

Canadian Live-Stock Journal

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

HAMILTON, CANADA, OCTOBER, 1886.

Those who subscribe now for the "Journal" for 1887 will get it the remainder of this year free.

THE favorable season is upon us for forming clubs for the next year. A little effort at the fairs, farmers' clubs and institutes, and the work is done. THE JOURNAL will be sent in clubs of five for \$4, and in clubs of ten for \$7.50. The names may belong to different post-offices. Those subscribing now for 1887 will get the JOURNAL the rest of this year free.

Agents wanted in every locality in Canada to canvass for the "Canadian Live-Stock Journal." Good salary to good men. Sample copies free. Write for particulars, giving former employment, to the Stock Journal Co., Hamilton, Ont.

THE crop of fodder for 1886 has not been overabundant in Ontario, and the general lack of soiling crops and of pasture during the latter part of the season render the situation even less favorable, although a partial substitute will be found in an abundant crop of roots. It is therefore important that none of the feed should be wasted. Careful feeding and close attention do much to prolong the supplies of food, and if the fodder is cut and fed with a small meal ration, it will go much further than when fed direct, as in the latter case none of it is wasted. The other remedy for a slim crop of fodder is to reduce the stock of the farm. This course is much better than to run short of feed toward spring when it is both scarce and dear; but if by careful management and economical feeding the usual number of eaters can be carried, it is much better, especially if the number is not too large for the wants of the farm.

IN speaking and writing on the subject of judging, many are disposed to dwell unduly on the unfitness of those chosen for the work assigned them. While there is a considerable measure of truth in these statements,

the question has another side. Those chosen are often better qualified to do their work well than are their critics for the work which they voluntarily assume, and which they prosecute sometimes with a good deal of eagerness. Judges, as a rule, try to do their work honestly and in good faith, but of course they are liable to make mistakes. A good deal is, however, at stake pecuniarily in the awards to those who do and who do not receive them. It is therefore exceedingly desirable that persons asked to judge should be known to possess the requisite qualifications, and that all who consent to act in this capacity should be sensible of their possessing at least a fairly good knowledge of the requirements of the work they take in hand.

SOMETIMES we are disposed to conclude that we have far too many agricultural societies and too many exhibitions, and when we think of the enormous amount of time in the aggregate spent in this way, we are the more confirmed in the opinion. Yet there are two sides to this as to every other question. In Ireland, where the number of local agricultural societies has been reduced from eighty-six to twelve, there has been a deterioration in the quality of cattle, according to Mr. J. P. Byrne, to the extent of £20,000,000. The principal cause assigned is indifference to the class of males used as sires, consequent upon the waning of the interest in the local exhibitions. There is no getting over the fact that improvement in stock-breeding cannot be continuously made without the use of carefully selected sires. There is therefore no hope for the future of the scrub, for his owner is usually quite indifferent as to what his qualities may be.

FEARS are often expressed in our hearing that the growing of improved stock, as it is slow of sale, is a hazardous undertaking. It is only attended with hazard to those who go at it wrongly. Good stock, possessing real merit, is always in good demand. Grain growers are always more at the mercy of the elements than are those who give stock-growing the lead. One may grow a good crop of straw, having done his duty to the same to the very letter, when perchance it is smitten with rust a few days before it ripens, and his hope is cut down. Stock-keeping necessitates the growing of a variety of produce, so that if one food element fails, others are likely to succeed. He can, at the same time, in a capricious season, adapt his seeds to the emergencies of the case. If wet prevents the sowing of peas, corn may still be sown in time, or some other green crop, which, though it may not exactly supply the place of the former, it will tide the stockman over to another season. When the principal crop of the grain-grower fails, his harvest for the season is measurably gone, while the stockman has but to ply his energies in another way to attain the desired end.

ONE principal reason for the gigantic growth of our beef trade with Britain during recent years is the excellence of the product that we have furnished. It is not, however, so good as it should, or as it might have been. Had the quality been better all round, the prices would doubtless have been better, and also the demand. It is because we have sent over an excellent quality of cheese that our cheese has outstripped that of our neighbors in the British market; and it is because of the inferior quality of the butter sent over that the price has been so miserable. The same is true regarding our export trade in sheep, which is not so large as in years gone by. Had we sent over a better quality of sheep, there had doubtless been a continuance of the brisk demand as in the case of

cattle, notwithstanding the opposition arising from the trade in frozen mutton. As it is with grass-fed cattle, so will it be with sheep so reared that they are not quite up to the mark. How, then, shall we bring them up to the mark? In the same way that we have brought our cattle up, by breeding from good sires and feeding generously. We often lament over the large number relatively of our scrub cattle, but we have quite as much reason to lament the great preponderance of our scrub sheep. There is quite as much reason that we should improve our sheep as that we should improve our cattle, but this cannot be done when nondescript males are used continually.

Canada as a Breeding Ground.

The indications at the present time are, that our country, more especially Ontario, will become one large breeding ground for other portions of the American continent. Not but that much good stock will be produced in the United States quite equal to what is grown in Ontario, but the conditions in our Province are so extremely favorable that there is no great difficulty in making of the country one large breeding establishment, as it were, where good stock will be so numerous as to create a market for itself amongst all the outlying States and territories, and also the western and eastern portions of the Dominion. Buyers will congregate in centres where good stock is numerous kept, who would not go long distances to visit isolated herds, even though convinced of their excellence, conscious that after such visit had been made, they might not get just what they want, whereas in a centre of the same kind they might fill their order from some one else. Although some good herds of Aberdeen-Angus cattle are kept out of Aberdeenshire, yet it is to this shire that buyers usually flock from this side the Atlantic, when they wish to replenish their herds. And although good flocks of Shropshire sheep are found beyond the limits of that shire, yet it is Shropshire which is prominently in the minds of flock-masters looking after this class of sheep.

When Americans come to seek Clydesdale horses they oftener go to Ontario County than to any of the other counties of this Province, because they are most numerous raised there; and when Shorthorns are the object of search, the same county, along with Wellington, Waterloo, etc., becomes the prospecting ground.

How foolish, then, is that narrow, petty jealousy which, it may be, some isolated breeders indulge in, that frowns on any attempt made in the neighborhood to build up a herd as good as their own, and of a similar kind. They seem to forget that there is more honor in selling to strangers from a thousand miles away than in reigning a nabob in their line in their own immediate neighborhood. Herefords have been numerous kept by Mr. Rufus H. Pope and Hon. M. H. Cochrane for some time in the picturesque county of Compton, but we venture to affirm that, other things being equal, buyers have been more numerous in the Compton valley since the Tushingham, Lowland and Dixville Herefords have been planted in the beautiful valley of the Coatcook, and they would be much more numerous still if, in addition to these, there were a dozen more Hillhursts and East-views.

We have a fine climate for stock, which will always be in our favor. And this, it may be, accounts in part for our singular immunity from the prevalence of live-stock diseases which cripple other lands. It is true that our long winters may add to the expense of stock-keeping, but not so much after all if fine animals are to be bred, as even in Britain this class is housed for