

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN  
THE DOMINION.

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### Nova Scotia Government Aid to Agriculture.

For some years past the Nova Scotia Government has expended about twenty-four or twenty-five thousand dollars yearly upon agriculture. This amount distributed last year by grants to 119 agricultural societies, \$10,000; Provincial Exhibition, \$4,000; School of Horticulture, \$2,000; School of Agriculture and Provincial Farm, \$4,000; Farmers' Association, \$1,000. The balance has usually been taken up in miscellaneous work, such as bonus to creameries, Institute meetings, reports, printing, stationery and so forth, leaving a small item for salaries.

During the last session of Parliament \$10,000 was added to the grant, intending to improve the breeds of horses throughout the Province, which will probably be expended in procuring and maintaining some four or five choice stallions to be kept in different parts of the Province. It is possible that some sheep may be purchased during the year. The pure breeds of cattle are now being fairly well supplied by local breeders.

Regarding the Agricultural College project, the Legislature has given power to the Government to co-operate with New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island with a view to establishing a Maritime School of Agriculture, Horticulture and Technical Instruction, providing a satisfactory arrangement can be made with the other Provinces.

You cannot make a success of breeding horses or any other kind of live stock without having a clear-cut, definite idea of what you are driving at, and you must not expect to dip in and out in a speculative way and make a success.

### Professional Men and Their Relation to Agriculture in Canada.

It is a common feeling among men of all sorts and conditions that the other fellow seems to have the best of it. There is probably no one who does not at times come to the conclusion that his lot is a hard one. There is a deadening effect in all routine work, which, coupled with ill-health, due to injudicious care of the body, overwork, or hereditary weakness, leaves a man discouraged and depressed at times. The farmer remains fairly robust. Good health makes educational improvement easy and pleasurable. The farmer or stockman doesn't lack for exercise, fresh air, sunshine, and abundance of wholesome foods. He does not value the result of these conditions in his own health sufficiently, and may sometimes envy the man who never has to take off his coat to his work, and this envy is frequently quite misplaced. The town represents the intensest side of human effort. In town the activity of man is massed, and the individuals of the mass are in competition such as is unknown in agricultural pursuits. The uncertainty of commercial life is proverbial. Ten or fifteen years' history in towns of over ten thousand people will generally record the failure of at least half of the men engaged in business at the beginning. Professional men, too, feel strongly the pressure of duties. Canada is strongly smitten with an ideal of advanced education, so that professional pursuits are encouraged beyond the requirements of the country and beyond the capacity of the substratum of masses of people to support them liberally or even adequately. The resulting competition leads them into extravagances for the increase of social connection, and many fine professional men find themselves in a disappointing state of respectable entanglement, synonymous with semi-poverty, at the time of life in which they feel that their powers are declining and the younger fellows are crowding in to push the older men to colder and more scattered suburbs of the social circle.

Of course a man must grow old some time. He will, however, grow old slower if he will recreate more. Every man can, should and generally does indulge some hobby or side line that furnishes a healthy haven of pleasure to the humdrum of ordinary occupation. There is no wiser thing for the tired man than to take a leaf out of the farmer's book, and there is no branch of the farmer's business more attractive and satisfactory than the livestock side of it.

The possession of land gives opportunity for the highest kind of enjoyment from constructive work and improvement under the direction of the owner. The building of fences, the construction of suitable barns and houses, the reclaiming of rough and waste places, the cultivation of fruit and flowers, making two blades of grass grow where one formerly grew, are all gratifying kinds of work. The breeding and improvement of live stock are not less so. It is one of the highest distinctions in England to capture ribbons for the champion horse, for pens of sheep or swine, or for the best calf of the year, and is in every case considered an additional honor to the highest honor in rank and nobility. Even Her Majesty vies with the gentry for honors with her herd. The speculative spirit in a new country attaches enhanced honor to occupations in which the money gains are more rapid than they are in agriculture. The application of science to agricultural, feeding and dairy operations, together with the recognition given by Governments, is raising the art of agriculture to greater dignity.

There is a good field open for men of wealth to apply surplus money to the work of improvement of live stock. This will not be done unless the indulgence in a taste for live animals becomes more general. Any venture in the business must be backed by interest and energy. The Bakewells must be men who are wedded to their art, and who have the tenacity to work for the realization of an ideal. It is probably true that no work has ever been accomplished under Government patronage equal to the work of single individuals, backed by strong personal zeal and interest. Work done by Governments must be largely done by servants, and so must lack the life and soul of individual effort. Since stock interests would certainly be helped by the enlistment of greater interest on the part of the professional classes, a professional man would make a poor living if put in the average farmer's shoes and obliged to make a living with the same resources. But with an interest in live stock and considerable capital, the professional man, with the susceptibility to new ideas that the professional classes are generally credited with, he should be able to confer benefits on the agricultural profession and bring benefaction, honor and gratification to himself and his family. There is in Canada a rather strong tendency on the part of young men who are the sons of farmers to enter the professions. The fact remains that agriculture is the representative occupation of the Dominion. It involves, directly or indirectly, about three-fourths of the whole population, and on account of its predominance it should be expected to assimilate other factors of population to it, and to more closely identify the interest of these factors with itself. The tired professional man, by embarking in land or live-stock ventures, will be recreating in the best possible way; the rich one will be promoting his country's good, and will be identifying himself with the best, foremost, representative interest and business, his land.

### Books for Farm Libraries.

In addition to what the columns of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE furnish on all branches of practical farming from issue to issue, many of our readers desire to have in their homes for reference and special study a small library of well-chosen books. While the list of really good up-to-date agricultural works is not so large as to be necessarily confusing to those who undertake to select a library, still any one is glad to have suggestions as to the most desirable. In this connection we were pleased to notice recently a helpful bulletin prepared by Prof. J. B. Reynolds, of the Ontario Agricultural College, and issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, on books for farmers, stockmen, dairymen, and fruit-growers. On looking over this bulletin we notice that most of the works recommended have a place in our own large reference library, and also in our premium list published from time to time. Nor are we satisfied to simply recommend these works, but we have decided to place them within reach of all our subscribers, on terms so favorable as to render it a serious neglect not to take advantage of the offer. For list of books and terms see our agricultural library offer on another page of this issue.

### STOCK.

#### Clydesdale and Shire Amalgamation Recommended.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR.—Certainly the horse-breeding industry of this country is of great importance in the meantime, and likely to continue so. We will take up the indispensable class for home and foreign city purposes. In the first place, a horse has to be up to a fair weight, not less than 1,600 lbs., and up to 1,800 lbs. or more, for export. A few years ago things were different, the American markets were our principal markets; they called for and tolerated smaller-sized sires. In their advertisements for a number of years their headlines were always for quality, little mention of weight being made. But with quality there should be weight also. Now I notice weight is the leading feature, and any one who has it does not forget to advertise the same to the fullest extent. Now comes the question, how are we to attain quality coupled with the size required for the British markets for heavy work in the cities? I will simply give you my observations for, say the last 30 years. At that time there were no stud books known as Shire or Clyde. Breeders simply used good judgment in crossing the best of what is now known as Shire and Clyde, and what grand progress was made in bringing up the standard of the draft horse! See what the late-lamented Laurance Drew showed to the world what could be done, and what he did has been done by no one breeder before nor since his decease. Twenty-five or thirty years ago, when we went after sires to Scotland or England, we wanted type. Sure and good breeders were, with few exceptions, the rule. Wonderful improvement took place in our heavy horses for ten or fifteen years, then they seemed to come to a standstill, and latterly, I am sorry to say in honesty, they are certainly deteriorating, from some cause, as is plainly seen throughout our country. Space will not permit to enumerate the numbers of our grand old breeding sires when constitution and type was our aim. Briefly I may say I believe that when the distinctions between the different types of Shire and Clyde or Scottish horse were tried to be made, each having their own separate book of record, and the export demand began, then began a course of inbreeding, pampering and over-feeding, which has ended in the present state of affairs. Now, when we want young sires of either class, the question is to get a breeder of average quality, or one that will sire a reasonable percentage of offspring that will prove profitable to the owner or the public. We may possibly increase the size of the Clyde or the quality of the Shire through themselves by selection, if we can afford to wait ten or fifteen years. If anyone can tell us how we can produce the best commercial export heavy draft horse in reasonable time by keeping those so-called breeds separate, I am willing to learn. I think the Shire and Clyde cross is just as much a draft horse model as the Bates and Booth families are a typical Shorthorn. I simply say I believe if we had only one stud book in Canada for the two classes we could soon bring the heavy horse up to his former standing. If you see the best representatives of the breed at the Highland Show of Scotland and the Royal of England, you will see the two types are becoming consolidated, and are much alike. I personally have been importing and breeding Clydes for 30 years, and have only owned one Shire in that time, so I have no personal axe to grind by any means. But as you have asked my views on that point, I give what I think is for the best interests of breeders and farmers, and for the best interests of the finances of our country. I will be pleased to have the disinterested views of anyone who will kindly contribute any information that will further the horse interests of our country in any way, at any time.

Huron Co., Ont.

A. INNIS.