

strictly agricultural paper, though perhaps we did not make this clear, for in this country it was these who became the first offenders, and are the principal ones now. Several of our provincial weeklies which have undoubtedly a far wider circulation amongst the farmers than amongst any other class, will publish full and copious notes concerning the exhibit of manufacturers and others, while they say not a word about the exhibit of the farmers or about their prizes, unless in the most general terms. It cannot be that these papers have a larger circulation amongst the sporting class than amongst the farmers, and yet the most minute details of every sporting scene is given, while the farmer is ignored when his turn comes, although it comes but once a year. We can only further reiterate the statement, "Let them dip their pens deep in ink and record their remonstrances, and if these are not published they can live without the assistance of a journalism so unfriendly and so unjust."

### The Journal.

Dark autumnal days, and forests bare, and desolated fields, remind us that the year is almost gone. With its expiration the JOURNAL will have reached the fourth year of its existence. While we frankly confess it is no more our ideal of what it should be and what it will be some day, than the four-year-old lad is the ideal of the full-grown man, yet we indulge in the hope that it gives promise of strong and full development with the passing of the years.

Wonderful have been the changes during the four years of its existence in the condition of the live-stock and farming interests generally of the Dominion. At that time beef for export brought as readily six cents per pound as it now brings five, an instance of those revolutions in trade which no human foresight can anticipate; and the price of cereals, especially wheat, has gone down below the cost of production. And all kinds of stock have suffered a serious decline in values, the poorer the class of stock the greater the decline. Farmers are therefore anxiously questioning what next to do in order to bring back the gains of other years. Our counsel is to stick to the helm, improve your methods, practice the utmost economy, and get all the light you can upon your great life-work, from books and papers, for the good ship of agriculture, now in the trough of the sea, will soon ride triumphantly again on the crest of the wave.

When the JOURNAL was first issued the Shorthorn camp was carrying on a suicidal war, now the breach is healed and the weapons of hostility are already coated with rust, and the breeding of this famous class of cattle is thus placed on a basis more secure than it ever stood upon before. Evidence of this is given in the shiploads that are being brought over at the present time despite the depression that is pinching the country.

Since that time the Ayrshire breeders have gone into union with their herd-books, which action, linked with the present hopeful attitude of dairying, gives brightest promise for the immediate expansion of the breeding of Ayrshires. Holsteins had then scarcely gained a footing in Canada, now they number several hundreds, and the Jersey interest grows apace. The number of the Aberdeen-Angus and Hereford breeders has doubled since then. The Clydesdale breeders have since formed an association and established a stud-book and vastly increased their operations. and other lines of horse-breeding have made much progress. The sheep industry has gone on apace, especially in the short wool lines, while since that time the Dorset horned breed have come to stay. Swine breeding has kept well to the fore, and the

poultry interest has grown apace. Cheese dairying has still held the fort in Britain, and the Creamery Association has been called into existence with promise of immense usefulness. The Ontario fat stock show has been inaugurated since that time with no doubt a great work before it to perform; and the farmers have now a Central Institute for the protection of their interests in the fierce struggle of the industries.

In all the lines of advance indicated the JOURNAL has taken a prominent part. It not only favored every one of them, but in several instances it has led the way, and the thought that it has been in any way helpful to the great live-stock and farming interests of the country affords a very great degree of satisfaction.

But the work yet to be done is without limit. In many of our live-stock lines we are without a public record. We have as yet little or no agriculture taught in our public schools. We have no minister of agriculture, whose whole time is to be devoted to that work. We have an agricultural college where there is room for an increased attendance of students from the farm homes of the Dominion. We have no system of uniformity as to time in the holding of our meetings of the various farming and live-stock associations. There are yet some counties without farmers institutes. Our trade relations with the United States are not of a satisfactory nature. Much of our arable and pasture land is yet only half-productive from imperfect drainage. Weeds are getting possession of our fields like the advance of an invading army. Scrub stock still disfigure our fields and mar our stalls with a mournful frequency; and we are still the prey of railway and express corporations in the transit of our goods.

All these things shall engage our attention during the coming year. We shall urge the establishment of a Shropshire Association during the early months of 1888, for we believe the rapid increase of the breed in this country calls for it, and we shall urge the Berkshire breeders to take action, ere long, in the same line. We shall call for the introduction of a text book in all the rural schools of the Province, before the arrival of 1889, for the importance of the interests involved demand it. We shall advocate the appointment of a Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, before the closing of the next session of the Legislature, and while doing so, we wish it clearly understood that we do not in any way reflect upon the gentlemen at present filling that office along with that of Provincial Treasurer. We do so on the ground that we believe that the Agriculture of Ontario is sufficiently important to engage the undivided attention of one minister of the government. We shall urge upon our farmers with tongue and pen, to seek a better education for their sons intended for the farm, and not to allow the splendid facilities afforded by the Ontario Agricultural College for acquiring a knowledge of the scientific side of their life-work to pass unimproved. We shall labor for uniformity in the time of the year for holding our annual live-stock and farm associations, on the ground of economy, and because we believe it would insure a larger attendance at all of them. We shall labor for the establishment of a Farmer's Institute in each of the electoral districts of the Province without one, being convinced they are one of the most potent agencies now at work in stimulating the farmer to higher effort, and in prompting him to achieve yet greater things.

We shall give useful instruction in regard to the methods of underdraining, and we propose, through the assistance of Prof. J. Hoyes Panton, of the Ontario Agricultural College, to make an onslaught on the pernicious weed system of the Province. Our attitude to all inferior grades of stock will be that of

no quarter, and we shall labor for a mitigation of undue charges in the transmission of the farmer's produce.

These are some of the planks of our platform for next year. This is a part of the work we have mapped out for ourselves. Those of our readers who are in agreement with us we shall expect to accompany us through another year, and to persuade all whom they can influence to come along with them as readers and subscribers. "To all who do we promise, as in the past, *the only live stock and farm journal in Canada made exclusively with the pen and pencil.* We shall give them candid information on all agricultural topics from Britain and America, and shall gather into our exhibit all that we can of what will be useful or interesting to the farmers of the entire Dominion. While we shall give special prominence to the departments of Live-Stock, The Farm, and The Dairy, we shall spare no pains in the improvement of the Horticultural, Poultry, Apiary and Home Departments, and we shall continue to protect our advertising patrons so far as in us lies, from injury on the part of designing men, as we did last year in the case of the "Red Lyon wheat" and other swindles.

The JOURNAL was this year again the only agricultural paper that published the prize-lists of our leading fairs, and it has done it *free of charge*, thus demonstrating its willingness to assist the farmer without being specially paid.

We cannot close this sketch without heartily thanking our patrons for the very kind and hearty assistance they have given us in the past. We hope that they shall at no time in future have occasion to withdraw this assistance, and while we part with them at the gateway of a dying year, we most heartily wish them the compliments of the season of Christmas and New Year festivities, that all of us have learned to love so well.

### Mr. Rennie's Imported Clydesdales.

The business of breeding Clydesdale horses in Ontario is assuming very large dimensions, notwithstanding that in more than half the counties none of these are to be found. Although the number of those produced annually is largely increasing from year to year, the increase does not keep pace with the demand. The market is very largely from the United States, where an increasing number of stallions is taken from year to year, more especially to the far west, and others are bought up for dray purposes in the great cities and taken over in the face of a duty of twenty per cent. A limited but an increasing number find a market in our own towns and cities, and as these grow, the demand for dray horses will also grow with them.

The breeding of heavy horses, then, may be looked upon as a very safe investment, providing it is rightly done, but our breeders must be upon their guard, more especially in these stringent times, lest they defeat the object they are aiming at by disposing of a class of mares that should be retained in the country. It would be much better for breeders to take an under price for a gelding than a double price for a really good brood mare, and also better for the country. The Scotch breeders are and have been very chary about the disposing of good brood mares, and we hope that our Canadian breeders will imitate them in this respect, for in this fact we have the key to the remarkable success to which they have attained over there in the breeding of Clydesdale horses. There is practically no limit to the market for heavy horses bred from really good mares and imported sires such as Mr. W. Rennie of Toronto, and others, are bringing over for breeding and sale purposes from year to year. It