

Canadian Live-Stock Journal.

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

HAMILTON, CANADA, JUNE, 1886.

Please examine your address tag. If it reads, Dec., '85, or any month of '85, your subscription expired with that issue, and we will be obliged if readers in arrears will renew at once.

THE old theory that a beast intended for the shambles must have completed its growth of frame before it could be fattened with a profit, is long ago exploded. Thanks to our fat stock shows, in part at least, for this. The growing intelligence of the community has also hastened the change. The producer has carefully counted the cost, and has found that profits decrease after the three-year limit has been passed in a cattle beast, and the two-year limit in a sheep, if not before. And the taste of the consumer has pronounced decidedly in favor of a young, early matured animal. In sheep the change is even more striking than in the case of cattle. Not many years ago by it was thought indispensable to have wethers three years old to have them prime, now they are nearly all sold at one year. The directors of our exhibitions can do very much by way of arresting public attention, and leading it in these new channels, by the prizes which they offer. In the fat stock line they cannot be too chary about offering prizes for old beasts.

THE turning out season has more than come, and a large proportion of our flocks and herds are now luxuriating amid Canadian grasses. The owners should take heed lest they be too much forgotten amid the hurry and rush of work that quickens its pace as the season advances, until winter, locking the ground again, brings some relief. It may be that few farmers forget to give salt to their live-stock with some regularity when they are housed, but many of them do when they are out on the grass, and it is then that they have the greatest craving for it, judging by the eagerness which they evince to get it after having been deprived of it for a short time when pasturing. But it should not be given them at intervals of several days, or even weeks, as then they are apt to partake of it too freely; it is much better to give it in the

form of rock-salt, to which they may have access at any time, and which should be placed where it is protected from the rain. The free and regular use of salt seems as necessary to the well-being of the lower animals as to that of the human race.

BREEDING from animals that are very young cannot but lead to deterioration, although it may bring immediate profits. Prof. Brown, of the English Agricultural Department, has entered his vigorous protest in his work, "Animal Life on the Farm." He says, "Until animals have reached the adult period, they are not proper subjects to breed from. The completion of permanent dentition is a fair test of maturity. Say three years of age for cattle and eighteen months for swine." The laws of physiology are opposed to immature breeding, and no natural law can be violated without the exaction of a corresponding penalty. Where the flock or herd is to endure and at the same time to secure a high degree of excellence, they must not be bred too early. The most valuable cow in our own herd as a breeder, did not produce her first calf till coming four years old. She has bred regularly ever since, some seven or eight years, and is a young-looking cow to-day. It may require patience to wait three years for the first calf, but if the cow remain productive two or three years longer, and we think she will, it is surely a great matter.

THE stud, the flock and the herd may be placed upon a very creditable basis without paying very high prices for females upon which to ground it. It may at the same time be better to pay well rather than not buy where the purchaser can afford it. In the sire to be used, a good animal must be secured, whatever the price, or there will be no improvement. With a fair foundation of females, not an inferior one, and the stamp of male referred to, with suitable qualifications for the business, success is sure to follow. The former may be purchased with money, but the latter cannot. The qualifications must be secured at even greater outlay. They can only be got through the most careful observation and patient study; but when once in possession their value is great, as they enable him who possesses them to make sure progress from the first, rather than doing work in a tentative way, making some good hits along with a larger proportion of failures. In breeding it is well to give prominence to this rule along with others—in points where the female is weak the male should be strong, otherwise satisfactory results will not be secured. The work of breeding live-stock is too slow a one to admit of him who is engaged in it changing his plans three or four times in a lifetime.

EVERYBODY who has read the JOURNAL for any length of time will not for a moment be in doubt as to the attitude we have assumed in reference to the necessity of sustaining vigorously the Ontario Agricultural College. No country can in the present day hold its own in agricultural progress without paying a good deal of attention to the scientific side of agriculture. But this is not enough. Our farmers' sons who take a collegiate course, would be none the worse for a little more light on the endless subject, even though they may not wish to follow farming as a life-pursuit. It is surely assisting to strengthen the memory to be taught that soil mucky in its nature will not produce peas in perfection, as well as learning to conjugate a Latin verb. Nor does it seem less valuable to be able to give the names of the different breeds of cattle than to mention those of the seven wise men of Greece. We are not quarreling with our young men for study-

ing classics, but we do fault them for not acquiring a little more knowledge of the agriculture of to-day. But we are even more concerned for the children of the masses of our farmers. What do they get in our common schools that bears upon the work of the future? Practically nothing. It may be that agriculture is not taught in our common schools for the reason, amongst others, that we have no teachable primary books on the subject; but it is not taught. One may suppose that they get teaching on the subject in the best of all schools—the school of practice at home, morning and evening, and during holidays. Very true, but it is the teaching only that their parents can give, and they know usually about what their parents told them. And thus it is that farmers pursuing a subject like the story of the fable, practically without an end in the line of progression, live, move and breathe in a rut so deep that they cannot get out of it till better teaching lifts them out. Men who do not read may farm well in the line in which they have learned, and make money, but they cannot be progressive farmers without adding to their store of knowledge from the school of their own or some one else's experience, usually obtained from reading. It is well to give those who want it the advantages of a course at the Ontario Agricultural College, but it is better if we can reach out to the masses the hand of knowledge of their future life work that will lift them higher.

A Second Hereford Register for America.

This has been more than hinted in the live-stock publications of the day, but it is a realization that we hope we shall never see, and that we trust will never be consummated. Rival herd books in any country we look upon as a misfortune, the extent of which is only measured by the numbers and the merits of the breed which they contain. They cloud the minds of an uneducated public, which is easily bewildered amid the clamors of the rivals as to the merits of their respective records, with the result—pretty general disgust, and they prejudice the minds of foreigners as to the utility of the work they are doing. We do not say, however, that they are an unmixed evil, as their promoters watch each other's movements with an eagle eye, yet we look upon them as a great evil.

We do hope that our American cousins will leave nothing in reason undone to prevent such a step. If it should ever be found necessary to revoke the obnoxious "one hundred dollar tax" in order to prevent it, would it not be better to do so, viewing things in the light of the future?

Of the two evils, which would be the worst, we ask—that of suffering some inconvenience from the operations of speculators in Herefords, or a great deal of inconvenience from the establishment of a rival Hereford record? Please answer, our American cousins, in the language of careful consideration. It may be said that it has not been shown that American Hereford breeders would suffer a great deal of inconvenience in such an event. Well, it has not by us, but evidently our American neighbors think so, judging by their own writings, as the *Breeders' Gazette* characterizes a proposal of this nature from an English source, as "treasonable plotting" against the American Hereford Record, so that the proposal is evidently a remedy looked upon as not a little nauseating, by the former.

It may be said, what is it to us the nature of the relations between England and the United States? In this matter it is something. We have some Herefords in Canada, and they came from England, and are still coming; and if we understand the nature of