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MARCH 1, 1899

REGISTERED HORSE WITHOUT A NUMBER.

READER, Glengarry Co., Ont.:—"Will you kindly tell me if a horse is recognized as a registered horse if he has no registered number following his name in his pedigree?"

[No. If the horse is registered his registration number should follow his name. It is possible that an animal may be pure-bred and eligible to registry if the conditions were complied with, but it would be unwise to breed registered females to him, expecting to get the produce registered, as there may be difficulties in the way of registering the sire which cannot be cleared away, and in that case the offspring would be debarrd, as the sire and dam must first be registered before the produce can be.]

PERCENTAGE OF DRESSED TO LIVE WEIGHT.

R. S. T., Eden, Man.:—"What is a fair average of dressed beef to 100 lbs. live weight in ordinary to good butchers' cattle as compared with fancy cattle such as the prizewinners in the fact stock shows?"

[Ordinary butchers' cattle will make from 50 to 55 per cent. dressed to live weight, while fancy stock will dress about 65% to as high as 70%. It is here where blood tells. The carcass dressing a large percentage of meat to offal can only be got from an animal with broad, level back, well-sprung ribs, and deep, wide quarters, and such a conformation can only result as the produce of well-bred sires. The flat-sided, peaked-backed, pot-bellied scrub will always kill out a large percentage of offal, no matter how skillfully fed.—Ed.]

DEHORNING WITH CAUSTIC POTASH.

READER:—"Kindly inform me through the FARMER'S ADVOCATE how to apply caustic potash to a calf's head in order to prevent the horns from growing?"

[As soon as the formation of the horns can be distinguished, which will be when the calf is five or six days old, cut the hair from around the young horn with a pair of scissors. Then wet the little nub or button and apply the caustic until the parts become red-raw. Usually one application is sufficient if properly done. We cannot, however, uphold this method of dehorning. When the application is too light the horns are only partially destroyed and scurs are liable to grow on one or both sides, and when too much caustic is applied the skull is liable to be injured to the extent of causing the head to develop in a deformed condition.]

SHOWS AND SHOWING.

Canadian Fairs Associations.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions was held in Toronto on February 15th, in the City Council chamber, Mr. T. W. Wallace, President, in the chair. There was a good attendance of members.

Mr. J. Thomas Murphy, of Simcoe, read a paper on "The Best Way to Manage an Agricultural Show." Its recommendations summarized were as follows:

- (1) A board of officers and directors with the one idea of harmonious action in advancing the interest of the fair.
- (2) A Secretary alive to the interests of the society, courteous and obliging, and his work always in hand, and he ever at his post.
- (3) A General Superintendent who has all his work ready, grounds and buildings tidy and neat, all caretakers and watchers at their posts, and the work of the society going on as steadily as clockwork.
- (4) Expert judges.
- (5) A prize list complete in every detail up to present needs.
- (6) No member of the board or superintendents of classes in any way to communicate with the judges unless applied to by the judges for information.
- (7) No favorites, but all treated alike, and in accordance with the rules and regulations.

(8) If attractions and entertainments be permitted at all, the utmost care to be exercised as to morality, etc. Under no circumstances or consideration fakirs to be allowed access to the grounds. The Norfolk Union Show, held at Simcoe, Ont., some years ago, ceased entirely to allow any kind of circus or mountebank performances, exhibitions or shows, or the selling of goods, wares or merchandise on the grounds, and ever since the show has grown in the esteem of the public, success has crowned the efforts of its promoters, and on no account would the Society again permit anything of that nature on the grounds or within the statutory distance of 300 yards.

Mr. G. R. Van Zandt, East York, presented the report of the auditors. It stated that the balance on hand last year was \$2.45 and this year \$36.83.

Mr. James Kirkwood, Ospringe, read a paper on "The Advantages of a Closed Township Show in Preference to an Unlimited One." One advantage, he claimed, was that more residents of the township would exhibit at a closed fair than would possibly exhibit in an unlimited show.

Mr. Murphy and other members expressed the opinion that the Government grant should not be based upon the membership list, but upon the prize list. No society should receive a grant that did not pay out the amount of the grant in prizes.

Mr. Reith, Grand Valley, thought that the Government should supply a tabulated statement of every agricultural society in the Province, giving the amount subscribed and the amount of premiums, number of members, etc.

Mr. H. J. Hill, Manager of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition, said he was a firm believer in special attractions, conducted on a proper basis.

The following officers were elected: President, J. Thomas Murphy, of Simcoe (by acclamation); First Vice-President, James Reith, of Grand Valley (by acclamation); Second Vice-President, G. R. Van Zandt, East York (by acclamation); Secretary-Treasurer, Alexander McFarlane, Otterville (by acclamation); Executive Committee—Dr. Clark, Goderich; F. Hirdsall, Birdsville; M. McConnell, Cayuga; James Kirkwood, Erin; G. Elliott, Peterboro; Robert Crawford, Brampton; Samuel McClure, Elder Mills. Auditors—G. W. Fitzgerald, J. F. Wallace.

It was decided that in future the annual meeting should be held, if possible, at a time when similar associations held their meetings.

At the evening session a discussion ensued on the advisability of asking the Ontario Government by resolution to so amend the act governing grants to agricultural and horticultural societies that in cases where it was not shown that the amount of \$300 had been awarded in premiums to exhibitors at the previous year's fair the grant should be withheld. It was pointed out, however, that the Government obtained all the information required on this subject every year, and in the case of fraudulent fairs the remedy was to call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the particular case or cases, and he would order an investigation.

MARKETS.

FARM GOSSIP.

Kent Co., Ont.

The past unusually mild January has been followed by a cold wave of two weeks' duration, unprecedented for severity in the past twenty-five years, the thermometer registering 15 to 18 degrees below zero for days at a time.

The ground, being uncovered with snow, has been frozen to a depth of two and a half to three feet. Wheat looks badly burnt, especially the late-planted portions, but under favorable conditions it will likely recover. Grave fears are entertained that a large percentage of the pitted potato crop is frozen to the bottom, which has already caused an advance of ten and fifteen cents per bag.

Reports from our peach belt state peach prospects destroyed, and it is the opinion of many that our apple crop is in the same condition.

The one redeeming feature of the "cold wave" was the abundance of beautiful ice it made possible for all to harvest.

Wheat and beans have both advanced in price—wheat to 70 and 71 cents; beans, 65 to 75 cents per bush. Clover seed is also a little stronger. Coarse grains and millfeeds are lower, presumably on account of the large importations of American corn that is bought and used by Eastern feeders. Hay is very cheap—\$4 and \$5 per ton. Well-wintered cattle is the result, farmers preferring to turn low-priced hay into high-priced stock rather than market it.

The dressed-hog season is just about closing, with prices ranging from \$4.40 to \$4.60 per cwt. One of the many firms in Chatham has shipped 15,000 hogs, at an average cost of \$3, which makes \$120,000 paid our farmers by this one firm. Live-hog market is active, at about \$3.75 per cwt.

During the cold snap butter in prints advanced to 18 and 20 cents per pound; eggs scarce at 20 cents per dozen; potatoes, 90 cents bag. Good apples scarce and dear. Several farms have changed hands in our immediate vicinity quite recently, at prices ranging from \$75 to \$100 per acre; and indications point to a land boom in this fertile farming section as one of the sureties of the near future. W. A. M.

Oxford County.

We are now beginning to breathe freely and get our chilblains thawed out after the very severe weather we had in the fore part of this month. The weather was the most severe that any one here remembers of experiencing—31 degrees below zero. The wheat looks a little brown on top, but if we do not have too much thawing and freezing it may come out all right. I have just seen one or two spots anywhere killed out. The latter end of March and first of April is the time that tries the wheat most severely in our district. We have had very little sleighing, and much of the teaming has been done on the wheels.

Live stock are generally doing well. Cattle have eaten straw very heartily and have generally been allowed a good bite of hay, as it is abundant, cheap, and good. It is only bringing from \$6 to \$7. Oats are selling at 30c and wheat at 70c; live hogs at 4c. There is much more spring plowing to do this year than usual, and farmers would do well to have everything in readiness when the spring opens out. The harness should be all nicely cleaned and oiled, the seed grain properly cleaned up and ready, and the manure hauled out as far as possible, and a year's wood split and put in the woodshed ready for the stove.

Some of our creameries have kept going all winter, and those who have stopped are making preparations to start in the beginning or middle of March. Butter will be made until the end of April or perhaps middle of May, and after the cows are out on the grass cheese will be made until fodder feeding commences in the fall. Most of the butter and cheese factories have put in a stock of ice. The ice will be used in the curing-rooms to keep the temperature down in the hot months. We have had some interesting meetings of the Farmers' Institutes in our county, and we believe these are of much benefit to all intelligent farmers. The silo was advocated very strongly, and we understand several farmers are seriously contemplating the building of silos more for supplementary summer feeding of dairy cows in the dry, hot months in summer than for winter feeding. The stove or tub silo seems to be most in favor here. We learned a great deal about silos and ensilage, and we believe we have still a lot to learn, and it would be a great boon if some of those farmers who have been using ensilage for years would give us the benefit of their experience through the columns of the ADVOCATE, which is now admitted by all candid, intelligent farmers to be the best agricultural paper that we have. D. L.

Feb. 22nd, 1899.

Pork Packing at Brantford.

A largely attended meeting was held in the Court House, Brantford, Ont., on Saturday, to consider a proposal to establish a pork-packing factory there. Besides the Mayor of Brantford and a goodly number of local merchants, the farming community of Brant County was well represented. Mr. Joseph Stratford, General Manager of the Farmers' Binder Twine Co., was appointed chairman. After a lengthy discussion, those present agreed to form a company for the purpose of packing pork upon the co-operative plan, and appointed a large and representative committee to receive stock and look for a suitable site for the factory.

Toronto Markets.

The market bids fair to be active this season; the run of live stock overflows into the pig pens in the annex. A fair supply of cattle, but the storms on the Atlantic have delayed shipments. This somewhat checked business in export cattle. Freight rates are the all-absorbing topic, and the question is, Do the railways discriminate against Canadian shippers in favor of Chicago cattle and American dressed beef?

Export Cattle.—All first-class fat cattle found a ready market. Choice export cattle a little firmer, at \$4.50 at \$4.75 per cwt. A few picked lots of heavy, choice, well-bred cattle sold as high as \$4.80 to \$5 per cwt. Mr. W. H. Dean bought one load of shippers, 1,400 lbs. average, at \$4.50 per cwt. Mr. A. Ironsides bought the two best loads of exporters on the market at \$4.90 per cwt., average 1,300 lbs. each.

Butchers' Cattle.—The best finished butchers' cattle sold at \$4.40 to \$4.60. Loads of good cattle sold at prices ranging from \$4.20 to \$4.30 per cwt. Choice butchers' cattle sold at \$4.10 to \$4.20, weighing 1,100 lbs. to 1,150 lbs. Mr. Wm. Levack bought 65 cattle, mixed butchers' and exporters', at \$3.60 to \$4.75 per cwt. Mr. Wm. Crealock bought two loads of butchers' cattle for Montreal at \$3.25 to \$4.50 per cwt. for choice.

Bulls.—Choice export bulls sold at \$3.60 to \$4.00 per cwt., with an odd one or two extra heavy at \$4.20. Light and medium sold at \$3.25 to \$3.50 per cwt.

Stockers.—Buffalo stockers in fair demand at from \$3.40 to \$3.75 per cwt. A few heifers in demand at \$2.60 to \$2.85 per cwt., weighing not more than 500 lbs. average.

Feeders.—There is always a fair demand for choice feeders weighing from 1,100 lbs. to 1,150 lbs. They are worth from \$3.80 to \$4.00 per cwt.

Sheep.—There were about 450 sheep delivered, selling at \$3.25 to \$3.50; bucks at \$2.75 to \$3.

Lambs.—Yearling lambs were in good supply, for which there is always a constant demand, selling at \$4.50, while a few choice barnyard lambs brought \$4.60 per cwt.

Calves.—About 20 calves on offer; sold from \$3 to \$7 per head. Choice heavy veals of good quality are worth \$5 per cwt. Scarce and wanted.

Milk Cows.—Twenty-five on offer. Good milkers and springers in demand at from \$25 to \$45 per head for choice. Very few choice cows are offered.

Hogs.—Deliveries are coming forward, as indicated in my last communication, and prices are falling in consequence. Choice select bacon hogs, unfed or watered, 160 to 200 lbs. average, are quoted at \$4.25. Very choice singers, \$4.37½. This is top price, and likely to be for some little time. All others are culled, and divided into various classes. Singers, \$4.25 to \$4.37½ per cwt.; light fat, \$4 per cwt.; thick fat, \$3.75 per cwt.; sows, \$3 per cwt.; stags, \$2 per cwt. Car lots, uncured, at \$4 to \$4.15 per cwt., unfed or watered. The average shrinkage on a carload is 10 lbs. per head. Mr. James Gordon sold 100 hogs to one of our packing houses, of which 64 were select at \$4.37½, 30 light at \$4, and 6 fat at \$3.37½ per cwt. These made no profit—10 lbs. shrinkage killed him.

Dressed Hogs.—Deliveries of dressed hogs free. Market unchanged. Farmers' loads are quoted at \$5 to \$5.15 for select. Carloads on track are selling at \$5, mixed loads.

Wheat.—The receipts of grain on the street market were large. Wheat: 500 bushels of white sold at 74c per bushel; an advance of 1c. over my last quotation. Red—150 bushels sold at 73c to 74c. Goose—250 bushels sold at 71½c per bushel. Barley.—About 700 bushels on offer. Price firmer. For good samples, 47c to 48c per bushel. In one or two loads as high as 50c. was paid for very choice extra colored.

Seeds.—Owing to late quotations, this market has been overcrowded with white clover seed. The price has fallen \$1 bushel—is now quoted at from \$4.50 to \$5 per bushel. There is still a fair demand, but it must be of the right quality—clean, new, and fit for export without dressing—to fetch top price. Red clover, \$3.50 to \$3.80; alsike, choice, \$3.90 to \$4; timothy, \$1.30 to \$1.35; beans, 80c to 90c per bushel.

Hay.—Receipts of hay were liberal. There is a fair demand and prices about steady. About 30 loads on offer, at from \$8 to \$9.50 for timothy and from \$6.50 to \$7.50 for clover.

Straw.—Only three loads of straw on offer, at from \$6 to \$7.50. In our visits to many stables we find that it is as cheap to use hay, in consequence of the scarcity of straw, for bedding.

Butter.—There is a good movement in dairy produce. Butter keeps steady in price. Small dairy pound prints are quoted at 16c. per lb.; creamery tubs and boxes 19c. to 20c., with a slight advance on select, up to 22c. for top price.

Eggs.—In good demand, but no increase in supplies. Old stocks pretty well cleared up. New-laid sell at 20c. to 22c. per dozen. Held fresh sell at 15c. to 16c. per dozen.

Cheese.—The market is in better shape than for some considerable time. Old stocks worked off. Prices firmer at from 9½c. to 10½c. per lb.

Poultry quiet. There is too much cold stored stock offered. Buyers are not very favorably impressed with the appearance. Choice fresh-killed chickens are held firm at 40c. per pair, and turkeys are bought freely on offer at 12c. per lb., and wanted. February 24th, 1899.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Following were the prices lately current, with comparisons two weeks and one and two years ago:

	Extreme prices now.	Two weeks ago.	1898.	1897.
Beef cattle.				
1500 lbs. up.....	\$4 75 to \$5 80	\$6 15	\$5 60	\$5 35
1350 to 1500 lbs.....	4 55 " 5 85	6 00	5 40	5 15
1200 to 1350 lbs.....	4 20 " 5 70	5 90	5 35	5 05
1050 to 1200 lbs.....	4 00 " 5 60	5 60	5 35	4 80
900 to 1050 lbs.....	3 80 " 5 40	5 50	5 00	4 70
Fed Westerns.....	4 10 " 5 65	5 45	4 90	4 90
Hogs.				
Mixed.....	3 45 " 3 85	3 92½	4 25	3 65
Heavy.....	3 45 " 3 80	3 97½	4 27	3 65
Light.....	3 40 " 3 80	3 85	4 20	3 70
Pigs.....	2 75 " 3 65	3 79	4 15	3 67
Sheep.				
Natives.....	3 00 " 4 75	4 40	4 65	4 25
Western.....	3 55 " 4 80	4 50	4 65	4 05
Lambs.....	4 00 " 5 05	5 00	5 65	5 10

The Lenten season, the unfortunate quarrel about army beef, and the disposition of buyers to curtail operations to the lowest possible point, unless they could get lower prices for the raw material, have had the effect of making a dull cattle market and lower prices. There is a widespread feeling among people in the cattle trade that the supply of good ripe beefs is not only very short but is going to continue short, and that the fight that buyers are making against high prices will be un-availing.

The demand for young stock cattle is very good considering the high prices for cattle and feed, and the not very high prices at which the bulk of the cattle are selling. The quality of the cattle has seldom been so poor at this season. The late protracted below-zero weather was bad for feeders, as it was hard to make cattle put on flesh at a satisfactory rate. For several winters past there has been no such period, and feeders have found it easy to make the feed count right through the winter. The February blizzards extended all over the States, and reports of stock losses on the range were loud and big. From five to ten per cent., however, would fully cover the loss on range cattle. All the reports from Central Texas thus far received indicate that stock have weathered the storm in good condition. Cottonseed products, forage and corn were more plentiful in that section than for years past, and have been more generally fed than ever before.

C. G. Winn, of Griggsville, Ill., had 18 cattle, averaging 1,301 pounds, yearlings, sold at \$5.75. These cattle gained 300 lbs. in the last 100 days. They were Polled-Angus and Shorthorns. J. R. Bryson, of Comanche, Texas, was here superintending the marketing of three train loads of Texas cattle of his own feeding. He says fat cattle are very scarce in his section, with feeding steers very high.

O. L. Eckhart, of Waco, Texas, had included in his consignment 18 "sacred" bulls, similar to the kind common in India. They sold for \$3.30.

The hog packers claim to have big stocks of provisions on hand, and say they cannot sell them to justify present prices for hogs. The available supply of hogs at present is not very large, and it is about time of year that packers are expected to be willing to have hogs sell higher to influence an advance upon the manufactured products in their hands.

Horses are selling fairly well. Prime heavy draft animals are only moderately active at uneven values, and as compared with excellent prices obtained one year ago, are fully \$25 to \$50 per head lower. That is, heavy horses that sold for \$150 to \$200 last February are selling now for \$125 to \$200. The market is considerably improved over last week in the volume of trade and at a slight advance in prices.

On February 23, at the Union Stock Yard here, John Donovan, Jr., of St. Joseph, Mo., sold to an agent of Andrew Carnegie, Pittsburgh, a pair of brown gelding, 15½ hands, foaled 1893, at \$9,500. Their record is 2:15½.

The Minnesota pacer, Colbert, with a record of 2:09½, was purchased by Thomas Boyle, of Chicago, for \$1,700. Colbert is a chestnut stallion of compact conformation and great substance, foaled 1888. He was sired by Onward and out of the great Queen B.

Death of Mr. Patrick Kinnear.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Mr. Patrick Kinnear, which occurred at his residence in Crawford Street, Toronto, on Tuesday, Feb. 21st, from peritonitis. To his many friends his loss will be severely felt. He was a true Irishman, genial, kind-hearted, and generous to a fault, upright and honest in all his dealings. A loss of one of the principal sheep buyers cannot fail to be generally and severely felt. His death disorganized this feature of the market lately. Mr. West Dunn will probably take up that branch, for which he is well fitted.