

The Farming World

For Farmers and Stockmen

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Ontario's Welcome.

CHE welcome tendered to their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, on Thursday last by the citizens of Toronto and the people of the province who had gathered in the Queen City, was most enthusiastic and sincere. All along the route of the procession from North Toronto to Government House, a distance of several miles, the streets were thronged with loyal citizens, each vying with the other in their enthusiasm and loyalty. The continuous rain did not dampen the ardour of the people who cheered and cheered again as the Royal Party passed through the line of soldiers drawn up all along the route. Truly it was a great day for Toronto and for Ontario. The enthusiastic and hearty reception given the representatives of the Imperial family cannot but have made a lasting impression upon the royal visitors. The decorations and the illuminations of the public and other buildings were quite befitting the occasion, and were the admiration of thousands of visitors from all parts of the province and the bordering states of the Union. Ontario and her citizens have once more had the opportunity of showing their love for and allegiance to the British Crown and to Imperial authority and they did it in no uncertain way.

Good Cattle Scarce.

In our market review in last week's issue appeared the following paragraph in regard to the quality of cattle being offered at the present time on Toronto market:

"The offerings of fat cattle on Friday were about the poorest ever seen on this market, and it would seem as if there was no more good stock in the country. There were not enough good cattle among the lot to supply the demand and consequently prices for these were firm. The offerings were made up chiefly of stockers, feeders, feeding bulls and common to inferior butchers' cattle. There were few exporters of any kind offered. The bulk of the feeders and stockers were not of good breeding. Choice well bred feeding steers are scarce. Of all the steers offered on Friday it would have been hard to have secured a car load of really choice well-bred steers. A great many ill-bred bulls are offered on the market every day and if these are the

type used by the farmers the reason for the poor quality of the cattle offered is not far to seek. These mongrel stockers and feeders are not worth from 50c to \$1.00 per cwt. of what choice well bred ones would bring."

There is food for thought in the above for everyone interested in developing the live stock trade of this country. While a great many importations of pure bred stock, including the Shorthorn, Galloway, Polled Angus and Hereford breeds, have been made during recent years it would seem that as yet these have had very little influence in improving the quality of the fat cattle offered at our regular markets. That they must eventually have a good influence on the live stock of the country, cannot be doubted, but it takes time to educate the average farmer up to a point where he will see that good beef animals cannot be produced by the old time "scrubby", ill-bred bull. One would naturally suppose that the influence of these importations would first be seen on the feeders and stockers offered for sale. But there are very few choice well bred steers being offered for sale. Perhaps they are being fed on the farms by the men who breed them. If so we should have some pretty good shippers coming forward later. At present, however, the condition of affairs is somewhat serious, as neither first quality in shippers or feeders is being sent to market.

The statement that a great many ill-bred bulls are being offered, if it indicates a desire on the part of farmers to sell off their scrub breeding stock, is a good omen. The sooner such stock is fitted for the block and gotten rid of the better. There are too many animals of this description kept in the country and which are the ruination of our fat cattle trade. And it is to be hoped that every inferior breeding animal sold will be replaced by one capable of producing a much better quality of stock than we see offered on the market to-day.

It may, perhaps, be a little too soon to expect very much influence upon the common cattle of the country from the importations of the past few years and the impetus given to the breeding of good stock in recent years. And still it is nearly time that their effect was beginning to be noticed on the younger animals. It must be remembered, however, that where there are so many poor bulls and so much poor breeding stock to be replaced by a better quality that a

great deal of time is needed to effect the change. The farmer must be shown the need of better stock and where he can procure the right quality at reasonable rates. And then a great many of the best importations and the best home bred animals find a market to the south of the line and go to improve the quality of Uncle Sam's fat cattle. While we quite approve of fostering the trade in pure bred stock with the United States as much as possible, yet it would be better for the beef cattle trade of this country if fewer good animals went across the line. Our breeders and importers are not altogether to blame for this state of affairs. They find a better market there than here and American buyers are more willing to pay a higher price for really good stock than Canadian buyers are. But not all the best animals are sent out of the country and gradually but surely the influence of this good blood is being felt in the improvement of the stockers and feeders throughout the country.

In the meantime farmers who are loaded up with a lot of this scrubby or inferior stock should aim to get rid of it as advantageously as possible and use better bulls on their breeding stock. It will pay them many times over to do this. It will hardly pay under any conditions to go to the trouble of fitting and fattening inferior stock for market. They have to be sold at considerably below the top price and are not profitable to either the feeder or dealer.

Canadian Horses Win

Canadian exhibitors have again won signal honors at the Pan-American. Canadian Clydesdales swept everything before them, capturing every prize offered for this class of horses. Graham Bros. of Claremont won first in the three classes for stallions, and first for three-year-old mares. Hodgkinson & Tindall, Beaverton, Ont., had first for one-year-old and two-year-old fillies, and brood mares with foal. In the other classes Canadians did well. A full report of the horse exhibit will appear next week.

CAN GET NO BETTER.

Mr. W. T. Sine, Sine, Ont., in sending his renewal to The Farming World for 1902 says: "I like your paper very much. It is the best weekly agricultural paper I can get, and I should think every farmer ought to subscribe for it."