

as with a pedigreed one, we know that for so many generations no alliance has been allowed with any other type than its own. It follows that the chances of aberration, or atavism, in the pedigreed is less than in the unpedigreed.

I hold it that a register of animal life is as serviceable as one of human life; but there is one distinction. The records of animal life—and especially of their alliances are only necessary for that very limited section of breeders who aim at keeping up and advancing the highest known type of their breed; and who aim at being repaid for their extra trouble and expense by getting extra prices for their yearly draft for breeding purposes. The principle of the advantages which arise from division of labour, holds good in stock-breeding as in every other pursuit. There will be those who breed to preserve and improve the type established in the past and to supply other less ambitious breeders, and there will be those less ambitious breeders, who only breed to supply non-reproductive animals for the immediate use of the consumer. The first class *must* have a register to keep abreast with the times. The latter does not want one, and need not incur the expense and trouble which all registration must of necessity involve.

So it comes to this, a few (the inner circle) breeders of every type *must* have a register if they are to keep their variety in the front line with other rival varieties, and themselves in the front rank of breeders of the type. Here comes in an idea about which there is the gravest misapprehension. "Make the inner circle as wide as possible," says one; "that is the way to widen the foundation and extend the breed." This is a mistake altogether; the very essence of register breeding is not comprehension, but exclusiveness. In order to know thoroughly the registered tribes, there must not be too many of them. In order to keep up the type, a not too wide, but a distinctly restricted number, must be kept within the pale. This is not to say that there should never be any addition to the original number; but if registered breeding is to mean concentrated power of impressing itself and reproducing a type, then every fresh introduction must be scrutinised again and again before admission; not only as to what it looks like, but as to what it "throws," viz.: whether it has tribal characteristics of value which are hereditary.

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### SCARCITY OF PRIME FAT CATTLE IN ENGLAND

England has for several months past experienced a scarcity of really first class home-fed fat cattle, and the demand for superior animals has been in excess of the supply. While this has been the case it is claimed on the other hand that butchers were not willing to pay the higher prices demanded for the prime animals. Several reasons are assigned for this scarcity, among them being the very unfavorable grazing and feeding season of 1899, due to the drought and a partial failure of the turnips crops. The *Live Stock Journal*, in summing up the situation, mentions two chief causes of the deficiency as follows, and which may be found to apply somewhat to the shortage of prime beef cattle in Canada:

Of the more permanent causes for a deficiency in the number of high-class commercial cattle, three could be indicated, but we shall only allude at any length to two of these, the other—the want of capital—being entitled to a fuller discussion than can be given here. The two causes may be briefly described as milk and crossing. We have repeatedly expressed the opinion that far too little attention has been devoted to the enormous influence that has been exerted on the agriculture of the country by the development of the new-milk trade, especially in the large centres of population. At one time much of the demand was supplied by numerous dairies of cows kept within the city boundaries, but the improvements in the sanitary conditions of the towns the extension of municipal powers, and the railway system have all combined to change the trade, so that now only comparatively few of the cows that supply the milk used in the cities are kept there, the bulk of it being sent from long distances all over the country. Farmer's have not been slow to see that, unsatisfactory though the prices often are, they have here a monopoly that cannot be touched by foreign competition and so the new milk trade has grown extensively. Cows have been selected wholly with a view to their capacity as milk producers, and where a breeding herd is kept, a bull of the same type has been selected. The heifers are, of course, kept to maintain the herd, and the male calves, if not made into veal, are sold as stores for feeding. When this revolution in farming was in its initial stages, a Shorthorn bull was usually purchased, but then little attention had been paid to