

# The Farmer's Advocate

"Persevere and Succeed."

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### EDITORIAL.

#### CONSTITUTION THE BASIS OF SUCCESS.

The most essential quality in any class of stock is constitution. It is even more important than type or functional development, for without it these are of little avail, whereas an animal that possesses strong constitution is almost sure to be capable of at least some degree of usefulness in its particular sphere.

Constitution is the basis of success in breeding. The limitations of every breed are bounded by constitution. Within these bounds there is scope for a great variety of attainment, from the meager capacity of the neglected, undeveloped scrub, to the marvellous production of the highly-developed, highly-specialized, abundantly-nourished, judiciously-handled Wisconsin Holstein cow that produced 27,532.5 pounds of milk and 998.26 pounds of fat (calculated equivalent to 1,247.82 pounds of butter) within a year. Without constitution, a strain of stock is capable of but limited accomplishment, and must sooner or later run to weeds. It will not stand feeding for high development; it will not stand line breeding to fix a type or establish a tendency; it will not suit a great variety of conditions; will not make the best use of its feed, and will not afford a large enough number of individuals amongst which to select and breed for high development, because the judicious breeder will require to reject so many animals outright for lack of thrift and stamina; otherwise, he might expect to find a large crop of defects, unsoundness, disease and culls among the progeny.

It is true that some individual animals—dairy cows, for instance—may, with care, yield liberally throughout a lifetime, even though seemingly lacking in constitution, perhaps even tuberculous. However, the chances are against their perpetuating their usefulness. Weakness of this kind commonly breeds on and on, eventually showing itself in a preponderance of culls. There are exceptions to this, as to other rules, but, generally speaking, a high average of usefulness is not to be looked for among a delicate breed or strain, while certain it is that the ultimate results which may be wrought with a breed depend very largely upon the basis of constitution with which the foundation stock is naturally endowed.

One obstacle in the way of placing adequate emphasis upon constitution is the difficulty of discerning it. It is commonly considered that ample heart-girth, allowing liberal room for the vital organs, such as heart, lungs and digestive apparatus, guarantees constitution. Needless to say, it does not, although animals of such build are more liable to prove robust, for the common-sense reason above indicated. While it is quite right, in judging stock, to lay much stress upon these outward indications of constitution, yet we must remember that mere size of vital organs does not in itself insure vigor. Wide, deep-chested animals may have tuberculosis, though undoubtedly less prone to it than those of opposite conformation. On the other hand, among horses, cattle, sheep and swine, as well as among men, some of the spare, tough, wiry ones, with but very moderate capacity of trunk, possess a very high degree of vigor and stamina. Constitution is not infallibly indicated by build. It cannot be certainly diagnosed in the show-ring. It is evidenced most surely by the health, vigor, thrift, breeding results, and wearing qualities of the herd. These signs the breeder knows better than anyone else, and it behooves him to observe them closely, and to make all possible effort to preserve and increase them, for constitution is the chief cornerstone of success.

#### ALBERTA AND THE DOMINION EXHIBITION.

The Dominion Exhibition at Calgary was a revelation to many visitors, even to those who are among the best posted upon Alberta affairs. The aspect of the Province, as a whole, was never presented in a more glorious panorama—miles upon miles of waving green, level and rolling prairie, bluffs and grain fields, and always those grim sentinels, snow-capped and majestic, towering in sight of the visitors who journeyed a few miles north or south of Calgary to get "a look at the country," or who remained in the city "doing the fair."

In June, Alberta grass looks greenest, Alberta sun shines brightest, and Alberta folk are happiest. The fair visitors were well entertained. Manager Richardson was indefatigable. President Van Wart was here, there and everywhere, a most cordial host, looking well to the comfort and convenience of those who made the fair a success. The money expended upon the exhibition is returning good value. Buildings of permanent structure, with a pleasing degree of architectural style, dot the grounds, and the exhibition park itself is now dressed in style becoming a city of the commercial and agricultural importance that Calgary has attained.

Most people have thought of Southern Alberta as a ranching country, with a spot around Raymond where sugar beets are grown, and with here and there a field of straggling winter wheat; and of the northern part of the Province as the land par excellence for mixed farming. The north, truly, has not been overrated, but the south has been underestimated. The district exhibits revealed something of the nature of recent development in Alberta's agriculture. These exhibits consisted of the natural, agricultural and manufactured products of a given area, and were arranged in large building set apart wholly for the purpose. Points were allowed for the best display under the following heads: Wheat, oats, barley, other grains, natural grasses, tame grasses, vegetables, fruit, manufactured articles, minerals and natural products, artistic display and number of varieties. This classification has been found not to work out satisfactorily, especially in the case of giving points for other varieties, and grouping all manufactured articles, including butter and flour; but under this classification, the first, second, fourth, sixth and eighth places were won by districts south of Calgary, and the third place by Carstairs, a district just a few miles north. Granum, formerly called Leavings, received the highest number of points, being strong in all kinds of grain, grasses, vegetables, and artistic display. The winner of first place received a cash prize, and satisfaction and advertising beyond computing. A few districts in Saskatchewan made displays, but did not attempt to fill all departments. These district exhibits were easily the most interesting features of the fair. In the West, everyone is brimful of civic pride. It is the dominant note of the social life, and social pride was stirred to its depths over the district displays.

The entertainment features of the fair were clean, wholesome, novel, and interesting. The airship made many successful flights: real Indians, in their paraphernalia of state, gave war dances, and races on foot and horseback. The Iowa State Band, and the 91st Highlanders' Band, of Hamilton, Ont., provided the musical programme. Real, swarthy cowboys "busted" bronchos each evening before the grand-stand, and the vaudeville performances were strictly first-class. The long twilight of Alberta summers precluded the extensive display of fireworks, but at the end of each day the public went away satisfied with their money's worth, and conscious of having visited a

fair that had given them something out of the usual line.

The judging of live stock was witnessed by an exceptionally large crowd. At no exhibition in Canada has the writer seen so many spectators gather about a judging ring. In this there is evidence of the interest developed by the stock-judging schools. The agricultural directors on the board were instrumental in getting up a commodious grand-stand to accommodate the spectators about the ring, where all classes of stock were shown simultaneously, and the use made of this stand justified the small expenditure.

The machinery men made a big display; merchants were out in force; the British Columbia fruit-growers astonished everyone by their displays of fruit, and, altogether, the 1908 Dominion Exhibition was an agreeable surprise to the throngs of visitors, and quite satisfactory financially and otherwise to the management.

#### A THREE-YEAR VETERINARY COURSE.

As our readers have been already informed, the Provincial Government of Ontario, having taken over the Ontario Veterinary College (located in Toronto) from its former Principal, Dr. Andrew Smith, it will in future be conducted, like the Ontario Agricultural College, under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture, although affiliated with the University of Toronto. The Principal, Dr. E. A. A. Grange, V. S., M. S., a native of Wellington County, Ont., comes to his new position equipped with a high degree of natural aptitude, supplemented with a wide range of professional education and experience. He has been instructed to select a thoroughly competent staff, and the College will reopen in the same buildings early in October, prepared to give a first-class three-year course, the course heretofore having covered but two years. Students who have already entered the College and completed the work of the first year will be admitted to the second-year class without further examination. New students will require to produce evidence that they have received an education equivalent to High-school Entrance standing, or else pass an examination such as will be announced in a catalogue which is now in course of preparation, and will be mailed to those who apply for it. The fees for instruction will be \$60 for each year of the course, the students paying, besides, for their own subjects for dissecting. Graduates of the Ontario Veterinary College in good standing may enter the senior or third class, the teachings of which will embrace a number of subjects for which the two-year course never afforded opportunity. Students of other colleges desiring a term in the senior year will be admitted to the class on similar terms, providing their previous education has been of a standard equivalent to that of the Ontario Veterinary College up to the end of the second year. A calendar, now in course of preparation, will be mailed free to all on application to the Principal, Dr. E. A. A. Grange, at 40, 42, 44, 46 Temperance St., Toronto, Ont.

The leaves of a plant are its stomach, lungs and heart. Kept from appearing above the ground, it is at once smothered and starved. The length of time the roots retain their vitality under such treatment will depend upon the season, the vigor of the plant, the character of its underground rootstocks, and its habit of growth, but any plant will eventually succumb. One season of thorough surface cultivation, preventing any green from showing above the ground, will practically exterminate that most persistent of all perennials, bindweed.