

HOW TO STOCK THE FARMS.

Prairie Farmer.

This was the subject of Father Clarkson's paper at the late Iowa Stock Growers' Convention. His first point was that it makes no difference whether a man be a graduate direct from the agricultural college or a refugee from defeats and disasters in nearly all departments of industry, he is not necessarily the rough block which is to be wrought into a live agriculturist, if he has not the inbred and inborn love of rural pursuits, backed by an industry which will lead him to rise early and lead his employees afield. . . . If one expects by energy and industry to convert a native or exhausted soil into a successful, diversified farm of grain, grass and stock, select land, which by the agency of wise husbandry, can be converted into a rich and prolific farm. . . . Then determine what class of animals shall be used. In deciding this question, recollect that no farm was ever large enough, nor a lot so contracted, as to breed and raise successfully two breeds of any one class of animals or birds. Let there be no dividing the efforts on different breeds. And it is well to warn the inexperienced against purchasing stock of breeding farms where one man's knowledge of breeding feeble at best, is divided and diluted by a variety, or even two kinds of cattle, horses or chickens. A man who grasps at so much has but a limited idea of his own powers, or the full scope and compass of the meaning of a "fine-stock breeder." . . . Having determined these preliminaries, what shall be the process of stocking the farm? A part, at least, must be suitably prepared before the stock is introduced, and whether it be when but a small portion of the farm is ready, or when it is fully developed, with grain, grass, and comfortable buildings, guard studiously against over-stocking. This is one of the greatest errors in stock-farming. If it be intended for a breeding farm, get the best to be had, without regard to price, even if the number be not one-fourth of your previous ideas. The animal must not only have all of the points to the nearest perfection, but he must "be able to read his title clear." . . . The whole pith and point in a code of instructions, "How to Stock a Farm," is in grading up as fast as possible. . . . No man, however poor or rich, can afford to use a male animal of any kind but thoroughbred.

The next most important thing is to study the great lessons of breeding and feeding until you understand your business. But few men do. A good farmer and eminent politician of Iowa truly says, "It takes longer to learn how to raise a calf well than it does to learn how to draw up an indictment that will hold water. When a man has once solved the problems of breeding, feeding, handling, and elevating above its ancestors, an animal of any class, he has mastered the business, and can claim to stand in that noblest class of men—an advanced farmer. Then only will you know how to stock a farm."

Every well-ordered farm, whether large or small, ought to have a suitable number of horses on it; among the rest a few choice brood mares. And it should be borne in mind that all animals kept for breeding, the progeny of which are intended for work or high stepping, should be worked regularly, but suitably. It is the only way to perpetuate and improve the activity and strength of the muscles. If Providence had imposed idleness on the human race, long ere this the earth would be as desolate as the face of the moon, so far as humanity is concerned. The race would have become too effeminate to perpetuate its species.

In stocking the farm with horses there is another crying evil practised. It is worse, if possible, than the prevalent evils in breeding cattle. It is the use of mongrel stallions. In grading up the classes of stock it is known that it can be done fifty times

faster by the male than the female branch, hence farmers should look mainly to improvement through male domestic animals. The horses in Iowa have been greatly retarded in improvement by unwise and unscrupulous owners contending that half-breed Percheron or Clyde stallions do very well. This is on the untenable and fallacious position that a half-breed is half as good as a pure blood. This foolish idea has been, and will continue to be for long years to come, one of the curses and blights upon agricultural prosperity. "What can be hoped for a horse whose dam's breeding is entirely unknown, or of the very opposite type to that of the thoroughbred sire? This is making breeding a mere lottery. It is a loss of valuable time, of which humanity has none to spare, and which will only bring disappointment to those who are foolish enough to engage in a system of breeding that actual experience has shown can only end in wretched failure. Never use a half-breed or mongrel male animal, no matter how handsome his appearance. Blood which has been perfected and purified by a long line of care, if breeding has a potent power which no mixture with inferior blood has."

A SHARP SWINDLER!—LOOK OUT FOR HIM.

It is the duty of every stock raiser, as well as papers interested in stock, to give all possible assistance in detecting rascality and defending each other against imposition. Breeders of Jersey cattle especially have their attention directed to the following from the *National Live Stock Journal*:—

Perhaps some of our readers may have made the acquaintance of a young man during the recent fat-show in Chicago, who gave the name of R. S. Chapin, and said he was from Enterprise, Kas. He has proved to be a swindler of rare ability, and our readers are cautioned to be on the watch for him. He went east from Chicago, and visited breeders of Jersey cattle, some of whom he succeeded in swindling. He claimed to own a large tract of land in Kansas, where he was breeding Polled-Angus cattle and Poland China hogs; said he had come east for the purpose of buying Herefords and other beef cattle, but had become interested in Jerseys, and was visiting the large herds for the purpose of making purchases, etc. His scheme appears to be to tender payment in drafts, purporting to be drawn by the Enterprise Bank, of Kansas, on a Chicago bank, for more than his purchases amount to, and receive the difference from the seller. One of these whom he has visited gives the following description of him:—

He is the most accomplished scoundrel it has ever been my fortune to meet; about five feet five or six inches tall, slender build, weight about 135 lbs., light-brown hair, cut rather short, very thin moustache, and no other whiskers; eyes, light-brown; round shouldered, walks with toes turned in slightly. He wore a black Derby hat that seemed too large for him (pressed well down), black diagonal cloth suit, and pants with a narrow dark stripe, dark vest; carried a fine gold watch with vest chain with square charm. His overcoat was of finest material, brown in color, handsomely trimmed with green and red satin, lined with brown silk or satin. These things, of course, he could substitute for other articles of wearing apparel, for he had with him an elegant valise, fair leather, which perhaps contained changes of clothing, but his general appearance, when once seen, could not be forgotten. His manner is mild, talks in a low tone, is very polished in speech, being highly educated and refined. A smile lurks about his mouth while in conversation, and there is a very slight stoppage or quivering to the upper lip occasionally while talking. Shows upper row of teeth quite prominently when talking and those in front are somewhat

larger than the others, and one of them, at least, gives the impression of being artificial; is well posted on general subjects, but not very well "up" on Jerseys. He buys at prices asked, and depends more upon pedigrees, as he reads them from the books, than he does on individual qualities of the animals. He is a very easy man to sell to, but the seller must be on his guard about giving change for his drafts. He does not seem at all concerned about getting the funds, but has his plans laid so systematically that the result seems inevitable. Part of his system consists in carrying drafts signed by an imaginary cashier, so if caught he cannot be punished for forgery. In manners he is perfectly self possessed, and is never at a loss for an explanation. He is a very dangerous crook, and is wanted badly by Ohio breeders, I hear.

This fellow will doubtless try to swindle breeders in other sections, and our readers should be on the lookout for him. He ought to be caught and put where he belongs—in the penitentiary.

EDUCATION IN DAIRYING.

Farm, Field and Stockman.

The importance of educating the coming generation in the art of dairying is attracting attention in all quarters. In Great Britain and continental Europe dairy schools have been established, and it is now stated that the market reports show that the best butter is being produced in those districts where the farmers' sons and daughters have had the benefit of tuition at dairy schools. Strange to say, although the Island of Jersey is the source from whence is derived our best butter-producing breed, but, not having as yet realized the benefits to be derived from dairy schools, she is behind Denmark, England and Ireland, in the quality of butter produced, which demonstrates that the "gilt-edge" article is not an exclusive production of the Jersey cows, but depends largely upon the skill applied in its manufacture.

There is much to teach the rising generation. The best breeds for the purpose are, of course, to be considered, but the best methods of feeding, quality of the feed, construction of stables and stalls, cleanliness, care of the milk, manner of churning, preparation for market, and many other details enter into the manufacture of butter, the whole being a science which must be understood to be fully applied. The majority of dairymen do not seem willing to make innovations on long-established customs, but when practice demonstrates certain advantages they will be adopted. The younger classes are always eager to learn, and hence the establishment of dairy schools opens a new avenue to the acquisition of knowledge, which, considering the importance of this great industry, is destined to revolutionize methods long in vogue, and when the errors of the past are laid bare we will no longer record the fact that creamery butter is superior to that of the dairy. At the present time the creameries are forced to adopt the most approved methods, and have the advantage of greater facilities, but as the masses are educated, the butter produced on the farms will not only improve in quality but will be greatly enhanced in price, assuming the highest position in the market.

England is noted for producing better horses, says an exchange, than the Continent simply because her breeders invariably reject those animals which are defective in the required good points. French breeders act on the fallacy of seeking a good sire, but, they say, "the mare is indifferent; she is a sack; if gold is put in, gold will come out." Feeding, locality, and judicious selection of parents on both sides are powerful factors in producing good stock of all descriptions; and there are soils on which good, useful stock cannot be profitably raised