opportunities which will thus be provided for them of obtaining the use of high-class thoroughbred sires at moderate fees. Too often hitherto sires which have been able to win prizes at our

leading shows have stood at such high fees as have placed them beyond the reach of ordinary farmers. It would therefore be well if the example which has been set in this instance were copied by those of our leading Agricultural Societies that offer similar prizes.”

If Ontario had a rigidly enforced stallion-licensing system, the proceeds, over and above the cost of its administration, would be ample to very materially enrich the stallion premium list at the Provincial Exhibition, and this would open the way to a substantial and material recognition of the practical value of a class of sires that have hitherto (unfortunately for Canada) been sadly neglected.

There would be no difficulty in obtaining just the class of stallions needed, and that at very moderate prices. Race horses of first-class breeding are plentiful throughout the United States, and the stallion that is not successful in getting winners on the turf is soon discarded as worthless, even though his colts have size, substance, quality, and in fact everything but the one thing needful—an extraordinary turn of speed. Such stallions can always be had at very moderate figures, and as soon as our farmers are brought to appreciate their great practical value in the stud they must become a very important factor in the material prosperity of the farming community throughout the Province.

PRACTICAL TESTS RECORDS.

Just now it is quite the fashion for some professedly agricultural and live stock journals to depreciate the tendency toward record-making by breeders, dairymen, and feeders. Instead of striving to impress upon their readers the practical lessons taught by these experiments, they endeavour to neutralize their effects and lull their readers into the belief that after all they have nothing to learn in the matter of breeding and feeding. They cry out for “practical tests,” by which they really mean, we suppose, that Mr. Valancy Fuller should winter Mary Anne of St. Lambert in the open air on a diet of rye straw, basswood browse, and ice water, and then give her a seven days’ butter test the first week in February. They would have Mr. John Hope allow Clarence Kirklevington to fatten himself from the straw pile on the north side of the barn, and when he got tired of that, rustle for himself in the stubble field adjoining, and after subjecting him to three months of such treatment, see if he had gained any more than a scrub steer would have done under similar circumstances.

Farmers would be much better without such teachers. It is sufficiently difficult to keep the average farming community up with the times in all matters connected with their own pursuits, and they are as a rule unfortunately too ready to condemn as visionary and unpractical anything that runs counter to their preconceived ideas. They like to be told that after all they have practical common sense on their side, as opposed to “experimental” and “book” farming. The journalists who thus make this feeding of the farmer’s vanity their stock-in-trade are

unworthy of the calling they follow; they are either wilfully dishonest or grossly ignorant, and in either case the farmers of Ontario would be much better without them. They profess to give the farmer agricultural or live stock papers, but the greater part of these are taken up with what they are pleased to call “family reading,” which is for the most part made up of very stale reprint clipped from the “patent insides” furnished by auxiliary publishing houses.

Carefully conducted experiments have taught intelligent, experienced, and thoroughly successful breeders and feeders in England, the United States, and Canada that there is more profit in maturing and marketing fat cattle at from twenty months to three years than in keeping them till they are four or five years old. The same agencies have taught practical and successful dairymen the world over that Jerseys, Holsteins, and Guernseys give exceptionally favorable returns in the dairy or creamery. These facts have not been elicited by subjecting the animals tested to all the rigors of a Canadian or Minnesota winter and on a slim diet at that. On the other hand, those making these experiments have taken as the standard animals surrounded by the most favorable conditions possible, and different breeds, different families, and different ages have all been tested by this same standard. It is by such means that the best results have been attained and the efforts of breeders, feeders, and dairymen kept in the proper direction. St. Gatien was not the result of a cross between a Clydesdale stallion and a Walpole Island pony, nor did he spend his first winter shivering in the lee of a Muskoka straw stack. Nor did Maud S. come of “Cayuse” parentage and rustle through three or four Montana winters on a diet of snow and prairie grass preparatory to becoming queen of the trotting turf. That is not the way in which such animals as Maud S., St. Gatien, and Luke Blackburn are produced. The man who thought so would be set down as a lunatic of course. And yet, when breeders, dairymen, and feeders test their breeds and their methods, and produce phenomenal results, these pretended champions of what they are pleased to call the “practical” side of the question say, “Oh yes, that is all very well; but use Mary Anne of St. Lambert as I use my scrub cows and how much butter will she make?” Or, “Feed and winter Clarence Kirklevington as I feed and winter my scrub steers and see how much he will gain per day.”

Had Mr. Fuller and Mr. Hope and all others who have become good breeders and dairymen been cast in the same mould as these sore-headed sell-the-hay-and-grain-and-winter-the-stock-at-the-straw-stack farmers, not only would such animals as Mary Anne of St. Lambert and Clarence Kirklevington never have been produced, but not one of the many hundreds of thousands of valuable and profitable animals that have been bred in similar lines would ever have seen the light, and the farmer and stock-breeder of to-day would have been only a shade better off than the wretched animals shivering in his barn yard. The