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

HAMILTON, CANADA, APRIL, 1889.

READERS of the JOURNAL yet in arrears will please renew their subscriptions at once, and get our handsome picture of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont.

WHILE we believe that the facts brought to light through the participants in the battle of the breeds has done much to lessen the patronizers of the scrubs throughout the land, yet we think that if the upholders of the merits of the different breeds would work more in unison and centre their forces on the improving of our native stock, showing the superiority of their favorites over the scrub, much more good would be accomplished. Let the battle rage on until one or more shall be acknowledged superior by fair right of merit. We gladly welcome to our columns facts and experiences that relate to any of our recognized breeds, that the scrub may be driven from the land, for we feel assured that as soon as a correct idea of the merits of the pure breeds exists among our farmers, they will not be loth to take advantage of their excellencies.

MALES which have proved themselves as of the right sort by their stock should not be lightly discarded or hastily thrown aside. An aged bull in the sale ring will bring a very moderate price indeed, compared with a young and promising one in appearance, and yet the young one, being unproved, may never equal the former as a sire. Aged males of proved usefulness cannot be kept too long while they remain useful as sires, and young ones cannot be turned off too soon when it has been discovered that their get is not just what is desired. The all-round improvement of breeds is very slow, and it is so because of the mistakes made by breeders in selecting males. More injury has arisen to the cause of breeding pedigreed stock by retaining all the males, good, bad and intermediate, for breeding purposes, than from any other cause, and until breeders make up their minds to use the knife where it should be used, the improvement in the pure stock of the country will be comparatively slow. All the males which have

proved themselves as of the right type should not go into the butcher's hands until the time is approaching when they cease to be useful.

It is a wide question, the amount spent annually in the purchase of artificial fertilizers. Every country on the continent has its establishment for manufacturing these, and they are produced annually to the value of many millions of dollars. When judiciously applied they will give a good return, but as we have said frequently before, that the farmer who buys them and who, at the same time, allows the manurial resources which he has at hand to waste, is not doing his whole duty. The amount spent in the purchase of manures will give one an idea of the value of the manure that is made on the farm, and this is to be credited to stock-keeping. If the whole of the manure thus used had to be purchased, farming could not be successfully carried on. We have doubts as to whether in summing up the comparative profits of stock-keeping, sufficient importance is usually attached to the manure, which is as much one resultant product as the beef or milk. If stock-keeping tends to the maintenance of the increase of the fertility of the farm, there cannot easily be too much attention given to it. As the manure made by a pure-bred or an improved beast is at least as good as that made from a scrub, with far better returns for the food used, it is a strange infatuation that leads people to adhere to the breeding of scrubs.

TIMES have been stiff of late and farmers have not made much money. Because of this a considerable number are becoming fretful and feel inclined to sell and embark in some other calling. Against such a course we enter our most solemn protest. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred it will end in failure. One used to farming till the meridian of life has been reached is not likely to make a success at anything else. The farm provides a living, and in many instances a little more, especially if unencumbered; therefore, stick to the farm. A living is in itself a considerable income and should not be despised till times take a turn for the better. Although farming is not giving very encouraging returns at present, these may improve. With a wider market for the farmer in future they will be certain to improve, and surely every farmer in the Dominion will lend his best energies to bring about a result that would prove so much to his advantage. In the meantime let him try and make the best of the disabilities under which he is laboring. Let him improve his stock and feed it according to the most approved methods; be on the alert as to a knowledge of what those methods are, and use all diligence to improve the producing power of his farm. A certainty, though it is one that may have its hardships and drawbacks, is worth ten times an uncertainty, though the latter be ever so attractive to the vision.

MR. BATES insisted that cattle must be bred for utility, and every man of ordinary sense will agree with him. The same will hold true of all domestic animals. This involves what should be the aim of every stockman worthy of the name, the attainment of best results. This cannot be when prejudice is allowed to overmaster reason and observation. The great Mr. Bates himself was not entirely innocent here, for as one has well remarked of him that "in the unreasoning tenacity with which he adhered to his favorite strains of blood, even when better animals could be had of other strains and of blood equally pure and ancient, his practice was not in accord with his precept." If this great improver of the Shorthorn

tribes thus erred, it is not surprising that some of his admirers have in this, too, followed in his footsteps. A stubborn refusal to introduce fresh blood at sundry times when it was needed might have tended even more to immortalize the famous strains of which Mr. Bates was the founder. Line-breeding has its uses, and very valuable they are, as the intensification and repetition of valuable characteristics; but it has its limits, and here it is that the apostles of line-breeding have most failed. They have refused to recognize those limits. When the reproduction of desirable characteristics waned, they shut their eyes, and deterioration in numerous instances has been the penalty.

The Journal.

In the valedictory of the late editor of the JOURNAL it was stated, "It (the JOURNAL) is to be conducted 'with increased energy, increased power, and we believe increased success. Its principles, its aims, its endeavors, remain the same, and its future will move in precisely the same lines, only with increased momentum. The needle guiding it still 'points to the star of supreme excellence.'"

Though but a brief half year since these words appeared, our readers will agree with us that the above prescribed 'lines have been literally followed close drawn, and hard of attainment though they undoubtedly are.'

So far as known to us the progressive farmers and stock breeders appreciate the JOURNAL more than ever before as evidenced by its increased circulation over past years. This, the most practical test of superiority, is strongly borne out by a comparison with other periodicals endeavoring to cultivate the same field in Canada or elsewhere. With the pleasure of appreciation we have been buoyed up, and we now feel assured that the old banner of progress is still as high uplifted as of yore. A comparison is voucher for the fact that we lead, while others, slighting the warning cry of Carlyle, "there has become intense, the runners are treading upon each other's heels; woe be to him who stops to tie his shoe strings!" have neglected to keep up with the century in which we live, and have dropped behind. We have not only struck the iron while it was hot, but what is more commendable in our eyes, we have struck it until it has become hot, thus making the stock-raising interest, truly, the right arm of the first and noblest of the sciences.

Our readers will find the present issue especially interesting. Mr. Rich. Gibson, who possesses an inexhaustible fountain of Shorthorn lore, and the first authority of Canada, has consented to give us a series on Bates Shorthorns, the first contribution appearing in this issue. Mr. E. G. Preece, of Shrewsbury, Eng., who also begins with this month, is well known to all importers of Shropshires, besides having very extensive knowledge of the flocks and herds of Britain, all his connections being noted for their work in this direction. Agricola, with his usual free flowing pen, takes up the subject of swine, and Mr. D. McCrae still continues to favor us monthly with his customary spicy and instructive articles.

Our illustrated articles we feel sure will meet with appreciation. Those illustrating the articles on the points of a draught horse, and those of wheat rust have been specially prepared for us under our direct supervision.

The reports of the association meetings are worthy of close perusal, as well as the many other articles by our old, tried and never-found-wanting contributors.

This, then, our programme for this month, we feel that we are still leading the vanguard of agricultural progress in this country, no matter how loudly others may yea-heave at the hind wheels.