

**Plowing Matches.**

Now that the plowing season has once more come to hand, and the fall fair committees will soon be hustling around for attractions at their exhibitions, would it not be advisable for each agricultural society to appoint a committee and have a series of plowing matches as an extra attraction. As I understand the Springfield Agricultural Society have the matter under consideration, as an outcome of the matches held in that municipality last year, and from what I know of that society, I am bound to say if they take hold of it they are sure to make it a success, and a far greater success than they have made of their now well-known fall fairs, for the following reasons, viz:—

No farmer can farm successfully, nor fall fairs be successful, unless the farmer understands how to use the plow properly, because one of the main points in successful farming is good plowing; also, because there are so many who are little more than "land scratchers." The thought of the ridicule they would have to stand by their mode of "running" all over the field, would have the effect of making them take more pains with work, with a good result, e.g., enriching their pockets by better crops. The interest it would be sure to create among young men, especially the championship for the year, would be for them to do better work, taking far greater interest in the farm, and be a great inducement to keep them on the farms, instead of running all over the country and going to cities to work, only to be reduced to a life of want and poverty. Now, sir, my object in writing this is to waken the agricultural societies up, to get attractions whereby young men can find more interest in working on a farm and not find it a life of toil and hardship with nothing of the sunny side of life to encourage them through the long hours of every day work. I speak from experience, for I have worked on a farm myself, and outside of a "bee," occasional dance, or the Fall Fair, there was nothing but unremitting toil, which soon made farm life monotonous. What is there that encourages a man more and better than the knowledge that he holds the championship badge for the year, and that he will have to work hard and take pains to hold it for another. Again, his plowing becomes a by-word with his neighbors, who delight to point out to visitors and investors the plowing done by those plowmen. None will gainsay that the laurels gained by the champion plowman are as keenly fought for and as closely contested as any championship in a boat race. I remember well when speaking last fall to one of the prize winners in the Springfield plowing match, when I asked what he thought of it and if they had to work hard for the prize, the knowing look that came into his eyes when he answered:—"Though there were not many competitors, each vied with the other for the first prize, and if ever I did try to do good work I did on that day. I hope next year to do better still." His answer gave me the full impression that one day's work had awakened an interest in that man in his plowing which would not easily be forgotten. I am convinced that many farmers fail to obtain the desired results from their land through no other fault than bad plowing, and I fully believe the move made last year by the gentlemen in Springfield will result in good for that municipality in more ways than one. It may be news to those gentlemen to know—as I know—that the bills of that plowing match were seen posted up in Lower Canada and also the "Shires" of England. I say, stick to your plowing matches, boys, and success will be yours in the end. I believe, Mr. Editor, there are many abler and better writers on this

subject, and I would certainly like to hear a few words from them and their views on this great question, which affects everyone connected with farming.  
H. S. G.,  
Winnipeg.

**Maritime Correspondence.**

The winter though very mild has been favorable for getting work done in New Brunswick and P. E. Island, but in Nova Scotia there has been a scarcity of snow, which has interfered with the work of the lumbermen. The cut, however, of lumber in all the Provinces will be very large, and will help many farmers to tide successfully over the bad harvest of 1889. The farmers' meeting, as separated by the Grange, the Provincial Farmers' Association of New Brunswick, and the Dairymen's Association of Nova Scotia, were not so well attended as last year. At each of these meetings Col. Blair, who is in charge of the Government Experiment Farm, gave a very interesting address, showing the work that is being done at the Station. The object lessons taught at the Farm are likely to be of great advantage to farmers.

Professor Robertson, Dairy Commissioner for Canada, whose appointment was chronicled in the March number of the ADVOCATE, has been making a hurried lecturing tour through Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. He spoke at Halifax, New Glasgow, Sackville and Fredericton, two lectures in each place. To say that he was well liked does not half convey the impression he made upon the people. Everybody was delighted, and if he should come this way again he will have larger audiences. The duties to be imposed on fresh and salt meats is very satisfactory to the farmers generally. It seems to have put new heart into them. Things have been looking very discouraging all winter. With hay at \$6 per ton, and not much demand at that, and the market flooded with Chicago beef, it began to be a serious question with many where the money was to come from to meet the most pressing claims. The one thing on the beef question that disturbs a certain number is the fear that Ontario will be as hard to compete with as Chicago, and that the duty will only have the effect of putting the money in the hands of Ontario and Manitoba farmers rather than those of the United States. Even if that proves to be the case, it will be satisfactory to know the money is spent in our own rather than a foreign country.

The New Brunswick Government has decided to dismantle their stock farm and go out of the stock raising business. They find it costs more to raise the animals than they will bring in the market. The stock was all advertised to be sold on the 24th of April. The question might be asked, if a Government with means to have everything conducted in the most scientific manner cannot make it profitable to raise pure bred stock, how can it be expected that farmers can make it pay.

A Committee of the House of Assembly, now in session, have just recommended also that the horses purchased a few years ago by the Government, and leased each spring for the season, be sold outright, all but Harry Wilkes, a trotting horse. A very wise recommendation, as it costs the Government about four times as much to keep these animals as it would a private individual, and the risk seems paltry, judging from the percentage of loss.

St John is making great preparations for the proposed exhibition that is to be held there in September. It is hoped to make it the largest affair of the kind ever held in the Maritime Provinces; and it hopes that the Upper Provinces will send down a good number of visitors.

**Chatty Letter from the States.**

[From our Chicago Correspondent.]

There is a better feeling in the fine stock market. Thoroughbred bulls one to two years old are selling for about \$100. There is no boom, and there is not likely to be, but the general condition of the market for pure-bred cattle is decidedly on the mend. The President has ordered all of the cattle out of the Indian Territory by October 1st, and there is some fear that the enforced exodus may cause some uneasiness in the cattle trade. A large share of the Indian cattle will be of good beef quality, and many others will be only fit for canning. The live cattle exporters are shipping more cattle from Chicago than ever before. They have lately been forwarding 300 to 550 car loads per week, or 5,000 to 9,000 head. They have lately been costing \$4.10 to \$5.00 for steers, and \$3.30 to \$4.00 for bulls.

It is understood that cattle room on all regular vessels leaving United States ports has been contracted for the next five months. This indicates a good deal of faith in the export trade. E. B. Morgan, Joseph Gould and W. McLean are among the Canadian cattle buyers operating at Chicago.

The receipts of hogs are increasing, but prices hold up pretty well, and it is not expected that receipts can more than equal the demand before next fall. Hog feeding, with prices at \$4.25 to \$4.50 at Chicago, is very profitable, with corn worth thirteen to twenty cents a bushel.

The available supply of choice corn-fed cattle in the States at present is not large; a heavy proportion of stock now coming forward being unfinished, but reports from many large feeding centres indicate a larger number of cattle being summer fed for fall markets than for some years. There is an improvement in the demand for young store stock. The tendency, however, is more to buy store stock to fatten for market than to buy store cattle and bulls for breeding. Distillery-fed 1,400-lb. steers sold to exporters at \$4.40. Corn-fed Texas cattle 950 to 1,200 lbs. \$3.00 to \$3.80.

The horse market is improving rapidly. The latest prices are:—

Description	Poor to Fair	Good to Choice
Draught horses. . . . .	\$125 @ 160	\$170 @ 250
Streeters. . . . .	90 @ 110	115 @ 135
Drivers. . . . .	100 @ 120	130 @ 200
General use. . . . .	90 @ 130	140 @ 175
Carriage teams. . . . .	275 @ 350	400 @ 500
Saddlers. . . . .	120 @ 170	200 @ 300
Plugs and rangers. . . . .	25 @ 50	60 @ 70

Fancy 100 to 110-lb. lambs sold at \$7.00 to \$7.25. Choice 110 to 130-lb. corn-fed Western sheep sold at \$5.75 to \$6.05. A lot of 161-lb. native sheep sold at \$6.50. Corn-fed Texas sheep, 80 to 95 lbs., sold at \$5.00 to \$5.65. A lot of 566 screening-fed 56-lb. Wyoming lambs sold at \$5.40. Sheep are considerably higher than anybody expected at this season.

More stock, more manure; more manure, more crops; more crops, more stock. That is the way stock raising works when the animals are well cared for.

Frank Upjohn, Welcombe Farm, Lake Francis, Man., asks us to state cost of registration in the Dominion Shorthorn Herd Book. The price of registration to members is 50 cents, non-members \$1; membership fee \$5; annual subscription \$4. According to section 3, article IV, of the constitution, each member receives a copy of the herd book and such other publications as the Association may issue during the year, either free of charge or for such reduced price as the Executive Committee may find necessary.