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AND AGRICULTURAL REVIEW.

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BREEDING WHAT IS WANTED.

Does it ever occur to the Canadian farmer who grumbles over the trouble he has to make ends meet every year, to ask himself what he would do if he were an English farmer? We can tell the grumbler that unless he improved upon his methods he would quickly run through with his stock and plant and find himself wholly dependent upon the good nature of his landlord to preserve him from being turned out penniless, without any means for making a fresh start in life. The old country farmer keeps his accounts closely, and the result is that all the leaks are discovered and stopped before they cause any very serious loss. For this reason the average English farmer finds it cheaper to pay a fair price for manure than to sell off the place an ounce of material that can possibly be converted into manure.

But this is not all that the careful methodical English farmer learns from his carefully kept books and accounts. They tell him that he cannot afford to keep inferior individuals even of improved breeds of stock, while the idea of wasting feed on "scrubs" is out of the question. And with all this care; by making every foot of his farm yield him some income, by bringing out to the very highest degree the productive power of his fields, by feeding none but well-bred, profitable cattle and sheep, and by keeping a careful watch upon everything in the shape of expenditure, the English farmer only "gets along,"

while the Canadian, stumbling on in a haphazard way, not only makes a living, but often grows rich. It is not his fault, however, that he does so, but because the land has proved so fertile as to yield good results for several successive years without asking anything in return.

As we have often pointed out, however, the day for profitable slipshod farming in Ontario and Quebec is very nearly at an end. In a very few years at most Manitoba and the North-West will be landing wheat in Toronto and Montreal at such a low rate that the older provinces will not be able to compete with them. And what is true of wheat is true of live cattle only to a much greater extent. We do not quite expect to see the range cattle brought in and slaughtered for Christmas beef, but there appears to be no reason why the young things might not be allowed to mature on the range and reach Ontario and Quebec in first-class shipping condition. Indeed, it looks as though the demand for anything but thoroughbred cattle in the older provinces would soon be at an end. Ordinary beef producers can surely be grown more profitably in the North-West where the pasture range is almost limitless, and where cattle will mature so far as good store condition is concerned without any feeding and with next to no care. At present of course, owing to their coarse breeding, range cattle are, at best, "rough stock," but this defect is rapidly disappearing. There are comparatively few animals now in the Canadian North-West that have not more or less Shorthorn blood in their composition, and on cows of this class thoroughbred Shorthorn, Angus, Galloway, and Hereford bulls are now being crossed. Such a system of breeding is sure to banish all roughness of outline from our range cattle in a very few years, and produce a race as suitable for the stall, or the prize-ring of our fat stock shows, as any thoroughbred strain now in existence.

The error which ranchmen have made in times past has consisted in breeding half-bred bulls upon their range cows, thus often allowing the quality of a herd to remain at a standstill, or actually deteriorate, when it should be steadily improving. The produce of a half-bred bull is an unknown quantity till it has had time to develop. One of his calves may take the form and character of his pure-bred sire while the next may prove to be almost the image of his Texan dam. Too often the offspring of half-bred bulls turn out little better than pure scrubs, and in Canada at all events there is but little excuse for the ranchman who uses on his range any but thoroughbred bulls.

To meet the large and increasing demand for finely bred bulls, the Ontario and Quebec farmers should make a vigorous effort. In times past our pioneer breeders have shown that Canadian soil can grow as good thoroughbred cattle as the sun ever shone on, and this having been demonstrated, it only remains for our farmers and stock-breeders to so improve and refine their herds that they shall be able to furnish fine stock for improving the range

stock of the North-West, and retain in our province the money which now goes to England on a similar mission. This trade, though not large just now, is sure to be ever on the increase, and as the production of choice Galloways, Angus, Herefords, and Shorthorns ought to be vastly more profitable than the breeding of scrubs, it is not improbable that the growth of the cattle interest in the North-West, instead of injuring or destroying the stock-breeding interests of the older provinces, as many feared it would do, will in reality make it more profitable than it ever was before.

MAKING BUTTER IN THE BACK TOWNSHIPS.

The peculiar adaptability of many portions of Canada for the production of really first-class butter can hardly be over-estimated. All through the more northerly portions of Ontario, where the climate is perceptibly cooler and late and early frosts noticeably more common than in what are known as our best agricultural regions, are to be found the most favourable conditions for butter-making. It is true that the country is rough, and broken with many sterile ridges of massive rock, but the drainage through the crevices in these rocky ridges gives birth to numerous springs of the purest, and coldest water. It is true that summer frosts are not uncommon, but it must be remembered that these mean cool nights, another condition favourable to the making of good butter. The land is cheap—it can almost be had for the asking—and well nigh limitless pasture is available. Timber for barns, stables, sheds, etc., is abundant, and first-class markets are now readily available from nearly every point in Ontario's backwoods.

As these back townships are now peopled, however, there appears to be no immediate prospect of their gaining much favor as a field for immigration. They are unfortunately for the most part settled by men who are not at all likely to succeed. They are men wholly without capital; they have neither live stock nor the appliances necessary to success in butter-making. They have to live "from hand to mouth," and are in no way calculated to succeed on any sort of farm except through years of hard work and frugal management.

The men wanted in the Laurentian hills of Northern Ontario are stirring, plucky, courageous farmers, who have capital enough to buy and take with them a snug little herd of dairy cows of some one of the best milking and butter-making varieties. With such a property on his hands the farmer need fear neither drought nor flood hail storms nor summer frosts. Of course the chief portion of the farm labor would be that of saving enough fodder to put the cattle through the long hard winters prevalent in northern Ontario and Quebec. There are usually two or three small marshes in every section in the Laurentides where large quantities of hay might be cut every season, but even where these do not exist it must be remembered that the new rich soil of the