

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

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An Acknowledged Leader.

G. W. CLEMONS, Secretary Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada:—"Your beautiful premium picture, 'Canada's Ideal,' is admired by all who have seen it. Good as it is, it merely reflects the worth of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, which is freely acknowledged to be the leading agricultural paper in the Dominion."

Faithful Portraits.

F. G. BOVYER, P. E. Island:—"Canada's Ideal" is of itself an education in stock-breeding, being a faithful portraiture of real living animals which are types of their fellows in many Canadian Shorthorn herds. Pity it is that such cattle are not the reality in all parts of Canada. The prepotency of the Shorthorn bull is so great that his use with common cows will, in one or two crosses, give results almost equal in looks to the sire."

A Perfect Library.

D. HILL, Perth Co., Ont.:—"Canada's Ideal" is perfection. It is a library in itself, and should have a place in every stockman's home. All inferior Shorthorn pictures should be thrown aside and 'Canada's Ideal' be the daily counsellor of all who desire the most reliable information. I would like to see it in the sitting or living room of all the homes in Canada, where it could be easily referred to by all members of the household, where its presence would say to all: 'Come and consult me—my treasures are for you.'"

The active demand for horses, both for heavy draft and for saddle and carriage purposes, and the good prices being paid, with a good prospect of the trade continuing, should lead farmers to make careful selection of the sires they breed from, and to breed with a clearly-defined purpose in view. It costs as much to raise a "plug" as a "seller."

The Rising Tide of Prices.

The rapidly rising scale of prices made for pure-bred cattle at auction sales in the United States in the last three months reached a point which cool-headed Canadians would call fever heat at Chicago on April 17th, the occasion being the dispersion of the Hereford herd of Mr. F. A. Nave, of Attica, Indiana, when a bull is reported as selling for \$7,500, two cows for \$3,000 each, and 96 head of cattle at an average of \$671, as indicated in our Chicago market report and in the "Gossip" columns in this issue. In February, a draft of 50 Missouri Herefords were sold at Kansas City, making an average of \$454, one bull reaching \$5,100. In March, a Missouri herd of 72 Aberdeen-Angus cattle scored an average of \$579. On April 3rd, a new mark in prices of Shorthorns was set when a draft from an Iowa herd sold for an average of \$421. The week following came the announcement that a Shorthorn bull had been purchased in England for a United States citizen at \$6,000, and the Hereford men evidently felt bound to wipe out that score, as they did at the Nave sale at Chicago by putting theirs up to \$7,500 for a bull. Yet, we are gravely assured by leading United States stock papers that there is a total lack of anything like a boom in all these events, but that a perfectly healthy tone prevails. It would be interesting to know just where the line is drawn between a healthy tone and a boom, and let us hope it will not be passed, as there is, we believe, a general agreement that a boom is not the best thing for any industry, owing to the possibility of a reaction later on. Seven thousand five hundred dollars, or even \$5,000, is a big price for a bull, and for some bulls to some men either price would be a dangerous venture, as the men might not be able to manage them so as to avoid a loss. As someone has said, "It simply means that a boat should not try to carry more sail than its ballast justifies," or that men to make a success of large ventures must have judgment and means to match, and should be in such a position that to them such a contingency as the loss of one animal even at the record price would not mean disaster. It has also been said that "the bull is half the herd," and that "any breeder is justified in paying, if necessary, as much for such a bull as he has paid for all his females put together, less a reasonable reduction to cover the contingency of the death of the bull at any time." Whether this doctrine be sound or not doubtless depends largely on the character of the bull, as his impress for good or ill survives him, and the individuality he stamps on the herd, be it good or bad, lasts for many years. We are glad to know that in so far as Canada is concerned, the live-stock industry is in a healthy state, and that if sensational prices are not being obtained, a good, steady and safe business is being done at paying prices, some of the advertisers in the ADVOCATE having reported sales of from 50 to 70 head of pedigreed cattle by private contract from their herds in the last six months, and others, who make no pretensions to being large breeders, having sold from 20 to 40 head in that time.

If our breeders are not getting as high prices as those made under the excitement of the sale-ring on the other side of the line, there is good reason to believe that our prices in private sales average fully as good as theirs, and, as we know we have better cattle as a rule, there is no good reason why our breeders may not mark their best goods a trifle higher in view of the general prosperity prevailing all over this continent.

The Weather and the Crops.

The spring, though opening perhaps a little later than usual in Eastern Canada, has yet been exceedingly favorable to the fall wheat in the sections where it is grown, the crop having stood the winter remarkably well, while the absence of alternate freezing and thawing, and the generally warm and genial weather since the middle of April, has left the crop in very promising condition. Clover which withstood the extreme drought that prevailed over a considerable area in Ontario last summer has come through the winter in good condition. In those sections which were not affected by the dry season last year, its condition is very satisfactory. Manitoba and the Northwest had an unusually favorable winter and an early spring, considerable seeding being done in the last days in March, and the wheat seeding practically finished in the first two weeks of April. The land being in remarkably good condition and an immense area of plowing done last fall, with the continuance of such fine weather, seeding has been a very short business, and the prospects for the season are very promising. Seeding is progressing favorably in Ontario, the land generally working well and rapid progress being made.

STOCK.

Canada's Bacon Trade Imperilled.

SIR,—When recently in England, I visited a number of pork-packing establishments, also scores of retail houses, and, to my astonishment, I found in a great many retail places Wiltshire sides with a very thick, fat back, and, in addition, the meat very soft and flabby. In a number of cases I asked the proprietor where this meat was put up, and in every case they said it was Canadian pea-fed. Since my return home I have been investigating the matter, and have every reason to believe that the Americans are shipping to England the product of their thick, fat, corn-fed hogs, and placing it on the market there as Canadian production.

I should like to ask all Canadians who are interested in the production of the ideal bacon hog, what is the use of us trying to compete with the Irish and Danish people under such circumstances? I have no hesitancy in saying that all or nearly all of the packers in Canada are aware that the circumstances mentioned have been going on for some time, and in the face of all this they will preach to us the kind of hog to raise, and the way to feed it. When in conversation the other day with a representative of one of our leading packing houses, he admitted to me that if we could not get the English Government to put a stop to the Americans sending the Wiltshire sides abroad without being branded, there was little or no use of Canada trying to maintain the reputation she has already gained in the bacon line. It seemed to me that it would be only fair to ask our Government to pass a law prohibiting the exportation of Canadian bacon without its being well branded, not only on the boxes, but on the product itself. I found in nearly every retail store I visited in England the Irish Wiltshire side put up by Denny, and there was not a space large enough for your hand that had not his brand on.

Denny certainly puts up his goods in excellent shape, being well colored and quite firm. Upon close examination of the Irish Wiltshire, I am free to say that we as Canadian breeders are not in the least behind them in the production of the proper kind of hog. In no small number of cases were the Irish Wiltshire sides put up with a thick, uneven, fat back.

D. C. FLATT.
Wentworth Co., Ont.

British Army Remounts from Canada.

As a result of communications between the British War Office and Mr. T. C. Patterson, Postmaster of Toronto, whose long and personal interest in Canadian live-stock matters is well known, it was proposed to the latter by cable that he should purchase 1,500 horses for remounts. That he could not undertake to do, and the next message informed him that Major Dent would be sent over, and he arrived by the steamer Campania about two weeks ago, and soon after made a contract with Mr. W. H. Smith, of Grand's Repository, Toronto, Ont., to look up the supply of horses. Mr. Patterson states that it is a matter of much congratulation that so thoroughly competent a man as Major Dent, who is not a stranger to Canada, should have been selected. He is a County Magistrate in Yorkshire, for many years Master of the Bedale Hunt, an ex-officer of Dragoons, and one of the best-known judges of horses at the principal English shows. He is accompanied by a Veterinary-Major who has had great experience in his profession, and Ontario is at last likely to have full justice done to her capabilities as a field for the advantageous purchase of horses for the English army. Seeding time is not by any means the most favorable for our farmers to be approached by Mr. Smith's emissaries; but, nevertheless, there is every confidence that he will be able to fulfill his contract. Major Dent will not be found unreasonable in the matter of rejections. Fanciful or capricious objections, applicable to the horsing of an army on a peace footing, as it was in General Raventill's case, are presumably less likely to prevail when that army is in the field.

Enquiries on Loose Feeding for Mr. Rennie.

SIR,—In reading Mr. Wm. Rennie's new book, "Successful Farming," which was recently advertised in your columns, I notice that on pages 229-30, in the chapter on "Breeds of Cattle," he states that "Steers dehorned and fed loose will gain more in five months than those tied will gain in six, and on the same feed." Now, I should be glad if the author of the excellent work in question would tell us through the FARMER'S ADVOCATE upon what experience he bases that important statement, because, if correct, those of us engaged in fattening cattle can effect very large savings by putting the plan in practice. I would like advice also as to the size of the stalls in which he states eight or ten cattle should be confined and the best arrangement of manger for feeding and watering. In your paper for April 16th, Mr. W. W. Sheppard states that the plan is all right if one has plenty of room and straw for bedding. In overhauling our old barns, as well as for the reasons above stated, others as well as myself will appreciate learning from Mr. Rennie on this question, or from others who have tried the plan of loose feeding to their satisfaction or otherwise.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

STALL FED.