

## Canadian Live-Stock &amp; Farm Journal

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

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THE production of animals of a high order should be the aim of every person who is engaged in growing stock. The inferior product is always slow of sale, and at a price more or less reduced, whether it be an article produced by the manufacturer, the artisan or the farmer. When the annual search is made for males to breed from, the best are first picked up, then the commonplace, and last of all the culls, which, if sold at all, will be sold at a greatly reduced rate. Although we may not avoid it altogether, we should aim at having no culls, and those we have should be got rid of first, not last, as the longer they are kept, the greater the amount of the loss relatively resulting from keeping them. The taste of the world is becoming more fastidious. The consumers thereof are growing more and more dissatisfied with inferior productions, particularly in dietetic lines, so that those who will not get out of the old rut and mend their ways must inevitably be left behind. Young men especially must have strangely constituted minds who can content themselves with the dead level of mediocrity attainment. We say to every young man on the farm, come out from the midst of such a thing; be a leader in your line. You may be if you only will.

WHEN men engage in any manufacturing business they usually take much pains in getting information from the best sources. They visit the manufactories that have proved the most successful, and study the methods there practised which have led to this success. We would that those who take up the breeding of good stock always showed like wisdom. Some, because they have beaten their neighbors at the local exhibitions with grade stock bred at random, leap to the conclusion that they are fully equipped for taking up the breeding of a better class of stock. They fail to consider that good stock is not usually bred at random, more than good grain uniformly produced is the outcome of unsettled and irregular methods. They would find it a safe investment to visit the herds of successful men and study their methods, to post themselves thoroughly in the art of feeding, in the nature of

the stabling most suitable, and what is a far rarer acquisition than either of the above, the art of breeding, comprising the suitable coupling of animals, and the blending or non-blending of strains in a way that is most likely to produce the result which is sought. With some men this sort of skill is almost, as it were, intuitive, but with most it is the outcome of the most diligent observation and the most patient study.

SOME young farmers of ability and enterprise do not invest in improved stock from the mistaken notion that they cannot produce prize animals without having a large herd, or from the fear that their herd will be so little noticed by the general public that they will not be able to sell profitably. Looking at the matter thus is viewing it from a standpoint that will prove misleading. The possessor of one animal may have a show animal if due care be exercised in the first purchase, and where the herd is small there is a better chance for uniform excellence than where it is large, as the larger the herd the larger the proportion of the weeds produced, and the less perfect, in all probability, the care. We have one herd in our mind in the Province of Ontario that never had twenty representatives in it at one time, that has well nigh captured the first place at our leading show-rings, and no difficulty has been found in getting sale for the surplus at good prices, let the times be what they may. Excellence in any department or line of life is sure to command the attention which it deserves ultimately, although for a time it may plod along unnoticed. In many counties of Canada there is yet abundance of room for the introduction of good pure-bred animals of the various breeds. Which of our young men will step out of the ranks and commence the forward march?

WHEN the winds of March are very cold we get a little impatient sometimes, and this impatience is apt to find utterance in expressed hankerings after a softer and a sunnier clime. In our forgetfulness we fail to realize that this long winter has its compensations. No land is to be found on the surface of the earth where a diversity of live stock exists of a high order, that is so free from disease as our own. And is not this largely due to the purifying influences of our long, cold winters? We should not be rash in complaining, then, if Hudson Bay and Labrador give us sometimes what we consider an over-amount of their oxygen. Our soil is good and crops usually abundant, and in such a case we should rather feel thankful than otherwise that we have an atmosphere so eminently fitted to preserve health in both man and beast, where these are kept in conditions at all in accordance with reason. While we enthusiastically engage in building big barns and show the utmost diligence in filling them while the days are warm, let us rather rejoice that we live in a land where almost every kind of live stock worth possessing can be reared in such perfection and kept in a vigor that is most encouraging. Why, the live stock of the balmy south will not for a moment compare in size or quality with what our country produces.

"BREED to the best and from the best, and ultimate success is a foregone conclusion"—so writes "G" in the *National Live-Stock Journal* for May. While this is certainly true, there may be much difference of opinion as to what is *the best*. To select a sire with a short pedigree simply because of his individual excellence, without regard to the character of his ancestry might prove most disappointing, and to use an inferior specimen because of the excellence of his ances-

try might prove equally disappointing, as in the former case we might breed after his ancestry, which might be very inferior, and in the latter case after himself, which would certainly be inferior. In this country, where improved stock often passes rapidly from one to another, and especially where much of it has been imported, it is difficult to get information as to the character of their ancestry, but where this can be done it will be found to repay the time abundantly that is so spent. Even breeding to the best and from the best may be in a sense disappointing if the lines of consanguinity are long and close. While the possession of every desirable quality may be obtained and these may be developed in harmonizing proportions, each may be lacking just a little in quality, in which case the introduction of fresh outside blood will be found advantageous if judiciously chosen.

Too many farmers, it is to be feared, fall into the mistake of breeding horses for farm work just a little too light for what is required of them. It is not enough that a team be just able to plough a field comfortably when the conditions are favorable, for there may be good reasons as to why that field should be ploughed sometimes under conditions less favorable, in which case they would fail to accomplish the task without serious injury to themselves. They should be strong enough for the ordinary work assigned them to enable them to retain a reserve power, as it were, of unexpended strength, in which case they may be expected to wear. Neither man nor beast, nor machine can long stand the wear and tear of work that requires the expenditure of strength which taxes it to the utmost. It is a foregone conclusion that in such a case the capacity for work must speedily diminish. Farmers have been largely led into this mistake by being necessitated to use the same team on the farm and on the road, but there is less necessity for this now, as on large farms a span of light horses may be kept for the road, and in most places the markets are being more conveniently located. We should try rather and produce a class of horses for the farm whose effort in doing their work would be that of an engine on a down grade rather than the opposite of this, which is so often the case at present.

A SUBSCRIBER of Cheapside, Ont., in a letter of remittance, closes an interesting epistle with this sentence: "Not having the means to purchase pure-bred stock I am endeavoring to improve what I have, and in this endeavor I have been very much aided by the reading of the JOURNAL." Canada wants one hundred thousand young men throughout her provinces such as the writer of that letter. Like thousands of others he has not the cash to enable him to purchase pure-bred stock, but he has what so many have not, the desire to improve such stock as he has. He is laboring in that spirit which tries to make the most of opportunities, and in this he is trying to do what he can, not attempting to do what he cannot. It was duty done in this spirit that once upon a time drew forth the most magnificent commendation ever given or received. There is no man living in the Dominion an owner of inferior stock but who might improve them if he would, and that with very little extra outlay—just the using of a better male and giving increased attention. Scrubs, even, might be wonderfully improved in this way, if their owners so willed it. But the learner is at work. The stock of Canada is better than it was five years ago, and five years hence it will be better still. What grieves us is, that the farmers are content with an arithmetical ratio of progression when it should be and might be geometrical.