

matter, that of a dual experience, and therefore is in a better position to form a judgment regarding it than you. It is surely something when he tells you that he would rather give up farming altogether than go back to the old system of keeping scrub cattle, so great is the difference in the returns, and he feels quite safe in the statement that there is not a farmer in the Dominion who has made a trial of both, and many of them have, who would give up the improved for the scrubs.

You do not suppose for a moment that those defenders of scrub cattle in the agricultural press of our country are advocating the right thing. They say to you a good deal about the "organs" of improved stock "writing in the interest of the breeders," but has it never occurred to you that it is quite possible for an editor to write in favor of scrub cattle, because he writes for his *readers*, and in antagonism to his *honest* convictions? Now we know that in your heart you would have the most utter contempt for such men. Beware then, lest because of your pre-eminent prejudices you allow these men to hoodwink you, while they put on the bland smile of a deceitful friendship.

But you may fancy that we have put the price of scrub steers too low when we put it at 2½ cents per pound live weight. Allow us to ask you, did you weigh the steers you sold last winter? If we could only persuade those who sell scrub steers by the lump to weigh them, we would accomplish a great deal, as the contrast in the price compared with what is got for good steers would be very striking indeed.

It has been the result of our own personal observation that last winter the ordinary butchers picked up scrub steers far and near at the price we have quoted, so that it must be apparent to you that every one of those steers has eaten off his head.

Then why not give up a business that you are pursuing at a loss? Get a good bull of one of the improved breeds, and try the experiment. At the prices of to-day you need not risk more than \$50 or \$75 above the meat price of the beast. If we are on the wrong track, let us hear from you. We will publish your letter, for the sake of those we have been instrumental in misleading, but first we ask you to weigh the matter carefully in the balances of an unbiassed judgment.

### Ayrshire Amalgamation.

The world is getting wiser as it grows older. We are much gratified to notice that the two associations representing the interests of the Ayrshire breeders of Canada have had the wisdom to sink their differences and to form a union as suggested by us in the issue of the JOURNAL of November, 1886, p. 307. Our exact words were these: "We therefore urge upon the two associations of Ayrshire breeders, indeed upon all such associations as may exist in this Dominion, as we did in the case of the Shorthorn breeders, to come together in friendly conference, with a view to amalgamation."

As in the case of the Shorthorn breeders, the two herd books will be revised, and without a doubt a number of the animals therein recorded will be rejected, involving the rejection of all their progeny, but as yet we do not hear of one of the Ayrshire breeders dissenting from the proposal, or condemning it as being unjust or unwise under the circumstances. Indeed, we have waited during all these months of herd-book controversy for some one to show a more equitable and a better basis of revision of the herd-books than the one adopted.

The 26th of April, 1887, we look upon as the brightest day that ever dawned upon the great Ayr-

shire interest in the Dominion. On that day in the Russell House at Ottawa, the rival associations buried the tomahawk, and smoked the peace pipe together, rejoicing over the advent of what they and we believe to be a new era in the progress of dairying in Canada.

### Criticism Criticised.

"Moved by B. F. Irwin, Esq., seconded by Chas. Wilson, Esq., that whereas the attention of the North York Farmers' Association has been drawn to an article printed in the *Rural Canadian*, for the month of February, 1887 (for which journal, many members of said association are subscribers), claiming to be a report of an institute held in Aurora, on the 5th and 6th of January, 1887, in the interest of said association, in which, at least four charges are formulated against Professors Mills, James, and Mr. Hobson, as well as against the general management of said institute;

"Therefore, resolved that we, the above named association do, and we hereby express our disapproval of the manner in which the report is presented to the readers of the said journal, and we also challenge the veracity of the following named charges:

"1st, That there were not 50 persons present at either of the three daily sessions, and that the farmers failed to put in an appearance at the entertainment given on the evening of the 5th. In regard to the above statement, we have only to say, that we are in a position to prove that at every session, more than 50 people attended, and in one instance three times that number; also that the audience on the evening of the entertainment was composed largely of farmers and their families.

"2d, The Professors are sneered at as "Great Guns," whose addresses were on the most time-worn subjects, etc. Whatever the opinion of the writer of said article may be on the matter, we desire it to be distinctly understood, that the subjects of said addresses were chosen by a committee of management, and therefore the Professors can in no way be held responsible for the age of the subjects; and if, as time worn as represented, why reproduce one of the subjects given by Prof. James, in the March number of *Rural Canadian*, and pronounce the same to be a useful tale.

"3d, The statement that Mr. Hobson is only qualified to conduct institutes among a lot of ignoramuses, needs no comment, except to refer to the able manner in which his subject was dealt with, and the very enthusiastic spirit in which it was received.

"4th, It is also charged that Prof. Mills took up by far too much time in asking questions of farmers present, thereby resulting in the crowding out of several local papers; for the information of Mr. Lawson, we desire to say, that our institute was not convened for the purpose of bringing out local papers, but to hear from outside talent, and furthermore, we consider the course adopted by Mr. Mills in drawing out the opinions of local men by questions, to be not only justifiable, but advantageous.

"The above resolutions were carried unanimously, by a very large meeting, and sent to Mr. C. B. Robinson to publish, but he refused, consequently the Association desire that they may be published in the CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL as soon as possible.

"R. W. PHILLIPS, Secretary.

"Newmarket, Ont."

We publish the above resolutions, not to get any undue advantage of our contemporary, the *Rural Canadian*, between which and ourselves relations have been, and are of the most amicable nature, as they should be—particularly so—between the members of the same family of the agricultural portion of the press, who have so great a work in hand—the advancement of the true interests of the farmer—that they cannot afford to quarrel with each other. We publish them for the reason that if any man, or body of men is criticised in any paper, it is only fair that he or they should be allowed to defend themselves in the columns of the journal where the criticism appeared. We look upon it as *unutterably mean* to attack a man through the columns of a paper, and deny him the opportunity to defend himself because you have the power. It is selfish, heartless, cowardly, cruel and eminently anti-

British. We are speaking now of the general principle and not of the particular action of friend Robinson referred to above. He may have reasons for the course he adopted, which we do not know of, and which may modify the appearance and the essence of his action.

It has pained us very much to notice, of late, a growing tendency amongst newspaper men, to take undue advantage in this way and hope the attitude we have assumed in this matter may tend to arrest the current in its accelerating flow. There is no journalist living, who would like himself to be attacked and then refused weapons with which to repel the attack, and, therefore, it is only meet that he should see to it, that others should not be put in this position through any act of his, nor allowed to remain in it when it is in his power to prevent it.

### Horses for the Army.

We are in receipt of a very timely pamphlet wisely issued by the Minister of Agriculture, on the subject of Horse Breeding in Canada, containing a letter of Colonels Ravenhill and Phillips, and an address by the former to horse-breeders, delivered at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, England, in March last. It furnishes much useful information in reference to the breeding of cavalry and artillery horses of a character that can be well utilized by our farmers. We quote from the colonel's address at Islington:

Before proceeding further, the question naturally arises as to "what constitutes a military horse." They are distinctly of two different kinds, though not more "warlike" than any other good general purpose horse between 15 hands 2 inches and 16 hands high, in general use all over the country. The first, the most important and most difficult now to procure in any quantity, is that required for riding purposes, with lengthy rein, good shoulders and forehead, good back and loins, as well bred as we can get them; they must walk freely and well, and at 5 years old should stand not less than 15 hands 2 inches high; of these we should have at least three-quarters of the whole supply of 1,800 to 2,000 required in peace time annually for the army, or about 1,500 riding horses. The necessity, therefore, will be understood for our getting as much T. B. blood for this purpose as we can procure. The second, or draught horse, is a compact, short legged, quick walking, good going van horse, between 15 hands 2 inches up to 16 hands high, for Royal Artillery draught, Royal Engineers and transport purposes. These are more easily procurable all over the world, though in looking for them we prefer a tight, short legged, active horse, and before all things we look to getting one that can walk freely and well, such as one sees trotting about in parcel carts, or walking along a furrow at the rate of four and a half miles an hour.

I will now read to you the particulars laid down for guidance when we are purchasing remounts for the Royal Artillery or Royal Engineers:

- (1) The age at which horses are taken is between rising four and rising seven years old.
- (2) The height is nothing under 15 hands 2 inches, and nothing over 16 hands; not less than 8 inches below the knee, or 72 inches in girth.
- (3) The proportions in which horses are required for the Royal Artillery at present are about half short-legged, blood horses with some length; the other half useful, quick-going, deep, weighty, strong van horses for draught purposes, and half of these must have a turn of speed for the quicker work of Horse Artillery.
- (4) Of the blood horses about one-fifth must have the making of a first-class riding horse with breeding, power, shoulders, action and appearance suitable for carrying an officer, the other four-fifths must be well-bred, acting riding horses, with shoulders, action, and substance sufficient to carry non-commissioned officers or men.
- (5) Bays, browns, chestnuts, or blacks of hardy color alone taken; no greys, roans, duns, cream color, or parti-colored horses are accepted, and no horses with any material blemish are purchased.
- (6) It is understood that during the month of probation on trial, whilst standing at the dealer's risk, if horses on re-shoeing are found below the standard