

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE
AND HOME MAGAZINE.
THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

EASTERN OFFICE:
CARLING STREET, LONDON, ONT.

WESTERN OFFICE:
MCINTYRE BLOCK, MAIN STREET, WINNIPEG, MAN.

LONDON, ENGLAND, OFFICE:
W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Fitzalan House,
Strand, London, W. C., England.

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

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STOCK.

A \$6.90 Bunch of Cattle.

Our regular letter from the Chicago stock yards in this issue refers to the sale of 17 head of cattle at \$6.90, the highest price paid there for seven years. They were fed by Mr. M. O. Sullivan, of Warland, Indiana. In breeding, these cattle were Hereford, Shorthorn and Angus grades, hence it will be seen that the glory must be shared by the three great beef breeds, and "honors are easy." Corn twice a day, with hay, constituted their ration, except while on grass, when they were given corn only once daily. With the exception of the last ninety days, when shelled corn was fed, the cattle had only ear corn the entire feeding period. They were on feed about sixteen months, and Mr. Sullivan estimates their gain at approximately 650 lbs. per head. The cattle, which were all bred in that immediate locality, were selected as yearlings.

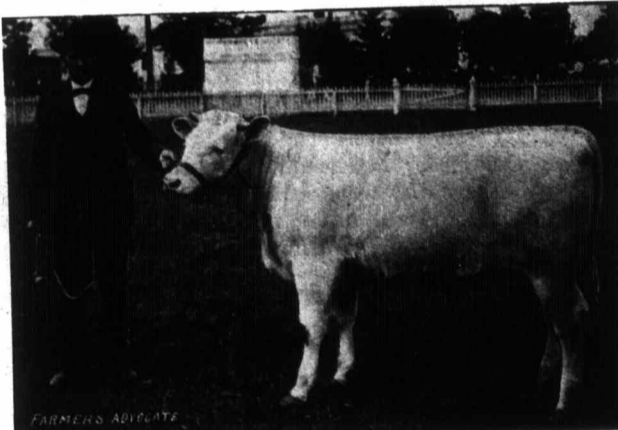
The Outlook for Horses.

"The great mining and agricultural development of the North-western States and Territories, added to the demands of British Columbia, has resulted in practically sweeping that part of the continent of the available supply of medium and heavy weight horses. Alexander Gibson, Vancouver, has lately been on a heavy-horse hunt from his own coast to the other end of Ontario, and he reports that the entire country seems to be bare of desirable work stock. Mr. Gibson supplied the White Pass and Yukon Railway with several hundred horses last year, and he also furnished many to the mining and transportation companies of his own section. The same people want horses in even greater quantities this year, and it is something of a problem to find them of the requisite quality and strength. There probably never was a year in which so many horses that would have once been sent to a trainer have instead put in their time in saving the crops and getting the farm ready for the coming year's productions: so it is not at all impossible that there will be a lot of plow-horse celebrities in the next few years' racing. While agricultural toiling is hardly an ideal way of developing speed and campaigning qualities, a surprising number of good performers have graduated from the plow and the mowing machine. And the ones that never had a chance to graduate probably came nearer earning their oats than many of their opportunity favored brethren."
—The Horseman.

"About Sheep and Dogs."

We reproduce the following letter from a recent issue of the Orillia, Ont., Packet:—

"SIR,—In that very excellent paper, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, the number dated 1st September, I find an article headed 'Revival of the Sheep Industry.' An exceedingly timely and well-written article it is—too long to ask you to reprint, but a short extract from it will answer my purpose. The writer begins by stating as an evident fact that this year more thoroughbred sheep are being imported into Canada than for a long time past; speaks of the great triumphs won by Canadian sheep at the Columbian Exhibition, and the grand displays made year after year at our own leading exhibitions; these and many other matters are referred to, all of which furnish abundant evidence of the high-class character of our sheep, the undoubted skill of our shepherds, and the suitability of our climate, our soil, and our stock foods for the growth and development of sheep and the production of mutton and wool of the very best quality.' Then he goes on to say, 'In view of these facts, it is unaccountable that so few sheep, comparatively, are found on Canadian farms, that by a very large proportion of our farmers they are entirely neglected, and that the aggregate number of sheep in the Dominion has been steadily decreasing for the last fifteen years. We are confident this fact is not due to any general disability affecting the industry.' All this is very good and very true, except the last sentence; surely the editor or writer cannot be any way familiar with the conditions which prevail all over the Province of Ontario, at least, if not the whole Dominion; he ought to know, if he does not, that while sheep can be profitably raised and kept anywhere in the Province of Ontario under normal conditions, yet he must surely be aware that such normal conditions do not exist. On the contrary, a state of things prevails by authority of the law of the Province which renders it impossible for farmers to raise sheep in the same way as they may or can raise other live stock. I refer to what may aptly be called the 'dog nuisance.' Now, the best of dogs are the natural enemies of sheep, unless they be trained to a different line of conduct. In this Province the dog is sur-



SHORTHORN STEER, ELEVEN MONTHS OLD.

Won first prize at Toronto Industrial. Sire Golden Robe; dam Crimson Gem.

BRED AND OWNED BY ISRAEL GROFF, ALMA, ONT.

rounded many times over by more legal protection than is the sheep. The dog is so protected by law that it is almost illegal to throw a stone at him. He has the right to run freely everywhere, even into your kitchen, and to steal your Sunday dinner, and the only remedy is that the owner (if you can find him) is liable for damages. So in his dealings with sheep, the dog may at any time enter a man's sheep field and destroy right and left, and the only recourse is, 'follow him up and find out the owner,' and make the latter, if he has any means, pay damages; or if the owner cannot be found, the municipality may be required to pay a certain fixed sum per carcass for the sheep destroyed, which fixed sum is generally under and often not a tithe of the value. Most of these wretched animals are practically ownerless, and live on the public. But who dares interfere with them? An amended dog law is much needed for this Province, and farmers should at once bestir themselves toward getting such on our statute books. It would be more valuable work for our Legislature than the encouragement of 'Bench Shows' and such like abominations. The mongrel cur is bad enough on sheep, but the big thoroughbred fancy dogs now in fashion are much worse. CULTIVATOR."

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is well aware that the wandering dog has been a great menace to sheep husbandry, as some of our staff know to their cost; but even despite occasional losses, the industry is found most advantageous and decidedly profitable. We do not include the "dog nuisance" among the natural conditions of Canada which are so favorable to sheep rearing. (In Manitoba and the Northwest the great detriment is the destructive coyote.) In the next place, our observation is that the damage is mostly done by the half-starved mongrel, more than one of which are sometimes harbored by poverty-stricken villagers or country people who ought to know better and who have no use for them. We

believe that the dog or bench shows are not aided financially by the Legislature or Dominion Government in any shape or form, but we do believe that had some of our legislators displayed a little more backbone in strengthening the dog law by providing for the imposition of much higher fees, by permitting the destruction of dogs left at liberty to roam the country at nights, and fixing the damages to be allowed the owner of sheep killed or worried at their real value, the "dog nuisance" would long ago have been greatly abated, and the sheep industry—one of the most desirable in the country—would have been greatly encouraged. We trust that our readers will take up "Cultivator's" suggestion, and bestir themselves in order to secure effective legislation upon this subject. We should like to hear from others upon this question, so that its importance will be enforced upon public attention and effective steps taken to secure what is needed.

A Reported New Move by the C. P. R.

Montreal, Sept. 18th—(Special).—The Canadian Pacific Railway Company have just initiated a new policy with the object of improving the general condition of the live stock in the Northwest by the purchase of one carload of Shorthorn bulls and two cars of Berkshire and Yorkshire boars, including prizewinners at the recent Toronto Industrial Exhibition, for free distribution among Western farmers. A policy somewhat similar to this was once attempted on a limited scale along the Great Northern Railway by Hill, the railway magnate and colonizer of the North-western States. His idea was, that by the general use of good males of the beef breeds the number and quality of the cattle of the country through which his railways ran could be vastly increased, thus giving the roads a greater and better carrying trade out of the country. It was deemed a good investment to carry in the bulls and distribute them gratis under certain arrangements as to service fees, etc., with the parties keeping them. The C. P. R. people aim also at promoting the Northwest swine industry as well as the cattle trade. Doubtless all available surplus bulls and breeding hogs produced by Manitoba and Northwest breeders will be secured by the C. P. R. in order to supply the growing needs of the Western country, which is filling up with great numbers of new settlers. But these would be only a "drop in the bucket"; hence the necessity for drawing upon Eastern herds. The first shipment from the East consists of 30 bulls and 82 boars, intended largely for the Mennonite Reserves.

[EDITORIAL NOTE.—Providing that the C. P. R. first utilize the available surplus bulls and boars produced by Manitoba and Northwest breeders, a grave objection to the scheme from a Western standpoint will be removed, otherwise it would be a direct interference with private enterprise by a railway corporation largely created out of public funds. Whether the Company's great expectations of benefit will be realized is another matter, dependent mainly upon the adoption of pure-bred methods and improved facilities and buildings for stock-rearing in the West. There is no question about the need for the more general use of pure-bred males, both East and West, and the advantages arising from the rearing of more and improved live stock, but for various reasons, as a rule, paternalism does not appear to give satisfactory or permanent results.]

Since the C. P. R. are developing a new streak of generous enterprise, we would suggest that they can do a great deal to encourage and develop Western agriculture by reducing freight rates on the requirements of the farmers, for the transportation of stock to market, on lumber and building materials (as they have done standard grain elevators), and other ways, as Messrs. Lynch and Lister elsewhere point out in their somewhat vigorous and racy letters.]

The New Brunswick Provincial Exhibition.

The great annual Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition of New Brunswick was held in the City of St. John, September 11th to 20th. The weather was ideal throughout, the attendance in advance of any former year, and the entries more numerous than in any year in the history of the Association. The live stock exhibits have increased in number and improved in quality every year, and the representatives of the dairy breeds of cattle shown here compare very favorably with those at the leading shows in any of the Western Provinces. The beef breeds are fast gaining ground also, and there were a number of high-class animals shown in most of the classes. The beef breeds were judged by Mr. Arthur Johnston, Greenwood, and the dairy breeds, sheep and swine by Mr. J. C. Snell, London.