

## Canadian Live-Stock &amp; Farm Journal

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

THE STOCK JOURNAL COMPANY,

48 John Street South, Hamilton, Ont.

Terms, \$1.00 per Annum in Advance.

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

HAMILTON, CANADA, MAY, 1888.

It may not be known to all secretaries of Farmers' Institutes that before the annual grant from the Legislature can be received, a report of the work done by the Institute must be forwarded on blanks furnished on application. Those blanks may be obtained by writing to A. Blue, Esq., Bureau of Industries, Toronto.

THE season is again approaching when judges are to be selected to make the awards at the autumn shows of 1888. The live-stock and other products are also undergoing the fitting process, and the result of the awards will have very much to do with the sales of the stockmen, both as to their number and price. The choice of good men is therefore of the utmost importance, and should be made a matter of earnest, careful deliberation. Let the judges be selected months even before the show, which will obviate the necessity of picking up an inefficient, simply because no one else can be got. We have good, capable men in all the lines, and, if secured in time, will do their work much more justly than it is often done. Whether judging is done by one, two or three persons, let them be men who are known to be thorough masters of the situation.

NOTHING adds more to the appearance of the farm than neatness and tidiness in the care of the out-buildings and surroundings. Neglect here is not only repulsive to the eye but is the source of much loss. A weather-board gets loose and falls off, and if it is not at once replaced it is liable to become broken. A roof begins to leak, and when neglected there is loss to the crop stored inside. Broken panes of glass in the stable windows have a forlorn appearance, and broken gates and dismantled paddock surroundings are anything but attractive. It is within the power of the farmer usually to have it otherwise. This appearance of general unthriftiness has its origin too often in a lack of taste that is unpardonable. To keep a sharp look out for the first tokens of dilapidation is a labor that will bring much profit if the breaches are at

once made up. How differently would our country appear if general attention was given to the neglect we have just pointed out. And it could be done with very little outlay other than the expenditure of a little brain-power and muscle.

Shearing time is close at hand, and yet some weeks may elapse before the busy farmers can get time enough to take the fleeces off the sheep. They should, however, find time enough for what is sometimes termed "clatting," that is, removing any filth that may accumulate about the tail, or about the udder of the ewes. Non-attention to this matter is simply cruelty, and cannot but result in loss. When the grass becomes tender it oftentimes induces scouring, and if "clatting" does not receive attention, a large proportion of the fleece is lost. It is also far from humane to allow the fleece to remain on until the middle or end of June. We have seen the poor creatures during that month lying in the densest shade and panting like a pair of bellows, putting in whole days in misery because of the thoughtlessness of their owners. They, poor things, would cheerfully give up their fleeces to promote the comfort of the owner in winter, while he, the inconsiderate man, would not give them a little of his time to promote their comfort in summer. Thus it is that sheep are often more humane than men.

WE saw an article recently in an old country exchange headed, "Something that pays," which to our mind is very suggestive in this merry month of May. We conclude that very many things can be done just now by farmers that will be found to pay well. We may mention a few of these. 1. It will be found to pay handsomely to get in a piece of corn for fodder more or less, according to the number and character of the stock. It will serve a splendid purpose when the dry weather comes and pastures get short in the fall. 2. Takespecial pains in preparing the land to get in a good field of turnips, unless you prefer growing mangolds. Some complain of the labor of cultivating them and the cost, but it is a greater cost to be without them. 3. Make a point during the entire season to be forehanded with your hoed crops. There are times when these are growing when more will be accomplished in one day than can be done in six later on. 4. Make due preparation for taking care of the growing crop at the right time. If you do not, the loss will be more than you can tell. The most careful attention to these and a score of other things on the farm will be found to give a handsome return at the auspicious season. The adage, "make hay while the sun shines," is applicable to the farmer during the entire growing season. Crops can usually be grown, all things considered, for nearly one-half of the cost of those purchased.

At a feeding trial made by Prof. E. M. Shelton, of the Kansas Agricultural College, some time ago, a number of range scrub steers, weighing from 750 to 865 lbs. each, required on an average a little more than 1,200 lbs. of meal to produce 100 lbs. gain in their weight. Another lot of the same age, but weighing 950 to 1,300 lbs. each, required a little less than 720 lbs. of meal to produce a similar amount of gain. Here was a saving of fully 4 per cent. in the meal fed, and all because of the difference in the breed of the cattle. We do not look upon this result as at all extraordinary. We believe the difference in the gain from feeding scrubs and well-bred Short horns would be as great every time, and yet so convinced are a vast majority of our farmers even yet, that feed is everything and that breed counts for

nothing, that they cannot be induced to change their methods. If 480 pounds of meal were deliberately thrown away by the farmer who feeds the scrubs to make beef, it would not be more effectually wasted, for the feeder of good cattle would make his 100 lbs. of beef with just that amount less. The proportionate difference will be found just as great in feeding well and ill-bred sheep, pigs and poultry. In the face of all this the men who are laboring to improve the stock of the country for the benefit of the owners thereof, must be dubbed as "speculators," and called by many other hard names.

In the *North British Agriculturist* we find the following momentous utterance: "If there is one duty which more than any other devolves upon the State, it is the duty of providing for the efficient education of the people, on whose industry the whole welfare and prosperity of the country depend." If these words apply to conditions in Britain, much more will they apply to conditions here, where relatively the agricultural portion to the whole of the population is so much greater. There is no denying that too little attention has been paid by the Government of Canada in the past to the technical education of the farmer, and because the farmer has not expressed a very strong desire to have it different. The farmers are now speaking out, and they are soon to fare better. There is soon to be a text book on agriculture in the schools of Ontario, and its preparation is in good hands—a matter of much moment. But the farmers must mend their ways before they can clamor loudly for better facilities for their sons by way of getting a more advanced education. If the whole Dominion places so little store upon the advantages of a better education for farmers' sons as to send not more than *twenty-five* first year students to the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, in the autumn of 1887, the farmers have but little right to complain of neglect on this score. It is with them the charge of neglect rests, for the Guelph college is well furnished on the whole for the work it has to do, and on the whole it does it well. Two out of the whole number of delegates at the annual meeting of the farmers' institutes were ex-students of the college. They were the two youngest men there, and both took an active part in the business of the meeting. They represented the first-fruits, we hope, of what shall be an abundant harvest. The leaven is at work but it permeates the mass so slowly in comparison with what it might and should.

### Ventilation for Stables.

We are frequently requested to give information regarding the ventilation of stables. The amount of ventilation required depends on the lowness of the ceiling, the amount of the stock to be kept in the basement, and also on the use to which it is to be devoted, in a measure at least. The ventilation of a dairy stable must be of such a nature that odors shall be kept at the lowest possible minimum. Two kinds of ventilators are in favor. The first consists of wooden boxes extending up the sides of the building and then up the under side of the roof to the ridge. The second, of large boxes running up through the mows fewer in number than the former, and extending also to the ridge. These may also be used for putting down feed. When the first kind are narrow, in very cold weather they sometimes fill with hoar frost, and so become inoperative, and it is at a time when they are most required. When the weather is very cold and ventilation cannot be assisted from the doors, small doors on the upper front corner of the larger