

Canadian Live-Stock Journal,

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

THE STOCK JOURNAL COMPANY,

48 John Street South, Hamilton, Ont.

Terms, \$1.00 per Annum in Advance.

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HAMILTON, CANADA, SEPTEMBER, 1885.

A WRITER in the Chicago *National Live Stock Journal*, speaking of mistakes in the purchase of Jerseys, says "selecting an animal for breeding purposes because of a certain color of hair, to please the fancy, is one of the most serious mistakes." This remark might, we think, be truthfully extended to other breeds as well as Jerseys. A Shorthorn bull, if only red in color, will be chosen by a majority of purchasers, though cramped in dimensions and covered with a tight-fitting hide. So potent has this power of fashion become that the scrawniest scrub male that picks up his living on the highway must be orthodoxly red. To be sure a certain respect is to be had to color, inasmuch as it is an indication of the purity of the breed. But when different colors and shades of color characterize the same breed, as is the case with the Shorthorns and Jerseys, the shade of color should certainly occupy a most secondary place. In a beefing breed the character of the breast, back, barrel, bone, loin and handling is infinitely more important than the shade of color, and in the milking strains the same may be said of the udder, the milk veins, the escutcheon, etc. If the breeder has a hankering after a certain color and can gratify it without the sacrifice of essentials much more important, let him do so, but otherwise, *never*; else it will be done at the grim expense of the deterioration of the race. If the color of any breed can be rendered uniform and of a given type without loss in any of the more important essentials, good and well, but never under any other circumstances.

SHEEP-RAISING of late has not been the most profitable branch of stock raising, but like everything else it will have its time. Those who have good flocks of well bred sheep cannot be too chary about dispersing them altogether. It may be prudent not to keep very large flocks, but in most cases a remnant of the choicest should be kept, good breeding ewes with youth upon their side, to be ready for any change that may come. Nor should they who have

no pure-breds give up raising sheep. A small flock are of much use as scavengers of stray morsels that may grow about the fences in, the summer fallow, or on the broken ground bordering on the little rivulets. Even though not one of them be sold to the butcher, every farmer should have a number, and kill one now and then for home use. Those who have ice-houses will usually be able to take care of a whole carcass even in warm weather. Mutton makes most excellent food. Compared with it, the fat salt bacon usually used on the farm in summertime is far inferior. In the fall of the year, before the time arrives for killing the beeve intended for winter, a sheep now and then is indeed a luxury. Many in the United States are going out of sheep rearing, as well as a number in our own country. Just as surely as the passengers on ship board all rush to one side, there is a lurch which impels them to the other, and so it is in all the branches of stock-keeping. Keep only those that are choice and patiently wait with all the canvas hung out for the propelling breezes that may already be on their way.

THE Shorthorn herd book question is waxing somewhat warm, yet on the whole there has been a good deal of respect shown for personal feeling. This is as it should be, and if the discussion continues to be carried on in the same spirit good cannot but come out of it. It is when deep personal stabs are made that that hatred is engendered between men which sleeps only with the last sleep. We rejoice to see the thorough earnestness displayed by the respective writers. It is surprising how thoroughly earnest individuals may be in the advocacy of views that are diametrically opposed. Such utterances are always entitled to a measure of respect, however faulty the basis on which they stand. On the other hand there is usually an echo of betrayal in hollow-hearted statements that stand on a pedestal ever so secure. The man who is earnest is always a power in his circle, while he who is not can only endure for a brief season. That the discussion is necessary, few will deny. That good has already come out of it in the increased attention drawn to herd books from the listless and in other ways, few will gainsay, and that it will result in still greater good must be the devout wish of every person interested. It is well that it be looked at from every standpoint, and therefore thoroughly discussed. In this way the sure lessons that emanate from the mistakes of the past may be learned by all. As stated heretofore, we would like now to learn more as to the shapings of the future in reference to the herd books.

MR. G. LAIDLAW, of "The Fort," Victoria Road, is certainly right when he states in a communication on another page that "without good feeding and stabling, thoroughbreds become scrubs in the hands of thriftless farmers, or thrifty farmers, whose circumstances or premises preclude necessary warmth." Without these conditions all improvement of stock upon a proper basis is hopelessly impossible. Without suitable winter accommodation results cannot be attained that will be at all satisfactory. Instead of advance there is more likelihood to be retrogression, where that is possible. While we freely admit that the number of our farmers may be large who are not yet convinced of the wisdom of grading up their stock by using pure bred sires, surely not one of them will argue that it is either humane or wise to winter stock amid privation. It is almost unexplainable that *self-interest* does not set every man to work to provide suitable accommodation for his stock in winter. To do this

it is not absolutely necessary to build new and costly buildings. The laborers' cow is often fairly comfortable in the slab and straw-thatched stable. The buildings already in possession may be vastly improved at small cost. They may be lined, and the space filled with some substance as straw, etc., to keep the cold at bay. Just *now* is the time to attend to it before the winter comes on. Farmers should get rid of the delusion that comfortable quarters are absolutely necessary only for pure bred stock. They are quite as necessary to the well being of the scrub, unless he is to be kept at a loss which the owner cannot afford, as under the most favorable conditions he brings the farmer a very doubtful gain.

We fear that individuals not a few do not rightly apprehend our position in reference to the proposed tax on males, judging from the tenor of some references that have appeared of late in the JOURNAL. We do not advocate a tax on the scrub bulls simply, but that all males be taxed that are kept for service, whether pure bred or scrub of the quadruped kind. In such a case the end must be "the survival of the fittest." If a scrub male is a better investment than the pure bred, then the government will have adopted a course that must ultimately benefit the whole farming community by assisting in the banishment of pure bred from the land. If the scrub pass through the ordeal unharmed, then his owner cannot have a shadow of ground for complaint, as the owner of scrubs are as yet vastly in the majority. If, on the other hand, the pure bred hold the fort, then also the owners of scrubs will still have reason to rejoice, for it is only on the ground of *merit* in such a case that victory can be achieved. The fact must not be overlooked that virtually the Government has placed a tax already on males when it said they should not be allowed to roam at large without the hazard of certain penalties. When that act became law it laid a tax upon every farmer who had hitherto kept a male running at large to the amount of the cost of his pasture and extra fencing required to keep him in. We simply ask an increase of a tax already in existence, though in a different form. The question now is not one of *principle* as to the imposition of a tax, but of *degree* in regard to the amount. Did it ever occur to those who say that our farmers would not submit to a tax of this nature, that they are submitting to it now.

BEFORE the present number of the JOURNAL reaches our readers a large proportion will have weaned their lambs. When these have come early this should be done not later than the middle of August, which gives the ewes time to take on flesh and get in condition for the approaching winter or for slaughter, as the case may be. When put on good pasture after the lambs are weaned and the ewes thoroughly dried, the latter will breed earlier than under other conditions and will go into winter quarters scarcely feeling the change. The lambs, however, in addition to getting good pasture should have a supplement of grain once a day. For ordinary purposes oats fed whole will answer perhaps better than anything else. A small quantity will suffice, from half a pint to a pint for each lamb. If fattening is the object aimed at, some linseed cake can be added, but in very moderate quantities. In selecting the ewe-lambs to be retained for breeding purposes, make size only one consideration. General symmetry should figure largely in the choice but should not be too cramped in its dimensions. Long legs should be avoided, as also a lean, bony carcass. Whatever else is lacking, it should not be a good square, deep