

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

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THE DOMINION.

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## "The Best Farmers' Paper."

J. D. DICKSON, Indian Head, N. W. T.:—"The Advocate has been coming to our house for years. I would not be without it, for I think it the best farmers' paper published. I take the *American Agriculturist*, which is very good, but a long way behind the *ADVOCATE*."

Assn., Feb. 17th, 1896.

## Caked Udder.

Take a cup of vaseline and thoroughly stir in equal parts of spirits of turpentine and spirits of camphor or saturated camphor, as called by some; beat up thoroughly and rub the udder, or apply to any wound.

## STOCK.

### Prince Edward Island Exhibitions.

[Paper read before the convention of delegates of P. E. I. Farmers and Dairymen's Convention, at Montague, March 11th, 1896, by F. G. Boyer.]

Our Provincial and county industrial exhibitions have too important a bearing not to deserve special attention. Their effect is threefold: They stimulate effort among intending competitors to produce the best; the spectators see what can be done by extra exertion, and are able to compare results in grains, vegetables, fruits, implements, and live stock; and the publication of the prize winners affords useful information for the buyer and is of direct advantage to the exhibitor. It would be a gain to our shows if there were a central control in fixing the dates. The county shows should, as far as possible, be held a few days apart, and they should not interfere with the Provincial Show, but be feeders for it.

It was, in my opinion, a mistake to combine trotting races with an industrial exhibition. The tendencies of the two institutions are in opposite directions. I am quite willing that the admirers of fast horses should have their sport, but it should be at another time.

The managers of the King's Co. Show can justly lay claim to having last fall, in Georgetown, instituted the "Agricultural Meeting" as a new and pleasing feature which will probably be a permanent part of that show. The grandstand makes a capital auditorium. A class of people are reached in this way who, unfortunately, never perhaps look at an article on subjects relating to rural affairs in a magazine or newspaper, let alone take a good agricultural paper, as they should. The statements made by able speakers who are well-versed in the best practices of modern agriculture are calculated to have a beneficial effect upon men who are in the habit of following good advice.

Our Provincial Exhibition has taken a long step forward by adopting the single judge system in place of the old way of having a bunch of men judge in separate classes. Last fall Herbert Wright, of Guelph, Ontario, a farmer and breeder of pure-bred cattle and sheep, awarded the prizes in the entire exhibit of cattle, sheep, and pigs. There were eight breeds of cattle, seven of sheep, and six of pigs, divided into thirty-nine classes and numberless sections. There was close competition in every class, very few sections being unrepresented. Yet Mr. Wright got through in good time, doing the work of apportioning the prizes in a way that met with the approval of the spectators, and, in most cases, of the owners of the stock. Although, as an exhibitor, I was several times disappointed by his adverse ruling, yet, now the smoke of the battle has long since disappeared, I cannot but say he was just. With a jury of judges it often happens that the most ignorant man of the lot is the most stubborn. One advantage of a single judge is that he cannot throw the blame of a decision on his associates. The way Mr. Wright does his work is a valuable lesson to the intelligent spectator. In times past, length of leg, in the local judge, was often a decided advantage, because men would act as if they were ashamed of their office, by standing several yards off; never thought of the handling quality of cattle or the appearance of the skin and feel of the wool of sheep. With the specialist, type of breed, compactness of build, development of chest, character of hair, and quality of handling are points of importance.

It is rumored that an effort is being made to cut our County Show into two pieces. I will invite those who think King's County will gain by such an arrangement to consider how ill it has worked in Prince County, which is undoubtedly superior to King's in position and superiority of soil, and its people are at least our equal in every way; yet their bisected show is a reproach and delusion.

### Stock Breeders' Meeting.

AMERICAN H.-F. ASSOCIATION.

The American Holstein-Friesian Association held their eleventh meeting in Buffalo, N. Y., on March 18th. The Secretary, Mr. F. L. Houghton, in his report stated that the membership now embraces 490, including a gain of 42 during the past year. During the year certificates have been issued for 773 bulls, numbered 21,613 to 22,415, and 2,297 cows, numbered 37,789 to 40,085. Two thousand and forty-five transfers have been made, 495 of which were for bulls and 1,548 for females. The total receipts for the year have been \$9,640.50. The balance on hand was \$14,413.75.

An important feature of the work of this association has been the conducting of tests of cows under the supervision of the advanced registry. The tests were for seven days, conducted by various experiment stations by means of the Babcock system. They ranged from 9.85 pounds of butter from a two-year-old to 23.35 pounds from eight-year old cows in the seven days.

Election of officers: President, C. R. Payne, Hamilton, N. Y.; first Vice-President, S. Burchard, Hamilton, N. Y.; second Vice-President, M. R. Seely, Farmington, Mich.; third Vice-President, W. S. Carpenter, Menominee, Mich.; fourth Vice-President, W. J. Gillett, Rosendale, Wis. Directors for two years: W. G. Powell, Shadeland, Pa.; L. T. Yeomans, Walworth, N. Y.; Isaac Damon, Cochituate, Mass. Treasurer, Wing R. Smith, Syracuse, N. Y. Superintendent Advanced Registry, S. Hoxie, Yorkville, N. Y. Secretary-Editor, F. L. Houghton, Brattleboro, Vt. Buffalo was selected as the place of the next meeting.

### Why the "Blue-Gray" is Popular.

SIR,—It seems to me that "Stockman" in his letter, touches the point when he says the reason for the popularity of the Blue-Gray in the Old Country is that they are *first crosses*. I think, in fact, that he does not bring it out quite emphatic enough, but to my mind this is the whole question: the extra vigor given the animal by the first cross is what makes them such excellent feeders.

MANITOBAN.

### Our Scottish Letter.

At the present moment the great question between the Mother Country and Canada is the British bill to make statutory the present arrangement by which the ports of this country are closed to the importation of foreign store cattle. Naturally, those feeders who found the Canadian stores profitable are up in arms against the proposition, and an attempt is being made to rally the scattered forces who favored helping the foreigner at the expense of the home breeder. The agitation is confined to the Eastern and North-eastern Counties of Scotland, and a significant indication of the divided state of feeling even there is furnished by the result of a debate in the County Council of Aberdeenshire. Mr. H. D. McCombie, Milton of Kemnay, moved a resolution that the County Council petition against the bill now before Parliament. This was met by a direct negative and the additional expression of opinion that the whole foreign meat trade of the country should be a dead one, and in the end the first motion was only carried by a majority of seven—twenty-eight voting for it and twenty-one for the second. I do not expect that Canadians will agree with me in this matter; nevertheless, the honorable proposition of Prof. Robertson, that the Canadians should voluntarily make their own trade a dead meat trade, warrants me in thinking that not all will be favorable to the exportation of live cattle from Canada. I have been told by one who ought to know, that few, indeed almost none, of those engaged in that trade made a dollar at it, and that so heavy were the losses it would have been dropped on the initiative of the men who shipped the cattle here. Be that as it may, the fair way for all parties is that Canadian and States beef be sold as such and not be mixed up, as at present, with the home beef. The way to remedy this is to have shops licensed for the sale of foreign meat. If, as Prof. Robertson contends, it can stand for itself and is better than the home meat, then it will command its own price; if, as the home feeders maintain, it is inferior, then the home-bred and home-fed meat will command its own price. It would be interesting to know what profit may be in the trade as at present conducted. Is it paying the breeders and feeders of Canadian and States cattle to send them to this country and receive the prices for them that are now ruling? If so, they must be easily satisfied; but it is not easy to see how there can be a living in it for all who have to get a share before the price reaches the farmer. One thing in the cattle trade at least is certain: a distinct advance has taken place in the prices of breeding stock in this country.

The last of the breed sales for bulls has taken place, and the same advance in price falls to be recorded for Highlanders and Galloways as was experienced for the more fashionable and widely-diffused races. The Atholl fold of Highlanders is one of the oldest, and a bull out of it was sold at Oban, on Wednesday, for £86, while the average price of three was £50 apiece. Another fine fold is that of Mr. Stewart, Bocharth, Callander. He got an average of £48 6s. 8d. each for three, a two-year-old bull amongst them selling for £76. The Earl of Southesk has another old fold. He got £40 apiece for five, and Mr. Smith, of Ardmish, got £44 for the famous prize bull, Valentine VI., which has been twice first at the H. & A. S. Shows. The Galloways find their headquarters at Castle Douglas, and a good sale was experienced for them on Thursday. The Highlanders beat them, however, and this suggests some curious reflections. For one thing, it proves that fancy often excels utility. The picturesque Highlanders are in great demand for grazing in gentlemen's grounds, and this is a good thing for many a poor man in the Western Isles. There are districts where no other class of cattle but Highlanders could live. Land in these places would be worth nothing but for this splendid old race. Galloways, however, being polled, are more generally diffused where commerce alone is in view, and there are districts in England where a black polled Galloway or Galloway cross will command a far higher price than any animal of the bovine species. Still, when all is said and done, no such prices were recorded at Castle Douglas as at Oban. The highest price realized for a Galloway was £47, his breeder being Sir Robert Jardine, Bart., and his buyer Colonel Dudgeon, of Cargen. The highest average of the day was £25 8s. for four out of the herd of Mr. James Cunningham, Tarbreoch. Mr. McCormick, Lochokit, made £23 7s. for five, and Mr. Pilkington made almost the same figure for an equal number. In this country we wish well to our neighbors, but the present tone of the cattle trade tempts us to be much in love with the Government Bill on Cattle Diseases.

The Thoroughbred and Hunter horses and their patrons had their innings during the week now ended. The best Thoroughbreds, however, are not seen at Islington, but on the racecourse or in the breeding studs of wealthy men. Those found at Islington are useful and have to be sound, and that, as a rule, exhausts their good properties. In the Clydesdale world there is little movement. Two horses have been shipped to Canada during the past week, one to Mr. Joseph Horton, Lumley, Ont., and the other to Colquhoun Bros., Mitchell, Ont. Both are of Macgregor lineage and were bought from Mr. Picken, Torrs, Kirkcudbright. They are thick, useful horses, and the older one, Craigie Stamp, has established a good reputation for himself in this country. The other is a two-year-old and likely to be of service in Canada.

"SCOTLAND YET."