

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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There is still hope that it will have a leavening influence, and help, as it should, to make the word Maritime represent a concrete idea of community of interest to every Canadian east of Quebec; but unless other influences can be set at work the day when lawmakers shall meet from east, west and north is still remote.

Nevertheless, we cannot help thinking Maritime union, though a dream to-day, will yet be an accomplished fact. It may be a good while in the future, but prophets think in time-spaces of ages. The idea rests on the sound principles of economy, efficiency, magnanimity and progress, before which all other considerations must eventually give way.

A united Maritime Canada would prove a stronger factor in our confederation than three diverse units. The center of population in the Dominion moves steadily westward. Less and less numerous, relatively speaking, at any rate, will the representation of the older Provinces be in the councils of the nation. Union will soon be necessary for the preservation of interests.

Why not let the smaller Provinces aspire to the larger idea? It is not easy, we know. For Prince Edward Islanders, with their intense insular patriotism and their distressing experience in winter communication, it is particularly hard—harder than anyone can imagine who has not been on the ground, perceived the disabilities and got into sympathetic touch with the people. But gradually they will become imbued with the exalted ambition, and the time will come when the Straits of Northumberland will no more divide the Islanders and Mainlanders in their hopes, aspirations and efforts than the municipal boundaries divide their counties to-day. To effect this, improved and cheapened winter communication by means of a tunnel under the Straits of Northumberland, if practicable, would help wonderfully, promoting interprovincial intercourse, and reconciling the Islanders to the prospect of Maritime union by conferring upon them this tangible benefit of federal union. This accomplished, weathering of the rocks of Provincialism will proceed apace, and ultimately we shall see arising on the Atlantic coast a united Province, born of broad idea, inspired by new hope, and reaching out to the attainment of inherent possibilities yet undreamed.

Type in Live Stock.

Perhaps the simplest definition of the term type as applied to farm stock is that it is an example of any class considered as possessing the qualities or characteristics of the best representatives of a species, a breed or a family. The men of the past or the present who have undertaken and successfully prosecuted the work of originating and improving the various breeds of live stock have had an ideal in their minds, symbolizing the sort of animal considered by them best fitted to economically serve the purpose of their being reared, whether for the production of meat, or milk, or wool, in the greatest quantity and of best quality; or, in the case of horses, the drawing of heavy loads, or moving more rapidly and gracefully on the road with lighter loads. The potency and power to fix and perpetuate the desired traits or qualities in a breed has been secured by intelligent selection and the mating of superior specimens of the class, and then breeding from the best of the produce or those conforming most nearly to the ideal, even though the system involved the mating of animals closely related in blood lines, a system which experience has taught cannot be safely followed or continued long after the establishment of a breed.

The object of this article, however, is not to attempt an exposition of the intricate science of breeding, but rather to call attention to the series of articles commenced in this issue of the "Farmer's Advocate" on the origin and history of the leading beef breeds of cattle. The interest manifested by many of our readers in the articles on and illustrations of the principal dairy breeds, by Mr. Valancey Fuller, recently appearing in our columns, and those earlier in the year describing the British breeds of sheep, has encouraged us to continue this feature, believing that it commends itself to a large percentage of our readers, being at once instructive and interesting.

It has long been the policy of this paper to keep before its readers first-class illustrations of typical animals of the various breeds, believing that these, as much as anything, serve to inform its readers as to the most desirable and approved types of live stock, and we are persuaded that in this regard the pages of this paper are unsurpassed, if, indeed, equalled by the agricultural and live-stock periodicals of any country, in the estimation of those who discern the difference between pictures made up by the use of pencil and brush and those reproduced from photographs which are true likenesses and faithful representations of the subject.

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Have you sent us your subscription for THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE for 1906? If not, please do so at once, and take advantage of this special offer we are making our present subscribers for sending us NEW NAMES. See special club offer on page 1783, which is good to February 1st, 1906.

The circulation of this paper is increasing so fast that we have found it necessary to engage extra assistance in our circulation department. We want every old subscriber to send us one or more new subscribers.

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is the best and cheapest journal obtainable in Canada, quality of reading matter and illustrations considered. Published every week, and dealing with every department of farm operations and home life, no other paper begins to equal the extent of its service.

We printed a large number of extra copies of the Christmas Number so that the new subscribers might receive it. Don't delay in sending us your renewal, also the new names.

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HORSES.

Importance of Generous Feeding.

In seeking to improve our horse stock, breeding and selection make success possible, but will fail wholly or partially unless animals of all ages and stages of development, used as material in the operation, are at all times provided with a full supply of the most suitable food, says an exchange. Many a man has fallen short of success in breeding by depending upon blood alone to improve his stock. He has forgotten that all our improved breeds of horses are the product of adequate nutrition as well as intelligent breeding, suitable environment, sufficient shelter and kindly care. The use of a sire so produced endows the progeny with the propensity to develop character and qualities akin to his own and of the breed he represents. But these desirable qualities will not perfectly develop unless the progeny is given food, care and shelter such as have had their effect in the production of the pure bred and its high-class representative. In all pure breeds the "original" "scrub" blood at the foundation is ever seeking to restate itself. In short, there is a tendency in all pure-bred animals to degenerate or retrogress toward original and less perfect types, and nothing will more surely and speedily stimulate this tendency than lack of nutritious food. In the absence of sufficient nutrition, or complete nutrition, the possibilities of perfection inherited from pure-bred sires or dams but partially materialize or wholly fail to assert themselves. The well-born but incompletely nourished colt fails to develop, and at maturity is no less a "weed" than the ordinary scrub or native animal. On the other hand, if the dam is adequately nourished on complete rations during pregnancy and when nursing, and the colt, from weaning time forward, is as perfectly and as fully fed, it will, in all probability, develop to the high standard of size, power, quality and character made possible by its breeding.

In addition to proper feeding, it is likewise necessary to protect the young, developing animal against every possible cause of debility, discomfort and unhealth that would tend to retard its growth. Shelter must, therefore, be sufficient, disease must be fought against, vermin must be prevented from sapping the constitution, and fresh air, sunlight, adequate exercise and kindly care must take a full part in perfecting the development of the animal.

Deserved Reward to a Veterinarian.

The Scottish Farmer says: "A knighthood was conferred upon Mr. John McFadyean, who is a native of Wigtownshire, his brothers being tenants of the farm of Pineview, Glenluce, where the now famous veterinarian was brought up. He began his career as teacher in the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh, where his remarkable ability as an investigator was soon recognized. In order to secure his services in the profession at large, the office of Dean of the Royal Veterinary College was created, and Professor McFadyean left Edinburgh for London. When the principalship of the college became vacant, by universal consent he was promoted to that office. He has been a member of most of the Royal Commissions and Departmental Committees of Inquiry appointed by the Government during the past ten years, dealing with questions anent diseases in stock. The new Knight is, in every sense of the term, a strong man, disposed to take his own course, and in the end of the day usually attaining the object in view. The members of the important profession of which he is such an ornament will be delighted at the mark of Royal favor which has been conferred on one of their number, and through him upon the profession."

Prof. McFadyean is an author of professional works, and is also editor of the Journal of Comparative Pathology, a quarterly, and the leading journal in the English-speaking world.

The Future of Horse-breeding.

At present, says a writer in an exchange, it is the middling horse that is the most difficult to dispose of; for the worst ones usually "go off" at some price or other, whilst there is scarcely a dealer or commission agent to be found who is not on the look out for an animal or two of exceptional merit according to the dictates of the prevailing fashion. A big, sound-colored harness horse, with action, and of good appearance, can scarcely be found. It is upon the production of the latter class of animal—the very best, no matter what the variety may be—that much, if not everything, will depend in the future, for horse shows and horse societies have taught the public much, and have convinced people that a good animal costs no more to raise than a middling one, and is very much more easily disposed of should there be an occasion to part with it. The comparative dearth of such animals is the incentive that should stimulate breeders to new efforts; and when a good horse, no matter what his breed may be, is found, there will be no difficulty in disposing of him.