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### The Horse Show.

The success that has attended the first meeting of the great Canadian Horse Show should encourage the promoters to make it a yearly event. When the idea of holding a big show of this kind was first mooted, there were not wanting many to assert that a successful exhibition was impossible, as there were not enough good horses in the country to fill up the classes, and, besides, there was the failure of the Chicago Horse Show to point to. These people must have been astonished at the number of entries made and the size of the audiences present. Everything went off satisfactorily; even that capricious element, the weather, put on her best face, and the large balance left on hand of over \$4,000 should ensure another successful show next year. We heartily congratulate the managers and all concerned on the way in which the programme was carried out.

### British Exports of Cattle.

We are so accustomed to look on Great Britain as the great live stock mart, whither all countries which have cattle to export are continually shipping their surplus cattle, that it seems strange to find her herself doing an export trade in cattle. This, too, is independent of her export trade in purebred stock, which was at one time so great, but now has sunk

to comparatively small proportions. The official returns show that last year 8,281 head of store and beef cattle left the ports of Great Britain. A small trade had been done previously, but it was during the latter half of 1894 that the figures denoting the exports underwent any substantial increase. Belgium was the best customer, taking more than half the total export, while France came next, followed by Germany. One hundred and sixty-seven head of breeding stock were sent to the Argentine Republic during the year. The total value of the cattle exported was \$676,585.

An encouraging feature for our live stock export trade during the coming season, which we glean from the report before us, is that the imports of live stock to Great Britain from Ireland during the first two months of the year, with the exception of pigs, showed a marked falling off as compared with 1894.

### Improvement in Trade.

There is every reason to believe that the slow but steady improvement visible in general trade will be permanent. Things have been at rock bottom, and trade generally is on a more satisfactory basis now than it has been for some time. Wholesale houses and dealers are more careful in giving credit, and the weak and unreliable establishments have been forced to go to the wall.

In the farming line things are looking better. Fat cattle are dearer than they have been for some time, while sheep are also better property. Hogs are keeping their own, while horses, so long a drug in the market, are selling fully 40 per cent. better than they were three months ago. Good horses, for which it was hard to get \$60 in the winter, have been lately sold for \$100 and \$120. Even wheat is up a little, while, as far as one can judge, there is every prospect of good crops this year. We believe that there are good times ahead for breeders and farmers generally.

### Dominion Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations.

A joint meeting of the members of the above associations will be held about May 24th, at which every member is requested to be present. The actual expenses of each officer who attends from the opening to the close of the sessions will be paid by the associations.

Several important matters will be brought up for discussion, such as the annual winter show, the revision of rules and prize list, and the selection of judges. It is also proposed to carry on experimental work with different breeds of sheep and swine for comparison's sake. Arrangements will also be made for assuming control of the swine records.

### Improvement in the Horse Market.

The long-expected turn of the tide in the horse market seems to have come in the United States, and, while there has not been so much change yet in this country, yet the market is getting steadier, and will, ere long, show an upward tendency. Writing on this subject, Mr. Alex. Galbraith, secretary of the American Clydesdale Association, says:

"Reports from all over the country, and especially from the horse centres of Chicago and New York, confirm the well-founded belief that the horse market has at last definitely turned the corner, and is now on the upward grade.

"Notwithstanding heavy receipts, prices for all kinds, except unsound and inferior animals, are more satisfactory than for a long time past, and the demand for first-class draft and coach horses is most decidedly strong. Draft teams are selling right along at \$400 and \$450, while several large buyers last week signified their willingness to pay considerably more for strictly first-class matched teams of 3,400 to 3,600 lbs. The latter weight, when combined with action, quality, and proper conformation, are scarce, and those who own such can practically name their own price and get it."

Commenting on this, Mr. Galbraith gives the following sensible advice, with which we thoroughly agree:

"Clydesdale breeders should take especial encouragement from this improved condition of the market, and endeavor to make up the great lee-way of the past few years by breeding all their good mares to the best stallions obtainable during the present season.

"Remember that your colts from this season's breeding will be four years old in the year 1900, by which time we shall, in all probability, see prices one hundred per cent. higher than they are to-day.

"Those who wish to see the good times and then begin their breeding operations, which occupy, at the least, five years, will most assuredly be too late to reap the benefit. You must anticipate, or 'get left.'"

### The Prize Poultry Essays.

We would remind our readers that all essays to be sent in for competition on the subject of "How to get the best results from Farm Poultry" must reach us on or before May 15th, 1895, otherwise they will be too late. We have already received several, and hope to have the number largely increased before the date mentioned.

### Firm Bacon.

The feeding of swine is so intimately connected with dairying, for which the greater part of our country, as at present settled, seems so suitable, that there will always be a large output of bacon to find its way to Great Britain and other countries. To have that bacon put on the market in the best condition should be our constant aim. Only by so doing can our bacon hold its own in other lands. The first requirement is to get pigs of a suitable kind, and the next and most important step is to feed them on suitable food.

That this is not always done is evident from the evidence of Prof. Robertson given before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Agriculture and Colonization at Ottawa. During the past winter several complaints have come from the large packers and curers of bacon as to the unsatisfactory nature of Canadian bacon. Some of it has been unusually soft, and the lard was also unusually soft in quality. The packers have ascribed the cause to the too prolific feeding of roots, but Prof. Robertson thinks that a good many farmers killed their swine without giving them three or four weeks' hard feeding. He would fatten them as fast as possible on soft food, and then give them grain for a few weeks immediately before killing, so as to prevent the flesh shrinking in weight. He would give the grain without milk, as, if milk is given up to the very close of the feeding period, while it will make a soft, luscious bacon, yet it is not profitable. In answer to Mr. Featherston, he said that whey-fed pigs made soft

pork, but, as soft pork made in the summer time gets on the market very quickly, there is no complaint about it, and packers generally consider such pork as good as grain-fed.

In reply to further questions, Prof. Robertson stated that barley had also the effect of making pork soft and oily. Wheat made soft pork, but it was so luscious that the English consumers are very much in its favor. Frozen wheat gave bacon a flavor and flesh much like the English product. He had found that a mixture of barley, rye, wheat, and bran had given a good deal of satisfaction. Pigs fed on this mixture, when from two to five months old, had gained a pound of live weight on the average for 3.82 lbs. of grain. The grain was ground and soaked.

### A Brighter Outlook for the Growers of Beef.

It is a long road which has no turn in it. So says the proverb. For a good while now the beef interest has not been a very encouraging one, but it would seem that the turn has come at last. Prices of beef and mutton have advanced during the winter, and the indications of a speedy change in the opposite direction are not prominent. In fact, the indications would all seem to point upwards. Our exchanges from the Western States all speak of the scarcity of stocks of beef cattle, and more especially of beef bulls. This would seem to indicate that good prices may be expected for beef cattle for a good while to come; for, when high prices for beef are brought about by a scarcity in the supply, the scarcity cannot be made up anything like as quickly as though it were a scarcity of pigs, or of sheep. It takes a much longer time to grow cattle.

In view of the dearth of beef bulls in the United States, our farmers who have this class of stock for sale would doubtless reap a rich harvest, were it not for the barrier of the quarantine. That barrier is serious, for it will mean that bulls will not be taken into that country except in carload lots. The expense of the quarantine would otherwise be too great. There is no doubt but that the quarantine regulations of the United States are working against the beef-producing interests of this country, since they, to a great extent, shut us out from a market which at one time was our leading one for purebred cattle of the beef breeds.

But the great change in the beef market in the United States cannot but react favorably on prices here. Both countries send their surplus to the same market—that is to say, to Great Britain. If, therefore, meat is high in the United States, it will also be high in Canada. The former country is quickly increasing in population, and will more and more absorb its own supplies, which will mean that for us there will be more standing room in the markets beyond the sea.

The advance made in dairying in this country is very marked during recent years. All honor to the men who have helped to bring it about! They have, no doubt, helped to build up what will be an enduring industry. But in a country so well adapted to growing beef, we ought never to forget the art. It has been said, and truthfully, that during recent years dairying has paid better, relatively, than beef-making. But it is a possible thing that these relations may change. They are changing, and they are likely still further to change. And if they do so change that the two industries can be made to continue to flourish, so much the better for our country.