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THOMAS SHAW, RIVERSIDE FARM, EDITOR.

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

HAMILTON, CANADA, APRIL, 1888.

THERE have been several instances this present season in which sales of live stock have been held in this Province on the same day. This is most unfortunate for all concerned, and may easily be avoided. We will open a column in the JOURNAL for a list of such dates if our patrons will only furnish the information. During the month of March the sales of Mr. T. C. Patteson, Eastwood, and Mr. George Thompson, Alton, were held on the same day. Some of our patrons have adopted the plan of announcing in our columns dates of intended sales some months previous, but these notices have never been placed under one distinct heading, for the reason that they have not been sufficiently numerous. If all those who are advertising sales would furnish the information the list would always be a good one, and would be looked for as regularly as any other information. No two sales need thus be held on the same day, and the very announcement of the fact would be a standing advertisement every time it appeared.

FARMERS, as a rule, do not apply that close calculation to the management of their business for which the manufacturer is proverbial. If they did they would fare better. True, they have a more difficult task than the former, for when they apply a coating of manure to a field they cannot tell what proportion of it will be eaten up by the first crop, nor how much by the second. But if they would cultivate this habit of counting the cost as nearly as they can their findings would be at least approximately correct. This is a species of book-keeping that is not to be learned at commercial colleges but in the fields of experience and common sense. If the habit were but cultivated its utility would be more and more apparent, and the pleasure found in it would increase. It is not very satisfactory to carry on a mixed system of husbandry during, it may be, the whole of a life, and yet not be able to tell which departments of the business were the most or least profitable. Young men, make a prac-

tice from the first of getting at the root of everything relating to the profit and loss of your business.

At the Ontario fat stock shows a noticeable feature of the exhibit is the almost entire absence of animals in competition in the cattle classes other than Short-horns, and Shorthorn grades. This is all the more remarkable when we consider that some of the finest Hereford and Aberdeen-Angus herds on the continent are owned in Ontario and Quebec, and some of the ablest cattlemen on the continent are in charge of them. We look upon it as very unfortunate for the extension of these breeds in this country that it is not more clearly demonstrated to the people (we mean in the ocular sense) what they are capable of doing. That they are capable of fighting keenly contested battles in the show rings of Britain and America, and of winning victories, has been demonstrated over and over again. If the owners of these cattle expect that they will be extensively used for grading purposes, it behooves them to demonstrate to the multitude that they are capable of being so used to advantage. There is no demonstration equal to that which is ocular, hence the importance of giving early attention to our suggestion on the part of those who are engaged in breeding them.

LINE breeding, although it has its stout defenders, is not so popular to-day as during the past decades. The age is waning when men become enamored of a good pedigree only. They are now disposed more than ever to splice onto this a good animal. Numbers are able by line breeding, for a term to make improvement, then comes a time when this ceases, and if line-breeding is persisted in there is retrogression. The difficulty seems to be to get out of line-breeding where it has been practiced; that is, to know just when to make the out-cross and how to make it. It seems to us that this knowledge is the consummation of the breeders' skill; but who, we ask, have shown here that they were masters of the situation? Bates cattle were brought to a high state of excellence in the time of their famous fashioner, and so the equally noted Booth strains. But who has shown that he possesses the magical skill requisite for steady improvement on either of these families, and are not the Cruikshank cattle approaching the same era of non-improvement on themselves? Here, it seems to us, opens out a field for the ambitious breeder, wide as the shoreless ocean. The breeder who, with the materials fashioned by those famous moulders, can so blend them as to produce a type an improvement upon all those, will have made himself immortal.

SOME breeders are enthusiastic in their efforts to improve their stock, when there is good demand for it in the market, but their enthusiasm fluctuates with market values. Those men will seldom sit on the highest pinnacles of success in their respective lines of breeding. This requires an enthusiasm much more enduring and more regular in its exercise. When one has satisfied himself that the breed he has selected is one that will give on the whole a profitable return, his energies should be concentrated upon their improvement. Market values which ruled high when his investments were made have gone down, and in the period of depression he feels like deserting the ship, but if the breed has merit these values will improve. If, taking periods of depression and of prosperity together, the returns have on the whole been satisfactory, the breeder should be satisfied. This should be a sufficient incentive to encourage him to continue to apply his best energies in perfecting the work of his choice. No one ever yet attained

highest excellence in any line, who is much given to change, and the thought of this should tend to strengthen continuity of purpose. To the man who really loves his work and is wedded to it, the very thought of changing for some other line is repugnant to his desires, and cannot be entertained without begetting a feeling of positive discomfort.

THE tendency in all animals in breeding is to revert to original types. If these types are of the improved sorts, this fact may be utilized with much advantage, but where this is not the case, the injury done by careless selection in the choice of a male may hamper the breeder during a good portion of the future of his days. The longer the term during which the manifestation of fixed characteristics has been apparent, the less the danger of this reversion. Long pedigrees, therefore, are always preferable to short ones, other things being equal. The certainty of getting animals of such and such types in this case is rendered doubly certain. Injury may follow, however, when the breeding is in the line of consanguinity long continued. A deterioration of constitution is produced from which the best specimens cannot spring. Those, then, who persist in the use of males that are only grades, have no certainty as to what they will get, only variety. Thus it is that there is no improvement on the general average where this practice is followed. A superior breed can never be established by pursuing such a course. The best results usually spring from mating animals of a desired type, the characteristics of which have been intensified by their production through long years. It is usually better when there is no close relationship, and the results more satisfactory when both possess the characteristics sought in a marked degree. Some males are much more prepotent than others, a fact which is usually determined only by actual results.

IT is not wise to adhere too closely to cast iron rules. It is a sacred principle with some to sell no hay or straw whatever the price may be, but to feed all. An excellent rule it is in the general, but it has its limitations. Sometimes hay and straw can be sold to advantage, and replaced with substitutes that are cheaper. When hay sells for \$14 and \$15 per ton, as it has done in some markets of Ontario this year, and oat straw from \$10 to \$12 loose in the load, it is not easy to turn these into meat or even milk to bring a larger return. But in no case should these be sold from the farm without restoring what will produce an equal amount of fertility in some other form. Those living near to cities can restore it in the form of purchased manures, and those more remote in the form of more concentrated foods, if these are correspondingly cheaper. The fluctuations of the markets are like the tides, they continually come and go, and they are unlike them in that they do not come and go with unfailing regularity. What more strange than that bran should be \$20 per ton in some parts of Canada, and wheat but \$26.66 per ton in the same cities, or but 80 cents per bushel? Live-stock in the same localities are being bought freely by the butchers for local consumption, at three cents per pound. It is difficult in such a case to turn hay and straw into meat that will bring an equal return, the value of the manure thrown in. But by cutting the hay and straw and using oilcake freely at \$25 per ton, in conjunction with coarse grains, the meat returns from a given amount of feed will be much better. The danger is imminent that numbers will conclude that the best thing is to reduce their stock and grow and sell hay, grain and straw, when in three years the relative