

Canadian Live-Stock & Farm Journal

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

THE STOCK JOURNAL COMPANY,

48 John Street South, Hamilton, Ont.

Terms, \$1.00 per Annum in Advance.

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All communications to be addressed STOCK JOURNAL CO., 48 John Street South, Hamilton, Ont.

HAMILTON, CANADA, DECEMBER, 1886.

THERE is an ominous slaughtering of store cattle this season in many parts of the country, caused in part by the sectional scarcity and dearness of hay. It is simply a misfortune as we regard it, as the slaughtering of young cattle, only half fitted, is assuredly attended with loss to some one. It can only be condoned where hay will have to be bought in localities where it is very dear. But the multitude are not selling because they have not feed enough to carry their stock over the winter, but rather that they may sell their hay, and thus secure the high price. It would be taking high ground to say that hay should not be sold from the farm at any price, but the price should be high indeed to justify selling cattle at about half what should be got for them if in condition. Many of those who are rushing off their stock for the above reason, it may be, would be very glad to have them back again before twelve months shall come and go.

THOSE who content themselves with producing only ordinary quality, whether of grain or of flesh, must compete with the multitude in the market, but those who produce a superior article only, require to compete with a limited number, and have, therefore, to a certain extent, the making of their own prices. Dairy men who produce a choice quality of butter, and uniformly so, usually get a good price, and their market, once they are fairly established, is always sure. To produce a product above mediocrity is within the province of every one; and why should it not be his aim? If all were to produce a superior article there might then indeed be a glut in what was superior, but we are quite sure that such millennial days are not yet at hand, or the human race will improve much more rapidly than quadrupeds. He who reads this note may produce what is very superior in the line of agriculture if he tries. Will he not try, we ask?

A WRITER in the *North British Agriculturist*, in speaking of the fat stock classes shown at Aberdeen, contrasts the exhibit with that of twenty years ago.

At that time there were great rows of four and five-year-old oxen, giants compared with the young ones of the present, of finer bone, not more than half the age of the former. His conclusion is, that "the change is salutary," as the carrying on of animals to the former ages, when they can be sufficiently ripened at the latter, is unwise, more especially in such stringent times. It is unwise, we hold, in any times, as what is economic in periods of depression in methods of production, will be equally economic in prosperous times. In all animals intended for the block, rapid growth, early development, and quick ripening should be the producer's aim. We know that England's Prof. Brown is not pleased with the early maturity tendencies in the practice of the feeders of our time; but put Prof. Brown on a piece of land to pay a high rental through meat production alone, and he would soon be found wandering up and down the public ways of England wearing the camel's hair-shirt of penitence.

IN the minds of many there is a shrinking from having anything to do with pedigreed stock, and this fear, we might almost term it *dread*, is the offspring of failure. Sometimes financial, in the case of those who have attempted to handle it. Some, without any experience, have invested largely in certain lines of stock, and where there has been a lack of capital the result has been almost certain failure. Where experience is limited, much caution should be exercised in taking up the work of breeding, and where in the background there is scant capital, there should be the most scrupulous caution. The safe way for most to commence is to get but one or two females, and a male, and try their hand with these before hazarding too much. When any one has demonstrated to himself that he is succeeding, it is always an easy matter to invest more largely. Others urge that the prices of high-bred stock are beyond their reach—are, indeed, extravagant. We should like some one to define what is and what is not extravagant. Good, pure Shorthorn bulls can be got in Ontario now, and plenty of them, well fitted to be used in up-grading, for \$100, and less. Why should they want them for less? It will not pay to breed them of good quality for a less sum; and when the price ceases to be a paying one, the supply will cease to be forthcoming.

SOME men have stock equally good with others in breeding whose farms are in the same neighborhood, and yet they do not realize prices nearly so high. As in everything else, there are reasons for this, and we apprehend some of them are these: They do not take the same pains in feeding them as their neighbors, nor are they so diligent in bringing them to the notice of the public. An animal will not usually take the market well that does not look well, whatever may be its breeding, and hence the wisdom of keeping them presentable at all times. It will not avail to say that they have not been well fed, for stock should be so fed at all times, even though it should be of the scrub order. To accomplish this requires a good deal of forethought, and nice adjustment of labor; but the farmer who is always on the lookout—and every farmer should be—will be found equal to the occasion. Stockmen who do not embrace every reasonable opportunity of bringing their stock to the notice of the public are standing in their own light. The average farmer is not so anxious to secure good stock that he seeks for it as for some pearl of price; if he can be induced to purchase it at all, it is usually when it has been prominently brought before his notice. The men in Canada are very rare who rely upon their reputation alone to sell their well-bred stock.

A GOOD deal is said and written condemnatory of the practice of high feeding, when breeding animals are to be fitted for the show. There is but little doubt that oftentimes they are so ruined, and much more frequently than is necessary. The evils resulting from high feeding will be very much lessened if the animals so fed are only allowed to have plenty of exercise. Some speak against having show animals so very fat, and argue that the prizes should be withheld in such a case. We have but little hope that so it will be when individuals of the beef breeds are on exhibition; the prizes will go to animals that are well-fleshed, however perfect the development in form and quality of the leaner ones. To win prizes now the animals on exhibition must be high in flesh, and the way to put this on with a minimum of injury to them is not an unworthy object of the breeders' efforts. Some parties can keep their cattle in high flesh and have them breed regularly, and others cannot, which leads us to conclude that there must be a considerable difference in the treatment in such a case. It takes a long time to fit stock for the higher show-rings with any hope of success; and although it requires more feed where they are allowed to roam than when they are confined, if by giving them freedom their health and usefulness are preserved, it is far cheaper in the end to adopt the former course. When they have freedom, their coats will also be better, which is a great point in exhibiting stock.

The Journal.

With this number of the JOURNAL the third year of its existence closes. That it has not done all that it should have done during that time, is the painful conviction of its publishers; that it has accomplished something for the good of the commonwealth, and therefore to the advantage of its inhabitants, will be conceded by all fair-minded men.

Three years ago those who had good stock to dispose of were without a medium in their own line where its possession might be made known to the public. Now they are enabled to reach all stockmen in Canada worthy of the name, and many in the United States, and any month in the year, when they may be so minded. Although this is an advantage that has to be paid for, like the privilege of traveling on a railway train, yet, it is certainly a boon to have railway trains on which to travel; and so of an efficient means of advertising.

Three years ago the Shorthorn herd books were in a state of chaos. The Shorthorn breeders were perplexed as to what they should do, and those who were desirous of investing in the same were more perplexed. Now the rent portion of this community has been cemented, never, we trust, to be shattered again. The part the JOURNAL took in this useful work is too well known to most of our readers to require comment here. At that time the Ont. Experimental Farm buildings stood strong in their unsuitability to the requirements of a Government farm, since when they have been reduced to ashes, and out of the ruin magnificent structures, the pride of Ontario, have arisen. Our readers will remember that the line of policy mapped out by the JOURNAL, is that which was adopted by the Government, which is, to say the least, significant. It would have been calamitous had a monumental pile of impracticability and inconvenience been erected in the form of outbuildings, at the Ontario Agricultural College, as was at first proposed.

Three years ago Canada had no Ayrshire herd-book, now she has two. Nor had the Canadian Clydesdale Horse Association a being, nor the Creamery Association of Ontario. Although the