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TORONTO, MAY, 1890.

Original Plans, Devices, and Ideas.

If you have an original plan, device, or idea, that you think would be of benefit to your fellow farmers or stockmen, turn to our March number and see how we will pay you for it if you send it to us for publication. Space forbids us printing the whole scheme in full, as usual. We would refer those desiring to know more of this to our January, February, and March numbers, where the premiums are given in full with complete particulars.

Our Hog Competition.

With a fervent desire to have our farmers clearly realize that the most profitable line of work for them to follow is that of live stock husbandry, we have decided to devote our best energies and spare no expense to lay bare this fact so strikingly that no one, be he ever so deep in the ruts of custom, can fail to grasp the truth. We have convinced ourselves that through the swine industry we may best demonstrate this, because there is less difficulty in drawing up the scheme of competition with justice to all, and also because we may better carry it out. We would like our stockmen to feel that this is not undertaken specially to boom the swine industry, but mainly to prove indisputably to our farmers that stock-raising and its attributes will yield more profit than grain-growing. We view the matter in this light. Through showing the farmer the profits in swine raising, and inducing him to undertake such work, which he will readily do if shown beyond dispute that it is profitable, as there is little capital needed in starting, we may reasonably hope that the light will gradually dawn upon him with the result that he will aspire higher, and enter other branches of the live stock industry. For this reason we trust that every one interested in live stock matters will lend a hand, so that we may incontestably prove to the farmer that it is to his interest to follow such lines of work.

Following out this idea, we shall offer a series of prizes to the value of \$72.50, divided as follows: value of first prize, \$25.00; value of second, \$20.00; value of third, \$15.00; and \$12.50 as the value of the fourth. These prizes are for the best marketable hog, and it should be remembered that they are additional to the market prices of the hogs entered, as Messrs. Davies & Co., of Toronto, have generously and liberally consented to pay the highest market price at the time for all that are entered.

In making the awards the judges will give most prominence to (1) form and quality of the hog, keeping in view the market demands, and also to (2) the cost of production as determined by the food fed, and other items of expense, as well as the age of the pig or time of production. In regard to the first, the ideal hog will be small in the head, light in the jaw, long in the body, broad across the loins, full and deep in the hams, and light in the bone. The mixture of the fat and lean, as well as the nature of these, will be considered important. In respect to the second, as one of the chief features of this competition is to determine the profit, we must have clear certified statements as to the age, foods fed, and full details as to the cost of production, while the various items of management followed by the winners will be of interest merely for publication.

We have printed forms now ready to send out to all intending competitors, and we would ask all thinking of entering

to send in their names at once. In the meantime all that is necessary is to note the date of birth, and the various items of expense, so that the forms may be readily filled out. We may say that the prizes will be further supplemented by others, given by public-spirited men. We shall, as soon as possible, give the limits of time between which the hogs should be shipped to Messrs. Davies & Co. Remember this costs you nothing, and that you stand a chance of winning a handsome prize, besides obtaining the highest market price at the time for your hogs. We would earnestly ask all to give us their heartiest co-operation in this matter, for the value of the results to the live stock fraternity and our farmers will depend greatly on the warmth of the interest evinced by all. If further details are desired, a postal card addressed to us will be readily answered. The forms will be sent to all applicants.

A Word to Horse Breeders.

The season is near approaching when the horseman will have his judgment actively called into play on the choosing of stallions. Let it be remembered that one of the most effectual barriers that impedes the expansion and profitability of our horse-raising industry is due to errors of judgment in choosing sires. In the first place, it is best beyond dispute to have nothing to do with a stallion that is not pure-bred. For draught purposes, judging between two pure-bred stallions, we would give most prominence to bone, muscle, and pedigree, in the order given. A stallion of strong frame and firm bone has the best foundation for muscular development, and having these, he will as a rule have weight. The latter is a prime feature in any draught horse, but it should be weight due to bone and muscle, and not to over-feeding with soft food and drugs. A few are inclined to overlook the fact that there are scrub pure-bred stallions as well as those of inferior breeding. There are inferior Clydesdales, Shires, and Percherons, both in breeding and individual merit, so that it becomes of importance to discriminate closely between members of the same breed. A light stallion, one suitable for crossing to produce carriage horses, should, generally speaking, be not only possessed of bone and muscle, but these should be of the highest quality. A stallion that is under sixteen hands, unless crossed on very rangy mares, will not throw stylish carriage horses for which the highest prices are paid. An active disposition is also of the first importance, and this should show itself in a clean, quick stride and a gay carriage. A serious impediment that has kept down the quality of our horses, both driving and draught, has been due to the aversion of many breeders to pay a few dollars extra for the service of a superior stallion. Supposing you patronize a "plug" stallion because his fee is only five dollars, in preference to a pure-bred one of better merit in every way because the fee in this case is twenty dollars. It will cost as much to rear either, and we feel sure that if the pure-bred sire has been at all worthy of his service fee, his colt will sell for at least fifty dollars more than the other, when they become four year olds. That means that this difference of fifteen dollars in the first place has grown to be a difference of fifty dollars in four years, or in other words, that the invested fifteen dollars has yielded a yearly interest of over fifty per cent.

Use Gypsum.

It has been clearly shown by Prof. Roberts, of Cornell, that the liquid manure produced from a herd of cows has a fertilizing value of *forty-four dollars* for every hundred dollars' worth of food that they consume. We will venture the assertion that on the majority of farms fully one-half of the liquid manure finds its way through the stable floor or dribbles into the creek. With straw liberally used the greater part

may be saved, but even under the best of management, with straw a considerable portion is lost. Through the use of gypsum, or land plaster, in conjunction with straw, a complete saving may be made, and the value of the manure further added to by the fertilizing value of the gypsum itself. The best white gypsum can be bought for three dollars per ton at the place of shipment, and as it only takes at the outside one pound per day for each animal to save the liquids and keep the atmosphere of the stable sweet and pure, the cost per day comes to the small sum of one-sixth of a cent. By a number joining together and buying in car lots it would come much cheaper to them than if only small quantities were taken at one time. It is to be remembered that gypsum as a fertilizer alone is worth the cost price to the majority of farmers, while for purifying the atmosphere of the stable and saving the loss of gases and liquids of great fertilizing value it cannot be equalled.

False Registration.

The worth of any stud, herd, or flock book depends almost solely upon the reliability of the registrations that have been made therein, and these again rest upon the integrity and carefulness of the breeder in transmitting facts and the exactness of the compilers, and their ability to ferret out and exclude those entries of a suspicious nature that are offered. In most cases, to the honor of those using the registration records be it said, wrong entries are due to carelessness, but it is a fact nevertheless that the conscience of some mortals is so little in comparison with their avarice that the former may be easily swallowed up by the latter, and the excuse "a slip of the pen" used as a balm to salve the wound in the minds of the honorable public. It may be of interest to some of our readers, and of benefit we trust to very few, to know that it is a serious matter to knowingly make a false registration, and further, that upon the culprit the law lays no gentle hand. To our mind it really amounts to obtaining money under false pretences, for pedigree possesses a money value, and false registrations, knowingly made, are submitted with the hope of either securing more patronage or selling the stock for increased prices. We notice that the officials of the Dominion Draught Horse Breeders' Society have lately been carrying on a suit against certain parties who had furnished false data. The plea set up by the defendants was that the false entry was purely a mistake, but it is a curious fact that the pedigree was made considerably more valuable because of the substitution. A couple of other cases of a similar nature were also up before the court, but owing to the objection raised that the informations were not laid within three months of the committing of the offence the cases were dismissed. 'tis bad enough to have "legal fiction" buffet hard facts through juggling lawyers, yet it is worse for dishonest-minded persons to know that through such quibbles as these they may defy the spirit of the law and yet often obey its mandates to the letter. Little fish, however, can swim in any bucket, and it takes a fine net to catch them. The action instituted by the officials of the above association will prove an effective reminder to those knowingly lax in their entries to be more exacting in the future. A case of somewhat the same nature was up before a Glasgow judge a short while ago. A stallioner represented his horse to a breeder as being a pure-bred Clydesdale, but after the latter had patronized him he learnt that he was not a pure-bred, and on this account refused to pay for the stallion's services, though the mares were in foal. The outcome of the suit was that the judge gave decision in favor of the defendant.