

### FOREWORD FOR 1908 TO CANADIAN BREEDERS OF SHORTHORNS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Let me draw the attention of breeders or intending breeders of Shorthorns to a few matters.

1. The annual meeting is to be held in Toronto, February 14th, after, instead of just before the National Live-stock Association gathering, February 5th and 6th, at Ottawa. At this annual meeting there is much to be done; first and foremost, the adoption of a new constitution, which I hope the members will insist on being as short and simple as possible.

It has been argued, with many cogent reasons, that the annual meeting of this Association should be held in December, at or about the time of the Guelph Winter Show, but the executive held that the date of the annual meeting could not be changed, except after discussion, and by vote of an annual meeting, which it is hoped will come to pass, and the change be incorporated in the new constitution. It will be remembered that the live-stock associations of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have already approved the idea. What are the advantages of the suggested change? (a) A larger representation of men from East and West, who would (b) be enabled to profit, in addition, by a visit to the Ontario Fat-stock Show; (c) the larger number present would mean increased business for the Ontario Shorthorn breeder, inasmuch as there would be more visitors to the herds of that Province. True, business might not be done during the fat-stock-show period in December, but the way would be prepared for repeated visits, because, as is well known when making important selections, one or more visits are often needed to decide on a purchase; hence, a Western breeder, instead of hustling home without buying, would have a longer period to stay, because he could afford to, having come on the winter excursion tickets on sale in December, good for ninety days, at a cost of \$40 to \$50, instead of \$60 to \$75.

It is to the advantage of Shorthorn breeders that more men should be shown the possibilities of the breed at fat-stock shows, hence the advisability of the society doing all that lies within its power to stimulate and foster that interest. As it is now, the annual meeting is a dull assembly to the back-benchers, perhaps evincing to them the earmarks of a cut-and-dried, no-discussion policy, an election of a few directors, a prosy address, and a few amens from the old boys, who perhaps may be stung by the youthful impertinence of younger members to state how they had spent money and time in the old days without recompense, forgetting that they were only following out the command, "Cast thy bread upon the waters, etc."

Are there any subjects worthy of consideration and thought by the Shorthorn breeders of Canada to be taken up at the annual meeting? Certainly.

As already mentioned, first, the time of the annual meetings in the future, and it will not be amiss to state that other Canadian breed societies (Hereford, Leicester, etc.) hold their annual meetings at the time suggested for the Dominion Shorthorn and Clydesdale Societies to meet. In the United States, all the big breed societies hold their meetings during the week of the International at Chicago, and, as they have continued to do so for years; it must be considered the best time to do so. Secondly, there are several other questions, such, for instance, as development and extension of markets for Shorthorn breeders, and, by drawing attention to this question, it is not meant for the breeders or breed society to go after those will-o'-the-wisp of markets in Mexico, Japan, Argentina, or on Mars, but the development of home markets. The home market cannot be developed by breeders standing up and solemnly asserting that there is only one breed and that is the Shorthorn, and that, therefore, all farmers should buy Shorthorn bulls; but more effort and brains must be expended on developing a market for the men whose cattle are not in the show class. Heretofore, all the moneys expended have been towards helping along the owners of show stock, either in the breeding or fat classes—a policy all right in itself, but not sufficient for the success of the breed. The great market object of the society should be to help the average breeder dispose of all his bulls at paying prices.

Heretofore, any exertions on behalf of the ordinary breeders of pure-bred bulls have been those put forth by the Provincial live-stock associations, whose sales have only been rendered possible by liberal subventions from the Dominion Department of Agriculture. It is up to the wealthy (comparatively speaking) breed society to do more along these lines; and, while dealing with that question, it might be money well spent for the breed society to have a competent representative at these Provincial sales, with power to purchase and castrate the cull bulls offered, making a bid sufficient to prevent them being taken back home, either to perpetuate mediocrity in a neighborhood, or, if unsold, to disgust with the breed the unsuccessful breeder and would-be ven-

dor. If this were done, the bulls, when recovered, might be sold by the society, thus rendering the outlay small, to feed into useful steers. It only takes the change of one letter to make a bull into a cull, but, if more letters are changed, as the result of a little work with the castrating knife and emasculator, the bull might be made into a steer with a future.

Thirdly, another method might be tried (the suggestion is not original with the writer), and that is the distribution of some of the money allotted for prizes by the association over wider areas, by making grants to selected shows, where there would be competition, in each Province. The doctrine has been laid down in the past that the prize money should go to one show in each Province—a principle correct in its original conception, yet violated in 1907 by the directors of the Shorthorn Association in the case of Manitoba, whether right or wrong, need not be discussed here. Such shows, however, as Edmonton, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Arcola, Killarney, Neepawa, Medicine Hat, which minister to half a continent full of markets yet barely sampled for bulls, should receive grants of, say, \$50 or \$100 each on the usual conditions, viz., sufficient competition, and the contribution of at least an equal amount to the prize-list by the agricultural society receiving the grant. What have the Shorthorn breeders to say on this suggestion? Discussion is in order. As already stated, the smaller breeders need great encouragement to purchase high-class bulls, which can only be given them by finding them a market, stable and constant, for the male progeny of their herds, which, if accomplished, will mean the improvement of the ordinary horned stock of the country, and gradually increasing demands on the leading herds of the breed. Should it be held that the Association has not sufficient funds to carry out the schemes mentioned, and at the same time maintain the very liberal grants now made to the larger shows and winter fairs, would it not be well to reduce those grants, in order to carry out the larger policy, as outlined here? Other matters of perhaps minor importance will be mentioned in subsequent articles. Meanwhile, let the breeders consider the suggestions and speak their minds through "The Farmer's Advocate," or at the annual meeting of the D. S. H. B. A., at Toronto, or through both.

HOME CROFT.

## THE FARM.

### THE CURVATURE STRENGTHENS THE WIND-MILL FAN.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

We are glad to reply to the enquiry of Mr. Wm. Jaffrey, of York Co., N.B., in your issue of December 19th, regarding the reason for the curvature of wind-mill fans. The primary reason is that this curvature affords the easiest, cheapest and most satisfactory method of strengthening the fan, for when curved it cannot be bent back at the outer end, unless subjected to an altogether excessive pressure, and to attain the same result with a flat fan would mean either much heavier metal or an elaborate system of bracing, which would require an undesirable addition both to weight and cost.

The question as to whether any power is lost by this arrangement is open to considerable argument. It is obvious that the wind does not strike any fan, flat or curved, at the same angle at the windward edge as it does at the leeward edge. That portion of the fan which is nearer the windward edge deflects the currents of air that strike it, and instead of their travelling in their original direction, they move toward the leeward edge of the fan at an angle corresponding, approximately, with the angle of the face of the fan. This deflection is, of course, resisted by the particles of air that are opposite the leeward edge of the fan, and it is from the resistance of the whole current to this varying deflection that the power that drives the mill is derived. It is, therefore, plain that the particles of air do not strike the fan at the same angle at the leeward edge as they do at the windward edge, and the curving of the fan is a step in the direction of equalizing this angle throughout the whole width of the fan as nearly as it is possible.

As the extent of the deflection, however, varies with the force and velocity of the wind and with the resistance offered by the wheel, it is doubtful if this solution can be considered as anything better than a rough approximation. It is reasonable to assume, however, that there is slightly more efficiency with a curved fan than there would be with a flat one, and the marked advantages in construction of the curved fan have made its adoption practically universal.

MONTEITH-NIXON, Limited.

### THE CHRISTMAS NUMBER CLEARLY AN EXTRA.

Allow me to congratulate you on the steady improvement in "The Farmer's Advocate," and especially your Christmas number. This is certainly an extra, as "The Farmer's Advocate" is well worth the subscription price without it.

Huron Co., Ont.

G. A. DEADMAN.

### AGITATION FOR BETTER ROADS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

It may seem a little unseasonable just now to agitate for better roads, but the time will soon be here that arrangements will have to be made to look after the roads for another season, and it is well that this matter should receive early and careful attention from those who have this work in hand. It is with a view that these lines may fall under the notice of such that I have been prompted to pen them. I think we are all agreed that the question of good roads has during the past few years been receiving considerably increased attention, and justly so, and I think the time is here that much more attention should be given to our highways. We cannot expect that all our roads will be at once or in the near future made good stone roads, which are possibly the best or only really good roads at all seasons of the year. There are many more leading roads that should be stoned, and by united effort much could be accomplished along this line during the next ten years. I wish for the present to confine my remarks principally to the improvement of our earth roads, which must of necessity be the roads most of us will have to travel yet for some years.

I am certain from my own use and observation, by the timely and frequent use of that simply-constructed split-log drag, they could be kept in very much better condition for traffic during the greater part of the year, at very little additional expense. I, like many others, had little faith in the new-fangled road leveller which "The Farmer's Advocate" introduced last spring, but the more I used it, and learned the various ways of working it, the more I realized its advantages and possibilities. I am satisfied its use the past season throughout the Province has taught many an object lesson. In many instances its use was not started early enough, nor was it used as frequently as it should have been to have realized the best results. I am expecting another year very many more drags will be in use, and that our earth roads will generally be kept in much better condition.

I trust our municipal councils will take this matter in hand early another year, and make some arrangements whereby our roads will receive proper attention, at least in respect to keeping them dragged at the proper time and as often as required. The results of the use of the drag should be carefully noticed. You not only get the benefit of its use during the summer by keeping a smooth, even surface for traffic, but you are, by every round you make, grading the road, and at the same time keeping the traffic in the center of the road, where it should be, thus making the road firm and compact. The custom usually adopted is to carry the earth in considerable quantities every few years to the center of the road, and leaving it there, usually in such a condition that traffic manages to avoid it as long as possible by finding a better road nearer the gutter. When the rains set in and you are forced to the center of the road, there you are, wallowing in the mud and mire, while the road worked with the drag is quite hard and firm.

I do not wish to be understood that I am condemning the road machines. They are a necessity; they are our great road builders. I do, however, believe that after a road is once fairly graded, then it can be kept in good condition with very little expense by a judicious use of the drag.

In my opinion, one of the most important things to consider in roadmaking, along with grading, and one that is sadly neglected, is tile drainage on one or both sides of the road. I may in a future article take up the importance of this matter in connection with the building of a model stone road, and it is just as important that our earth roads should be tiled.

By using the drag I became interested in roads; studied the building of roads; noticed how the best roads were built; then went to work and put the knowledge gained into practice, by building a model private stone road. When you consider the saving of time and the wear and tear and worry on man and beast (and I might add wagon), and the pleasure in driving over a really good road, who can any longer refuse to agitate for better roads?

Lincoln Co., Ont.

W. B. RITTENHOUSE.

### HOW TO GET QUICK RETURNS FROM THE MANURE.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Enclosed find \$1.50, to pay my renewal for 1908. I must say that I appreciate your efforts to make "The Farmer's Advocate" a most helpful and practical journal. In the feeding season we generally make about 400 loads of manure. Now, the problem with me is how to get the quickest and best returns from this manure. Very generally our winters here give us rather more snow than the manure-spreader takes kindly to, and the spreading of sleighs has a great many disadvantages.

In 1907 about 250 loads was left in yard (which is free from leaching) all summer, and was applied to stubble ground after gang plowing. But as I stated, I want to get quick returns. I should like to know if it would be profitable in spring to delay seeding, say seven or eight days, to get manure out before land is worked other than harrowed.

Perhaps some of your readers who have conditions such as we have could solve the problem.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

T. G. ALLAN.