

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine.

"PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED."

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## EDITORIAL.

### Pointers.

Have you sampled the "first run" of 20th century Canadian beet sugar?

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The president of the Board of Agriculture, on Nov. 3rd, announced to the British Parliament that he has no intention of proposing a repeal of the Act of 1896, prohibiting the importation of live cattle.

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If Scottish feeders, on high-priced lands, could import stockers and a good deal of the feed, and yet make money fattening cattle, surely Canadians, with all advantages at hand, can find good profits in the business.

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Now that it is finally understood that the British embargo against Canadian cattle for feeding in the Old Country is to remain on, we had better set about raising more good beef cattle, and finishing them in Canada, thus enriching our farms.

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Are you preparing an exhibit for the winter fair? If not as an exhibitor, lay your plans early to pay the show a visit.

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Sir Wm. Mulock, Post-master General of Canada, announces a surplus of \$5,000 in his department for the current year, in place of the perennial deficits of the past. The time would seem opportune to inaugurate free rural mail delivery, and thus extend the advantages of better service to the agricultural community.

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Mr. G. H. Hale, of Orillia, Ont., writes, congratulating the "Farmer's Advocate" upon the stand it has taken in favor of reducing postage on newspapers between the different portions of the British Empire. He urges that the agitation be kept up, and in this view we believe he has the hearty sympathy of every loyal Canadian, and lover of the British Empire.

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In several issues, the "Farmer's Advocate" has warned the people against the perils of gambling in stocks or market quotations, "dealing in futures," as it is called. This and high living was the cause of the recent downfall of the treasurer of Kent County, Ont., whose defalcations reached at least \$12,000.

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The disastrous results of the spread of the pea weevil are forcibly brought out in our report of the annual meeting of the Entomological Society, published elsewhere. Peas are too valuable a crop to be lost by inaction. Summed up, the entomologists advise early sowing, harvesting just as soon as ripe, immediate threshing and treating the peas with carbon bisulphide.

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Late reports from Liverpool show that Danish butter still tops the British markets, at 118s.; "finest Irish creamery" next, at 110s., and choice Canadian creamery in third place, at 104s.

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Evidence accumulates in favor of much lower temperatures than have heretofore been employed in ripening cheddar cheese. The favorable demonstrations at the Dominion curing station, this year, will be followed by two large experiments by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, one east and the other west. Cold curing is giving good results in Wisconsin.

### The Winter Fair.

Of the past, with their thrill of victory to the painstaking exhibitor and pleasant memories to the enquiring visitor, are the summer shows and exhibitions of 1902. They are gone, but the best has yet to come, for before the end of the year, the Winter Fair, with its invaluable lessons, alike to breeder, feeder, and student, will be with us. Dec. 8th will see the opening at Guelph of the 19th annual Provincial Winter Show, when the cattle, sheep and swine best calculated to win glory at that great final tribunal—the block—will be open to inspection. There, too, the dairy cow will compete for supremacy at the milk pail or according to the Babcock test, while breeders of high-class poultry will contest for honors with birds alive, and dressed. One week later, a similar event will begin at Amherst, N. S., the second of its kind in the Maritime Provinces. That these shows of fat stock have been and are potent factors in the improvement of our live-stock industry, no one can deny. Year by year, Canada is becoming more and more a meat-producing country, and hence any institution calculated to direct breeders as to the correct ideals and feeders of the proper fitting for market is deserving of every encouragement. Indeed, the Guelph show has long ago passed the experimental stage, and the splendid start made at Amherst last year gives assurance of success and usefulness in years to come. The different Breeders' Associations and the Provincial Governments are to be commended for the efforts which are being put forth in this direction.

While the summer exhibitions have a great mission to fill in creating a more widespread interest in pure-bred stock, the winter shows have a still greater work to do in emphasizing the fact that hand in hand in reaching the summit of perfection must go the twin-sister arts—breeding and feeding. They alone illustrate that desirable combination, the best breeding with the best feeding. Nowhere during the year can the young stockman obtain so much valuable information that will direct him on the road to success, or the older enthusiast an inspiration to higher ideals. It is, first and last, an educational institution, and while honor is done to the man who shows the greatest skill in preparing an animal for slaughter, who is there more worthy?

In aiming to improve the dressed-meat trade of this country, these shows are worthy the co-operation of all. Breeders, feeders and dealers alike should lend their assistance to aid in this, a movement destined to be the main channel through which our export cattle and bacon trade must improve.

No farmer in any way interested in live stock—and where is there a successful one who is not?—can afford to deprive himself or his sons of the advantages to be obtained by paying a visit to the Winter Fair. Cheap railway rates are to be had on all lines, and the season is one when there should be time for an outing. If you live in Ontario, go to Guelph show to see the fat of the land; make up your mind to carefully inspect the dairy cows, considering their conformation and power to produce; interest yourself in the poultry show, which promises to be an exceptionally good one; attend the best lectures on the various subjects to be delivered by specialists; and go in time to pay a visit to the experimental union, which meets the same week at the Ontario Agricultural College. If your home is in the Maritime Provinces, by all means extend your

patronage to the Amherst show. You will learn lessons entirely new. Living pictures of animal perfection will be presented, never to be forgotten. Every farmer needs the enthusiasm to be gained by such an outing. The Breeders' Associations are deserving of your interest, and Canada needs more good stockmen to swell the ranks of that progressive class. By all means go.

### Public Sale Management.

While we are firmly of the opinion that, as a rule, breeders of pure-bred stock realize better prices by private treaty than at auction, there are times when it becomes expedient to call a public sale in order to dispose of a herd or a considerable number at one time. In that case, the best manner of procedure in order to make the venture a success is worth considering, for in all cases a public sale is a venture, the result of which cannot be foreseen, since it depends upon such uncertain contingencies as the weather, the character of the stock and the composition of the company secured by the announcement. If possible, it is best to take several months to prepare for a sale, since it pays well to have the stock in really good condition, and it is safer and better for seller and buyer that the animals be brought into that condition gradually, than forced by heavier feeding in a short time. Where the offering is all in good condition an appearance of uniformity of character is secured, which makes a favorable impression, and it goes without saying that animals of any class in good condition and well groomed are more attractive and will sell for more money than lean ones with staring coats and unthrifty appearance. The arrangement of the animals in the stables, well bedded, placing them in matchy pairs, or the larger ones at the far end of the stable and grading them down in size to the entrance door, gives an appearance of uniformity and has a pleasing effect, and where young things are shown loose in box stalls, having them near a uniform size and age in each lot helps to harmonize their appearance. Halter breaking and training to lead and stand in good position greatly improves the appearance and pays well for the time devoted to such preparation. An unruly or untrained animal may upset the even tenor of a sale, causing loss of time and interest, and consequently financial loss to the seller.

A well-considered order of sale is important, and this should be prepared and posted in the stable before commencing the sale, so that intending bidders may know at what stage their favorites will be offered. As a rule, we believe it is wise to sell in the order in which it is supposed the animals will bring the best prices, as the setting of a high standard of prices at the beginning helps to maintain good prices throughout the disposal. The best in this case does not necessarily mean the best individually, as pedigree counts for much in the estimation of discriminating breeders, and should be taken into account in arranging the order of sale. There is apt to be a certain amount of timidity on the part of the owner to put up his best first, fearing that they may not sell as well as later, when the spirit of the sale is worked up, but is the spirit not likely to be more quickly reached and more steadily maintained by a start with the best. If the most desirable are kept back, many may be waiting for them and neglecting to bid on others on which they might bid if the best go beyond their reach. Patience on the part of the seller is a