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Dignity of the Breeder's Calling.

A deep love for original creative work has fired the high ambition of many a true breeder until his efforts have been rewarded and the product of his skill stands full worthy of wearing the coveted prizes in the show-ring—winning even in death—the crucial block test still verifying superiority. In times past a few men, through use of this rare gift, made world-wide fame, and not for one moment will the thought be entertained that the highest knowledge and skill in this art perished with them.

What has been achieved can be repeated—even surpassed. Previous lessons are practically weighed and the deep-thinking man of to-day who decides to make breeding his life's work carefully fits himself to begin where the ablest left off, ere he assumes the responsibility of shaping wondrous creations out of the helpless forms confided to his care. This art which deals with the modeling of living creatures must (if improvement is to be made) have behind it a mind capable of grasping fundamental principles and keenly able, not only to conceive an ideal animal form, but also call that forth into life through a wide knowledge of nature's intricate and hidden laws. Knowing this to be true, none will dispute that the breeder's calling is a truly dignified one; it required genius and intellectual force to give our present high standards, yet the top notch has never been reached. Fresh honor still awaits him who climbs. Vigilance is the pathway to success, unremitting attention means "good luck." Be advised to give more care to details, for most blunderings have arisen from some apparently minor overlook. Ever remember there are two forces at work, one constructive, the other subversive. Another plume which each breeder should possess is enterprise. Many a splendid animal has never been fully appreciated through lack of this necessary quality. Of course, small souls, through jealousy, will decry the best products of even the master builders. Fear them not, stick to your own ideals, being careful that utility, good form and constitution were rightly balanced when these were formed. This fraternity must never be mere peddlers of pedigrees, trying to corner the market, or yet cater to such freaks of fashion as color, escutcheon definitions, etc. Shun inbreeding; pedigree restrictions have made relationships of families closer than at the time when a judicious amount could be safely relied upon as a fixer of type; stand away now from such dangerous ground. Some ask, does showing of stock at fairs pay? The old saying that the light hid under a bushel cannot be seen at a distance might apply here. Successful showing is a great advertising medium, and judicious advertising lies at the foundation of all business success. He who ignores this fact has rightly no one but himself to blame should his surplus stock find no satisfactory market. Merit and advertising to give good results must necessarily go hand in hand; the wares must be worthy, and known, ere justice will be done to the investment. Good stock is not often fully appreciated in any immediate neighborhood.

A market for surplus stock is a necessity, and all must reach out for it; it seldom comes unsolicited. The show-ring and the public press are the two best mediums of communication to-day. Some use one, some the other, and the truly wise both. Show fitting, if continued, is injurious to stock, matured animals suffering most. The younger ones ought to be well done by, at least until they approach maturity, so are seldom injured, although show fitted, if returned to pasture shortly after. Until show-ring judges are content with less fat the average breeder should limit his showing to young things. This plan is quite effective as far as the buyers are concerned.

Snap-shots at British Agriculture.

THE FARM PUPIL.

The person referred to above is part of a system which looks at agriculture as an easy way of living in healthy surroundings. The farm pupil is the chrysalis of the gentleman farmer. This budding agriculturist is generally the son of indulgent parents, who have endowed their offspring with more money than brains or energy.

The writer had the pleasure of dropping in, as it were, on a preserve on which farm pupils were kept to undergo the pupilage process. The tutor was a

smart, bright, active farmer, who would have made a first-class settler in any colony, but who at the early stages of his career lacked an adequate supply of this world's goods, hence his reason for taking pupils. He was qualified for the work, however, which cannot be said of all those undertaking such a job. This farmer, when asked his candid opinion of the scheme, laughed and said: "I follow the same system as the university professor; if a chap wishes to learn, I will do all in my power to help him, but I use no force in the matter. The only restriction I do enforce is, that I will have no boozing—once a fellow does that and I find it out, I bundle him off home!"

The pupils vary in age from 20 to 30, and about one in four takes the profession of agriculture seriously; the others, born with silver spoons in their mouths, and being accustomed to being fed therewith, just fritter away their time and lives. During the period of my observation, I noticed one walking around with a spade over his shoulder, and thought I had the serious-minded one. I was mistaken. He was about to dig bait (worms), which found, he would fish for eels all day. Looking over a hedge, I saw another armed with a trap and stick—he was rat-catching. Noticing my look of interrogation, the tutor said: "If he was my own son, I would ply the stick on his back. As it is, the pupils are a means to an end, and their people pay promptly, possibly glad to have them out of the way." One kept a horse and bred a few canaries, and would spend an hour debating the value of a certain make of pipe. Farmers none of them would ever be—and very poor apologies for estate agents—theirs was the opportunity which they let fly by unheeded. The tutor, a man who has had to rustle for himself, and successfully too, says, "I believe in firing every child out to do for itself when sixteen or seventeen!" And the theory is a good one, when one sees the working of the opposite principle. One thought that struck me was: These must be the young fellows some good people would have an agricultural college built for, in Manitoba, a sort of annex to the University. Young Britishers, such as these, usually have a fair knowledge of English, but little else. It was this kind of trifter that used to infest the O.A.C. halls, years ago, causing no end of bother, and were never a credit to the college, although favorites in some social circles.

That any sane person would think of using public money to provide an asylum in the shape of an agricultural college for such as these is passing belief, and yet some persons, doubtless well-meaning, but strangely lacking in knowledge of the practical, continue to urge that provision be made for the young British emigrant.

When any province in Canada establishes an agricultural college, its chief aim and object should be to benefit its own agricultural community. No college

could afford to stake its reputation on an effort at making successful farmers out of a class of moneyed Britishers. To get real benefit out of an agricultural course the student must first be a farmer, or at least have spent two or three years of actual work on a farm. As it is altogether likely the young Manitoban would attend the agricultural college during the formative stage of his character, close contact with one of these imported triflers in a residential college would be more dangerous than a contagious disease.

The farm pupils I saw pay a good sum for their pupilage—\$500 a year in house, or half that if outside. They are made very comfortable, and might, if they were so disposed, spend their time very profitably. The only way to make a farmer is to take a youth of sound common-sense and lots of energy, and put him on a farm, under the guidance of an up-to-date farmer, and have him work; teach him to take hold of anything and everything. If at the end of two or three years a course at a good, practical agricultural college can be afforded, it will be a good investment, and will tend to put a polish on the young farmer's brains which would take a long time to get otherwise.

INTER PRIMOS.

Selection of the Beef Sire.

To combine the butcher's, feeder's and breeder's needs, large scale, strong constitution, great wealth of natural flesh and early maturity must be had, and to insure satisfactory improvement in any herd, the stock bull must be typical of the breed, with abundance of masculinity. Sires that have proved to be outstanding in leaving a lasting impression of their individuality on their offspring have had a determined expression, indicating strength and boldness, and an active, vigorous temperament, which is also an evidence of virility and proves that the animal is strong and fully formed in all regions which have to do with the powers of vitality and reproduction. Excellence of girth is another very essential point; the ribs must be long and well arched, giving abundance of room for the vital organs and great storage capacity for food. Ample natural provision in these parts indicates ability to utilize large quantities of food, and augurs well for rapid progress in fattening. A straight, broad back, and wide, thick loin, assures a large percentage of the most valuable cuts, so should be carefully noted while purchasing. The rump must be long, level and smooth, with muscular thigh development, thick and low, also full, well-rounded quarters; short legs, with good strong bone, are also needed, and the mellow, mossy coat as evidence of a thrifty, vigorous, flesh-forming disposition. Style, finish and general beefing attributes must be freely indicated by the general characteristics of the male, as evidence of his ability to transmit these to his progeny.

Two of the most difficult points to build up are, first, ribs that start from the spine in a downward direction (instead of arching out), giving a wedge shape to the upper third of the chest; and, second, ribs, although fairly long, yet deficient at the lower end, causing a curve upward in under line immediately back of the fore legs; these two defects are harder to breed out than any others, except, perhaps, downright bad shoulders. A drooping rump can be brought right with two judicious crosses, but the defects of a narrow chest and flat ribs and tucked-up foreflank are caused by deficient vital organs within, and as the enlargement of these organs requires many strong crosses to grade up, be very careful in this point in making your selection.



VIEW ON THE CHAPELTON FARM
of Messrs. Thos. Biggar & Sons, Dalbeattie, Scotland.