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EDITORIAL.

Importance of Type.

The shows and public sales of pure-bred stock, as well as the awards in fat-stock competitions the world over in these times, combine to emphasize the importance of producing a type of meat-making animals that, mature at an early age. Exhaustive experiments have established beyond controversy the fact that the weight secured by generous feeding of cattle under two years is much more cheaply gained up to that age than is possible after that period. The same principle applies in the case of sheep and swine, which are most profitably marketed at an earlier age. There is, therefore, undoubted economy in breeding and rearing a class of stock of such lineage, form and propensity as will attain to maturity at an early age, with the greatest degree of uniformity, and at a minimum of cost.

The Scotch breeds of cattle, notably Galloways and Aberdeen-Angus years ago, and the English Herefords, finding favor with the butchers and buyers in the British markets, owing to these desirable qualities, progressive Scottish breeders of Shorthorns, led by Amos Cruickshank, a couple of decades ago set about the sensible work of conforming their cattle to the same ideal, and, by judicious selection of the fittest, so admirably succeeded in evolving a type suited to the demands of the times that their cattle have won their way to almost universal favor in spite of the pride and prejudice of schools of breeders who plumed themselves on the aristocratic lineage of their favorite families and types, which have been so discredited by the logic of commerce and an enlightened public opinion that to-day there are few to do them reverence. By this we mean the types, not the men, who were among nature's noblemen, and did a grand work in their day for the improvement of live stock, but their day is done. The times and the demands of the times have changed, and those who fail to cater to progressive requirements must of necessity find themselves in the rear of the procession, if, indeed, they are in it at all.

No one who has followed the records of the leading shows of breeding stock and fat stock in Great Britain and America can have failed to note the gradual but sure ascendancy of Scotch and Scotch-bred Shorthorns in the prize lists, and the most casual reader of the public sale records in the Old Land and on this side the sea must have noticed the wide difference in favor of Scotch-bred cattle in the prices obtained. So pronounced has this feature become that Scottish breeders now are comparatively independent of the foreign trade since the English breeders have become among their best customers, carrying off a very large proportion of the choicest of their bulls, and paying high prices for them, in competition with buyers from South America, Canada and elsewhere.

If this movement were merely a pedigree fad, like the Bates and Booth crazes of former times, there would be little in it to commend, and much to deprecate, but there is every reason to conclude that it is based on sound commercial considerations of economical production, and it is gratifying to find that in recent years less importance is being attached to family affinities, as it has come to be acknowledged that the mere chance of an exceptional show animal coming from

a certain family is no criterion by which to judge of the character of the family as a whole, while the blood that has produced the approved type in Scotland is now so generally diffused among the best herds of that country that the type has become fixed and general to such an extent as to be safe to use and sure to improve wherever it is used.

If our premises in the foregoing statements are sound, as we believe they are, the inference is that breeders will do well to study and follow the trend of the times, by using sires of the right stamp, having a sufficient percentage of approved breeding to render them prepotent in producing the desired type, and at the same time to introduce into the herd as opportunity offers a young cow or two of the approved breeding, and by retaining her female progeny found a herd that will produce the best selling sort, while undesirable members are by degrees eliminated and the herd placed upon a higher plane.

Lessons from the Winter Fairs.

The Winter Fair, or Fat Stock Show, is essentially the farmers' live-stock institute. The breeders and the feeders compete for place of precedence of their products, and the judges set the standard of excellence on the basis of early maturity, economical production, and a profitable carcass. Big, coarse-boned and over-fat animals are no longer wanted by buyers, butchers or consumers. Medium-sized beasts, smoothly turned, free from paunchiness, with firm flesh evenly distributed, constitute the profitable and readily salable sort. Object lessons in animal form alive are provided at these shows as conducted at Guelph, Amherst and Chicago, and the slaughter test serves an excellent purpose in demonstrating the difference between well-fed and indifferently-finished products. The management of the Winter Fair wisely makes arrangements for the holding of meetings to discuss subjects of vital interest to the visitors. These gatherings are addressed by men of acknowledged authority from different parts, and these are conceded by all to be among the most useful features of the fair. The programme this year was divided into sections for dairymen, bacon producers, beef feeders, horse producers, and institute workers, and those interested in each subject availed themselves of the privilege of attending the sessions most important to them. In the lecture room experienced breeders, feeders, buyers and butchers give full and free information regarding the methods by which success is attained in the production and marketing of cattle, sheep and swine, and poultry, of the type and quality most in demand and that brings the best prices. And, happily, these methods are well within the means of the average farmer. It costs but little more to have a calf sired by a pure-bred bull than by a scrub. A skim-milk-fed calf won first prize at the Guelph show this year, and the champions on many occasions, here and in Chicago, were grade steers that begun their career in the same humble way. All cannot be champions or winners, but the average quality can be so much improved by the use of pure-bred sires of the right type as to raise the value of the produce by nearly fifty per cent., as the well-bred animal will make that much better return for what he eats, and will sell for nearly twice the price the scrub brings. The lessons for the

farmer from the fat stock show are that good breeding and generous feeding of a judicious mixture of economically grown foods give the most profitable returns. The lectures give him the benefit of the experience of experienced, practical men.

Important lessons for fair managers may also be learned from the winter fairs. Here the live stock is the principal attraction, and the people come in crowds to see it. Rightly managed, the live stock may be made the main attraction at the summer shows. The horse shows, systematically conducted as they are in the principal cities on this continent, confirm this belief by their popularity and financial success. Let the stables at our summer shows be so planned that the public can view the stock in comfort and cleanliness. Let the animals be classified by ages in the stables, with their catalogue numbers and prize cards properly displayed; let the judging be done in a covered and seated pavilion; let daily parades of all the entries in horses and cattle in the pavilion be required as a condition of prizes being paid; let the display of harness and saddle horses before the grand-stand be continued from day to day at stated hours, according to a published and performed programme, together with hurdle jumping, judging competitions, and dairy demonstrations and other manufacturing processes, and we venture to predict that soon the day of the circus in connection with agricultural and industrial exhibitions will be done, and that the people will wonder why they were ever deluded into paying their good money for the kind of entertainment now provided by the managers of our principal shows, at such great cost and with so little satisfaction to those to whom they cater.

A New Era.

Since the announcement was made one month ago that the progressive farmers of this country were to be given the opportunity of reading a weekly farm paper, hundreds of letters have been received testifying to the high appreciation in which the announcement has been received. We beg to return our humble acknowledgments and trust that our efforts in future may be worthy of all these kind words. It will be our aim to produce such a journal as every intelligent farmer's family in Canada will consider a part of the home. From week to week an effort will be made to supply such agricultural information as the people stand most in need of. To do this we desire the co-operation of our readers. By friendly co-operation and suggestion, the reader can do much to make the "Farmer's Advocate" still better in every respect. You can help by giving a few notes on some agricultural topic of practical interest. If there is any information in your possession that has helped you, send it along for the benefit of others. Help your fellow toiler to accomplish more during the year 1904 than 1903, with a lessened outlay of toil. Consider our columns yours, and thus join in making the "Farmer's Advocate" as a weekly paper even more than it was as a semi-monthly, a benefaction to agriculture, the supreme industry of Canada.

Become a contributor to the "Farmer's Advocate" by sending in the agricultural news of your district, or a description of how you grew that big crop.