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THOMAS SHAW, RIVERSIDE FARM, EDITOR.

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All communications to be addressed STOCK JOURNAL Co., 48 John street south, Hamilton, Ont.

HAMILTON, CANADA, MARCH, 1887.

PARTIES forwarding matter for the JOURNAL should be careful to write on only one side of the page, keeping stock notes on a separate sheet.

We take great pleasure in thanking our readers for the large number of new subscribers sent us during the past month. March is really one of the best months of the year for this work, and we hope those who have not already renewed will please do so and send in at least one new subscriber along with their renewal. See extraordinary clubbing offer for 1887, page 405, February issue.

"The greatest stumbling block to agriculturalists is a want of knowledge of their profession" So writes Mr John Airth, of Renfrew, and who shall say that this sentence is not mournfully true? And how shall this stumbling block be removed? Not by allowing them to plod on as they have been doing in the past, but by trying to show them better. Without doubt one of the best agencies for elevating them is the press, only in so many instances it fails to reach them. And those who most need its help it is most certain not to reach from their foolish prejudices as to the little value of book knowledge in farming. We hope that every reader of the JOURNAL will lend a helping hand in the work of making inroads on this class. We shall continue to write for their good as best we may, and you, we trust, shall everywhere try and persuade them to read.

THE growth of meat that will give the largest amount of profit should be the aim of those who provide meat for the shambles. To accomplish this the beasts must not be kept too long. They must be pushed along with a steady advance and then sold when first ready for what they will bring. Some years ago the aim was to produce a large beast that would bring in a large amount of money at one time, without any regard to the cost of production. But the fat stock shows have made it clear beyond the shadow of a doubt that early matured meat costs less

than that of slower growth. Fortunately the popular taste has fallen in with this view, and as a result farmers are trying to get their meat ready for the market at a much less age than formerly. That this truth, so important in its bearing on the profits of an important branch of industry in many countries, was so long in being discovered, is indeed a wonder; but no less wonderful is it that after it has been discovered, so many of the class most interested practically refuse to accept it.

SOME are of the opinion that it does not pay to keep pigs in winter—that is, that the additional expense of feed and the increased liability of pigs farrowed in the fall to go astray in winter render them so much less profitable, as compared with pigs farrowed in spring, that the margin is on the wrong side. Under no conditions can pigs be made so profitable that are farrowed in the fall for pork production as in the other case, the price of pork being equal; yet the success of the undertaking will depend much upon the conditions. If the pens are cold and damp, not roomy, ill ventilated and not well supplied with bedding, the pigs will not do well. They will certainly be kept at a loss. On the other hand, if these are all right, and the feed ration properly adjusted, they will not fail to make a good growth, especially if they have a suitable run when the weather is not too cold. With stock intended for breeding, the grand idea is to keep them in steady growth and well on their feet; but with those intended for pork, it is all-important to insure a rapid growth without sending them off their feet. If they go wrong on their feet, be not slow to use the knife, for it will not pay to keep them after. Pork raising should not be confined to the summer alone, as there is more time for caring for the pigs in winter, and sometimes spring prices are enough better to place the profit on a par with that of summer-made pork.

WHEN any important measure is to be advocated amongst farmers, too much should not be claimed in its favor, or its advocacy will rather have a tendency to repel than to attract. They always move with a caution more or less prudent, and have an inherent dread, as it were, of everything that savors of extravagance in the advocacy of a new thing. If men claim too much in the advocacy of tree planting as to its advantages, the farmer ceases to give heed. So in advocating the benefits of stock improvement or any other kind of improvement. It is always best to give the sober facts and be content to wait patiently for the proper impression to be made. There may be occasions when the whole truth had better be under than over stated, or in other words when a part had better be held in reserve, lest it should lead to premature disbelief. To illustrate. If we tell a grower of common cattle that he will make twice as much out of the improved, he will not believe us, even though this should be true. If told that a cow of a certain approved dairy breed will make a half more butter than his native, he will likely doubt it. It is better, perhaps, to lead him on by degrees, as, if we can convince him that one kind of stock is considerably more profitable than what he is keeping, he will in time try and get it, whereas if overstrong claims were made in behalf of the improved breed, he would cease to listen. Stephenson did a wise thing when he told the British parliament that his engines would travel so many miles an hour, when he himself believed at the same time that they would go much faster. Gradually the great changes of nature usually take place and gradually must the farmer be instructed and elevated.

Investing in Pure-Breds.

The wisest of the sons of men once wrote for the benefit of all who should live after him, that there is a time to every purpose under the sun. Without endeavoring to trace either the primary or the full application of this terse sentence, we may here remark, that in one sense it means that for every work in which a man may engage there are some times more opportune than others, and this applies with quite as much force to purely business transactions as to higher things.

The times for setting up in mercantile business are not equally opportune. The same may be said of embarking in any of the different phases of farming, and so of stock-keeping in common with every other branch of the great agricultural interest. Those, therefore, who are minded to engage in this work do well to give some attention to the suitability, or otherwise, of the best time to make a commencement.

To say which are the best seasons for investing in pure-breds is always a little hazardous, owing to the uncertainty that hangs over the future, as yet unveiled, and the various vicissitudes to which the material relations of countries are always liable, in common with those to which the individual is exposed. Shrewd men have amassed fortunes in dealing in branches of business always dependent on contingencies, and those same men by a single mis-step have lost all that they had gathered by a life-time of successful work. Yet any one with common discernment or reflection must see that some periods are much more favorable for investments of any kind than others. When things are booming, heavy investments are always dangerous, and even when they are depressed these are not always safe, as some industries flourish for a time in a certain country, and for certain reasons a period of languishing sets in, from which they do not recover, at least in the lifetime of one generation, for the centres of their cultivation or manufacture pass away to other climes. It may be that wheat-raising is one of these, so far as Ontario is concerned, for the great wheat-belt in the Northwest is furnishing supplies at a cheaper rate than we can. Taking periods of inflation as furnishing the best seasons for investing in pure bred stock, our farmers who are desirous of establishing herds should weigh well the facilities of the present time for enabling them to lay good foundations without incurring the risk of great outlay. The live-stock interest has suffered in common with every other interest in the country, though not to the same extent. Hence the average of prices is lower now than it has been for some years, at least in most of the lines of pure bred stock. Now this inflation is not likely to last very much longer, and therefore we consider that the present affords a fitting time for making a commencement. Although it is almost certain that fancy prices will not flourish as in the past, it is quite likely that general averages will overtop those of to-day, on the principle of the ebb and flow of tides. The number of auction sales to be held this spring, and more especially this month, is unusually large, as will be seen by referring to our advertising columns. We hope, therefore, that our farmers will not allow the opportunity to pass without improving it. There are two classes of stock that should be particularly sought: one is females that are soon to reproduce their kind, and the other is pure, vigorous young males, such as are likely to be serviceable in the neighborhood for which they are intended. No season of the year is so suitable as the spring for investing in either class, as at this time the amount of risk to run from any form of contingency is reduced to a minimum.