

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

\* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE.\*

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## EDITORIAL.

### Our Great Shorthorn Premium Picture, "Canada's Ideal."

The gratifying success which attended the issue from this office in the past decade of the three great premium pictures of representative Canadian live stock, entitled, "Canada's Pride," "Canada's Columbian Victors," and "Canada's Glory," and the hearty expressions of appreciation of those productions by many hundreds of FARMER'S ADVOCATE readers, led us early in the past year to the determination to mark the close of the century by the issue of a companion picture representing still another of the important agricultural industries of the Dominion.

The issue in 1890 of our splendid engraving of a group of famous prizewinning Canadian draft horses, entitled, "Canada's Pride," was timely and well received. The picture was generally acknowledged to be an exceedingly creditable production, and it received a very wide circulation and excited great interest in that class of Canadian stock.

The brilliant success at the World's Columbian Exhibition, in 1893, of the Canadian contingent of Ayrshire cattle in winning the best prizes offered in that class was commemorated by our issue of the splendid picture of a group of the leading animals in that great aggregation which won the admiration of many thousands of visitors to the World's Fair, and together with the exhibition of the mammoth Canadian cheese, played a very prominent part in advertising the Dominion and attesting the skill of its stockmen in the breeding and development of a superior class of dairy cattle and the manufacture of high-class dairy products, with the result that the latter have since taken the first place in the best market of the world.

The equally successful record made at the Columbian Exhibition by the Canadian exhibit of light horses, especially in the classes for Thoroughbreds and Hackneys, in which all the championship honors came our way, was signaled by the issue in 1895 of our magnificent engraving representative of noted Canadian carriage, coach, and other harness horses, and entitled, "Canada's Glory," which also met with an appreciative reception, and together with the former pictures found a place on the walls of thousands of farmers' homes in Canada, and in the Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations of Great Britain and many of the States of the American Union. Among the many testimonials to the excellence and value of these productions were more than one from Professors of Animal Industry in Agricultural Colleges, assuring us of the helpfulness of the pictures as object lessons in the classroom in teaching the types of representative animals of the various breeds.

The great revival in the demand for and prices of cattle of the beef breeds in the last year or two has been deemed an opportune occasion for the presentation of a picture representing the beef-producing industry of the country; and as the cosmopolitan Shorthorn holds a pre-eminent place in that line of live stock in Canada, and as the past year was in some sense a jubilee year in Shorthorn circles, owing to the liberal special prizes granted by the Dominion Breeders' Association, and the unusually high prices realized for cattle of this breed both at public and private sale, the present was deemed a fitting time to complete our quartette of premium pictures.

In view of these circumstances, arrangements were made by us early last year for the production of a large picture of a representative group of a dozen famous Shorthorns, including the principal prizewinners at the leading exhibitions in the Dominion, as well as a few noted animals which have not been exhibited, and our artist is now putting the finishing touches on the engraving, which we are confident will be pronounced the most magnificent example of live-stock portraiture that has ever been produced on this continent, and will be in line with the general policy of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE of keeping before the people high ideals of the best types of the various breeds of live stock. The picture will be about 25x36 inches in dimensions, with suitable margin, and the price has been fixed at one dollar. In order to place it easily within the reach of our readers, we propose to present a copy to every present subscriber whose name is on the list of two new subscribers and two dollars. We trust that our friends in all sections of the Dominion will interest themselves in giving a wide circulation to this picture throughout our great constituency extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean. We append the list of the noted animals portrayed in the engraving:

NAME OF ANIMAL.	OWNER.
Judge = 23419 =	Hon. Thos. Greenway, Crystal City, Man.
Topsman = 17847 =	J. G. Barron, Carberry, Man.
(Sold to T. E. Robson, Ilderton, Ont.)	
Royal Member = 17107 =	H. Cargill & Son, Cargill, Ont.
Golden Fame = 26956 =	W. D. Flatt, Hamilton, Ont.
Matabele Chief (73023) =	W. G. Pettit & Son, Freeman, Ont.
Marquis of Zenda = 26954 =	W. C. Edwards & Co., Rockland, Ont.
Knuckle Duster = 28268 =	Smith & Smith, Hay, Ont.
Village Hero = 14342 =	Walter Lynch, Westbourne, Man.
Robert the Bruce = 22635 =	C. A. Archibald, Truro, N. S.
Rosabella = 19753 =	W. S. Lister, Middlechurch, Man.
Matchless 18th = 29130 =	J. & W. B. Watt, Salem, Ont.
Queen of the Louans (Vol. 16th) =	T. E. Robson, Ilderton, Ont.
(Sold to W. D. Flatt, Hamilton, Ont.)	

### Unfruitfulness of Orchards.

The development of Canada's great and varied fruit-producing resources is a subject that demands more attention on the part of the general farmer than it has yet received. Home and foreign consumption of fruit is very largely increasing, and with the improvement in facilities for transport of apples and all our finer fruits, the need for more advanced methods in orcharding becomes apparent. The work of improvement must commence upon the farm, and it therefore affords us pleasure to begin in this issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE a comprehensive series of articles by as well-known and practical an authority as Mr. G. C. Caston, Simcoe Co., Ont., a most successful fruit-grower, whose work had been such as to warrant his being placed in charge of one of the Ontario provincial fruit experiment stations. Midway between such luxuriant fruit areas as Niagara or Essex and those farther north, he is well able to deal with the subject from a general point of view. His introductory article treats of soils and sites, and the exceedingly practical suggestions made indicate that those to follow will prove of very great value to our readers and lead to a removal of many of the causes of barren or unfruitful orchards and plantations of smaller fruits.

### Prof. Robertson's New Year's Day Expression.

Writing from Ottawa, under date of Jan. 1st, 1900, Prof. Jas. W. Robertson, Agriculture and Dairy Commissioner, says: "Permit me to offer you my hearty congratulations on the excellence of your Christmas number. The articles, the illustrations, the tone and spirit, the presswork and general make-up are alike a credit to your firm and a tribute to the advancing intelligence and taste of the community which the FARMER'S ADVOCATE serves. I regret that I could not send the promised article from my pen. Unexpected and exceptional business took me from home, and took also my time and thoughts. My article was not needed."

### Barn Building.

During the past and former years we have devoted considerable space in our columns to the subject of barn building and the improvement of old barns, and have published a considerable number of plans and descriptions of barns of different styles and dimensions, some suitable for large and some for small farms, some having stabling designed mainly for stall-feeding of cattle, and others to feeding the animals loose in large sheds or boxes. Those of our readers who are thinking of building, and who have filed their papers, will do well to consult the index of the volumes and look up those plans.

Knowing that it is in the winter months that, as a rule, most attention and thought is given to this question, we purpose in the next few months to present additional plans, and we invite the co-operation of our readers in this matter. We shall be pleased to receive plans and descriptions of barns now in use or in contemplation, and will also be thankful for practical suggestions on this line of work, either in regard to building new barns or to remodelling old ones. If any of our readers have or know of a barn that, in their estimation, has superior merits, we shall be glad if they will place us in communication with the owner. As a barn built upon modern principles is calculated to last a lifetime, the plan is worthy of careful and deliberate consideration, in order that it may meet the probable needs of the farm and of the stock to be kept. In many cases it may be wise to prepare a year or two in advance of building by getting part of the material, such as stone, gravel and sand, hauled, so that all the teaming may not be crowded into one season.

There is a tendency among farmers, which should be guarded against, to copy the latest-built barn in their neighborhood without special regard to their own circumstances and needs, and, hence, it is not infrequently found that a certain style of barn has become the fashion in a section of country, while it may not be the best that could be devised. It is well to see a number of good barns and plans of different styles, and after studying their suitability to one's circumstances, to adopt such plan or combination of plans as in one's judgment comes nearest to meeting his wants. The system of building barns with basement stables to include nearly all the stock kept on the farm and all the winter's supply of feed under one roof has become so generally the fashion that it would doubtless be considered heresy to criticize it, but it will, perhaps, be safe to say that unless special attention be given to the question of ventilation and light, there are grave objections to the system. The health of the animals to be stabled is of even greater importance than the saving of cost in roofing or the convenience of feeding, from the fact that the question of health affects not only the animals themselves, but that of their offspring, and consequently of succeeding generations. As a rule, we think it is best to provide for stabling only the cattle in basement under the barn. If horses are included, special care should be taken to have a close partition between their stable and that of the cattle, and even then it cannot be healthful unless the system of ventilation is very complete, as the hot breath of the cattle and the steam from roots in storage will surely reach the horse stable. In rebuilding there are often frames of old buildings pulled down, the timbers of which count for little in the new one, and which might with moderate expense be utilized for a horse stable or sheep and pig pens, and which, placed at right angles with the barn, could be well arranged for convenience in feeding, having connection with the main barn and also serving as a shelter for the barnyard, which, under modern arrangements, is a cold and cheerless place, and not at all conducive to the sun-bath so wholesome and so gratefully enjoyed by the animals in a sheltered yard when let out for exercise.