

**Editorial Notes.**

In this issue Mr. Allen Pringle gives some sound advice concerning the management of dairy stock, with a view of surpassing the output of dairy goods. The advice in itself is simple but is of the utmost importance. This article should be carefully read and promptly acted upon by every man who keeps a cow or other live stock.

The season is now at hand when farmers will select the male animals to be used in their herds and studs. This is a more important question than most farmers consider it. Let every man make his selection with some special end in view. Find just *what type* suits your requirements best, and year after year make such selections as will establish your animals more and more in *this type*.

Canadian and American farmers are altogether to blame for the poor milking qualities of their stock. Breeders of Shorthorns and other breeds have not been encouraged to produce animals of milking types, though many farmers say they want to breed cows that will give larger quantities of rich milk. The majority select bulls of *beefing types*, even when they can buy bulls that have the necessary milking qualities cheaper.

The cow that is destined to pay the ordinary farmer of the present or the future is a producer of milk, calves and beef; not calves, beef and milk.

How shall we get the kind of stock we require but by judicious selection of both male and female, and by persistently breeding with one aim in view.

One of the greatest obstacles in the way of producing first-class stock is cross-breeding and a miscellaneous jumbling up of breeds. A good many farmers will use a Holstein bull this year, a Jersey next year, and to improve the form a Shorthorn next year, or perchance a Hereford or a Poll. As long as farmers do this there will be an abundance of *scrubs* in the country.

If milking Shorthorns suit you best then stick to them, not only to the breed but to animals of a special *type*.

If Holsteins or Jerseys, or whatever breed suits you best or promises to be the most profitable, buy bulls of that breed always, but keep one form and set of qualities in view and breed always to produce animals alike.

Bad feeding and miscellaneous breeding go hand-in-hand, of the two the latter is worse than the former by far, and has done more to lower the quality of Canadian stock than all other conditions combined.

Breeding for a special object, or in other words line breeding, and good feeding are the only means of providing good and reliable stock, either horses, cattle, sheep, swine or poultry.

Line-bred animals will always sell for from twice to one hundred times as much as miscellaneous bred ones.

It was judicious selection and line breeding that the various families of live stock were established.

The man is a fool who expects by miscellaneous breeding to produce good animals that can be depended on to go on improving any good quality from generation to generation. A line-bred animal is not necessarily pure-bred, but one bred for a special purpose. If judicious selections are always made, after a few generations they will produce almost certainly just the kind of beast you want.

The majority of farmers breed their stock on the hit and miss principle, and only by chance produce a good animal of any type; not only have the cattle, sheep and pigs suffered from this, but the horses in every province have been very seriously injured likewise. Even at the ranges on our western prairies we find most lamentable ignorance in this respect.

In selecting a stock animal, first see that it is a good individual possessing the qualities you wish to perpetuate. Having satisfied yourself on this score, see that the dam and grand dam and great grand dam were all good and possessed the desired qualities, and that the sires found in the pedigree are alike good. Do not be satisfied with this alone, but try as far as possible to select line bred animals—carefully bred for the qualities you desire to perpetuate. Such an animal is invaluable and may be used in one herd with good results for twice the length of time generally supposed.

If you have been fortunate enough to obtain a good and impressive sire, producing just the sort of stock you want, and possessing much vigor of constitution, he may be used with good results even on his own offspring. When judiciously followed this class of breeding has on many occasions produced the very best results.

Close inbreeding should never be practised except where animals possess great individual excellence.

We call the attention of our readers to the able and practical article on Iron-clad apples, contributed by Wm. Hamilton, who has long been connected with the well known seed house of William Evans, Montreal. For a number of years Mr. Hamilton has been largely growing and experimenting with these fruits. His hope has been to produce such nursery stock as would succeed in the coldest settled parts of the Dominion. This article (like those of all our contributors,) is founded on long experience and careful study, and will be of great value to the residents in all northern sections.

The winter in Britain, with little exception, has been like our own, exceptionally mild. Stock were in January wintering well, there being an abundance of roots and fodder. Pastures in the south of Scotland and in many parts of England being as green as in May. Store cattle for feeding were quickly picked up at high prices. The demand being greater than the supply. Good, fat stock keep up in price and a slight advance was shown in the large markets. Sheep farmers have had a good season with satisfactory profits. The advance in the price of wool being maintained. Long combing wools which sold a year ago for ninepence and tenpence now bring elevenpence and a shilling per pound. The good winter feed has kept sheep in good order.

**Free Corn.**

I was surprised and delighted to read the article in the *ADVOCATE* on the "Duty on Corn." I belong to a class of Americans who are perhaps not inappropriately called "Mugwumps." We believe in a "modified" or "reformed" tariff for the United States, because it would be the greatest good to the greatest number, and because it would carry out the sacred injunction of the new commandment, "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

There is no reason why neighbors should not be allowed to trade with each other without fear or favor; without restriction or protection. There is, however, very little chance of free trade, reciprocity, or any other form of untrammelled intercourse between the United States and other countries, if our people are so shortsighted as to persist in restricting commerce.

I am convinced from what I saw during my recent tour in Canada, that the day has gone by when so poor and unprofitable a crop as corn can be raised to advantage on the rich pasturelands of the Dominion. You say:—"From the feeder's standpoint there can be but one conclusion: If we are to produce cheap beef, cheap dairy products, or any other line that goes to build up our stock interests, free corn is a necessity. For, with it will also come cheap offal from our mills. \* \* \* With a clean bill of health on our stock, therefore, free access to all British markets, no monstrous slaughter-house combine, to dictate prices, a name second to none for Canadian cheese, we only ask a free course and no favor. Our lands also demand different management. A vast number of our farms are depleted of their natural fertility; therefore, light crops and poor samples are the prevailing features in grain growing."

It may be said that I am anxious to increase the demand for American corn—nothing of the kind. All the corn that is raised in the Western States is needed on the Atlantic seaboard for dairy cattle, swine, etc., but you have the advantage of us, of say 1000 to 1500 miles in the matter of freight. If we can use western corn to advantage, when our market for beef, pork, and dairy products is chiefly local, and with dressed beef competition, where corn grows naturally and with but little cultivation, surely you can use it to greater advantage with your European markets for both beef and dairy products. I believe that corn is more valuable anyway than the money. At the present selling price of corn in this country it is of vastly greater value to the cattle raiser or the dairyman than its money equivalent. As it would be to our advantage to import wool so it would be to your advantage to import corn while it sells at its present ridiculously low price. I believe it to be good business to buy in the cheapest and sell in the dearest market. If our people are so stupidly shortsighted as not to buy of us when you can get *the best of the bargain*. Take the tariff off corn and we may retaliate by taking some of your excellent mutton or cream cheese, and establish beef as a substitute for our lean, tough, miserable "wool" mutton, skim milk cheese, and "Chicago dressed" beef.

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An old subscriber tells us that a few applications of castor oil will remove warts from either domestic animals or human beings.