

Scrub stock will find no market either in Britain or the United States, hence those who are to enter these markets with the flesh they grow must have a suitable article to offer. It takes some years to radically improve a herd on the old foundation, the most common way in which improvement is made. Those, then, who desire to have equal chance with others already in the field *must* set about the improvement of their herds at once. No mild comparative will do here. If they are to enter the field in successful competition they *must* do so. With as much confidence in the future for live-stock as when beef brought six cents per pound live-weight, we urge upon our readers to give increased attention to live-stock and live-stock products.

Hiding Exhibits.

This is what we might expect only of a thief, and yet in practice it is often done by exhibitors of stock. When one spends a whole season in preparing stock for exhibition and then takes it to a show and boxes it in for the greater portion of the day, insomuch that no one is certain of seeing it at any hour of the day, what else, we ask, is he doing but hiding it? It does sound paradoxical indeed that a person should take stock to an exhibition to show to the people, and yet adopt a course that effectually prevents the people from seeing it, but such is the fact. It is a common practice with the owners of horses, and sometimes with the owners of cattle, who keep them curtained. The exhibitor has his rights, which should be defined and respected. He should not be required to keep his stock open to gaze all the time, only at certain hours; but visitors have their rights also. They pay the admission fee with the full expectation of being permitted to see whatever is on exhibition, and if any portion of this exhibit is to be withdrawn from them the same should be made public before they are admitted. It is with much satisfaction that we chronicle the action of the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions, recently held in Toronto, in agreeing to require of the exhibitors of stock that their animals shall be accessible to the public during two hours of each forenoon and afternoon. We believe it would have been better to have said *three* hours rather than two.

It should not be considered a great hardship for exhibitors to attend upon their exhibits for six hours in the day, seeing that they go avowedly for the purpose of allowing the public to see the exhibits. If they are to be kept screened, this can be easily done at home, without carrying their animals a long distance to accomplish such an object.

No penalties have yet been fixed for non-compliance with the requirements, but we presume that this will be done by the different individual associations. It seems strange to speak of penalties for non-compliance with what is so plainly in the line of self-interest, but is not this singular fact equally true of every individual application of that unailing code of primitive justice that follows in the footsteps of all human transgression? All obedience to infinite law is in the line of self-interest, whatever else may be its outcome. It is not flattering to stock-owners to have to say of them that exhibition legislation must compel them to carry out the very thing that they have avowedly gone thither to do; but there is no getting over the fact that much of the stock, especially horses shown at our exhibitions in the past, have been provokingly screened from the public gaze the major portion of the time.

There are two sides to this, as to every other question. Human perversity is largely responsible for the

adoption of the practice. Men, and farmers especially, to whom it is a hardship to be kept chattering all day, and answering the simple questions of many townspeople regarding the breed and other things, conclude that the simplest method of relief is to lock the door. But this is conflicting right and convenience. The public have paid their fee to be permitted to see those animals, and if the beggar-man has done this he should not be debarred from seeing them. Then again, curious visitors, whose manners in the drawing-room and in society generally are all that could be desired, are rude enough to poke at the beasts at rest as they pass the stalls, that they may get a better view. They might just as well take it upon them to turn around the goods of the manufacturer and replace them to suit their own view. It is the duty of the farmer to show his beast, but he is not bound to show him in any particular position, and no visitor has any right to take it upon himself to disturb a beast in any shape or manner. As to answering questions, it may seem a hardship sometimes, but it is scattering light, a work in which the sun in the sky never grows weary, and happiness to mankind is the constant outcome.

We shall hope, then, that exhibitors will cordially acquiesce in the action of the association, and require no urging or compulsion to do what is so manifestly to their own interest in the end. While exhibition managers have duties which they owe to exhibitors and the public, so have exhibitors duties to the management and the public, and giving the latter a chance to see their exhibits at times that may be fixed upon is one of them from which there is no escape by any device of logic however ingeniously it may be framed.

Ensilage.

Ensilage is fast becoming the question of the hour amongst agriculturists. Like every other introduction of a strikingly novel character it has been thrown into the heated crucible of prejudice. In the case of ensilage, however, the crucible has been heated sevenfold. The dross of mistakes in making it is fast becoming separated, and soon we can expect that it will be made with as much certainty and uniformity as to quality as is to be found in the curing of fodders by the ordinary process. That green fodder of various kinds can be cured in silos and in pits without sacrificing the valuable properties of the same, will not be disputed now, notwithstanding the fierceness of the battle that raged in reference to it only a few years ago. The champions of ensilage have assuredly won the victory, of which we have no better proof than the rapid increase in the number of silos constructed on both sides of the Atlantic.

But there is another mode of preserving fodder practised in Britain and some other countries by means of stacking, the different layers being compressed by means of rollers passing over them as they are put on. From frequent references to this process in our old country exchanges we are led to believe that good ensilage *can* be made in this way. We have in our mind a letter addressed by one Mr. J. A. Gordon to Messrs. Thomas Pearson & Sons, Midland Iron Works, Wolverhampton, England, which appeared in the *Farmers' Gazette*, in the issue of March 3d. Mr. Pearson is giving the results of his experiment to the firm we have mentioned, who manufacture the rollers. The stack was built on an estate in Mitchelston, County Cork, Ireland, and cost in its erection but 4s. 3d. per Irish acre, a much less sum than is paid for making ensilage in the ordinary way. In reference to the quality of the clover thus

saved, Mr. Gordon says: "Owing to the dry season the stack in some places got rather hot and over-colored, but nine-tenths of the bulk is of a golden brown and oily appearance, very sweet to the taste, and giving out a sweet and pleasant odor. All our cattle are exceedingly fond of it, from the young calves upwards, and since we commenced using it I notice a marked improvement in the condition of the cattle. No waste whatever, sides, top and bottom all consumed and seemingly relished."

A difficulty here presents itself in adapting this process to our country. Would not the hard frosts of our winters turn the outer portions into a solid mass that would prevent its being fed in the winter season? If so, what would be the chemical effects of freezing upon it? Will some of our men of science who know, favor their fellows who do not, with light upon this point? It is alleged in answer to this objection that ensilage is made by this process in Norway, with a climate as stern as ours. If so, this is a most effective answer, but how are we to get at the facts conclusively?

This is certainly a most interesting question. If fodder can be cured successfully in this way, the advent of such a process into our North-West would be a boon to the people beyond all estimate in that land where timber is so scarce. Even here in Ontario we have some seasons so showery that the practice might be adopted with much profit.

These things must receive our earnest attention. As the wheat production of the great region now no longer "lone" gradually lessens the growth of that cereal in the older provinces of the Dominion, stock-keeping must increase. The best methods of raising and curing feed for stock will always be questions of first importance, and it should always be remembered that economical methods of curing fodder are only second in importance to economical methods of producing it.

The Canadian Association of Fairs and Expositions.

The organization of this association was completed at Toronto on May 2d, when the following gentlemen were elected as its officers for the present year: President, John Adams, Port Perry; vice-president, C. Lawrence, Collingwood; 2d vice-president, S. C. Stevenson, Montreal; sec-treas, George McBroom, London. Executive committee, Messrs. Smeaton, Belleville; Power, Barrie; and McKenzie, Guelph.

Prof. Brown read a very suggestive paper before the association on "The Necessity of a Uniform Plan in Judging Live-stock," which drew forth no little discussion.

Mr. F. Nichols, Toronto, secretary of the Manufacturers' Association, read one on "The Influence of Exhibitions on the Arts and Industries."

The paper read by Mr. T. Shaw, of Hamilton, was upon "Exhibitions, their principal Objects," and that by Prof. G. W. Robertson on "The Use of Exhibitions to the Dairy Industry."

As one outcome of the paper read by Mr. Shaw it was decided to recommend that exhibitors who keep their stables locked so that visitors cannot have free access to inspect the animals at least two hours in the forenoon and two hours in the afternoon, forfeit any premiums awarded them. A committee was appointed to confer with the different railway authorities in reference to the more rapid transit of live-stock at exhibition times. Much other valuable legislation was done.

This association has not been organized a day too soon. There is very much work to which it may