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HAMILTON, CANADA, JUNE, 1887.

If our farmers were forced by law to keep an inferior class of cattle that would give but a half return for their keep, we can imagine something of the nature of the grumble that would arise. It would extend from the ocean to the Rockies, and its rumble would shake the stability of the government which imposed this law. They bear the burden all the same nevertheless, the only difference lies in the fact that it is self-imposed. They have bowed the shoulder and have become servants of tribute placed upon them by their own hands. Surprisingly strange that so large a number will persist in throwing a large portion of their feed away, and giving a large amount of their labor without any adequate return. If scrub cattle were the most profitable, we would say, by all means cling to them, but who in the possession of his senses will say that they are?

Only as successful as his neighbors Who will be content with that dead level mediocrity? Reader, will you? Surely not. Such an ambition is not ambition at all. Almost any one can get up to the level of his surroundings, but surely you know, young man, the tremendous advantage a little elevation gives you when the crowd, standing upon the same plane, are gazing at the one object. You can easily build a little mound that will enable you to look over their heads. Earth and spades are plentiful. There is not much satisfaction in saying that your beast is as good as five hundred thousand others in the country, but when you get in among the thirty or the ten, or better still, the first three, there is some room for self-congratulation. Canada wants one hundred thousand young farmers and stockmen who will all excel their fathers. Who will enlist, and who will be the officers?

With the present low prices of grain farmers who require to call in the aid of outside help, unless they are engaged in producing some specialty, as seed grain, which they thoroughly understand and can make pay, will find it somewhat difficult to hold their

own. The difficulty is increased, in that they require the help most in that season of the year when it is dearest—the summer. The remedy will be found in growing more or better stock suitable for the production of beef and butter, or both. This feeds itself very largely in the summer season, and in winter the home help will, on small farms, usually be able for the task. In this way only sufficient grain need be grown to supply the wants of the farm, and this means less expenditure for outside labor, which is sustained, it may be, at a loss. On large farms of whatever character, outside labor can't be dispensed with, but on these the operations are on a scale sufficiently large to justify the expenditure.

It is a favorite maxim with stockmen that "the bull is half the herd." While this is true, and it may be more than true in some instances, it should be remembered that the male is not the whole of the herd, and that where he is lacking in prepotency he will not be nearly half the herd. All things being equal, the sire is half the herd, flock or stud, for he has an equal influence with every female composing these in the production of the offspring, but where he is lacking in prepotency he will prove less than half in proportion to the extent of this lack. And where this quality is strong, he will in corresponding proportion prove more than the half. It should not be overlooked, that the female may have as much influence in the production of the offspring as the male, and therefore any weed possessing a pedigree should not be relied on for breeding good stock because of the excellence of the male. A good seed bed and a good soil are equally important with the necessity of sowing good seed upon it to get a good return.

That "like produces like" is a favorite expression with stockmen, but experience has taught us that this truth has its limitations. Like will certainly produce like under certain conditions, but under other conditions it will not. Mate two animals that are good in themselves, and that possess all the desirable qualifications of the breed in their personnel, and you may get something very different. Indeed, you are quite likely to get something different unless the excellencies which they possess have been inherited through a reasonably long succession. Hence the unwisdom of concluding that simply because you have purchased two animals that have been prize-winners you will be able to produce prize-winners from them. On the other hand, if the ancestry of these have possessed for several generations the qualities which have made them prize-winners, the results are not likely to be disappointing, even though the individuals are not what they ought to be in personal appearance. When purchasing for breeding purposes, look beyond this, and ascertain if you can what the animals were that compose the ancestral record.

At a meeting of the Farmers' Institute of Oswego county, held in Oswego in March last, Mr. J. S. Woodward, secretary of the State Agricultural Society, delivered an address on the subject of "warm barns." He advocated heating the water 80 degrees for the cattle. He also took the strong ground that cattle did not require exercise in winter; they might therefore be put into the barn in autumn and left there till spring, without letting them out at all. This doctrine conflicts with our preconceived ideas, and most persons will be ready to condemn the practice. We should not be too fast, however. The safest attitude consists in readiness to receive truth supported by evidence, however startling or novel. We filled our new barn with cattle last autumn and never let them

out till spring. We did not do so because we thought it was the best plan, but because the yard was not in good shape. Most of the time it has held about 85 head, and as yet we see no evil resulting from the practice. It is well worth experimenting a little in this matter, for it is a good deal of labor to let out from 50 to 100 head of cattle once a day or even twice a week to get exercise. In Holland and Denmark many of the cattle are kept tied up most of the year, and no ill apparently results. We are so well pleased with the experiment thus far, that if no evil follows in the interval, we shall feel strongly inclined to repeat the experiment. We do not consider that they suffer any discomfort from the confinement. They are taking rest quite at ease when not eating their food.

Eating off their Own Heads.

We have often heard the expression made by farmers when speaking of feeding certain classes of cattle in a certain way during winter, that they would "eat their heads off." They meant, of course, that the cost of their keep would be more than the worth of the animal. Of no class of our domestic animals will this hold equally true as of our Canadian scrubs, particularly those of the male sex. The females have been found useful in dairying, and if taken in hand and raised to the dignity of a breed, might be made more useful for this purpose. But with the present no system of breeding, they must march steadily westward, as did the forest braves before the advancing wave of a higher civilization, until they shall only be known in the story of the past.

When good, well-bred steers brought from five to six cents per pound live weight, there was money in raising them, and undoubtedly in addition to the manurial returns, parties who can get five cents per pound live weight now from shippers, have a margin, we believe, in addition to the manure, owing to the low prices of grain, but the margin is not very much. If so, how fares it with the scrub steer which during the past winter has been bought by local butchers throughout Ontario from 2 to 2½ cents per pound?

Mr. Blue gives the number of store steers in the province in 1886 as 418,079 head over two years. Assuming that three-fourths of these are scrub, a moderate assumption, we have then 300,000 head of steers made ready for Ontario markets, or forced upon them without being made ready, which have more than eaten their heads off, every one of them. Allowing to them a weight when finished of 1,100 lbs., and a price of 2½ cents per pound, we have as the price of each steer, say \$25, and of the 300,000 steers, \$7,500,000. Here, then, we have the enormous capital of \$7,500,000, which has taken a far larger sum to produce it during three years, which has given no return.

Now, we must say that we like to see men plucky in any line of business, and if those who persist in raising scrub steers to their loss could, by evincing a spirit of manful persistence, turn this loss into a profit we would not be so much concerned; but when we see them losing money every time, and from year to year, why should we not try and persuade them better, even though they themselves should try and fix upon us the stigma of the "slanderer" of the common cattle of the country?

Come, now, my farmer friend, and let us reason together, even though you have a liking for scrub cattle. Don't you know that prejudice goes a long way in sustaining our convictions. The writer of this paper once kept scrub cattle, but he now keeps improved stock. As you have not done this, you will concede that he has one advantage over you in this