

Canadian Live-Stock Journal,

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To Correspondents.—All communications intended for publication in the JOURNAL should reach us by the 20th of each month—sooner, if possible. We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of correspondents. Those relating to advertisements not later than the 25th of each month.

Remittances may be made in registered letter at our risk. The receipt of the JOURNAL will be sufficient evidence to subscribers that their remittances have been received.

All communications to be addressed STOCK JOURNAL CO., 48 John street south, Hamilton, Ont.

HAMILTON, CANADA, JANUARY, 1885.

WITHOUT fear of successful contradiction we claim that the JOURNAL contains more original matter in each of the departments than any other agricultural paper in Canada.

We cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of keeping animals pushing ahead from the first. This cannot be done in a climate such as ours without the addition of either a small quantity of roots or meal during the winter season. If a limited portion of both can be given, all the better. We are curious to know the difference in the cost of the keep of an animal during the first three years of its life when fed on dry fodder only during winter, and that of one of the same class to which the supplement mentioned above had been added. We believe that the beast fed fodder only would require a quantity quite in excess of that needed by the grain-fed one. Determining the above would be good work for the Experimental Farm. It would doubtless prove a useful lesson to those who imagine that meal fed to young animals of the graminivorous order is in a manner lost.

THERE is one class of animals which it will never pay to feed till they are matured. In the cattle-line these are known as scrubs, in that of horses those seriously blemished; amongst sheep they are termed stunted, and amongst swine runts. More than a year ago we penned an article headed, "Why sell stock so young?" In that article we did not mention the exceptions enumerated above, which was a grave omission. It is certainly not well understood that to keep a colt a year costs \$40 to \$50, while the keep of one seriously blemished is quite equal to that of one of three times the value. A run, amongst the swine will require nearly as much food as one of vigorous growth, while the difference in advancement in the course of the year will be from 100 to 150 pounds. The only swine admissible for roasters are the roots. But what of the blemished colt? Why, mercifully put it out of the way if seriously deformed in the gentlest possible way, which is a thousand times better than to keep it till grown and then sell to some merciless tinker to torture upon the highway, and to starve in the stall. Breeding from such stock is simply outrageous.

SOMETIMES our stock friends write to us saying, that as there are almost no farmers in their respective localities who are interested in good stock, it will be of little use to try and extend the interests of the JOURNAL in such centres. We trust that our patrons will in no way be discouraged by this circumstance, as such places above all others require the assistance of the JOURNAL, if for no other purpose than to make plain to them the great loss which attends keeping an inferior class of cattle. To remedy the above state of matters, which is very much to be deplored, the efforts of neighbors with neighbors avail more than anything else. If every reader in such locality but secure one subscriber, this tends to prepare the way for others. Canada is one of the best countries under the sun for growing good stock, take it all in all, and the farmers must be convinced by it.

OUR Nova Scotian correspondent drives the nail well home when he says in his letter of this issue: "Undoubtedly the great object to be aimed at in all improvement is to awaken the interest, and secure the co-operation of the party for whose benefit the work is undertaken." The reformer who is possessed of the secret of doing work in this way is the possessor of a power that is mighty. Convince any man that you really seek his good, and you have conquered him. A little child in this way can even lead a lion. But how shall we journalists convince the farmers that we really seek their good, when they keep us at arm's length? They will not deal in our wares, even though we should offer them below cost price. Tell us, ye managers of men, how this difficulty is to be overcome. If farmers could be convinced that to properly elevate their calling first-class agricultural literature must be studied and practised, a great point would be gained, but how shall we convince them?

THE great objection that very many have to the feeding of grain to stock is that it does not pay, or in other words that more ready cash will be obtained by marketing the grain, and so they are kept by this mistaken notion from ever making the attempt. Never perhaps will a better opportunity be offered than the present for making the experiment. Prices of some kinds of grain are so low that it really does not pay to market them. Prices of meat have not correspondingly declined, hence if ever it will pay to feed grain, it is the present winter. Oats at 25 and 28 cents per bushel will certainly give a margin in the end if but a small portion is fed to the sheep per day, or to calves, after having been crushed or ground. Peas at 50 and 55 cents per bushel will certainly give a profit in beef if the animals fed are of the right sort, and bran and corn meal will assuredly give a profit in the dairy if fed with discretion when butter is from 22 to 25 cents per pound. We would fain hope that throughout the length and breadth of the land farmers may try the experiment. We are satisfied that the attempt would be worth hundreds of thousands to the country even this year.

THE very common mistake is made far too frequently of allowing pregnant animals to go on food not sufficiently nutritive, especially when not giving milk, or in the case of brood mares not required for work. It should be borne in mind that abundance in quantity is not sufficient for animals in this state, and that it is highly important that quality should be considered as well. A most common error is to feed too much dry food, thus tending to produce constipation. Brood mares might be fed a small quantity of linseed meal when first taken in for winter with good results,

and cows a small quantity of roots, but not many, especially when near calving, lest the lacteal organs be unduly stimulated. To allow the mother to become debilitated is injurious to the offspring, both before and after parturition, in a marked degree. If in good health when the offspring comes to hand, there is usually but little difficulty in keeping the dam so by liberal feeding, but if emaciated and weak, it is an impossibility to build up the frame properly, feed her ever so liberally during the period of suckling her young, owing to the heavy drain upon the system. Whatever the diet of a pregnant dam may be, it should be nourishing, and should contain some element slightly laxative.

"It is a misfortune that farmers are not more careful and eager to avail themselves of useful information placed within their reach." So says the *London Live Stock Journal*, and so say we. For the trifling sum of one dollar a farmer can get any one of the several agricultural papers published in the Dominion, any single number of which, if carefully perused, would convey what is worth very probably more than that sum, and yet for every farmer in the Dominion who takes a strictly agricultural paper, there are at least nine who do not. The day has come when those who fail to read, or read carelessly the many good things that are written on their calling, will not keep even with their fellows. We are aware that a few men have succeeded well in farming who could scarcely sign their name, but how much better would they have succeeded had they but cultivated their minds from an early day by reading agricultural topics? The most effective antidote to this apathy consists in those who are sensible of the advantages that flow from utilizing such sources of knowledge, trying to convince their neighbors of their need, as no man will subscribe for a paper or make a good use of it when he does, without first being led to see that the successful prosecution of his calling requires it. The attendant advantages to any neighborhood would more than repay a little effort in this direction, as those who dwell amid the light are always on a higher plane than such as sit in darkness, even in a material point of view.

THERE is a great deal of truth in that sentence penned by J. Dryden, M. P. P., of Brooklin, Ont., in his notice of the Chicago Fat Stock Show, in which he says, "One thing to be deplored is the fact, that so many viewing these grand specimens (the stock on exhibition) conclude that it may be done by some men, but that they cannot attain unto it." Why not? we ask. Any man of common judgment, by observing the conditions, may succeed. As to the conditions, we again quote from Mr. Dryden: "You must have a proper animal. Then it must have proper attention, not spasmodically, but constantly and persistently." There we have it in a nut-shell—a proper animal getting proper attention. The same gentleman goes on to say, "Any of our young farmers can furnish either if they set themselves about it," and with this also we most heartily agree. The proper animal need not necessarily be of any one particular breed or strain. It need not be a pure bred at all. It cannot be a dairy animal in the proper sense of the term, nor a scrub, but of compact build and symmetry, inclined to take on flesh readily and in the best parts. This style of animal can soon be secured by any person using a good, pure-bred bull and a fairly good cow. As to the care withal that is practised and written on the subject, this is not difficult to ascertain. And in regard to the regularity and continuity of the effort to