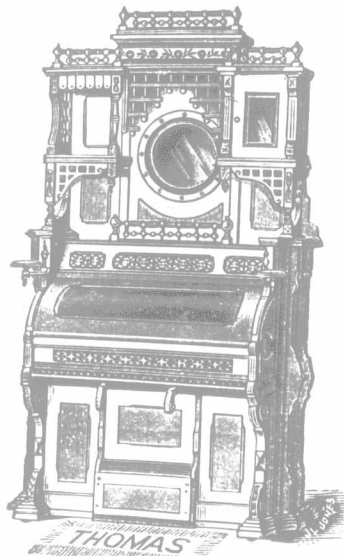


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STOCK GOSSIP.

In writing to advertisers please mention the Farmer's Advocate.

Mr. Wm. Oliver, Avonbank, Ont., writes that his Lincolns won all first prizes (excepting two) offered, as well as four second prizes, at Peoria, Ill., and won all the first premiums offered in the same class at St. Louis, Mo. He further writes that he has sold all the sheep he took with him of his own breeding.

W. B. Cockburn, Aberfoyle, informs us that he has a number of shearing rams and both ram and ewe lambs to dispose of, both home-bred and imported. Last year Shorthorns were started at Greenhouse, the aim being quality and pedigree combined. This herd numbers fifteen head, and it was very successful at the Industrial and other shows.

S. J. Pearson & Son, Meadowvale, Ont., change their advertisement this month. They now offer for sale their imported Shorthorn bull, T. Fithills, first prize winner at Toronto Exhibition. They further state that he has been used with good satisfaction in the herd for three years, and has left a lot of good heifers now coming into breeding, which accounts for the bull being offered for sale at this time.

Since June last Mr. Henry Arkell, of Arkell, has sold 42 Oxford-downs to J. G. Campbell, Ohio, U. S.; 42 to George McKenzie, Wis., U. S.; 23 to W. B. Harvey, Indiana; 34 to A. Dorsey & Sons, Illinois; 6 to W. E. Carlin, Wyoming, U. S.; 63 to Centre Valley Stock Farm, N. Y.; 2 to W. Hamel Que., 3 to P. Warey, Ontario, and won a large share of the prizes at Detroit, Toronto and other shows.

F. C. Sibbald, M. D., writes under date Sept. 24:—Owing to the favorable season for pasture lands the stock have thriven well; in consequence the calves have made great growth. The bull calves are so precocious that the heifers are in great danger, but such accidents will and have happened in my herd before, although not altogether desirable; still, it is not always possible to divide the breeding stock, otherwise the best plan would be to separate the cows with bull calves from these with heifers. This has been a good season for stock farms, but not so good for grain; in fact, taking one year with another, this Province, like the States to the south, is getting rather worn out for wheat growing. No land can stand the perpetual strain of grain growing without keeping a fair amount of stock to consume most of the produce of the farm, and thereby keep up the productivity of the land; therefore it is unwise to commence farming on old land without sufficient capital to purchase stock to help to restore the land to its original fertility. How often farmers in Ontario think from the appearance of their crops in June and the earlier part of July that they are going to have a fine crop of grain, but unfortunately, before the end of the latter month, growth seems to languish, and probably when harvest time comes his promised 25 bushels to the acre amounts to about 5, evidently showing that there is not sufficient strength left in the soil to produce anything like a thriving crop? Fortunately there is a large area of virgin soil in the Dominion, and consequently, plenty of scope for both grain and stock raisers. But care will have to be taken to limit the size of the holdings in our Northwest, otherwise our great country will soon reach the same exhausted condition which every traveller must have observed in the formerly apparent exhaustless fertility of the newer States of the Union. But no land will stand perpetual grain-growing without what is called mixed farming.

DOMINION SWINE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Executive of the Dominion Swine Breeders' Association met in Mr. Secretary Hill's office recently. The following gentlemen were recommended as expert judges, to act at the fat show to be held in Guelph, Ont., December next:—

Swine, all classes—Judge, Mr. Sharp Butterfield, Sandwich, Ont.; Reserve Judge, James Main, Milton, Ont.

The Secretary was instructed to request the following gentlemen to read papers or give addresses at the next meeting:—Prof. James W. Robertson, Dominion Dairy Commissioner, Ottawa, Ont.; C. C. James, B. A., Toronto, Ont.; Dr. James Mills, O. A. C., Guelph, Ont.; Mr. Zavitz, Experimentalist, O. A. C., Guelph, Ont.; J. C. Snell, President Dominion Swine Breeders' Association, Edmonton, Ont.; Mr. Todd, Waheman, Ohio, U. S.; J. E. Brethour, Burford, Ont.; S. Barfoot, Chatham, Ont.; J. J. Payne, Chatham, Ont.; Joseph Featherstone, M. P., Streetsville, Ont.; John Bell, Amber, Ont.; Richard Snell, Edmonton, Ont., and E. D. George, Putnam, Ont.

Messrs. J. C. Snell and D. DeCoursey were appointed a committee to draft instructions to govern delegates elected by this Association as representatives to the Fair Boards.

The Secretary was instructed to offer a first prize of \$10 and a second of \$5 for the best essays on Swine Breeding. Messrs. J. E. Brethour, Burford, Ont., R. H. Harding, Thorndale, Ont., S. Coxworth, Claremont, Ont., and the Secretary were appointed a committee to choose the subject and award the prizes. The subject chosen was, "Most profitable food for swine and the best manner of preparing it."

The annual meeting of the Association will be held in Guelph, Ont., on the evening of Dec. 13th.

P. W. HODSON, Secretary.
London, Ont.