

JOURNAL is not to be credited with the origination of these societies, it was in cordial sympathy with them, lent a hand in their formation, and is trying to further their interests in every legitimate way. At that time some Canadian farm and stock publications, since dead, were not then born, and others of them have been able to maintain a struggling existence by dint of the sinews of Blood Bitters and similar compounds, while still others of them have grown fast into respectability. If the life career of each is to be based on the "survival of the fittest," we are content, for as in the past, we are calmly determined that, under Providence, the CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK JOURNAL shall continue to be recognized as the leading agricultural journal of Canada.

We have not considered it our duty to snap at this, and grin at that, and bite a third, and snarl at everything progressive, and denounce it as a "speculation," that we might catch the ear of second and third rate farmers, under hypocritical pretence of guarding their interests. We have shown our sincerity in the advancement of the interests of agriculture by the encouragement of everything in the line of progress, our enemies themselves bearing witness—that is, if we have any. We have not shown our good will to our farmers by denouncing the Board of Agriculture with the pertinacity of an ill tempered old woman, and hammering away at the model farm with the same old sledge hammer dug up during a personal row at the college, monotonous in the eternal sameness of its sound, nor by hindering the grandly useful work of importing good stock by always condemning it. We have done it in a more tangible way. Ours is the only journal agricultural or otherwise in Ontario which has furnished the farmers with prize lists of the leading shows of Ontario, and we ask our farmers to remember it. We are justified in asking this at their hands. It is not the mere act of printing the prize-lists that we ask them to remember, but the principle at stake of ignoring the farmers' interests, which is involved by agreeing not to print these lists. Ours is the only journal in the province which has given from month to month a summary of live-stock news gathered from many lands, and ours is the only journal where the live-stock men of all the provinces meet at club, as it were, in the stock notes columns, and there discourse of things common to all.

The policy of the JOURNAL in the future, as in the past, consists almost altogether in positives. The policy of some journals seems to consist in negatives. Stabbing at dead Caesar's body because it is filled with wounds seems to afford them congenial work; but journals which deal with negatives can never be progressive. An unending growl whines through every page, which does nobody good, which can make nobody better.

We want our policy to be as fearless as our courage in proclaiming it, and our courage in proclaiming it as fearless as our policy.

We still make war upon the whole *serub* domain. In this third campaign which we are about to close, we are only the more determined in the fourth, which we hope to open, to intensify our efforts for their extermination. This infestation that robs Ontario alone annually of \$100,000,000 must be destroyed.

A herd, stud or stock book for the Dominion, for all the breeds that are numerously kept in it, is another line of our policy, and only one for each breed. The Ayrshire breeders have fallen into the mire from which the Shorthorn breeders have just extricated themselves, and our views, given, we trust, in no uncertain way, were made public in our last issue.

Better shelter for stock, better food both in summer and winter, and better facilities for watering, will still receive that attention which their importance deserves. And following in the wake of these we will still urge the breeding of better stock. We shall continue to gather latest news regarding what is important to stock-keepers from the corners of the earth. We shall continue to insert notes from the keeper of but one good animal free of charge, if the sender is only trying to improve, and we shall continue to welcome information that may be of general interest from the very humblest sources. The JOURNAL knows no "Whang the miller" policy.

We shall urge with even greater importunity the duty of farmers to provide their sons and daughters with a more liberal education in things pertaining to their calling—to provide them with the book of science as well as that of practice, and to set them translating from both of these at the same time. We shall more strongly proclaim the necessity of young farmers whose school days are gone, to turn the future into a school for self-improvement, and to aim to shine each in his effort for solid attainment. We still maintain our loyalty to the Ontario Agricultural College, reserving, as we have always done, the freedom to criticise its shortcomings as occasion may require. We shall give prominence to what is important and useful in the line of agricultural invention, and we invite implement men to send us notices of their achievements on the same footing as the stockmen. The farmers, the stockmen, and the implement men are only wings of the one great army, and they subserve their own interests best by combining to advance the common good, rather than to unduly enlarge one segment so as to mar the rotundity of the whole circle.

Our friendliness to the cheese and dairy interests increases, in view of the magnificent work that the Cheese Dairymen's Association has accomplished, and of what the Butter Dairymen have commenced; and we confidently hope and believe that the contributions from the new Ontario Agricultural College dairy professor will prove of great value to the dairy interest.

Our list of contributors from this and other lands will be increased, and the efficiency of the JOURNAL in every particular will be sustained and advanced.

Our friends will be glad to know that the JOURNAL, planted but three years ago in the deep free clay loam soil of honesty of purpose, resting on a bottom thoroughly underdrained by strong desire to advance the true interests of agriculture, and to do so when possible without wounding the feelings of any, has grown apace. It has shot quite ahead of its little brothers, and we ask one and all to help us to make it a towering tree, the branches whereof shall fill the whole agricultural domain, and in the shadow of which the weary agriculturist may always find refreshful repose.

While we do thank and most sincerely, every one who has aided us in increasing our circulation, we still ask of them not to relax their efforts. Two hundred and seventy thousand farmers in Ontario alone, without a distinctively agricultural paper, is a sorrowful state of affairs, and one which every person should feel it a duty to try and improve. It is within the province of each to send the name of one subscriber, and by so doing the benefit that accrues is mutual in the end, by the gradually elevating process resulting from the scattering of rays of light.

Before we address you, our readers, again, through the columns of the JOURNAL, every one of you shall have eaten his Christmas dinner, and gone through the festivities of the New Year's season. We hope for each of you that this year that peace of spirit without

which no festivity can be truly joyous, may greatly abound, and that when another holiday season shall come again at the close of the year that is yet unborn, we shall have the privilege of renewing our greetings.

Remember the Herdsmen.

Our different agricultural societies, it may be, do not discharge their whole duty to the herdsmen who do so much toward making the shows a success in their own quiet way. Many are the expressions of admiration from visitors as they gaze upon one and another of the beautiful specimens of the different breeds in the various departments of live-stock, who only enquire for the name of the owner without ever thinking of the line upon line course adopted by the herdsman during all the days of the previous year, to bring them to their present state of perfection. It is only right that the owners should get a large share of the credit, as it is their capital and enterprise that are the mainsprings of the work, but the shepherd also should share with them, when his patient painstaking has been the means of winning prizes for them, and of thus not only adding to their fame, but also of paving the way for their material advantage.

As it is, the herdsman may be the means of winning a hundred prizes, and his name never is heard of. The owner, who may not even know a good beast, gets all the credit. True merit should be recognized wherever it is found; and if the skill of shepherds and herdsmen enable them to fit beasts that carry prizes, it is worthy of suitable reward.

In view of this we would respectfully suggest that agricultural societies in arranging prize-lists in the future, remember the herdsman, in some of the sections at least, as in the herd, flock and pen prizes, and so arrange that a share, or better still, an additional premium go to the herdsman. The sum need not be large, the important feature in reference to the former consisting in the advertisement which would thus be secured to him.

One of the crying wants of this country is a sufficiently numerous staff of competent herdsmen, and anything that may have a tendency to increase the number is worthy of attention. In Britain, the course that we have suggested is practiced at several of the leading shows, and the diploma there given is, it may be, of more value than the sovereign accompanying it. We know of some feeders in Canada who have been employed from year to year by parties who were bound to win, in fitting up the show herds, whose names are never mentioned in the press. They are always employed in erecting scaffolds on which other men clamber up to fame. In such a case, where they do this work so well, it would be a pity if they were not kept at it. But the world should know of their capabilities, and they have a right to reap all the advantages that would flow from such publicity.

Amongst Our Friends.

"I think your JOURNAL well worth the money to any farmer, and much more so to stock raisers." Henry Plumsteel, Clinton, Ont.

"I am well pleased with the JOURNAL. Its make-up and matter are first-class. It will be well worth preserving for reference in the hereafter."—William Armstrong, Jermyn, Ont.

"Your Journal comes regularly to hand and is a valuable publication."—J. H. Cavanagh, New Glasgow, N. S.

"I am glad to see the JOURNAL still prospering; it should, as it is a first-class paper."—Robert Ness, Howick.

"The JOURNAL is a welcome visitor, and every number is eagerly read. It is doubtless the best work of the kind in the Dominion."—A. B. McLeen, Goderich.

"I would not be without your JOURNAL for four dollars, let alone one."—Mark Pearson, Weston, Ont.