

Canadian Live Stock Husbandry.

THE PRESENT DAY PRESENTS THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME—THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS CLEARLY POINTED OUT.

(BY HON. JOHN DRYDEN, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE FOR ONTARIO.)

Those of our farmers who are especially interested in live stock husbandry have during recent years been passing through a period of depression in common with every other branch of agriculture. The returns for their skill and effort have been at times very small, and the outlook for the future has sometimes been entirely discouraging; but in the midst of their discouragement I would have them remember that the whole world consumes their products. The world's population increases rapidly year by year, and the time will never come when there will not be a desire on the part of mankind to consume what they have to sell.

For the past ten or fifteen years a large percentage of the population have not been so conditioned that they could readily buy what is needed of live stock products to satisfy their desires; but when a change comes, as come it must, the demand will be increased and live stock husbandry will come to the front, and will come to stay. In this great industry what is wanted at the present moment is some word of encouragement which will stimulate farmers generally to take advantage of the situation in order to commence on a proper footing in the conduct of this branch of agriculture. No better time ever existed in Canada than the present for making a commencement towards laying the foundation of superior studs, herds, and flocks. At no time in our history have we had a larger number of superior animals to select from than now. But this is not the only advantage. These animals are selling at a price which is within the reach of the majority of our farmers. At the prices now prevailing pedigreed stock ought to find a place on every farm. Why should not the dairyman have in his stables cows whose pedigrees would be almost a guarantee of great milk production? First-class ones can now be secured at a small percentage above the price of good grades. Why should not the best sheep and the best swine now take the place of the inferior scrub? Why should not good Shorthorns take the place of the stunted, hard-fed animals so frequently used in producing beef? Why should not the best of our horses be chosen now, when prices are so low, as a foundation for future production of a higher quality? These superior animals cost no more for food, care, and shelter than those found on our farms everywhere at the present moment, while the returns received would multiply twenty, fifty, or even a hundred per cent.

I am not suggesting that every man should commence a career as a producer of pure-bred stock for breeding purposes, but that, at the present low prices, it will pay to invest in these for the production of wool, mutton, bacon or beef. Many persons seem to have a horror of a pedigree, as though it reduced the value of the animal for practical purposes. But our so-called "fancy stock" is being bred, or should be, for the best practical results at the stall, the shearer's table, or the butcher's block. This is the ultimate test, and the pedigree which does not show results in this direction is inferior and represents no real value, no matter how clean the head, arched the neck or straight the back. No one ought to be asked to invest in a mere paper pedigree; but a pedigree ordinarily represents value along the practical lines indicated.

My plea, therefore, is that good animals ought to be secured now, when they are within the reach of everyone. It is folly to wait until the turn comes in the market, when everyone will want the best at once and the price will soon be beyond the reach of the man who is making the purchase for ordinary practical purposes.

I am aware that the first objection to be urged is lack of capital. Few of our farmers feel at the present juncture that they have money to spare which they could invest in this direction. But if they have animals about them of an inferior description my suggestion would be to sell five of the present lot and buy three superior ones, and thus make a beginning. This has been done and can be done in almost every section of country. Let it be remembered that I am urging this plan in order that we may receive better returns, not merely as breeding animals, but using these for the practical purposes of the ordinary grade.

When a start is made, then let every cross be for the best practical results. Let us copy from the example of the farmers in Great Britain, who bring everything in this direction to a practical test. With them the particular turn of the horn or the color of the hair has very little weight, as these things do not enhance or reduce the real value of the animal. So ought it to be in Canada. Let improvement for practical results be the watchword. If it is beef we are producing, aim to improve the quality and increase the quantity at the same expense. So with milk, mutton, wool or bacon.

To accomplish these improvements will prove to be a most interesting study, and one which, if successful, will bring ample returns in dollars and cents. The farmer who can thus succeed will become a manufacturer in the very highest sense.

I know of no calling which brings greater satisfaction than success in live stock husbandry. No two animals of the same breed will be found exactly alike, but when skill in mating not only perpetuates

the present good quality, but steadily advances towards the ideal of perfection, and withal insures greater returns, the work becomes to the enthusiast a perpetual delight.

What a difference in the wealth of our country and the comforts of our people if every farm could be thus stocked! We should still need to labor, but our labor and toil would not be as now it often is, merely a striving after wind, but would bring tangible results.

In our Canada we have every stimulus possible to urge us forward in this direction. Not only, as I have suggested, have we numerous flocks, herds and studs from which a selection may be made, but we have in various parts of our country the very best soil and the very best climatic conditions requisite to guarantee live stock products capable of taking the lead in the best markets in the world. For years our best stock has occupied this place. Our finest carriage horses are in high demand in the cities of the United States. Our heavier horses are found to be superior and best stand the strain of incessant work in the dray and omnibus of Liverpool and Glasgow. "Canada Mutton" is still an attractive advertisement for the New York butcher. With the quarantine removed, our cattle will be sought to supply the needs of the American breeder. Canadian bacon is becoming more and more the desire of the English consumer.

Besides all this, we have not yet forgotten our achievements in this regard in the great competition at the World's Fair. With all this before us, shall we not keep up heart? May we not put on fresh courage at the present moment? We are to-day in the front ranks with these products; let us hold our

New Brunswick's Secretary for Agriculture.

Julius L. Inches, of Fredericton, N.B., was born in Dunkeld, Perthshire, Scotland. He came to this country when quite young, and after being engaged in business in St. John, N.B., he settled on Berry Hill Farm, in the parish of Kingsclear, four miles above Fredericton. Mr. Inches was a very successful farmer, and always took a great interest in the welfare of his brother farmers by introducing stock from abroad, he having made several importations of cattle and sheep direct from Scotland. He was a prominent member of the Board of Agriculture at the time of his appointment to the position of Secretary for Agriculture in 1875, which position he has filled to the entire satisfaction of the farmers, and it is largely through his efforts that the agricultural and dairying interests of the Province have attained such a high standing. It also affords the FARMER'S ADVOCATE no little pleasure to give above a lifelike portrait of Mr. Inches, which will not only be appreciated in New Brunswick and the other Maritime Provinces, but elsewhere throughout the Dominion.

place. To do this we must be helpers of each other. Whatever is good must be made known to all our people. We must seize on every educational advantage, and these are all about us and are and must be rapidly multiplied. What others have done let every young man believe he can also do, for, as the old adage has it, "There are as good fish in the sea as ever were caught." These difficult days through which we are passing have their advantages, for they compel us to think out better plans and more progressive methods. They make us more careful and prudent in every expenditure; they drive us to stop the little leaks which after all, because unnoticed, are most certain to empty the barrel. Canada, in reference to live stock, has a great future before her. Let her sons take courage; let them lay the best and surest foundations, pursue the best methods,—let them take advantage of the experience of others in our own and other lands, remembering always that skill comes to those who study, observe, and learn,—and success will certainly crown their efforts.

The New Brunswick Farmer.

IMPROVED CONDITIONS—A CHANGE IN LUMBERING—LIVE STOCK IMPORTATIONS—THE DAIRY MOVEMENT.

(BY JULIUS L. INCHES, SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE.)

The condition of the farmer in New Brunswick has greatly changed for the better in late years, and we have every confidence that it will continue to improve in the future. The large lumber business as formerly conducted was of little direct benefit to the farmer. The lumberman procured his supplies from the merchant, who imported his stock of what was required from abroad, charged a good profit on all he sold, and had no interest as to the farmer's welfare. As there were no exports of farm products at that time, there was no inducement for the farmer to raise more than he could use. The complaint of the want of a market was general. No doubt much of this fault-finding was unreasonable in a country with good land and excellent climate and one of the best governments in the world. There is much improvement now in regard to markets, and the farmer finds a ready sale for all he can produce at the same prices as farmers in other countries can obtain. The lumber business is now much better managed in the interests of the country. The large waste of former times is changed. A prudent conservation of the lumber is now general, and more labor is expended on its preparation for other markets. Also, the increase of manufactures of various kinds, which may be observed everywhere, has improved the farmer's condition.

The introduction of improved dairying is making a great change for the better, and where heartily adopted and managed with judgment it is going to revolutionize his work and in a short time improve his position very much. The Province is naturally well-adapted for dairying. It has fine pastures, with plenty of land for the production of extra food for stock; fine, cool, running water everywhere; no disease peculiar to the Province, and the stock is always healthy. Everywhere the soil is suitable for a succession of crops for feeding green and filling the silo. Corn, vetches, etc., can always be depended upon for providing extra food, as, since land is abundant, there need be no disappointment in providing food for milk cows, a failure of such crops being unknown where proper care has been given to their cultivation; and this gives a certainty to dairying that few other countries can boast of. Root crops can also be relied on; and the yield is as large as it is in any other country we have compared returns with. We regret to be compelled to acknowledge that our stock is not as good as it should be, and that there are many districts in which few improved animals can be found, although many importations have been made and we have always endeavored to procure the best. The horses are very fair, and fine, well-bred animals can be had in many sections. The several importations from Britain made by our Government has improved all our stock, and two importations of cattle and sheep from the Upper Provinces have added to the value of this class of stock. Still further introductions of stock are desirable, particularly of dairy cattle and sheep. A moderate importation of pigs was made in the spring of 1896, which has been greatly appreciated and will do much good. We expect to have a similar importation in 1897. The animals introduced will be the foundation of much improvement. The desire for the large, coarse breeds has entirely changed, and all now demand the small or medium sized animals that will grow and fatten quickly and give a much improved quality of food. The importation made last year only created the desire to obtain more.

New Brunswick is now in a good position to take advantage of the improved facilities for farming and derive a benefit from the sale of their surplus products. Railroads traverse the length and breadth of our territory, and these, with her splendid water transport, give her easy access to any market throughout the world. In addition to the usual produce sold, we are now exporting considerable quantities of dairy produce and fruit—both new industries. The Government has made liberal provision for some years past to initiate the farmers into the most improved methods of making cheese and butter, in which great progress has been made, and we can now boast of a large number of cheese factories and creameries in active operation, with the certainty of the number being largely increased. It is surprising that an industry so suitable to the country should have been neglected so long, and at the first effort of the Government complete success has been the result.

Farmers have not in the past given the attention to winter dairying that they should, such as providing good stables, succulent food, and proper care of the stock; but some sections are now doing so, and the quantity made by each factory will increase each season. All this is having its influence in many sections of the Province, and will largely increase the amount of our exports.

Hodgson Bros. (Liverpool) report of Nov. 28th quoted finest Canadian and American creamery butter at 80s. to 95s. per cwt.; lower grades plentiful at from 55s. to 70s.; finest Australian, 98s. to 105s.; finest Danish, 110s. to 114s. Moral: Canada has something to do yet in butter dairying.