

## Canadian Live-Stock &amp; Farm Journal

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All communications to be addressed STOCK JOURNAL CO., 48 John Street South, Hamilton, Ont.

HAMILTON, CANADA, MARCH, 1888.

MR. E. JEFFREY, Olinda, writes. "Don't you think if you would offer the boys who would get you enough subscribers some kind of pure-bred stock, that it would be drawing them in the proper channel?" To this we reply we think the suggestion a good one and will arrange as far as possible to meet the wishes of the friends of the JOURNAL in this particular. Any person desiring to secure any particular kind of pure-bred stock in this way may communicate with us. We may here also call attention to the premium offers which were published in the Nov. and Dec. issues of the JOURNAL. Those who have succeeded in obtaining these premiums are well satisfied, and, we are glad to hear, feel remunerated for their trouble. To those who have been working for any of these premiums, and have not yet secured a sufficient number of subscribers to entitle them to the same, we will extend the time to a reasonable length, providing they communicate with us. So far the farm bells and books have been the favorite premiums.

THE evils incident to over stocking are numerous. When a farm becomes over stocked there is first a scarcity of feed, followed by poverty of condition in the stock, succeeded by a low estimate of its value on the part of visitors and those who would be purchasers under other conditions. Sometimes food has to be purchased when it is dear, which seriously cuts down the returns, and in all such instances the portion of the stock that should be marketed must be carried over a prolonged period or sacrificed at slaughter prices. The man who carries too heavy a stock is like the ship carrying too heavy a cargo. She loses time on the voyage and gets into the port too late for the best market. It is much better to err in the opposite extreme, for it is seldom that one cannot add to his flocks and herds when such addition is required. We admit there are times when the best of calculations will fail. Seasons will come when even summer feed will not grow, much less that for winter. At

such a time even moderate stocking will prove burdensome in carrying it, but generally there may be harmony between the needs of the stock and the supplies of the fodder. Stock-keeping is a business that requires the nicest discrimination and the most careful forethought.

THE person who is completely content with past progress and present attainment in any line is a fit subject for commiseration. Notwithstanding the heights above they will not be scaled by him, and notwithstanding the depths below, his line will never fathom them. He has entered upon the first stage of a fossilism that will soon end in complete petrification. The stockman and the farmer should never feel that they have got as far as they can go, for then they are trusting in a delusion. Perfection in grain-growing and stock-keeping have no more been attained than perfection in any other line. We sometimes conclude that no advance is to be made in the art of poetry, and yet we may be on the threshold of an era when the magic of flowing numbers not yet in existence shall captivate the heart of the millions; when a flood of poetic light shall shine upon the nations with a brilliancy so radiant that in comparison with it the brightest poetic era of the past will only be dim shadow. Thus it is that we can see a future radiant with hope for the agriculture of Canada all along the line, for in this it can be said of no one that he has attained. Better stock, better buildings, better feed, better methods are before us, and better men to lay hold upon these. Who will be foremost in this ennobling contest?

HE sat in a warm room on a cold winter day and picked up a beautiful apple, with intent to eat it, but on turning it around in his hand discovered a decayed spot, which had to be cut out first. That miserable decayed spot spoiled the beauty of the whole apple. We saw in that a type of one class of farmers whose practice is in many respects praiseworthy, but its beauty is all marred by a decayed spot which has to be clean cut away before their methods are worthy of imitation in their entirety. We refer to the miserable class of stock which they keep. It may be their buildings are good, their fences strong, their underdrains are numerous laid, their system of grain-growing is admirable, but their stock resembles that of very primitive types in primitive days. Before they can be looked upon as sound to the core in their practice, the decayed spot must be cut away, and a better system introduced. This defect is, however, no more serious nor blameworthy than the attempt to keep better stock in conjunction with a slovenly system of farming. When good farming and its usual adjunct, stock-keeping on a proper basis go hand in hand, there is a symmetry about it that is very attractive. Young men who wish to learn farming may with profit cluster about such a place as bees about a hive, but they should always steer wide of a farmer or stockman where there is not that relative adjustment which is the outcome of good all-round farming.

"READING the JOURNAL has made me somewhat ashamed of the kind of stock I have been keeping, and of my methods of keeping them." This is the acknowledgment of a recent reader of the same. It does not matter who, nor where. To us it is a pleasing acknowledgment, as much so as the first fruits of harvest to the husbandman. We hope this honest man is but the spokesman for thousands. A man can never become ashamed of past methods without the desire and the effort to adopt better ones. There are in Canada to day tens and hundreds of thousands of

stock unimproved, of which the owners are not in the slightest degree ashamed, and so long as this can be said with truth, there is no hope of their improvement. How is the mighty revolution of opinion to be brought about? By agricultural papers in part, but not those who plead the cause of scrub stock, by the ordinary press with an agricultural department, by means of the Farmers' Institutes and well conducted exhibitions, but more than all by the agricultural literature in our schools, when we get it. Each of these will form a factor in the great wind about to pass over the country, before which there will be a gradual subsidence of the waves of ignorance as to best methods, which have so long submerged the practice of our farmers. The tops of the mountains are already seen, and the dove has come back with the olive leaf in her mouth. It is pleasant to contemplate the introduction on every hand of improved systems amongst all our farmers, but it is pleasanter still to realize that in hastening the advent of this brighter day, every reader of the JOURNAL may take a part. It is for them to say in what way they shall most effectually do it.

## Sheep Associations for Canada.

In the last issue of the JOURNAL, p. 43, is found a letter on this subject from the pen of Mr. John Jackson, the distinguished breeder of Southdown sheep at Woodside, Abingdon. In that letter Mr. Jackson calls attention to the wisdom of establishing associations for the different breeds of sheep affiliated in some way with a sheep-breeders' association for the Dominion, and of records separately or in one volume. We promised in a foot-note to that article to give our views in the March issue, and we now proceed to redeem that promise.

Should we have a sheep breeders' association for the Province, and if so, when? This is a very important question, and requires a most careful answer. It can be better answered when we consider the work that such an organization would be expected to do. The Wool-Growers' Association of the United States are vigorously opposing any reduction of the tariff on wool because the United States imports wool, and they are guarding the interests of producers there. We suppose no one will object that their efforts in this direction are not legitimate. Now it so happens that Canada exports wool to the United States, and by so doing loses 10 cents per pound on every pound sent over, in consequence of the tariff.

In 1886 out of a total clip of 6,238,347 lbs., 1,287,984 lbs. were sent to that country. The amount paid as duty was \$128,798. Again, the number of sheep exported to the same country in 1885 and 1886 was 588,163 head, valued at \$1,603,375, nearly all of which were for mutton purposes, and on which a duty of 20 per cent, or \$320,675 was paid. The half of this sum, \$160,338, the amount for one year, + \$128,798, the duty on wool, gives \$289,136 lost to our sheep-growers in that one market in 1886, a sum that would in all probability pay the entire cost of a sheep-growers' association for one hundred years. Now if a sheep-growers' association could bring about a removal of those restrictions it would certainly be a paying arrangement. It may be objected that it does not rest with us to remove the tariff referred to. While that is true, a sheep breeders' association might ask the same of our Government, and they in turn might ask it of the Government of the United States. Without effort we will get no better terms.

The sheep industry is also greatly hampered in this country by the depredation of dogs. To so great an extent does this prevail in the neighborhood of towns and cities, that it is next to impossible to grow sheep