

# Canadian Live-Stock & Farm Journal

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All communications to be addressed STOCK JOURNAL Co., 48 John street south, Hamilton, Ont.

HAMILTON, CANADA, MAY, 1887.

THE time was when farmers could plead some excuse for not using a pure-bred male on account of the cost, but this excuse holds good no longer. A good male can now be purchased at a very reasonable figure of most of the leading breeds of cattle, sheep and swine. Up-grading is no less necessary with sheep and swine than with cattle. Although the former get a larger share of attention on this score, it may be because of their greater relative importance individually. Of the hundreds of thousands of sheep and swine sold annually to the butcher, but a moderate percentage of them are well graded. Good rams and young boars can now be readily got when old enough to sell, for about twice the worth of the meat. What a revolution it would make in the quantity and quality of our meat supplies if these were universally used!

NEATNESS in stock-keeping is a grand essential, as in other things. Go into some stables and you will find the cattle one mass of filth. They may be well fed, but the feed is not given to them—it is tossed to them much as one would toss a bone to a dog. The feed place, too, is all disorder, the feeder tramping over with his manure-smear'd boots what he expects the cattle to eat. This need not be. It is no excuse to say that there is no time to keep things neat, for it is notorious that as a rule the neatest workers put the most work through their hands, and for the reason that they are sure to be systematic workers. Old men who read this scrap. will not be much benefitted by it: their habits are already formed; but young men should lay it to heart. It is a great matter to keep one's stock always presentable, and it can be done where there is a will to do it.

LOSSES of cattle upon the ranch the past winter have been unusually severe. It is stated that some have lost thirty and even fifty per cent. of their stock. Some of the American agricultural papers (be it said to their credit) are condemning the system which allows cattle to starve and freeze in the winter, and saying that they have not much sympathy with the owners in their losses. We go a step further. We

lift up our voice in loud and long and solemn protest against the inhumanity of a nation that can tolerate such a thing. The strong arm of the law should step in and say that it must not be. What manner of men can the owners be who can calmly look on and behold their cattle die by a slow and agonizing death without trying to provide shelter for them the following season? It may be answered that this is very difficult to do, owing to the very large number of the stocks. This will be no excuse in the eyes of the Avenger of the wrongs of the lower orders of animal life. Man was given the lordship of the animal creation that he might rule with wisdom and kindness, and not play the part of the inhuman barbarian. That money is accursed which is coined on the ranches strewn with the unburied skeletons of animals that have died a most painful and lingering death, a death that might have been prevented but for the cupidity of the owners. We confess to some ignorance regarding the best methods of providing shelter and feed, but we cannot but think that "thirty" per cent. of all the live-stock on a ranch would go far to provide the necessary accommodation for several years.

THE prices of pedigree bulls in Scotland have been low indeed at the spring sales, almost unprecedentedly low. This is partially accounted for by the presence of pleuro-pneumonia in that country to so large an extent, but no doubt the principal cause is the severe and prolonged depression that broods over the agricultural interests of the country like a dark pall. The *North British Agriculturist*, in commenting on the low prices obtained, dwells upon the unwisdom of leaving unsteered so large a number of only average and inferior specimens. It shows very plainly that these as steers would have brought a much larger sum. Let us heed the lesson. All our races of pure-bred cattle are suffering in this way. Everything that has a pedigree is kept, the bad and middling along with the good, which inevitably tends to lower the high character of the respective breeds. No doubt the lesson to Scotch farmers in the present distress is a sharp one, but good may come out of it. When men get into the habit of doing a thing, it is always much more easily done. Hitherto but few if any have adopted this course, hence the natural aversion to commence it. It is a practice that all our breeders of pure-bred stock must learn sooner or later, and the sooner it is adopted the better for the true interests of the breeds. Inferior males are a misfortune to any community. The prices received for such now in Canada are but little, if any, in advance of the beef price. It should be remembered that male animals cost more to keep them as such than if castrated.

IN these times of greatly reduced prices parties who are owing much money will feel the pinch severely, but others need not complain. We have abundance of everything. No disease abroad amongst our stock of a virulent nature, and no dread of war or internal revolutions, as is the case with several of the nations of the earth. A slight change in our methods may bring the yearly returns about what they were in former years. We have wasted more during the last thirty years in not properly caring for our machinery than would make a handsome little bank account for many of us. Let us give more heed to this part of our management than formerly. The very attempt to improve will do us good, as the practice of economy in one direction is pretty sure to lead to the practice of this in other ways. It is not so much what a nation makes that constitutes it rich, but what it saves. If we prevent plunderers from preying upon us by

charging us extortionate rates, look well after all our farm machinery and thus make it last as long as possible, study methods of economy in keeping stock, and banish all needless luxuries from our dwelling, we can get along well enough in this land, so highly blessed with natural advantages. If the price of beef is low, use less new milk in producing it. Because grain is low, there is the more reason that we should feed it on our farms, and in this way produce more of it. While it is true that we do not get the prices of yore, it is equally true that we have abundant reason for thankfulness, and not a shadow of a reason for murmur or complaint. Those of our farmers who are disposed to murmur should read the page of distress in agricultural circles across the sea.

## Is it True?

Soon after the annual meeting of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association we received the following letter from a prominent stock-breeder:

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

SIR,—As I find my finances considerably crippled by the actions of my neighbors, and you in particular, I will have to curtail expenses, so you can discontinue the JOURNAL.

With the consciousness of guilt hanging over him, that man who tries to appear innocent is not in moral balance. On the other hand, he who is conscious of innocence and allows himself to wear the brand of guilt is, to say the least of it, a tame man.

In the letter which introduces this article, "Stock-breeder" brings rather a grave charge against a number of his fellow-breeders, that of deliberately trying to injure him, and most of all is that charge laid at our own door.

As many of the present readers of the JOURNAL were not subscribers when the amalgamation of the herd books was first mooted, and therefore may not be conversant with all the facts, for their benefit as well as for our own justification, we will try and give an impartial resume of the whole thing, that the guilt or innocence of our fellow-breeders and of ourselves may be apparent to all.

Up to the first day of January, 1885, the amalgamation of the rival Shorthorn herd-books had not been mooted at all, unless in private conversation between little knots of breeders, who desired the prosperity of the Shorthorn interest at large, more than the success of one or other of the rival books. But the separation had been recent, only four years prior to this, and as the strong feeling engendered at the time of the secession of the British American Shorthorn camp was still unallayed, no man was found willing to incur the odium of saying boldly in a public meeting that the unblest strife should cease, and that the two divisions of the Shorthorn interest should come together and shake hands over the burial place of their unholy wrangle.

While affairs were in this chaotic state, the whole Shorthorn camp, rent by intestine war, outside nations looking on with a reasonable disgust, our breeders and intending breeders perplexed, and Shorthorn stocks all round selling at a discount, the editor of this journal took it upon himself to ask the members of the British-American Shorthorn Breeders' Association, assembled in Toronto at their regular annual meeting, held on the 24th day of February, 1885, to appoint a committee to meet with a similar one from the Agricultural and Arts Association of Ontario, providing he could prevail upon the members of the latter body to take this course, stating at the same time that he intended to ask them.

The storm that followed the proposal the breeders know and the editor knows. But, like many storms,