

The Open Door In Stock Breeding.

When prices of live stock reach a high figure, the minds of some turn instinctively towards restrictive measures. Can we not shut others out and retain the profits to ourselves alone? is a question which they desire should be answered in the affirmative. When a cow produces a thousand-dollar calf each year, the owner sometimes reasons with himself saying, "If I can get others out of my way, may I not in truth say that I have found 'the goose that lays the golden egg'?" Put two or three or more such men together and they begin to formulate plans and seek to obtain influence which in more than one country has in the past led to governmental regulations, higher registrations fees, absolute exclusion, and similar methods, all having the same object—to destroy freedom of action so as to contribute to the supposed benefit of a limited number.

Such a course, I submit, always was and always will be a grievous blunder. It tends to dry up the fountain from whence the stream is supplied. If the argument be a sound one, why not carry it further? If restriction is good for a country, why is it not good for a Province or State? If that be allowed, why not carry it further and make it apply to a district or county? Where is the proper place to draw the line?

The real object of cultivating pedigreed stock in any country is not that they may go to the butcher's block at certain age, but that they may be used for the improvement of the ordinary herds and flocks so as to bring the average product of the country to a higher standard of quality. To accomplish this result

the best that can be found is none too good. The skilled eye of the breeder sees in his animals some defect. He wants to correct it. He may not be able to find the proper material with which to do this in his own State or even in his own country. He sees it outside. Ought he not to be permitted to reach out and secure it? The restrictionist says not; he must put up with what he can find in his own State or country whether it suits his purpose or not. I ask in that case is he not injured? And is his country not injured because he has been prevented from doing the best for his own herd or flock the influence of which is far reaching sometimes touching the interests of hundreds of others? Does not restriction therefore defeat itself if it prevents the best from being produced, while another breed or another country has liberty and an open door, and in consequence forges ahead in the race?

What is it to-day that gives the breeders of Shropshire sheep in Great Britain a better chance to improve their flocks than we in Canada possess? It is the fact that they have a much larger number of superior flocks of long standing from which to make a selection. Suppose the Scotchman should be told he must select only in Scotland. Would he not rebel and say he was being embarrassed and injured and prevented from securing for himself an equal chance with his English contemporary? When the late Mr. Cruickshank laid the foundation of his Short-horn herd, could he have been so successful if he had been restricted to his own country—Scotland? If he were alive I do not think he would answer in the affirm-