

## Canadian Live-Stock Journal,

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HAMILTON, CANADA, AUGUST, 1885.

SUBSCRIBERS will confer a favor both on themselves and us by bearing in mind that we cannot agree to stop the JOURNAL in any case without all arrears are paid, as we have no possible means of knowing that they wish its discontinuance till we are so notified. It is unreasonable to expect that we shall send it two or three months for nothing, especially when we repeatedly state that no names will be removed from our list unless we are notified to that effect.

SHORTHORN breeders, especially, will be pleased to hear that our English correspondent will commence a series of articles on the Booth cattle, with the September issue. The writer is, we believe, in every way qualified for the work he has undertaken, and we may reasonably expect to have served up to us a rich repast during the autumn and winter months in reference to the great rival families of the Bates tribes. The admirers of the Booths, so strongly antagonistic in the day of battle, will no doubt await with anxious expectation the fresh unfoldings regarding the tribes that Warlabay has given to the world.

THAT we have not yet "attained" in stock-raising should be kept in mind by those engaged in this important industry. We deem that mind which goes to rest satisfied with past attainment as ill-balanced; where the motto is "onward," progress is sure to be made. There have been instances of wonderful achievements in stock-raising years ago which have in some respects never been surpassed, as in the rearing of the "Durham white ox," and the McCombie "Paris group" of blackskins. Yet on the whole there has been a most wonderful advance. For every good animal in the Anglo-Saxon world fifty years ago, we make bold to say that there are a score now. The excellence to be aimed at and which should be kept constantly before the breeder, is not so much the production of a fine beast now and then as a herd of fine animals. To produce this general excellence and uniformity is the peerless attainment which many of us

never reach, although it is within the reach of most persons who are willing to throw their whole soul into the work. Breeding stock of the right stamp is more an acquired than an intuitive art. And yet there are natural qualifications that enable some men to excel some others.

THE editor of the *London Live-Stock Journal* again reminds us that the animal's journey between birth and the butcher must be made as short as possible. "Young, lean, juicy meat," he says truly, "is the want of the age." This class of meat can best be produced by pushing the animals on judiciously from the first. When allowed to grow slowly, and then fattened, we have fat upon fat and lean upon lean, instead of fat and lean nicely blended. Mr. Wm. Stanford, of Charlton Court Farm, Steyning, Sussex, England, has found it profitable to fatten off bullocks at the age of from 15 to 18 months. This might prove an age too early for securing the largest degree of profit in this country, but it is nearer the mark than three years and a half, the average age at which fat cattle usually leave our hands. Sir J. B. Lawes, who measures well his every statement, favors the early maturing of stock intended for the butcher. He says that "as a certain amount of food is consumed every day by an animal for respiratory and other vital functions, it is evident that the quicker the animal is fed for the butcher the less the total amount of food it will consume." While the breeder can assist in the early fattening process, we would advise only a judicious haste in the maturing of animals intended for breeding.

"NO MAN is a competent breeder who fails, through the means at his command, in so crossing upon the ordinary stock of the country as to elevate the standard of vitality instead of lowering it." This fine sentence is taken from our excellent contemporary, the *National Live-Stock Journal*, of Chicago, where it is used in an article bearing upon "business in live-stock." It combats the almost universal idea that native cattle possess an inherent vitality in excess of that of pure-bred, or even high-bred cattle. While the writer concedes that decline in vitality sometimes results from crossing, it is only from *indiscreet* crossing; and he utters a warning note against being carried away by giving that attention to style and color that should be given to health. If breeders who have thus erred in the crosses they have made, are chargeable with inattention with what so vitally affects their material prosperity, how much more seriously have those erred who have not attempted to improve their stock by crossing at all. In the former case judgment has erred in action, while in the latter, judgment has failed to act at all. The writer lays much stress upon the high value that should be put upon an impressive sire, and the advisability of using him as long as serviceable.

In the annual report of the Hon. J. H. Pope, Minister of Agriculture, he (Mr. Pope) expresses the hope that more care will be exercised in the selection of cattle by the shipper with a view of rendering the trade remunerative. This is but an indirect call to the producer to mend his ways. The reason that the shipper sends so large a proportion of animals not of the highest order, is that a sufficient number of the latter class cannot be obtained. The standard of attainment in cattle rearing is quite too low, although it is raising somewhat. Individuals of a herd that do not give promise of making suitable shipping cattle should be sold young. Animals of the class we refer to will doubtless yield the largest profit at one year.

Indeed, if not of the right class, and not suitable feeders, they cannot well be disposed of too soon. If farmers would go resolutely to work and grade up their cattle, they would very soon have an abundant supply of the choicest animals. Very many of the animals that are now shipped are bought and fed by professional feeders, who cannot get that class of cattle which they would like to obtain. In these days of low prices for grain, it is of immense importance that the trade in live-stock continue to grow, and it is the bounden duty of every cattleman and shepherd to try and produce animals, when producing them at all, of the right stamp.

THE *Chicago National Live-Stock Journal* for June has an excellent article on the "Morals and Amenities of Trade." The ideas of the writer regarding the wrong of suppressing truth, the disclosure of which would be to the seller's present disadvantage, and the guilt of not making reparation when conscious that an advantage has been taken unwittingly, are certainly commendable. He appeals to the sense of honor on the part of stockmen in barter, as a motive power to keep them in moral balance in transacting their business, and lays stress upon the worth of character, and the value to its possessor of a conscience to which violence has not been done. The only exception we take to the article is, that the motive power to which it appeals is on too low a plane. The springs of honor and good character are fed by ducts which flow from the great reservoir of *moral rectitude*. Is it right that I should do so and so? is the question of questions that should govern and regulate every business transaction in the universe. If it is *right*, it will be honorable, and to the advantage of true character. To this rule, or we may say law, there are no exceptions. Men may ignore the existence of this law in practice, but never without paying a heavy penalty in the end; if not in the form of pecuniary loss, in a form far more severe. It is very cheering to find one of the leading live-stock journals in the world speaking thus, in an age when reference to morals in practice are too often shut up in churches, and shut out of newspapers as being in *very bad taste*.

### Let Others Know.

The number of persons who have told the world too much is very large indeed; not too much of what is solid and true, but of what is light as air or false. Truth should never be hidden. In its essence it cannot be destroyed, but it may be hidden or withheld. To hide it when good is likely to result from its proclamation is criminal; to withhold it is high treason to mankind. The world's great storehouse of valuable knowledge has assumed proportions that are simply stupendous, particularly in these latter days. Although the stock is grand that the ages have laid up, who will tell us the extent of that which has been buried with each passing generation? The motives that prompt individuals to hide or to withhold truth may be very various. They may arise from timidity, or from modesty, but oftener from a selfishness that is only more rank than it is hateful.

Farmers can never afford to hide truth, or to keep back knowledge. The calling which is theirs is so many-sided, that no artist can give a fair delineation. It is a labyrinth with chambers so innumerable that scientists even have not moved the ponderous doors of its hidden recesses, to which no avenues have as yet been found. Although the truths of agriculture are no less certain than those of other sciences, if understood, the endless variations which lead from cause to effect, are so complicated that they bewilder and