

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

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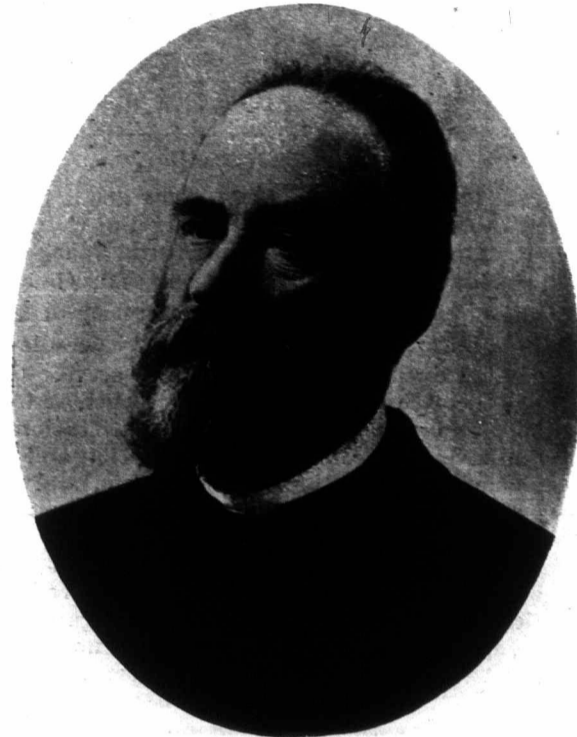
later days, and in the hands of other men, they may meet the expectations of the most sanguine and prove fairly successful. Annual sales have apparently proved satisfactory in Britain and to a limited extent in the United States, where they are evidently on the increase. We see no valid reason why they should not work as well in this country, especially in the case of large herds, from which a selection of a considerable number could be made each year, and if a number of breeders, who are in a position to make such an offering, would arrange to hold their sales on successive days, buyers would have an extra inducement to come from a distance, as the expense of one trip would practically cover all the sales of the series, and each would share in the benefits of co-operation. Besides this, the other breeders throughout the country would benefit from the presence in the country of visitors who come to the sales meaning business, who may not find at these sales what they want, and would take advantage of the occasion to visit many other herds, and thus the benefits of the occasion would be extended far beyond the sphere of the original sales. In this way any objections which may be made to public sales are met, and they may well be made to do good service in giving an opportunity for all to secure fresh blood from strong herds, to the improvement of the breed generally and the enhancement of trade.

The desire has often been expressed by breeders, both publicly and privately, that men of large means would, as they do in Britain, take an interest in the raising and distribution of high-class pure-bred stock, and it is gratifying to find that this wish is now being realized to a very considerable extent by the enterprise of such men, and that they have set their ideals high and will import and breed from only the best obtainable. The disposal of this class of stock by public competition, where

the buyers are free to name their own prices, is surely a helpful means of distributing meritorious animals, and cannot fail to improve the general stock of the country as well as that of professional breeders.

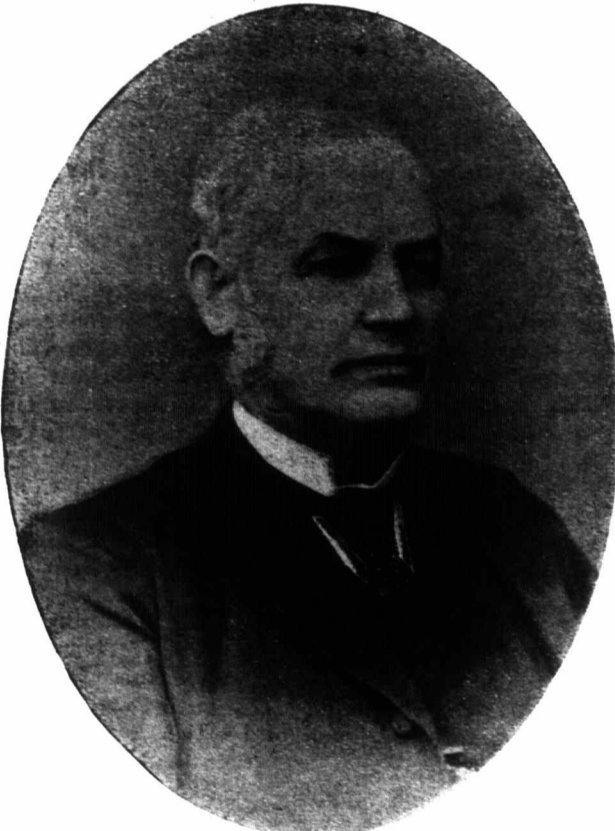
The men who risk a public sale virtually put themselves in the hands of the public, and are entitled to fair consideration and encouragement as long as they do their part honorably and above board, but the moment they resort, on any pretext, to questionable methods, confidence is properly gone, sympathy ceases, and the idea of a continuation of annual sales has met the beginning of its decline. While this is true, it is well to remember that breeders and prospective buyers who attend the sales owe a duty to the seller which justice to him and the retention of their own self-respect demands that they faithfully perform by mentally putting themselves in his place, remembering the expense he has assumed in advertising and bringing together and entertaining the company, and should do nothing from selfish motives, by word or inference, to prejudice his interests. The day is fairly his who has assumed the responsibility of the occasion, and the man who attends a sale with the dominant idea of doing business for himself at the expense of another by depreciating his stock and inducing buyers to see his own before investing has a very low estimate of the code of honor which should exist between brother breeders. The broader and more generous view, which recognizes

showings, and written equally plainly in the many excellent works on the subject of scientific feeding, published by able men in their own country, and in the reports issued from their agricultural colleges and experiment stations. Is it because their stockmen, from among whom their judges are chosen, are too busy to take time to read the literature of the day on the very question in which they are most vitally interested in their own occupation; or is it, which is probably the true reason, that their great common crop of maize is so easy to raise and



REV. W. F. CLARK.

Commissioner who investigated other agricultural schools and colleges, and recommended plan.



SIR JOHN CARLING.

Original promoter of the Ontario Agricultural College.

the rights of others and the general good, will be found in the long run to redound to the advantage of all concerned, individually and collectively. It is clearly in the interest of all that values be well sustained, and as the prices made at public sales are as a rule the only ones published, they have a considerable influence in setting the standard for private contracts. A spirited and successful sale makes everyone present feel better and has a reflex influence for good over a wide circle. To the realization of such a result each one can contribute by showing a sympathetic interest and lending a helping hand.

Over-fat Show Stock.

The complaint is being vigorously urged by a portion of the agricultural press of the United States that over-fatted animals in the classes for breeding stock of the beef breeds at the shows in that country are, as a rule, favored by the judges selected for awarding prizes, supposed to be tokens of recognition of comparative merit in the animals for the primary purposes for which they are intended. It is an old story which has long applied to American shows, and it is surprising that a people so generally intelligent and up-to-date have learned so slowly the lessons in advanced feeding written so plainly in living letters in the well-known fate of a large proportion of the over-fat animals as breeders which have figured conspicuously in their

to feed that they fall into the old way or fail to get out of the old way of pouring heating corn into their cattle, as a stoker shovels coal into the fireplace of an engine, until the vital organs of the animals for breeding purposes are burnt out, and they are left as useless for procreation as an extinct volcano for pyrotechnics.

Canadian judges, breeders, and exhibitors have caught on to the idea of scientific (which is but another name for rational) feeding and the proper preparation of breeding stock for show purposes,



WM. JOHNSTON, B. A.

Principal of the Ontario Agricultural College from 1876 to 1879.

and are a long way in advance of their neighbors across the line in this respect. It is long since there has been just cause for complaint, except in very rare instances, of over-fat animals winning the best prizes at Canadian shows, and very few indeed are shown in that condition, for the very good reason that exhibitors know from experience and observation that it would certainly lessen the chances of their animals for preferment by the judges, or of favorable notice from the stock-breeders around the