

## Canadian Live-Stock Journal,

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Too much importance cannot be given to the selection of breeding animals that have come of a good ancestry, as in such a case there is more likelihood of their producing a progeny that will fulfil the expectations of the owner. Families are found in all countries which have transmitted their peculiar excellencies to a long line of descendants, whilst breeding from others is like playing a game of chance. A well defined illustration of this is found in the experience of Mr. John Wade, Port Hope, who made his first importation of Shorthorns in 1845. One of that purchase of the Lady Eden tribe was a great milker, as indeed the tribe were. As long as the herd was kept on the place, until 1879, the same quality adhered to her descendants. The same characteristics cling to her progeny widely scattered over various parts of Ontario.

"MELBOURNE," writing on "The care and improvement of dairy stock," in the dairy department of this number makes a good point for the Holsteins when he says, "For the first few months the calves gain in weight equal to the Shorthorn, but their growth does not continue so long and steadily. It would be useless to expect an essentially dairy animal to produce beef of as good a quality as the Shorthorn or Polled Angus." We might add the Hereford. The very moderation of "Melbourne's" language here gives him victory, as he only states, but does not over-state the truth. There is a peculiar charm in the language of moderation in reference to the merits of any one breed in this age, in which the battle of the breeds is being waged so fiercely. Excessive pleading is always unwise, and is sure in the end to defeat the object aimed at. In this most devouring age, almost every article written that is worth reading is placed in the witness box and subjected to the severest examination by some prosecutor, hence the wisdom of stating

matters just as they are. In such a case the attack of Tamerlane himself will not avail.

"It is a fact well known to breeders that the purer the blood of an animal is, and the longer the line of pure bred ancestors through which its descent can be traced, the more likely is it to transmit the characteristics or peculiarities of the race to its progeny." We quote from the Dublin *Farmers Gazette*, which says further, "A pure bred sire, therefore, is of incalculable benefit in a district stocked with scrubs, as common nondescript cattle are called in America. His gets will in almost every case take more after him than after their dams, and that generation, though only half breeds, will be really much better than half breeds." How long is it to be before the bulk of our Canadian farmers will open their eyes to the importance of the truth just enunciated? How many millions more are to be sunk annually before they will practice the plan of using only good registered sires? The Clydesdale men in Scotland are fully alive to the importance of this question. At the Glasgow show there were no fewer than 48 first-class Clydesdale stallions selected by deputations from agricultural societies throughout that country, to travel in their respective districts. It is a notable fact that an overwhelming majority of these were registered horses.

THE idea is somewhat prevalent that stock-raising is rather an easy method of farming as compared with grain growing. We are not much inclined to take this view. While we hold to the opinion that in the end it is quite ahead of grain growing in the returns, we do not think there is much about it that is easy, and we would not have those going into it largely to do so under the impression that there is not labor connected with it. To say that there is not much rest about it is nearer the truth. The successful stockman will find the necessity of exercising incessant watchfulness. It will not do to trust to the vigilance of hired help alone, as we usually find it in this country. It is nothing short of wonderful the quickness with which the vigilant breeder will detect the slightest thing that has gone astray in the herd, though a matter that might not have been detected for days by the careless observer. The grain grower may have the worst of it in the summer, but he has the best of it in the winter. It is the slipshod way in which he keeps his cattle in winter that has begotten the impression that stock-raising is easy. Shall we shun the business, then, because it is not easy? Nay, the successful gold-digger even is usually a busy, laborious and persevering man.

"We advocate very strongly the keeping up of stamina in all farm stock." This grandly important sentence was penned by the editor of the *North British Agriculturist*, and we could heartily desire that it were nailed in living characters over every stockman's stable door in the Dominion, and most thoroughly inwrought in the practice of every Canadian who has even but one single animal in his possession. Read this, ye men who winter your cattle principally on straw and turn them out of the yard lighter in the spring than they were in the autumn previously. Read it, ye men whose ewes are now wandering through the fields with large patches of wool lost, and followed by lambs drawn up in the back. Read it, ye men whose horses show every rib, and whose sows have length mainly without breadth, and ponder it well: just as surely as the stamina is gone, the gains are gone. therefore keep only what you can keep in good heart, and see to it that it is kept in

good heart. The poor horse can do but half a day's work, the lean cow will give but half the return of milk, and the lean steer is only of use to consume provender in large quantities. Sow a large lot of grain this spring and save it for the stock next winter, keeping them always looking well, and at all times pushing straight ahead.

"I wish you every success in your endeavor to eliminate the scrub stock from this Dominion, knowing that in so doing you will be the means of enriching the country to the extent of several millions of dollars." So writes a correspondent from St. Catharines, and in his conclusion he is certainly correct. This of itself, though not the highest object in life, is grandly worth living for. Any agency that will bring about such a result is surely worthy of the attention and support of all lovers of their country. Although we confidently expect that scrub stock will one day have no place in Canada, we are painfully conscious of the fact that the CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK JOURNAL cannot accomplish the work alone. It will require all the assistance that can be given by every advanced stockman in all the land. Legislators must use both tongue and pen; officers of agricultural societies must be untiring in their efforts, and every advanced stockman in the land must try to exercise a wholesome influence, both by precept and example, on all his neighbors. This is a matter of more importance to the country than all the other industries combined, and is therefore well worthy the attention of our rulers and governors. We take pleasure in reflecting that our journal was the first in Canada to preach this crusade against scrub stock, and we shall try to keep it in the van till these shall have been numbered with the things that were.

### The Feeding and Care of General Purpose Colts.

In preparing this paper we are much indebted to our townsman, M. E. Teneyck, V. S., a graduate of the Toronto school, for his valuable advice and assistance.

We commence with the

MARE,

which of course should be a good animal, if possible of a good stock, and in no way predisposed to any of the ailments which afflict horse-flesh. She should not be bred before becoming pretty well matured, and if used for breeding purposes when up in years, should be so fed that the colt she nurses may receive a full supply of nourishment, which at such a time is indispensable to the production of a vigorous beast. She may be worked carefully if not suckling a foal, until within, say three months of foaling, beyond which time there is more or less of hazard in thus using her. In no case put a brood mare in the hands of a careless or unkind driver, which means, in most instances, the loss of the colt, if not that of the mare.

Foals of the above class should come about the time of the arrival of good grass, which furnishes a milk with more laxative properties in it than is usually obtained otherwise for the young colt, a matter of no little moment. If the mare has been a fortnight on grass before foaling, there is little fear that any trouble will arise from constipation with the young foal. When the colt is so affected, give a small quantity of linseed or castor oil, 1 or 2 ozs., which may be repeated in a reasonable time when the object is not attained. In some cases it may be further necessary to use an injection.

The mother should be kept in the winter, prior to foaling, in a loose box stall, or, better still, allowed