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All communications to be addressed STOCK JOURNAL CO., 48 John street south, Hamilton, Ont.

HAMILTON, CANADA, JANUARY, 1887.

Please examine your address tag. If it reads, Dec., '86, or any month of '86, your subscription expired with that issue, and we will be obliged if readers in arrears will renew at once.

We ask of all our friends who think that the JOURNAL is doing a good work and deserving of support to show it to their neighbors, and to send us at least one new subscriber along with their own renewal. Officers and members of farmers' clubs can also render material service in this direction. Sample copies sent free to those wishing to aid in the work.

It is the practice of a certain class of farmers during winter to try and look up some kind of work for their horses during this period, as teaming on the road by the day, or buying wood and drawing it, or something of that sort. In some instances this may be wise, but oftener it is not. A rest of two to four months in the year tends to renovate working horses if kept on a diet not too high. When brought back to their ordinary work allowance they bring with them a fresh, keen appetite, and a rested body. We believe they will live longer than those which get no periods of rest, and that they will do more during the period of hard work than they could otherwise endure. The practice of working out during winter usually militates against good farming; there is so much that can be done at home during the winter, if things are only managed well. Then there is the wear and tear connected with teaming, which is no light bill.

A WRITER in the *Mark Lane Express*, recently, says a good many sensible things in reference to the necessity for suitable shelter for sheep and cattle in the winter season. If this is an advantage in England, how much more in this colder Canada! We would like to know the amount of food saved in keeping cattle warm in winter, a process that could all be accomplished by the proper use of wood and stone. It is the most extravagant mode of keeping stock warm that can be devised. Indeed, where it can be

avoided, and generally it can, it is a most shameful waste. It is most refreshing in inspecting the stock on the farm to find it all comfortably housed in winter and suffering no manner of privation. Those who have not suitable buildings should think of this now, as the winter is the time to draw the material for next summer's improvements.

PARTIES who are keeping breeding sows in close pens and feeding them high are making a great mistake. We know of no place where they will get along so well as in the barnyard in the winter, giving them a protected corner with plenty of straw to lie in, and a protected place in which to eat their food. This latter should consist of wheat middlings and bran, with sometimes a change of peas or corn, or ground oats. In very cold days dry peas and enough of drink is good for them, but in warmer weather the bulk of their feed should not be strong. One seldom hears of an autumn litter being lost, although it is a common occurrence to lose the young pigs in the spring. Why is this? Because in summer the food and exercise the sow gets is adapted to her condition, while in winter it is not so. It is just wonderful how a brood sow will get along in a yard where cattle abound without taking any injury.

THE presence of a good herd of pure-bred cattle is a great boon to any neighborhood. If it possesses true merit and is rightly handled it cannot but work a revolution in time in stock improvement. Oftentimes the individual possessing it has to toil on unweariedly for a long time before the harvest day comes, but come it will. On driving through certain sections one will often notice the fine appearance of the stock, and on making inquiry as to the cause, it is almost invariably found to consist in the existence of a good useful herd of pure-bred cattle in the neighborhood, the bulls of which have been used in up-grading by the neighbors. Such a result is very gratifying. It not only constitutes the owner of the herd a benefactor of his own generation and the next, but it places his bank account upon a satisfactory basis, for those who patronize good males for a time are, after awhile, only content with ownership, and are ready to purchase from the herd that has been the means of doing them so much good.

THE following paragraph is intended for the young men of the farm. It has been stated of Mr. John Handley, the son of Mr. Wm. Handley, a tenant farmer of Greenhead, near Kendal, Westmoreland, that at the age of twenty he declared his determination to become the champion exhibitor of cattle in the United Kingdom. Eight years have passed since then and we know the results. Sir Arthur Ingram, Royal Hovingham, Ingram's Chief, Royal Ingram, and Ingram's Fame, are a few of the mighty conquerors that have come forth from Greenhead, the fame of which is amongst all nations interested in the production of cattle. One of the best milking herds of Shorthorns under the sun feed upon its pastures. Although the farm consists of but 200 acres, and most of the feed is raised on the farm, no less than 100 cattle are kept, and from 200 to 300 sheep. We venture the statement that Mr. John Handley has not done all this with his hands in his pockets, or by following a pack of hounds. He has never attended many races. He doesn't know where the corner grocery is, and his evenings are not spent in a bar.

ECONOMY in feeding is a great consideration. There cannot be due economy exercised in this line when the constructions in the feeding arrangements admit of large waste. Most persons are inclined to feed too

much, especially in feeding hay to horses. They seem to think they have not done their duty to the horse unless hay is continually before him. It is a great mistake. When the fodder is good it should be eaten up, every particle of it, and when not first-class, the residue should be removed before feeding again on every occasion. When animals are fed just enough, they come to their food with a relish and a heartiness that betokens thrift. When food always lies before them it produces loathing. Feeding a great art, and not very many proportionately masters of it in all its details. The food fed on farms well stocked of from 100 to 300 acres varies in value (say) from \$1,500 to \$5,000 per year, according to the object sought. Now, it is quite easy to waste one-fourth of this without making much of a show of waste either, which is certainly a very serious item; just a trifle of waste at every feed and the thing is done, and yet the feeder may not charge himself with any lack of economy.

It seems to be a law pervading all forms of domestic animal life, that to obtain the best specimens of the species it is necessary to keep them pushing well ahead from the first. A period of stagnation during the first weeks or months does not simply mean delay, but *hindrance*—a barrier in the way of perfection. When the animal is matured, or nearly so, it may pass through alternations of full flesh and less full, and when it is desired be made to regain its full bloom and vigor, but if there is neglect during the first year this cannot be accomplished, and the nearer the time of birth the more serious will be the results arising from such neglect. Although raising calves on skim-milk will one day become a matter of great importance in Canada, at present the industry is in a lamentable condition. The poor creatures often suffer from irregularity in quantity and quality of their feed, and by no after attention can they be made to look like thrift. Colts, too, the first winter, are much neglected as a rule, although this is the most critical winter with them that they shall see. They should be well fed from the day of weaning until the grass comes the following spring, have comfortable shelter, not too warm, and ample opportunity of exercise.

The Shorthorn Herd Book Agitation.

In the December number of the JOURNAL the following announcement occurred in its advertising columns as well as in those of other papers in Ontario:

"A meeting of the Shorthorn breeders will be held at the City Hall, Guelph, on Wednesday, Dec. 8th, at 8 p.m., to discuss the action of the Dominion Shorthorn Herd Book Association in excluding a large number of pure-bred Shorthorns from registration, and to consider what action should be taken under the circumstances. (Signed) W. B. Watt, John Fothergill, W. G. Pettit, J. & R. McQueen, D. Talbot, committee."

This meeting was well attended, a large number of Shorthorn breeders from different parts of Canada being present, so that it may justly be looked upon as a representative meeting. Mr. John I. Hobson was called to the chair and then discussion most full and free was allowed. A good deal was said regarding the impropriety of allowing short pedigreed cattle to be recorded because imported, and of excluding cattle not tracing to an imported foundation, however long the pedigree. Mr. John Hope, of Bow Park, being called upon to address the meeting, stated that in many parts of England the unregistered Shorthorns were better individually than many of the best of our pedigreed animals here, and that breeders were not likely to import inferior animals with pedigrees either long or short. Professor Brown, James Laidlaw, M. P. P. and others favored the registering of Canadian