

Canadian Live-Stock & Farm 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.

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, NOV., 1888.

Those who subscribe now for the "Journal" for 1889 will get it the remainder of this year free; also our beautiful picture of the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm.

THE unparalleled success of the JOURNAL is owing very largely to the devoted loyalty of its readers. Of the fine spirit uniformly manifested in this direction none are in a position to judge so well as the publishers. The one new name ever and anon sent in by readers when forwarding their own remittance, has done much to increase its circulation, and thus to widen the area within which the leaven of its teachings operate. While we thank them most cordially for past favors we again remind them that it is within their power to double the circulation of the JOURNAL before the dawning of the new year. One new name from each subscriber and the work is done.

WE are pleased indeed to notice the number of responses made to our premium offers, printed in September and October issues. As we anticipated, and so stated with the first announcement of those premiums, they afford an excellent opportunity of securing pure-bred stock and farm implements with no actual cash outlay. The best time for canvassing is now upon us. At the meetings of the farmers' institutes, now commencing for the season, and at municipal and annual school meetings an excellent opportunity is afforded for pushing the canvass, and we hope all who are in need of any of the animals or implements named will govern themselves accordingly.

MR. T. DYKES, a correspondent of the *Breeders' Gazette*, writing from Great Britain, says of the geldings he saw on the streets: "I was prepared to be disappointed, for the reason that I knew Clydesdale breeders have not been using the knife since the market set in between this country and America. You get in America all those horses which should be working in the shafts at home." Like state-

ments to these we have often heard, and we feel that such stigmas should not be given time to corrode their impress on the glistening honor-shield of our stock-raisers and breeders. We cannot deny that there are some grounds for these assertions, but they are too few and fragile to warrant such a sweeping charge as that we now have before us. A few importations have been made into Canada. That have been disgraceful to the importer and an insult to the horse-men of our Dominion. A number, infatuated with long and fashionable pedigrees, have bought animals of inferior individual merit, expecting to prey on the ancestry-loving stock-raiser. They bought pedigrees and not horses. The old Scotch saying, "Better a gude calf than a calf of a gude kind," arises to mind as relevant to this. But others have sought the opposite extreme, jumping from the pan into the fire. They seem to think that individual merit is the only requisite. Pedigree is valuable in as much as it gives a guarantee of the transmission of these good qualities to the progeny. Ribot, the great French scientist, says, "Heredity extends over all the elements and functions of the organism; to its external and internal structure, its maladies, its special characteristics, and its acquired modifications." Thus we see the true value of pedigree, and how a few of our importers have erred. But have we not in Canada numbers of horses, not only prize-winners in the Clydesdale's home, but possessing characteristics of utility and profit. Yes! and scattered over the length and breadth of our land we have descendants of Darnley (222), Macgregor (1487), and Prince of Wales (673); the triple fountain head of Clydesdale prize-winners. If such horses as we have from time to time given sketches of in the JOURNAL are only fit for working in the shafts, there may be some truth in what Mr. Dykes writes; but we hold that such animals are well worthy of the patronage of our horse-raisers if pedigree and appearance go for aught.

AN English contemporary is credited with stating that the Shires cannot be bred in America the equal of those in England, giving as the reason of such a statement, "that our climate does not admit of the growing of sufficient bone;" and further that "it is only in the moist, humid atmosphere of England that the draught horse can be fitly developed." The effect of climate in moulding the character of animals is recognized by all, and more so when the power of this factor, in influencing vegetable life, is considered. Perhaps its effect is more marked through this latter medium than any other. As regards his first statement, the author of the above quoted remarks is right to a certain degree. But he, in common with many others, have the erroneous idea that weight and bulkiness, and, as a rule, their attendant clumsiness, are the valuable features of an ideal draught horse. Granting that weight is an important consideration, yet we would ever make it subordinate to structure and quality. Sufficient bone is not the only question, but the vital one is its quality as regards firmness of texture. Canada can only lay claim to the production of one breed of horses, and that is the French Canadian pony. These sinewy and spirited animals are the only ones that have been markedly influenced by our climate. Any one familiar with them knows that their main feature of excellence is the quality of their bone. We know of no horse subjected to hard usage that would pass through the same as clean-limbed and sound-footed as these animals. That the Shire will suffer in becoming acclimatized we cannot believe. Not that we think these more wanting in quality of bone than other draught breeds, but that quality of bone is but one feature of our draught horses. As to what is meant by being "fitly developed," as the writer quoted above uses it, we are in doubt. We must construe all researches on the effect of climate in modifying animal structure differently from the writer of these statements. If an overgrown, unproportioned animal is one fitly developed, then we are heartily in accord with the writer; but if it means,

as we think it does, the development of all structures equally, so as to work in unison, then we disagree. The effect of climate, though not to be overlooked, is of minor importance in this connection when compared with the influence of proper exercise and management. But as far as an influence is exerted by climate, however, we are sure that Canada lacks nothing in this respect.

Our Premium Picture of the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm.

Reference has already been made in this issue to the very beautiful lithograph of the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm, which we are offering this year as a premium to all subscribers, both old and new, whose subscription is paid in full to the end of 1889. This sketch is admitted on all hands to be beyond all comparison the best one ever executed of the college and farm. Its size is 14 by 26 inches, and the view of the college and grounds, both in front of the buildings and beyond the main road leading into Guelph from Hamilton is admirable and true to life. The buildings are not grouped or artificially placed, but appear in their real position. To the left hand of the long line of handsome buildings is the residence of the Professor of Agriculture; next to it that of the Bursar, and just at hand the college itself, which contains the rooms of the president, a museum, lecture rooms, and accommodation for about 110 students, boarding in the building. Then follows the chemical laboratory, with its very complete furnishing. The buildings yet to be named are in the same direction, only to the rear of the first line. These consist of a carpenter's shop, implement house, office of farm foreman and tool house, residence of the farm foreman, and still to the right the magnificent barn, horse-stable, sheep-house and bull-house, inclosing a yard in the form of a square. The two main approaches appear in the distance. The main road cutting the farm in twain, is admirably brought out, and also the orchard beyond.

The whole sketch is admirably true to life and does honor to the artist who prepared it for us. One who never saw the college or farm can get a very accurate view of the former and the front portions of the latter from the lithograph. It will form, when framed, a most appropriate adornment to any farm dwelling which it may reach.

Single copies of the picture sell for 35 cents, but all subscribers of the JOURNAL for 1889 get a copy free.

FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

The Secretary, President or any member of any Farmers' Institute is hereby invited to send for copies of the Journal, which will be mailed free, to distribute among its members with the view of forming clubs for the Journal—a list of ten subscribers, at least, could be got at every institute in Canada. Clubs of five for \$4.00 and clubs of ten for \$7.50. Farmers' Institutes, agricultural societies, or any person wishing any of our live stock premiums can have them delivered now by guaranteeing the required number of subscribers.

Are the Feeders Asleep?

Not many years gone by the exhibit of fat stock at our leading shows was one of the prominent features. We have on some of these occasions stood outside the ring and watched with a very great degree of pleasure the marching in of a long array of lordly steers and heifers of all ages until the enclosure was filled, and the judges found much difficulty in making the awards, owing to the closeness of the competition. All this is changed of late. At no