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Farmer's Advocate

and Home Journal

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EDITORIAL

Generally speaking, the more machinery used the greater the intelligence of the farmer.

Total prohibition of fall pasturing is the price demanded if the new clover seeds are to survive the coming winter.

The spectre of that form of physical exertion termed Work, frightens men and women into selling themselves body and soul.

A Western farmer gave to an Eastern judge one reason for the fine exhibits of horses at the different shows, "We ride at all our work".

Practical and sensible patriotism is shown by always purchasing British goods in preference to others of the same quality and price.

"Adventure" is the appropriate name of the steamer which has arrived at Halifax from New York to convey Major Moodie to Hudson's Bay. He will take with him non-commissioned officers and men of the Mounted Police for Fullerton and Fort Churchill.

It is well to remember that three kinds of crops must be grown if the farm is to be a home, a source of income, and a bulwark against adversity. Such are cash crops, as wheat; general food crops, as barley, oats and corn to be fed on the land; renovators, as clover.

"The people have not asked for it" is the excuse given for the abandonment of poultry demonstrations by the Dominion Department of Agriculture. What they do ask for, they do not get—witness the request of the Live Stock Associations for more experiments at Brandon.

A farmer commenting on the various criticisms re cost of hail insurance states that one of the weak points in the case of the advocates of government hail insurance is in the adherence to the taxation of the crop area instead of all the lands outside the towns; and says that effective insurance could be given for a tax of 1c. an acre in Saskatchewan and 2c. in Manitoba. So far we have not yet seen a really feasible scheme, with the financial details outlined.

It was rather rich, that opinion of a Western Manitoba Clydesdale breeder that a few of the breeders should go down to the annual meeting of the Clydesdale Association, and demand a grant for Brandon fair equal to that given Winnipeg Industrial. It is just such breaks as this, that sometimes spoil a good case for the Western claim to a more even division of the profits of breed associations. The only grant made to Manitoba in 1906, viz. \$100, by the Clydesdale Association, went to the Provincial Spring Stallion Show at Brandon!

Fads Are Not Safe Theories to Follow in Breeding.

It would not be so bad if fads in breeding were confined to the studs of those who cherish such fads, unfortunately these ideas creep into the show rings and upset sound ideas of breeding and get people chasing after standards which when reached are found to be wanting.

Point is given to these remarks by some recent decisions handed out by judges at some of the big Canadian shows. In one case, a Short-horn bull has been turned down on two successive occasions, not because he was lacking in masculinity, smoothness of flesh, quantity or quality

of flesh, but on the grounds that he was off type, which, when the inquiry was pressed home, elicited that he was too big; practically he had all the essentials but rather too much of them; not that he was extreme enough in size to be a freak, but too large! Now it seems to be pretty well acknowledged that a good big one is better than a good little one, especially when the markets' requirements are kept in view, consequently, the rulings for which the reason of "too much size" are given, was in point of fact misleading to the general public.

In the breeding and judging of draft horses we have similar ideas moulding judgments or rulings without the proofs that those ideas are correct or right. Nothing illustrates this so



His Majesty
King Edward VII.
to the
Live Stock Breeders
at the
Royal Show at Derby

I commenced very early in life to take a warm interest in all matters connected with agriculture, and I have long appreciated the difficulties with which farmers are forced to contend in order to carry on their industry. The cultivation of the land is a factor of the highest importance to the prosperity of the country, and much credit is due to the agricultural societies for their strenuous efforts to promote the welfare of the cause they have at heart, by encouraging new processes of cultivation, and by disseminating information of utility to farmers. I have watched with pleasure during many years the improvements which have been introduced in the methods of raising stock. The application of scientific principles to the breeding of horses, cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry has produced wonderful results, and the extent of the exportation of the best class of animals to foreign countries shows the high appreciation in which our breeds are held. I cannot peruse without a feeling of pride the sale lists, in which I see so many names of purchasers coming to this country from all parts of the world, and I feel confident that the perseverance and skill of our breeders will enable us to produce as good stock in the future as in the past.

perfectly as the fad for long sloping pasterns called for by one section of draft horse breeders, everything must be sacrificed for it, weight, even the middle piece wherein are located the great engines and boilers from which the locomotory organs (the limbs) must derive their propelling power. At one time, it was a question of breed, now, some would have us believe that it is a question of type. The rulings at the three recent shows in Western Canada are a good illustration of the point we wish to make, a horse wins in his class each time, he is a good type of a draft horse, he moves well but has not extreme length or slope of pastern, but in the eyes of some he should be turned down, although he

admittedly beats and has beaten his rivals in all the essential features of a draft animal. The oft-expressed opinion re such extreme length and slope of pastern is, when sifted down, found to be the promulgation of the gospel of a few, and is not dictated by the results of the wear and tear of work. Probably the best refutation of the weak (because such extreme length is bound to be a source of weakness, being neither anatomically nor mechanically correct) pastern idea is the comparative freshness and soundness of pasterns presented by a horse known to have been submitted to that most extreme test, namely, service at the stud. No person can deny but that good feet and limbs are essential, but such are not the sole requirements of a draft horse, nor for that matter, of a Clydesdale.

Similar fads to these played mischief with the Shorthorns, years ago, and have with some other breeds of live stock. It is essential, if error is to be avoided, that the cause, underlying certain breeding gospels should be found and weighed before such are accepted. To illustrate again, two extremists are heard on a certain breeding doctrine, the one has the kind of animals to sell, he did not breed them, that illustrates the doctrine he would have everyone believe as the only true one; the other man, just as positive has not even that much ground on which to base his contentions, neither owning nor breeding the kind he claims as the standard; the evidence of the first is weak being from an interested and therefore, liable to be biased party, while that of the other is no weightier than that of scores of others who do not take the trouble to go to the bedrock of facts.

Allowance can be made for inter-breed rivalries, but there are certain pretty well defined standards in the live stock breeding world of what are the market requirements for draft, beef or mutton purposes, and if the breeders are to be permanently successful such standards must not be overlooked or disregarded for the cherished and usually evanescent fads of the few.

The Live Stock Commissionership.

The handing over of the control of this important branch (the Live Stock Division) of the Department of Agriculture to Dr. J. G. Rutherford, Veterinary Director General, has recently been accomplished and the West can now expect a broader view to be taken of the work of the branch than heretofore. Under such direction the work is bound to be more effective and satisfactory than ever to those who see beyond their own province. In the matter of National Records alone, this breadth of view so essential to inter-provincial development of trade and harmony has been absent, due to the selfish monopoly exercised by some in the past. The continued association of Mr. Spencer with the branch is a guarantee that the details of the work will be well looked after. It is to be hoped that the Minister will see fit to furnish the new head with the capable assistance of a man, as well in touch with western needs and conditions as Mr. Spencer is with eastern requirements. It is due to the live stock interests of Canada and to the Veterinary Director-General that he should be given the best men that may be secured as deputies or assistants; as, besides the branches already created and in operation, a first-class meat inspection service is the next necessity needing creation, unfortunately there is a dearth of men competent to take up this work due to the neglect of this section of sanitary medicine by Canadian veterinary colleges.

Playing into the Coal Barons' Hands.

A short time ago coal lands were obtainable from the Dominion Government under the regulations then existing and it did not require a big amount of money to secure these lands.