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O. BLACKETT ROBINSON,  
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## The Rural Canadian.

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1883.

In our advertising columns there is an announcement that, during the Provincial Exhibition week, there will be a public sale of thoroughbred stock at the Ontario Experimental Farm in connection with the Agricultural College, Guelph. This will be a splendid opportunity for purchasers who wish to possess first-class stock. It is varied and valuable, but limited in number, so that those intending to purchase would do well to be on time.

A **FAT STOCK SHOW** is to be held at Toronto, Dec. 18-15, under the auspices of the Ontario Agricultural and Arts Association. Premiums have been offered to the amount of nearly or quite \$1,200. This Association also proposes spending \$2,000 on four ploughing matches, to take place in four separate districts. Officers of the Association for the current year are: President, D. P. McKinnon, South Finch; vice-president, Joshua Legge, Gananoque; secretary-treasurer, George Graham, Toronto.

**BUCKWHEAT** is not held in much favour by good farmers, but is not without its merits. Its flour contains less starch than wheat flour, but it makes a nourishing food, and is said to be not so liable to acidification on a weak or dyspeptic stomach. Its flavour when made into griddle cakes is grateful both to children and adults, and in some parts of the world it is one of the staples of food. Millions of German peasants thrive upon it, and become a healthy, handsome, and vigorous race. It is also an excellent food for poultry and for fattening hogs, but care should be taken not to feed it too liberally or without change of diet, otherwise it may produce itchy eruptions of the skin.

**PORK-RAISING** is, for many reasons, one of the most profitable industries of the farm. Hogs breed at an early age; they are very prolific; they may be made ready for the market in one-third the time required for cattle or sheep, they require less shelter: they utilize more of the food they consume than other animals, and they have a smaller proportion of offal. Hogs will eat almost anything that grows on the farm, whether grass or grain, refuse of the granary or the kitchen. And then they may be made ready for the market, matured and fattened to the point of largest profit, within the age of one year. This is more than can be said of cattle or sheep, by a large odds.

A **MOTEX** was recently carried in the British House of Commons, in view of the prevalence of foot-and-mouth disease, restricting the importation of live cattle to supplies from those countries whose preventive laws or the sanitary condition of whose cattle afford reasonable security against the extension of disease. The mover of the resolution paid a special compliment to the sanitary laws of Canada and Scandinavia, and urged that these countries afford a large supply of good animals for the British market. This is no doubt true, and in this Province the demand continues very brisk. Dealers who contracted last fall for shipping room find themselves compelled to buy up beasts of all sizes, and consequently their profits are likely to be small. The fact is, that our farmers are unable to keep up with the active demand of the last two or three years, both for the home and British markets.

## THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

The thirty-eighth exhibition of the Agricultural and Arts Association will be held this year in the city of Guelph, commencing on Monday, September 24th, and continuing throughout the week. The prize-list is as full and liberal as usual, and doubtless will attract a goodly number of competitors. Guelph is, in many respects, one of the best places in the Province for an agricultural exhibition. Not only is it situated in one of the best agricultural counties in the Province, famous for its breeders and feeders of live stock, and for its root and grain crops, but it is easily accessible by rail from all the best farming counties of the Province. The only serious drawback is the lack of hotel accommodation, but the citizens have it in their power to largely overcome this objection. The accommodation may be made ample if private houses take in guests. But even without this it is possible to provide for visitors, as the towns of Galt, Berlin, and Stratford are not far away. Being the seat of the Agricultural College, Guelph is now, more than ever, a desirable place for such an exhibition as this one, and doubtless hundreds of farmers will take advantage of this opportunity to visit the model farm. The fact that the annual sale of live stock of the farm is to take place during exhibition week is one more attraction, and altogether we have reason to look for a show in no whit inferior to any yet held under the auspices of the Association.

## WEEDS ON THE FARM.

A dirty farm is a reflection on the farmer, for it shows, among other things, that he is lacking in neatness and taste. Land that is overrun with weeds cannot be in a good state of tilth, and without cleanliness and cultivation of the soil it is sheer folly to look for good crops. Weeds require no cultivation. They are the "thorns and thistles" of the primordial curse, and they never thrive so well as when left alone from seedtime to harvest. To be kept under they must be fought steadily and persistently. The hoe, the plough, and the cultivator are the best of weapons for subjugating them, and the farmer who uses these judiciously needs have no fear for the issue. But there are some seasons in which the fight must be waged with vigour, and there are some weeds that require heroic treatment in the most favourable of seasons. The present year, for instance, is a propitious one for weed life. The kindly rain has promoted growth and hindered cultivation, and thus in a double way has helped the growth of weeds. It is accordingly a year in which the farmer is called upon to double his efforts to keep the ground clean, for if the weeds are given a good start there is little hope for any other kind of crop. Corn and potatoes are readily choked out, and under any circumstances they require all the strength of the soil to promote their own growth. With the free use of the plough and the hoe as soon as the young plant shows itself above ground, there is no fear of weeds getting the start. And every farmer who looks for success in his calling must wage a steady war against weeds with plough and hoe. None should be allowed to go to seed, for a few are sufficient to stock a farm. If this matter is properly looked after, if every weed is destroyed before the seed is ripened, the task of keeping the land clean will become less and less arduous each succeeding year. The Canada thistle, the dock, the wild oat, and the wild mustard will as certainly yield to this treatment as the common pig-weed itself. If no stem or leaf is permitted to grow for one entire season, the roots will usually die out. A strong pull, a long pull, and a pull altogether is what is wanted. There are altogether too many dirty farms in Ontario.

## FEEDING YOUNG HORSES.

It is no doubt true that, speaking generally, much more care is bestowed on cattle, sheep, and hogs than on horses. There is a great deal more of special feeding of the former than of the latter, especially during the young and growing state. It is no doubt true, too, that this is a mistake, for with proper care the raising of horses may be made as profitable as that of any other farm animal. The horse is valuable in proportion to the development of its muscle, and while the strong one is very good the weak one is very poor property. Yet how few farmers there are who pay attention to feeding with the object of producing muscle; how few, indeed, think of giving any food to the young colt before it is weaned, whether the maternal supply is much or little! Two quarts a day of cow's milk, fed morning and evening, is found by experience to have a most beneficial effect, for it is rich in the materials for building up bone and muscle. Linseed and oat meals are also exceedingly valuable, and if given in moderate quantities during the first year the foundation of a strong and vigorous constitution may be laid. The practice of leaving young horses to pick their own living on the farm demands radical reform; feeding is only second in importance to breeding.

## BOOK NOTICES.

**FEEDING ANIMALS.** A Practical Work upon the Laws of Animal Growth, etc., etc. By Elliott W. Stewart. (Lake View: Published by the Author.) Mr. Stewart, the author of this really valuable treatise, is one of the editors of the *Live Stock Journal*, and was formerly Professor of the Principles of Agriculture in Cornell University; is also a practical farmer. He is therefore eminently qualified to speak intelligently on the subjects of which he treats. The farmer will find in this excellent manual a great amount of valuable information which he can at once put to practical and profitable account. There are a number of useful illustrations, and, to facilitate easy reference, a copious index will be found at the end of the work. It is well printed and substantially bound. The following extract will give our readers an idea of the value of Mr Stewart's book:—

### COST OF ENSILAGE.

M. August Goffart states that he is able to take the corn growing in a field, cut it, haul it to the silo, run it through the cutter, pack and cover it in the silo, for one franc per ton—a little less than 20 cents. This cannot be done in this country, because our labour wages are more than double those in France. What, then, is the whole cost of producing and ensilaging one ton of corn? Whitman & Burrell estimate it at 80 cents per ton. Mr. Avery estimates the cost of harvesting, hauling, running through a cutter, packing in a silo and covering at \$200 for 800 tons, or 66 cents per ton. Dr. Tanner, of Orange County, N.Y., estimates the cost of harvesting and putting in the silo complete 150 tons at 75 cents per ton. Mr. Chaffee, of the same county, who put up ensilage for thirty cows, estimates the whole cost of raising corn and storing in the silo at \$2 per ton, and this he considers very cheap feed. The whole cost of raising corn and putting it in the silo has been estimated by some half dozen others at from \$1 to \$2 per ton. If we take the latter figure as approximating to the real cost, and if we estimate three tons of properly-kept corn ensilage as equal in feeding value to one ton of good hay, then we find it as cheap as hay at \$6 per ton in the barn.

But the great advantage to the small farmer in corn ensilage is, that he may produce as much cattle food upon one acre of corn as upon four to six acres in meadow; yet the drawback to this view is, that the meadow produces a complete cattle food, whilst corn is not a complete food, but must be fed with other nitrogenous food to obtain its full value.