

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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## EDITORIAL.

### A British Example to Men of Means.

The prominent part taken by members of the English Royal family, and many of the wealthiest and most eminent of the nobility, in agricultural pursuits—more particularly stock breeding—is naturally called to mind by several articles and illustrations in this issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. Its influence has been most salutary and far-reaching, and wealthy Canadians should profit by the example Britain has set in this respect. Mr. Arthur Johnston, President of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association, had this thought in view when, at the last annual meeting, he made the following pertinent observations:

"If I were asked my opinion as to the greatest want in Shorthorn matters in this country and in the United States, I would unhesitatingly answer that of moneyed men who take an active and participating interest in this and in all other matters pertaining to agriculture. In the Old Lands it is vastly different. There, from the royalty down to the tenant farmer, all take a patriotic pride in being connected with the soil on which they live, other than mere ownership and revenue derived therefrom. I think the subject is worthy of the consideration of our men of wealth. It is not to be hoped that the wealthy can make money in any line of farming, but the country can never prosper while only the very poor farm; and if men of wealth and social standing hold aloof from the soil, the more moderately wealthy will also avoid it; whereas, if our wealthiest citizens made it fashionable to take up some lines of agriculture, moneyed men of less means would imitate, and the certain result would be improved methods and more ambition. In England and Scotland, and indeed all the Old Lands, the tenant farmer has many opportunities during the year of meeting on equal terms with his lordship of high degree who is engaged in farming in the vicinity. Even the Queen and the Prince of Wales are largely engaged in farming and pure-bred stock raising."

### Life on the Farm.

In these brightening days of the Jubilee Year for Canadian agriculture, the stirring appeal, "At the Sound of the Bell," from the pen of Mrs. E. M. Jones, of Brockville, should strike a responsive chord, awakening a proper appreciation of life on the farm in the hearts and minds of thousands of young men and women. A close observer and student of life in its various phases, with the difficulties overcome and the successes achieved during her own career at "Belvedere," with its far-famed Jersey herd and dairy farming enterprises all in view, her message comes with peculiar weight and we commend it to our readers everywhere. Our readers will be more than pleased to look upon the portrait of Mrs. Jones, which graces another page, more especially those familiar with her work as a breeder of Jerseys, with her popular little book, "Dairying for Profit," and her contributions at various times to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. "At the Sound of the Bell" rings out a deeply significant note of warning which young people would do well to heed ere they have bartered away for some glittering bauble the priceless heritage of life on the farm. Notwithstanding the possession of all that wealth and earthly honor could afford, Victoria the Beneficent, greatest Queen of the world's greatest empire, and leading members of the Royal family, have found that the pursuit of agriculture has yielded them advantages and satisfaction far higher and more abiding than all the pomp of court life.

### Present-Day Profits of Feeding.

The class of animals called for by the markets of the present day both in cattle and hogs is, fortunately for the farmer, just such as he can most profitably produce. The demand is for young animals of medium weights. Cattle at 1200 to 1400 pounds and hogs at 125 to 175 pounds are most sought after and command the highest price. It has been proven by repeated experiments and actual test that the cost of producing a pound of beef or pork is very much less in the case of young animals than in older ones, and the returns from feeding can thus be made in less time at more frequent intervals, and with more satisfactory results, the cost of production being less. Taking into consideration these facts, and the low price of nearly all varieties of grain for feeding purposes at present prevailing prices, and the fair prices ruling for beef and pork, we submit that there must be a



HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA.

fair profit in feeding stock at the present time. Formerly there was a market for hogs only in the late fall and winter, and only large, heavy pork was wanted. This necessitated keeping hogs till they were twelve to eighteen months old, and then they often came upon a glutted market, and prices were forced down to figures which gave no profit to the feeder. But with the opening of packing establishments a steady market for young, light hogs is assured all the year round, and the farmer by combining dairying with hog feeding can handle several lots of hogs during the year, and often finds his best market in the summer months when the by-products of the dairy are most plentiful, when clover can be utilized, and weight can be most rapidly and cheaply secured in fattening hogs. The wide-awake farmer who takes advantage of these circumstances does not feel the pinch of slack times to the same extent as the man who is waiting for a rise in the price of grain and letting his farm get run down in the meantime.

### Credit Where Credit Is Due.

"Solely by the method of feeding adopted in Canada, combined with the skillful cutting of the meat and the careful process of preparation for market, our farmers and packers have secured a reputation for Canadian bacon in Great Britain which enables the producer to pocket two cents per pound live weight off the cars more than has been paid in Chicago for fatty, corn-fed pork."—Daily paper.

Our humble opinion in regard to the above statement is that the principal factor in accounting for the better price being paid for Canadian hogs is overlooked, and that to the superior skill and judgment exercised in Canadian swine breeding, combined with the work of the feeder, is due more than to any other cause the quality of Canadian pork. Our breeders have, as a rule, been careful in their selections of breeding stock to use such animals as most nearly approach the desirable type for a good feeding bacon hog, with the natural result that the bulk of our hogs measure nearly up to the standard, and are marketed at the most desirable age and weight. On the other hand, breeders and feeders as a rule in the U. S. having large supplies of cheap corn aim to produce weight as the first consideration, and generally keep their hogs till too heavy and too fat to suit the market for lean bacon. From a knowledge of the facts we have no hesitation in saying, moreover, that U. S. breeders as a rule have not shown equal skill or judgment with Canadians in breeding the type of hogs suited to the requirements of present-day markets. Without now discussing their respective feeding qualities we might say there has been a good deal of buncombe written and spoken in the last few weeks about the use of corn and Canadian peas. The fact is that probably not one-half as many hogs are fattened on peas in Canada as there was 20 years ago, during which time the character of Canadian pork has been steadily improving from an edible standpoint. The bulk of our hogs are now fattened on the by-products of the dairy, such as skim milk and whey together with a variety of grains and millfeeds; and it is not a little amusing to some of our feeders to see their pork, into which peas never entered to the extent of one pint, branded by the packers as "Canadian pea-fed pork." The true inwardness of this matter is that Canadian swine raisers and feeders are mixing their methods with brains and are showing a commendable amount of intelligence for which the ubiquitous newspaper scribblers and patriotic politicians are not giving them due credit.

### The Queen's Jubilee.

Sunday, June 20th, completes the sixtieth year of the long and glorious reign of Queen Victoria—a period longer than the reign of any other British sovereign. Hence it is that the empire on which the sun never sets is celebrating the "Diamond Jubilee," and it is but fitting that the FARMER'S ADVOCATE should devote an issue more especially to the progress of agriculture and live stock breeding in the Victorian era and the relation of the Royal family to these great industries from the time the late Prince Consort began his farming operations nearly fifty years ago. The Prince of Wales is to-day one of the most extensive and successful farmers and breeders in England, and following the example of father and grandfather, his son, H. R. H. the Duke of York, is an enthusiastic agriculturist. Every one of the Queen's sons now living has, at one time or another, been engaged in farming. We trust the articles and the portraits of those who have laid the foundation of live stock breeding in Great Britain will also prove of special interest and value to the agriculturist of Canada at this time.