

The ADVOCATE intends pushing these tests to a still greater extent, and has a large quantity of the best varieties of winter wheat now out among the farmers of different sections of Ontario, some sorts of which have proved extra good yielding wheat of extra milling qualities. In many of the letters reporting the tests are enquiries for these varieties for seed for this season. The Colorado wheat can be obtained of any of the leading seedsmen that are advertising with us. The Manitou wheat can be obtained from Mr. David Birrell, Greenwood, who has a limited quantity grown by himself for sale. The Cave oats are not to be had in any quantity this year; but on application to the ADVOCATE office the White Canada can be supplied.

#### Farmers and Fairs.

In my last letter I endeavored to point out to what a very great extent the farmers of Ontario are themselves to blame for the very humiliating (I should call it) position which they occupy in regard to the management of the agricultural exhibitions held throughout the Province. As, however, they have placed themselves in such a position, the only thing I can see for them to do is to take a bold stand in defence of their rights as exhibitors and consequently patrons of these fairs, and to claim at least some measure of deference to their wishes.

I have been very much struck with the almost unanimous opinion expressed by your correspondents with regard to "The keeping of live stock at Toronto Industrial Fair for two weeks." You have published letters, I think, from breeders of almost every class of live stock, and with only two exceptions, as far as I have seen, they have united in denouncing the scheme. One of these exceptions was, if I am not mistaken, the Secretary of a fair that is making a brave attempt to take a leading position among the shows of the Province, while on the other side we have such well known exhibitors of stock as Richard Gibson, Peter Arkell, and scores of others, denouncing the whole thing as an imposition. The other exception to which I have referred, Messrs. R. & S. Nicholson, of Sylvan, can hardly be classed as supporters of the project, as they do not seem to have expressed an opinion one way or the other, and while referring to their letter, I would like to notice a statement they make in it, the letter referred to being in the January number of the ADVOCATE, in it they say as follows:—"Of course it will keep the best stock from one of the other large shows, but they are powerless to prevent it; they must bow in submission with the best grace they can." Mark the words, "Powerless to prevent it." Can this be so? Have we, I say we, for I am now speaking of myself and my fellow stock breeders, reached such a state of humble and patient submission that we, the stock breeders of Ontario, on whom the success of the live stock department of this very exhibition depends, feel compelled to accept as our fate all and any arbitrary rules that the Board of Directors of the Industrial Fair choose to impose upon us. I trow not, and I would urge on the stock breeders of Ontario to rise up in their might, and what a might they can be in this country, if they will only unite in their common interests, and in the words of the ancient Israelitish leader, "Quit themselves like men," by declaring to all the Fair Associations of Canada their determination to have at least some voice in the arrangement of the live stock

departments of the different shows and the rules that govern them.

The question now is, How can this best be done? My answer is, without a doubt, By means of the various live stock associations. We have now in Ontario associations representing almost all the various breeds of live stock, and each of these associations has been formed apparently to further the interests of those engaged in breeding that particular line of live stock, and I ask my readers can they do better than unite in protecting their common interests in a matter such as this: one that affects every live stock exhibitor in Ontario, be he a fancier of Ayrshires or Shorthorns, Shropshires or Cotswolds, Berkshires or Yorkshires. I would suggest, therefore, that each of the various associations, meeting in Toronto this (March) month, should pass resolutions condemning the action of the Toronto Industrial Fair Association, in endeavoring to carry out a measure that is evidently repugnant to the best wishes and interests of the exhibitors at their fair, and, furthermore, that the members present at each of these association meetings should bind themselves not to exhibit their stock at the Toronto Industrial Exhibition as long as any such measure is in force; and that the Secretary of each and every association be instructed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the Industrial Exhibition.

Should such a course as I suggest be carried out, I can not but think that the united voices of all the leading stock breeders of Ontario must carry some weight with the directors of the Industrial Fair Association, and at any rate, should these resolutions not have the desired effect, there is no doubt but that if the programme suggested be carried out in full, and the Industrial Fair of 1890 find itself minus most of the leading herds and flocks of Ontario, such a practical demonstration of the determination of Canadian stock breeders to look after their own interests will not be without the desired effect, and we will in the future find ourselves treated with a good deal more respect by not only the Industrial but by every other Fair Association in Canada.

Before closing let me offer my readers two mottoes, both of which might well be adopted by the various live stock associations. The one is the grand old Cornish motto, "One and all." And let me say that unless we follow out its teaching we shall most assuredly find ourselves again left in the cold; it will be very little good for one, or two, associations to pass such a resolution as I suggest, as the weight it would carry then would be comparatively small. This course is one that can only be effective if followed up by *one and all*. My other motto is a very different one, but it also hails from the home of the hardy Cornish miner and fisherman, a race of men who have made themselves famous all the world over for their sturdy determination and perseverance, it is, "Let every herring hang by its own tail." Words quaintly put, perhaps, but brimful of meaning, for although to ensure success it is necessary that all our live stock associations pull together, still very little will be done unless we each of us work for the desired end ourselves, without depending on our next neighbor to do this, or that, for us unless, to use again the old Cornish fisherman's illustration, so familiar in bygone years to the writer, "Every herring hangs by its own tail."

BLUE BLOOD.

#### Stock.

##### Better Cattle.

The Breeder's Gazette says, "Fewer and better cattle will yet prove the salvation of the industry." Here is a whole sermon in a dozen words. It is a favorite saying of the breeder of poor stock, "The feed makes the breed." This, however, is a great fallacy. Where is the scrub that would make 36 lbs. 12½ oz. of butter in a week, as did Mary Anne of St Lambert, or the 46 lbs. given by Princess 2nd, or that would weigh at two years of age 1950 lbs. as did Brant Chief, or 2415 lbs. Munro's weight at three years, or 1510 the weight of Britisher as a yearling. Free access to all the feed grown in Manitoba would not do it. A visit to the Union Stock Yards of Chicago is an excellent education. There may be seen the lank, thin-fleshed one and a-half cent per pound Texan being slaughtered by thousands to supply the home trade of the United States, and here and there a bunch of fine grade Shorthorns, Herefords or Polled Angus worth from four to five and a-half cents per pound, too good for the Americans, and are shipped to England, where good beef is recognized and appreciated. This winter has fully demonstrated that Manitoba has reached and even passed the self-supporting point, and must at once seek an outlet for her beef cattle. Where is this outlet to be found? If cattle of the right stamp are produced, England will take them at a fair price; if poor ones are produced, they will go begging buyers, as no farmer in the Dominion of Canada ever saw them beg before. And why? Simply because this class of cattle will not yield a profit to shippers under existing conditions if furnished at half a cent per pound. And as we have no great manufacturing towns at home to supply, this fact will be brought home with force to our farmers in the very near future. As more pounds of the better class of beef can be produced for less money by using a pure-bred sire of any of the beef breeds even on the common cow, it is surely wisdom to breed along this line. It not unfrequently occurs that the heifer bred in this way, true to her breeding grows well, attaining fine condition for beef, and is sold for that purpose instead of being kept to reproduce her kind. This is selling the goose that will almost to a certainty lay a golden egg. It is not wisdom for every farmer to launch out as breeder and importer of pure-bred cattle, but it is simply suicidal to his best interests to use a scrub sire. If a pure-bred sire is not available otherwise, a number of farmers should unite and procure one. They are to be had in our own Province of excellent quality and at rates within the reach of all. While this article has referred to the beefy properties only of cattle, the same principle is applicable to the dairy breeds. At all events and in every instance use a pure-bred sire of the breed that most nearly fills the requirements according to location or individual choice, and above all do not interbreed the different grades. The long line of breeding necessary to establish the pure-bred cattle gives them great prepotency in crossing on common or grade stock, but that these qualities will be transmitted by their grade progeny is not at all probable, hence crossing grade cattle is attended with very uncertain results.

Importers of draft breeds of horses are bringing across the big pond more mares than usual. This is indicative of advanced thinking. Too much attention has been given to the sire, and too little to the dam, in the past.