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All communications to be addressed STOCK JOURNAL Co., 48 John street south, Hamilton, Ont.

HAMILTON, CANADA, JUNE, 1889.

We have still a few copies left of that handsome lithograph of the Ontario Agricultural College. Subscribers now in arrears will please renew their subscriptions and thus secure one of them before the supply is exhausted.

A RECENT meeting of the Aberdeen Cattle Co. has exhumed the question of the advisability of encouraging our trade in store steers with the Aberdeen farmers. How such trade may prove profitable to Canadian stockmen, it is hard for us to understand, for in disposing of such animals, the best part of the farm's fertility is sold, and not added to as would be the case where ripened animals are produced. There is but little profit in finishing stores at the present stagnation prices we admit, but there is far less directly and indirectly in selling those but partly matured. The production of bone and muscle costs the farmer far more than that of fat, the latter being a gift of the atmosphere, through the crops that are grown and fed. However, we may be consoled with the fact that such a trade is better for the farmer and farm than that of absolute grain growing.

"Clothe an ape in tissue, and the beauty of the robe adds but the greater scorn of the beast," is a quotation that arises to mind as being very illustrative of the relation of the bull to the pedigree. A poor bull individually, with a pedigree of excellent merit, has but the deeper stigma upon him. Though such an animal may throw calves superior to himself, yet it is a rarity rather than a common occurrence. Many take delight in holding either up to ridicule, overlooking the fact that they are both necessary adjuncts to a good sire. As well say that the leaves of a tree are of more importance to it than the roots, as to place personal merit in opposition to ancestral excellence. The reason that pedigree is so strongly emphasized is due to the fact that it is so often overlooked and hence is more in want of champions than individual merit. As the scrub possesses neither of these qualities as a redeeming feature, it should be the butt of the united individual forces of those who place a high value on

individual merit, as well as those that are inclined to emphasize pedigree.

A NICE soft maple or a spreading elm in the corner of the pasture field conduces greatly to the comfort of the stock, and anything which does that gives direct returns in dollars and cents. These two varieties are perhaps the most valuable we have for such purposes, for when they are well established, they stand well the excessive tramping around their roots, and the rubbing of their stems by the stock. A small grove of such trees planted in the corners of four adjoining fields would be a lasting benefit gained by but little care, and the expense of but a small quantity of land. They would need to be fenced off, for stock do not dislike young leaves, and they are also pleased to get something to polish their horns on. The common scheme of building a lattice work around each tree would not fulfil the purpose, as this would give but little protection. The best way is to separate, by a fence, a small plot, and cultivate this for a few years, until the trees are well grown, when they may be given over to the stock without any misgivings, if the above mentioned varieties have been planted. Both these kinds have a preference for low damp spots, and in such situations, will best thrive. Shade and pure sweet water are valuable adjuncts to a good pasture, and every stockman should set a high value on their security.

THESE is a species of arithmetic at which the great mass of the farming community are not experts. Indeed, they seem to know nothing about it. We refer to that arithmetic which enables us approximately to come at the cost of what we grow, and hence the profit or loss resulting. Some will work away at wheat-production at 80 cents per bushel, when on the same farm butter might be produced that would sell on an average for from twenty to twenty-five cents per pound the year round. In such a case there need not be a shadow of doubt as to which of the two lines give the best returns. Then, again, some work away year after year during all the days and years in fact of their earthly pilgrimage, in keeping scrub cattle, for which they seldom or never realize more than three cents per pound live weight. Others, again, seldom sell for less than five cents. It is this haphazard way of doing things practiced by the majority that keeps down the profits of the farmers, at least this is one of the most potent causes of the slim returns which fall to the lot of the majority. If the merchant were to content himself with method; that were only half good he would not hold his own for a year in the fierce struggle for mercantile supremacy, and as one portion of the farming community becomes fully alive to the importance of adopting advanced methods, just in that proportion those who do not adopt them will fall behind in the race.

Constitution Not Developed by Exposure.

If asked to single out one feature that stands in bold and distinct relief above all others as a factor of worth in all domestic animals, we would, without the slightest hesitation and without the remotest fear of giving the question a controversial tinge, choose that of constitution. What the free-flowing springs of the mountain are to the voluminous river that flows through the lowlands, constitution is to the animal activities; it is the vital force that feeds the animal's tendencies, whether it be for the production of beef or milk, pork or mutton. As in the case of the stream, the force of the waters may be utilized to turn the milling stone, speed the clattering loom, or their forces may be wantonly spent; in the animal the

vital force may be either used to fill the milking pail, add to the weight of the body, or it may be wilfully wasted to combat adverse conditions as given in the decree that around the straw stack they must winter, or in the pasture they must want for water and resist the burning sun and the vindictive attacks of flies as best they may. To place animals under trying conditions seems to be a method, empirical it is beyond question, adopted by many to develop constitution. Colts are thoughtlessly, or more generally, lazily, allowed to withstand the winter's cold with only nature's protection, and fed scantily, that they may grow hardy; and the cows and the other animals of the farm come in for their share of this philosophy. These are left exposed to the rains without shelter, to the sun without cover, and are stinted with food to strengthen their constitution with the forlorn hope that they may get used to such conditions. So thought one of the most ardent followers of this sect (which we hope will soon become obsolete), when he, after conducting an experiment in which he succeeded in making his cow used to a few straws a day, bewailed the fact that the animal unfortunately died just as she was on the border land of living on nothing.

Some persons have defined constitution as the "ability to do well under adverse conditions." We only need to apply this to our breeds of the day and it becomes apparent that this is not a suitable definition. Put the Highland sheep that are used to the airy fastnesses of their native heath, on the rich fen bottom soils of the Lincoln, and it would not be long until they become subject to more diseases than the natives of this district, that have been reared to meet the conditions peculiar to their own section. Put the Cheviot in the pen from lambhood and the Leicester on the hilly ranges, and the former, according to this dogma, will soon show a weak constitution, though they possess constitutions, as known to all, that rivals if not surpasses that of any breed. Though the vigorous and healthy may best overcome hardships, yet it does not follow that the degree to which they can withstand conditions different from those under which they have grown, should be a test of their stamina or vital force.

Constitution is derivable from two sources—inheritance and acquirement. The former is the sum total of the ancestral possessions of this precious commodity, and it is the most valuable source of the two. It is the capital which, well looked after, constantly augments the reserve store. It is generally conceded that the transmission of this desirable feature is more dependent on the possessions in this respect of the dam rather than those of the sire. This is based on the physiological fact that the nurturing of the progeny falls to the lot of the dam. Some place much importance on the early influence of the dam on the foetus in its earliest stage, and as an external evidence of constitution, accept the size of the umbilical or navel. In the foetal condition this is the tube through which the developing embryo receives nourishment, and hence its size is taken to be an index as to whether the foetus has been well nurtured or not. To secure constitution from this source the signs of a vigorous body must be looked for both in sire as well as dam, whether breeding Shorthorns or Galloways, Thoroughbreds or Clydes. The bloom of the skin, the brightness of the eye, coupled with good heart and body-girth, are signs of a vigorous heart-pump that denotes activity of circulation and purity of blood. There is nothing stagnant in such an animal, the whole system being in thorough running order, whether at bodily rest or in action.

Quality and strength of constitution are not oppos-