

# Canadian Live-Stock & Farm Journal

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

HAMILTON, CANADA, JANUARY, 1889.

READERS of the JOURNAL will please observe that all communications, whether relating to the business management, advertising, subscription, or other department of the JOURNAL, must, to ensure proper attention, be addressed to "The Stock Journal Co. 48 John St. South, Hamilton, Ont." We will not be responsible for any errors which may occur when the above is not adhered to. We also beg to remind many of our readers that their subscription to the JOURNAL expired with the December issue, and we shall be pleased to have them remit \$1, the regular subscription price, for 1889. When not paid in advance, the price is \$1.25 per year.

ALTHOUGH sheep will bear exposure better than any other of our domestic animals, yet it is not consistent with good management to expose them too much to storms, etc. That they should be allowed free exit from the fold cannot be denied, but their sheds should protect them from cold winds and storms. Dryness under foot is equally as important. The folly of slighting these points may be seen in the running nostrils and heard in the constant snuffle of some of the members of the flock. Copious applications of tar do not give as good results as a dry bed and good shelter. Sheep can stand a dry, cold atmosphere, and they are most affected by dampness either over or under foot.

LITTLE encouragement is given in our rural districts for the production of fine wool, and hence the disinclination on the part of many to raise sheep with wool of this nature, such as the Merino, Cheviot, Southdowns, Hamps. and Shrops. At the country factories they get so much per pound, while little, if any grading is done according to quality. This surely discriminates unfairly in favor of the Cotswold and Leicester to the detriment of an important industry. The same remarks are almost as fully applicable to the mutton, and we look forward to the time when the masses as well as the woollen manufacturers, may bring about a change in these respects.

In the issue of December 5th the *Jersey Bulletin* makes copious extracts from our description of Mr. Reburn's Jersey herd, but we look in vain for acknowledgment of their authority. We are always pleased to have others make drafts upon our columns, we only asking in return that they give due credit for the same. Six small words appended to the end of the extract would have changed that which now savors strongly of filching and petty meanness to a course just and honorable in the sight of all men. He we scorn who cannot carry his moral principles of right and wrong into his everyday work, and who can poultice his prickled conscience with the soothing though delusive phrase, "business policy."

ALWAYS on the alert to enlist into our service the best writers on all agricultural topics, we think we have been very successful in this respect in securing such an able writer as Mr. D. McCrae, of Guelph. Though ever interesting, yet we think our readers are in unison with us when we say that his series of articles on "Shorthorn Pioneers," now appearing in our columns, are exceedingly so. The sweetest essence cannot be poured from vessel to vessel without becoming odorless, and so with legendary lore, it cannot be transmitted from age to age without becoming distorted. All honor, then, to Mr. McCrae for rescuing from the realms of dark oblivion a history interesting to all lovers of stock, and giving it stability by placing it in the living annals of the day.

ONE of the strongest points of the pure-bred is due to the fact that they have been selected for years for special purposes, and in these directions their whole vital power is centred. One of the weakest points of the scrub is due to the indefiniteness of his breeding, and hence no decided tendency in any direction save that of consuming the greatest quantity of food and giving the smallest possible return. No one is foolish enough to state that a pure-bred can produce something out of nothing, but what can be advocated without fear of contradiction is, that whether for beef or milk, if given the best of care and food, the scrub will give the smallest returns. What the feeder or dairyman wants is a machine that will turn his raw products into manufactured articles, such as beef and butter in the shortest time and with the greatest economy, and this is why he patronizes the pure-bred.

It is the idea of many that all that is necessary in fattening animals is to keep them on living rations until about six months before putting them on the market. Then they force them in every possible way. The result of this is an inferior quality of meat, the fat being deposited internally as tallow, etc., and not distributed through the flesh as it should be. It is only by continued good feeding, without loss of the calf flesh, that this true mellowness and ripeness can be secured. The butcher or drover knows by the touch these animals when he is called upon to pay for them, even though the scales may not show the difference, and he grades his price accordingly if he is versed in his business. That springy, mellow touch cannot be given any animal in six months' time, no matter how well fed, if good feed and care have not gone before.

A CONTEMPORARY makes much of an invention with the avowed object of overcoming the fright of a shying horse. A cord is connected with the blinds in a manner to admit of the sudden closing of the blinds over the eyes. It says: "In case of fright 'pull the cord' and instantly the horse is blindfolded." "This diverts his attention from the object of fright

"and puts him into another train of thought." Although not desiring to put a damper on inventive genius we are of the opinion that the train of thought engendered would be highly favorable to the carriage-builder's interests. A horse becomes frightened because he either gets a mere glimpse of an object or else he thinks it will in some way hurt him. Blindfold him and common sense indicates that his fear would become intensified; whip him and he, connecting the natural sequence of events, will look upon the object as the source of his punishment, indirect though it may be. Kind words, with gentle, though firm handling, are far more effective in our estimation.

## Retrospect and Prospect.

The prospectus issue of the JOURNAL first appeared in August, 1883. Like a tiny little rill leaping down the mountain side it came at first, scarcely noticed by the multitude amid the profusion of reading matter that is characteristic of modern life. It rapidly increased in volume till now it is the broad and brimming river of agricultural thought in the Dominion, conveying on its bosom the best that the agricultural writers of the day can furnish. For this result we are fully conscious that we are largely indebted to the loyalty of our friends, and we return them once again our heartfelt thanks, for the constancy and devotion of their assistance.

The progress in Canadian agriculture has been rapid during all those intervening years. No similar period in the history of agriculture has been fraught with changes half as pregnant with coming good, and in the introduction and advocacy of every one of these the JOURNAL has taken a leading part.

As many of these changes were referred to in an article which appeared in the October issue of the JOURNAL, we shall not enumerate them again.

With reference to the future, our policy is still unchanged. The trimming of sails to suit the popular current of public opinion is a feat of which the JOURNAL is still incapable. We leave such work to those without a policy of their own.

We shall still support the farmers' institutes, believing them to be most efficient factors in lifting Canadian farmers and Canadian farming to a higher plane. We believe the time has now come when this work is sufficiently important to justify the appointment of a strong and capable man to supervise the working of the Institutes; this we shall therefore advocate.

The Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm shall still receive our cordial support. These are doing a work which the Dominion can no more afford to do without. We favor as much as we did a year ago the erection of an agricultural hall in Toronto for the use of the farmers in Canada, and shall urge its erection.

The Dominion is yet without a sheep breeders' association. Although the preliminary meeting, held in Toronto last September was not enthusiastic in regard to its desirability, our mind regarding this is unchanged, and we shall advocate its establishment.

The good work that is being done by means of the cheese, dairy and creamery associations will receive our hearty support, as also the building of silos and the giving of increased attention to the soiling system.

We are still determined that *the scrub must go*. Better horses, better cattle, better sheep, better swine, better methods, better farming, improved machinery, increased market facilities, indeed, everything that is calculated in a legitimate way to advance the interests of farmers will receive our hearty support in the future as in the past.