

# The Farmer's Advocate

"PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED." and Home Magazine.

ESTABLISHED 1866.

VOL. XXXVIII.

LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., AUGUST 1, 1903.

No. 579

## EDITORIAL.

### The Boys' Claim.

There is not a more persistent nor perplexing question in the minds of intelligent young men than the question of choosing a vocation in life. It enters the minds of all thinking boys, and starts them upon a course of solid, original investigation, to determine the relative advantages and disadvantages of different lines of work, and to analyze their own capabilities and inclinations in the matter of a life's calling.

If left to himself at this stage, it is more than probable that the boy will decide on some profession as far removed from farming as possible, and by sheer determination and honest work become a successful man and useful citizen, but the farm is the loser by just that much. If, on the other hand, the boy is given a chance to see something of life, to mingle with men, to know the life of the great world around him, a different course might be followed. To accomplish this end at a small and judicious outlay, farm boys should be given a chance to attend a good agricultural college. At such a place the influences surrounding him will all tend to implant in him a love for the farm, for stock, and for outdoor life. The teachings of the college will bear so logically upon his knowledge of farming operations that he is at once interested, and the longer he studies the more interested he becomes, until any preconceived inclination for other professions are entirely obliterated, and there is formed the nucleus of the successful farmer of the future.

These remarks should bear particularly upon the well-to-do classes, for it is among them that some of the most unfortunate conditions relative to farming exists. Because of the good circumstances of some families, some of its individuals receive the benefits of a liberal education, and follow professional careers, and for the same reason others in the same family are started upon farms, but without any special educational training for their business. The result in many cases is obvious. The former have received not only special training, but in receiving it have been surrounded by influences that direct in the proper use of success. The latter, having missed the special training, are also devoid of the broadening and elevating influences of liberal education. A higher standard of living, or a better appreciation of life, is one of the most crying needs of the country to-day, in order to retain the young people on the farm. Give the farmers of the future their dues. Patronize the agricultural college, for there is infinitely more in making a life than in making a living.

### Slow Freight Transportation.

An evidence of the imperfect live-stock transportation facilities which are available in the West is to be found in the case of a car which left Smith's Falls, Ont., June 20th, and arrived at its destination in Edmonton, July 2nd. This is a rate of a little less than eight miles per hour for the entire journey. If that is encouraging the live-stock industry of the country, we fail to see the point.

Teach the colt to eat oats and chop. The time is not far distant when the apron-strings will be cut loose and he will have to find for himself.

### Theory and Practice of Live-stock Judging.

The best education and preparation for the office or function of a judge of live stock of any class, is prolonged practical experience in breeding, feeding and handling high-class animals of the breed upon which one undertakes to pass judgment. Not all, however, who are fortunate enough to have this advantage become discriminating judges. Close observation and comparison of animals and a careful study of their peculiarities and of the particular use to which they are to be put in life is essential, as well as thoughtful consideration, in the case of meat-producing animals, of their comparative value for that purpose. A man may spend the most of his life in the care of cattle or other stock, and if he has not an innate liking for animals, an eye for symmetry of form and of the proper balance of proportions, he will probably fail to become a critical and reliable judge. While the art of judging, in the best sense of the term, and in its best application, is in large measure a natural intuition, it is freely conceded that by careful study and comparison of animals of differing types, one not naturally gifted with this special faculty, but having a fair knowledge of the accepted standard of excellence and of the approved type, may become a good and safe judge. Some of the most successful breeders and most reliable judges in the business are men who had not the advantage of youthful training in the care of pure-bred stock, or of early association with experienced stockmen. Whether their success has been mainly due to a natural faculty for discriminating between faulty and correct conformation in animals, or to close observation and persistent study, by which they have acquired the accomplishment is not easily determined, but the fact of their success favors the reasonable contention that judging is a science which may be acquired in spite of the lack of favorable associations and environment, though these are, of course, exceedingly helpful.

Standards of excellence, giving the relative value of the various points or parts of animals, have been prepared by acknowledged authorities in some of the breeds, and these serve a useful purpose in the class-room of agricultural schools as a partial guide and help, but the use of the score-card in the work of judging in the show-ring has been found impracticable, and it has, after a fair trial, been discarded. A knowledge of what is known as breed character, and a discernment of what is generally accepted as the type best suited to the purpose for which the animals are intended, and for the requirements of the legitimate trade of the times, and of the best available markets, is of first importance in one accepting the position of a judge. This knowledge is acquired by observation, and by reading, and, best of all, by practical experience in breeding, buying and selling superior stock.

Among the principal and most important points to receive careful attention in judging any class of stock, are the indications of strength of constitution. These consist of good width of chest, or width between the fore legs, thickness through the body behind the shoulders, with long and deep foreribs, giving ample capacity for the free action of the heart and lungs, so essential to health, strength and robustness, and without which vigor, thrift and the best feeding qualities are not found. In male animals a strongly-

muscled neck and a masculine but not coarse head is desirable, as indicating energy and prepotency as a sire. A comparatively short head, broad between the eyes, a full, clear, bright eye, a broad muzzle and strong jaws and lips, are indications of a good constitution and a good feeder, as also are well-sprung and deep ribs. A comparatively short back, giving the appearance of compactness, with a wide, strong loin, are qualities which betoken strength and endurance, while a long-coupled animal of any class is apt to sag in its back, to prove lacking in force and feeding qualities, and more liable to digestive ailments and disease. In all animals the shape and quality of bone in the limbs, and their placing, is of supreme importance; clean, flat bone, of fine texture, being essential as a token of quality, soundness and strength. While in judging horses the shape and quality of the feet, pasterns and hocks are of first importance, and practically fix the value of the animal for any purpose, it is from a breeder's standpoint, nearly of as great consequence in the case of other classes of farm stock, that they stand well up on their feet and have their legs well placed under them, with this difference, that while the pasterns of the horse to best fit him for speed or for draft should be moderately long, sloping and springy, cattle, sheep and hogs should stand straight up on their hoofs and pasterns, and all, especially horses, should walk well, for a horse that cannot walk well rarely trots well, and the easy, active, swinging walk counts for much in any class of stock where competition in the show-ring is close. To require that competing animals walk as well as stand still is a point that should never be forgotten by the judge, for observation teaches that skilful and experienced showmen can, in some instances, place an animal standing so as to show for more than it is worth, and in other cases by keeping it constantly moving can do much to divert attention from the fault of a sagging back or other defect.

In judging cattle of the beef breeds, we look for symmetry of form as of next importance to strength of constitution and breed character, and for top and bottom lines nearly level, though not absolutely straight, remembering always that nature invariably neglects right angles and delights in gentle curves. The shoulders should be wide on top, but smooth, neither prominent nor bare, and the crops, or the part immediately behind the shoulders, should be broad and full, the ribs springing well from the spine and being long and deep, the flanks, fore and aft, well let down, the back and loins thickly and smoothly covered with natural flesh, the hooks not prominent but smoothly turned, the hind quarters long and level, and the buttocks and twist full and far down, especially in the case of the bull. The legs should be short, strong and well placed, the handling quality of the skin mellow, moderately thick and pliable, and the hair fine, soft and furry, which is an indication of a good feeder, and one that makes good use of its food.

The standard for dairy cattle, while differing materially in many points from that for the beef breeds, is essentially the same, in so far as the indications of constitution are concerned, large heart and lung room, and capacity for working up large quantities of food into milk being a sine qua non in a dairy cow. The principal difference in the conformation of the two classes is that while in the beef breeds width of chine and thickness of flesh is required, in the dairy breeds