

Farmers, Wake Up!

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I noticed in one of the Ottawa papers the professions of the different members of the new Dominion Parliament, and I notice that the farmers of this great producing country have only twenty-nine representatives who thoroughly understand their wants, but we will have sixty lawyers in the House to frame and make more complicated laws. I admire the manly stand taken by Colonel Dennison, the Chief Magistrate of Toronto, who sees the law in all its forms dealt out to rich and poor. When he said the law of this country wants to be simplified, and that when the lawyers are through with a suit they have all the money that is in it, he only spoke the truth and voiced the sentiment of the great majority of the people of this country. For example, trouble arises between two parties, a suit is entered, a lawyer on each side engaged, and if the suit is a large one they secure two more lawyers, perhaps in Toronto or elsewhere, and in this way line up to argue the case, quite friendly with one another, while their clients are supplying the hard cash. In this way they lead their clients around the curves of the law, from court to court, until one or both clients and their families are ruined.

I also notice there are eighteen doctors elected. What do those men do in Parliament? Make long speeches and get good positions for their sons and daughters, sons-in-law and friends. Yes, and the doctors do more than that: they prescribe in the mornings for the members that have swelled heads, the atmosphere of the bar-room being too much for them; and often take a dose themselves to straighten themselves up; and for the above treatment, and I am sure for nothing more, when defeated at the polls they have the cheek to ask for a senatorship. Why should the farmers of this country fold their arms and allow such men as these to be appointed to the Senate and many other good Government positions? They were paid more than they were worth, as we never heard of any bill or good measure that any of them ever introduced, but we have heard of them getting positions for their families at good salaries, while the educated farmers' sons and daughters have to content themselves with teaching school at a salary from \$200 to \$300 per year. Farmers should bring this matter up in the Institutes, and see that their sons and daughters share in the good positions given at Ottawa, and which are secured by a much less brainy class of people. Remember this is a young and growing country, and now is the time to assert your rights.

Hoping you will give this letter a place in your journal, I remain,

Yours truly,

A FARMER'S SON.

Ottawa, Dec. 25th, 1900.

STOCK.

"Waldo."

Herewith appears a very excellent half-bred of the Clydesdale stallion, Waldo 8067, the property of John Clark, Jr., Crowfoot, Alta. As will be seen from the engraving, he is a big, thick horse. Mr. Clark gives his weight as 1,950 lbs. in March, 1900. Waldo was second-prize winner at the Ottawa Exhibition of '99. He was bred by N. P. Clark, St. Cloud, Minn.; sired by Energetic (7690), out of Mary Mac by the Macgregor horse "Macmaster." Energetic was by Lord Erskine, out of "Jess of the Earn," by imp. Conqueror.

Strange Doings at the Fat Stock Show.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—Kindly allow me space to review some of the doings at the recent Guelph Show. On page 8 of the prize list, rule 68, a rule specially designed for judges' guidance reads: "All animals, except those exhibiting in the dairy classes, shall be judged from a breeder's or consumer's standpoint. The awards shall be given to the animal most valuable from a breeder's or consumer's point of view." In past years there was considerable complaint from breeders when the rule read "from a consumer's standpoint." We have been told that the executive joined the breeder's and consumer's points of view in framing a new rule for the judges to work by. They assure us that the word "or" is purely a clerical or printer's mistake, and should have been "and," in said rule 68. And yet the gentleman who judged Shropshires, class 13, and is, in my opinion, one of the most upright and honorable of men, seemingly followed the rule as understood all through till class 24 was reached—sweepstake (Shropshire)—when he publicly declared that he would judge that class *wholly from the consumer's standpoint*. On that decision I make no comments.

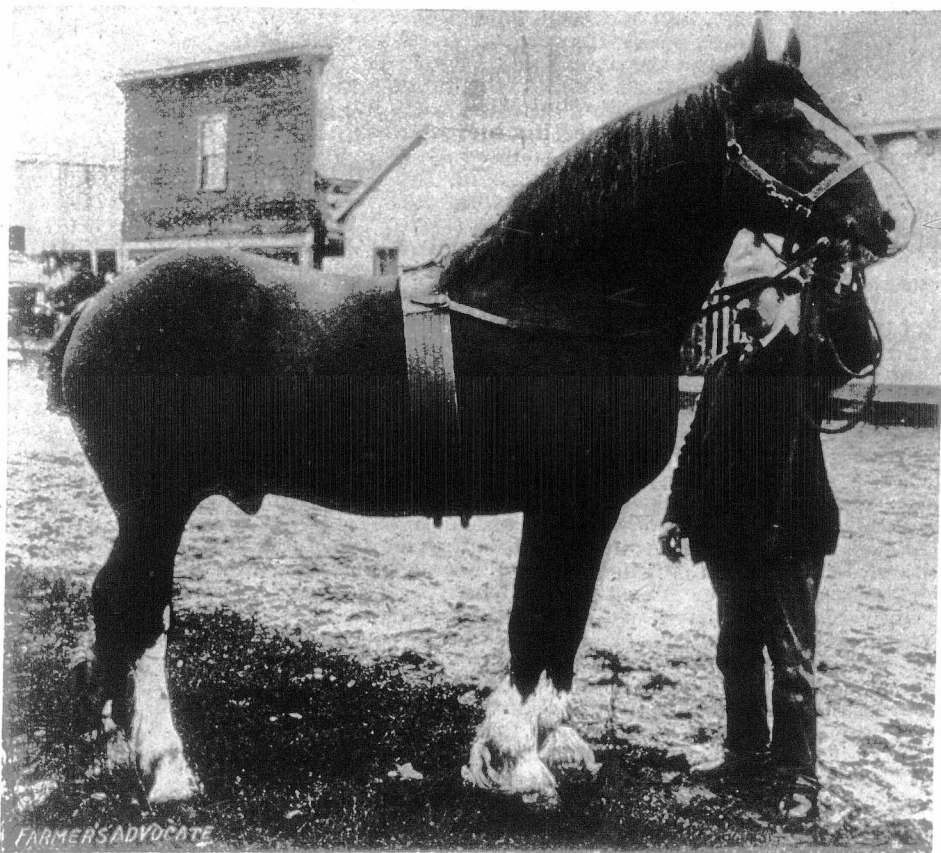
It was when the judging in class 28—grades and crosses—began that the "sport became fast and furious." Two judges were catalogued. Another

was added—how or why I know not. The committee at that stage consisted of two breeders interested in medium-wooled sheep and one in long-wools. But lo! that did not suffice. A leading exhibitor, by special, and it must have been a telling request, managed to get a fourth added, a breeder of Shropshires, and a keen competitor in the showing.

The show commenced, and a straight, tight draw made the first round. A fifth judge was called in and peace restored. The next section, for "wethers 1 year and under 2," was quickly and unanimously decided. The former round had dulled the edge of controversy, and all fell in line. A reaction occurred in the next section, for "3 wethers under 1 year," and another deadlock resulted. A second referee was asked to settle the dispute. He did his work, gave his decision, but was further instructed by the gentleman who held the books. A second examination failed to alter the referee's first decision. Truly, "too many cooks were making hotchpotch of the soup."

But the climax of the farce was reached when the call went forth for "best ewe or wether under 2 years." We placed in competition our yearling wether which the previous week had won at Chicago 2 first prizes and 2 championships: a sheep that had more admirers at Chicago than any other in our exhibit, and was pronounced by leading buyers from the great packing houses to be the best sheep they had ever handled. The yearling grade wether which won second in the former competition again entered the ring, led—but not by the owner. And the judges were cleverly baffled, as two of them there and then declared that never before had they laid hands on the supposed newcomer.

Verily, it "was a sight for the gods to look on with wonder." The second-prize sheep was given



CLYDESDALE STALLION, "WALDO."

PROPERTY OF JOHN CLARK, JR., CROWFOOT, ALTA.

the "sweepstake." But the writer's satisfaction came to hand later on. The wronged wether was entered in carcass competition. He won readily in his section, for furnishing the best yearling grade carcass, and followed that victory by winning "grand sweepstake" for "best sheep carcass any breed." The true test of merit—the block—cleared away all suppositions and juggling. In all, he won 4 firsts and 3 championships at Guelph and Chicago, and yet, forsooth, a committee of three, especially and purposely added to to make it four, took upon themselves to place him first, and within an hour so completely lost themselves that they did not know the sheep they had with such laborious precision and judgment awarded premiums to a little while previously. "It was a farce, a screaming farce."

The show was a grand success, and most instructive to the stock breeder from many points of view. In order, however, to have it go on and prosper more and more, surely it will be necessary for the management to exercise more care in appointing judges for the grade classes where different interests get in contact, and not have awarding committees formed to suit any individual or one class of breeders. The breeders of long-wools were not satisfied. No one can deny that their interests had not proper representation in the committee mentioned.

I do hope explanations will be forthcoming which will, in some measure, clear up the mystery surrounding the doings touched upon in this letter. Victoria Co., Ont. JOHN CAMPBELL.

ETTA KELLY, Springvale, Ont.:—"I received the premium watch in good order, and am very much pleased with it."

Judging at the Fairs.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

DEAR SIR,—It was with much interest and some amusement that I read in your valuable paper the articles under the above heading, but which, I think, might just as appropriately have been headed "Misjudging the Judges," for in most instances the criticising is done by men who do not even lay a hand on the animals, and pass their judgment and criticism entirely on outside appearance, which often is very deceiving, more especially so in the dairy breeds, and I fully believe that if these same critics were placed in the judge's position they would often be like a captain with his ship on the ocean without a compass. But of all, friend Rice's (in your Nov. 15th issue) "The Way Out" is the most erroneous, when he says there is only one rational way of judging dairy cows, and that is by the scales, Babcock and lactometer test. This reads very nice in theory, but let us look at it from the practical side. For example, we take two cows. No. 1 possesses typical breed characteristics, symmetrical form, with a well-formed and well-placed, capacious udder, giving, say 68 pounds of milk daily; while cow No. 2 is almost the very opposite in conformation, has a very unevenly-balanced udder, but her owner is an expert and skilled feeder, and can make her give 70 pounds daily, and, according to Mr. Rice's theory, she must get first prize, just because the scales show that she gives 2 pounds more milk daily, taking it that the milk be the same quality. Would this lead to the improvement of breed and breed type? And which of the two types would be the most desirable to perpetuate and to breed from? What would the reporters and Mr. Rice say of the judge who awarded the prizes in that way? I swear he would be pronounced an idiot. It is true that handsome is that handsome does, but much more valuable is that which is handsome and does handsome. The scales, Babcock and lactometer have their special place to decide which is the best cow, and this is in the dairy tests; there and only there it is right to rate the cows according to their production. But, in my opinion, the mission of the fall fair is, to a certain extent, a different one: it is to bring before the spectators, as an object lesson, animals possessing in the greatest degree the most desirable and typical points of that breed, combined with the indications of large production. It is true that glaring mistakes are made through the incapability of the judges, but this does not prove the method wrong. Mr. Rice's criticism on my work at London I will, on the whole, pass unnoticed, but will, just for his benefit, tell him that I know it to be a fact that even the owner of the two cows in question does not agree with him in this very case.

H. BOLLERT.

Oxford Co., Ont.

Bacon Pigs from Birth to Block.

I winter my sows on mangels, with a little corn or peas; running in barnyard, with a warm place to sleep. When within a week of farrowing, put them in a warm, dry place, and feed them soaked oats and peas, ground, with what milk I have, and water to make it thin enough. After farrowing, feed the same mixture, only a little more drink, feeding sparingly for a week or ten days; then feed all the sow will take, and have a long, low trough, so the little pigs can feed with the sow, with a box in a corner of the pen filled with earth, wood ashes, salt, a little sulphur and charcoal, so they can take it at will. Generally I have my sows farrow about March 1st and September 1st (as I am breeding pigs for breeding purposes and shows), so they are right ages for showing. When farrowed about March 1st, when fine weather comes in spring they are ready for weaning, and are from 35 pounds to 45 pounds each at 7 weeks old. When weaned, they are fed soaked ground barley with a little shorts, with outdoor exercise. Until within a few weeks of show time they are fed ground peas and a little shorts, with outdoor exercise. By that time they are about six months old, and are from 225 to 275 pounds each, of the true bacon type. The breeds I keep are pure-bred Berkshires and pure-bred Yorkshires, both being of the large, lengthv, smooth, deep-sided type. J. A. RUSSELL.

GENTLEMEN,—I have been greatly enlightened and have much enjoyed your journal, as it has been a source of valuable information to me. Your Christmas number is just at hand. I consider it one of the finest numbers in my collection of agricultural journals received this year. You have displayed great taste in your selections and groupings. It is full of valuable information, and a friend to both farmer and breeder. Enclosed find draft for \$1.00, and kindly send me four copies of same, as I wish to send them where they will do much good. JNO. W. SCOTT, Austin, Minn.