

THE CANADIAN BREEDER

AND AGRICULTURAL REVIEW.

Weekly Paper published in the Stock and Farming interests of Canada.

SUBSCRIPTION, - - \$2.00 per Annum

ADVERTISING RATES.

Per line, each insertion, 20 cents.
(Nonpareil measurement, 12 lines to one inch.)
Brokers' cards, five line space, \$20.00 per annum; each additional line, \$5.00 per annum.
Condensed advertisements under classified headings, one cent per word, each insertion, for which cash must accompany order, as accounts will not be opened for them.
Contract rates on application.
All communications to be addressed to

CANADIAN BREEDER,

COR. CHURCH AND FRONT STS.

TORONTO.

S. BEATTY, MANAGER.

Toronto, Friday, January 9th, 1885.

Advertisements of an objectionable or questionable character will not be received for insertion in this paper.

WHY FARMERS' SONS GO TO THE CITY.

In a country where agricultural pursuits have so much in their favor it has long been a source of wonderment that so many farmers' sons quit the farm for other pursuits. Among the many who are jostling each other for a bare existence in the crowded unwholesome quarters of the great cities, one is surprised to find men who, a few years before, left comfortable homes in the country. Among the poorly paid, shabbily dressed, over-worked and not over-fed tradesmen's assistants on Yonge, Queen, and King streets are many men who had they remained at home on the farm might have been comparatively independent. As they are they are the reverse of comfortable in almost every respect. They are paid barely enough to supply themselves and their families with the bare necessities of life. They can lay up nothing for sickness or for the education of their families, and their sons and daughters have little to look forward to beyond a continued struggle with poverty. In the professions it is the same. The wealthy farmer gives his boys good educations, and directly they are educated they come to think that they are quite too clever to go on farming as their fathers have done before them. They think that law or medicine opens before them a wider and more promising field, and so they rush in to swell the ranks of the already over-crowded professions. A few of them rise to eminence (some men will rise to a prominent place in almost any calling or profession), but a majority, a very large majority, join the great army of briefless barristers and physicians without practice. Young men brought up in homes where aught save plenty is unknown cannot for a moment realize the risks they are running in quitting a certainty on the farm for an uncertainty in the city. They know nothing of the tortures the man has

to endure who has to do his best to keep up appearances on an insufficient income. The very life of such a man becomes a burden to him. His career from day to day is one protracted lie. If people come to understand how poor he is they will under-estimate his professional abilities, and then what little standing he has will be gone. He must sacrifice his comfort and that of his family, and too often he is compelled to delude trusting tradesmen, all for the sake of "keeping up appearances," or in other words for the purpose of making his neighbors believe that he is what he is not.

And why does the farmer's son rush into this wretched treadmill life when he has a lucrative and honorable calling which he has mastered within his reach? This is a question that may not be easily answered, but it is one of vital importance to the agricultural interests of the country and one which is well worthy of patient and careful consideration. Of course we all know something of the allurements which city life has for the young so long as "distance lends enchantment to the view," but this does not fully account for the intense dislike with which so many farmers' sons regard everything in the shape of agricultural pursuits. They regard farm life as a species of slavery—a calling in which nothing but dogged perseverance and patient, plodding industry can be of any avail. They are led to think that intelligence and study have nothing to do with success on the farm—that the most pronounced fool is just as apt to grow rich on a farm as the most clever and intelligent man in the country. Indeed, the opprobrious epithet of "hook farmer" is too often applied to the man who is trying to make use of his intellect as well as his land. In the long run of course the farmer who works with both mind and body has the best of it, but the "plodders" are in such a large majority in some sections of Canada, it is not surprising that many farmers' sons early decide that farm life is altogether too slow and unintellectual for them. And is it surprising that the young men get such notions into their heads? Too often the routine on the farm is unbearably dull. The farmer who steadily and wearily plods along in the footsteps of his forefathers, so far as farm work is concerned, cannot reasonably be surprised to see his son turning to some other occupation. He goes on year after year with the same dreary unvarying routine. Each year the same policy is pursued with the same results. Nearly the whole product of the farm is sold off as "raw material." The farmer keeps just enough horses to do his work, just enough in the way of scrub cattle to supply him with milk, butter, and beef, just enough scrub sheep to supply wool for the necessities of the household besides an occasional carcass of mutton, while for income he depends on the sale of wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, hay, and even straw. It is no wonder that any enterprising young man should fly from such a life without stopping to consider whether he was

jumping out of the frying pan into the fire or not. It indeed promises the dullest and dreariest of futures.

If, on the other hand, the farmer used his brains as well as his hands, how different would farming look to his sons. If the sons could see live stock on the farm increasing in numbers and quality every year through a careful and intelligent system of breeding; if they could see the coarse grains, hay, straw, and roots all manufactured into beef, butter, cheese, and pork before being sold off the place, while the land was every year becoming more and more productive through the increased quantities of manure thus made available, then they would begin to see that there was something more than a mere hand-to-mouth living for the intelligent and industrious farmer. They would feel a laudable pride in the quality of their horses, sheep, cattle, and hogs as compared with those of their neighbors. They would begin to see that brains as well as muscles could be made available in agricultural pursuits, and that even a moderate sized farm opened a field of the grandest possibilities, so long as the farmer was willing to make the most of it.

And what does it take to begin all this reformation? Very little will answer. A well-bred bull calf, a well-bred ram, and the services of a good stallion will cost but little, and yet they cover about all that is necessary in taking the initial step in the right direction. And even if the farmer be too poor to buy a single animal of the improved breeds, he can surely secure their services at a very moderate cost (provided there are any within twenty or thirty miles of him), and when he has done even that he has made a start in the right direction. Let him begin to breed out his scrub stock and to feed up his coarse grains, hay, straw, and roots on the farm, and he will soon find that his affairs are taking a turn for the better. His sons will feel an interest in the work, and, in most cases at least, prefer a certainty at home to an uncertainty in the city.

BROKEN LANDS FOR MUTTON, BUTTER, AND WOOL.

Any one who has spent much time in the northern townships of Ontario cannot fail to be impressed with the fact that they contain a large area of land that is lying wholly worthless and unproductive, which might be made to add very materially to the wealth of the Province. How great this area of unproductive country is might be difficult to guess, but it is safe to say that at present that portion of Ontario that is yielding little or nothing beyond timber is much larger than all the cultivated land in the Province. Of course it would not be safe to assert at the outset that the whole of northern Ontario will be found suited to any branches of agriculture, stock-raising, or dairying, but it is very certain that there are many and extensive tracts in the Laurentian Range that would furnish admirable facilities for dairying, sheep-raising, or cattle-raising