

USAGE OF LIVE STOCK AT PROVINCIAL EXHIBITIONS.

To the Editor of the ONTARIO FARMER.

SIR,—With your permission, I desire to call the attention of the members of the Council of the Provincial Agricultural Association to a few matters in connection with the annual exhibitions of the Association, which I think deserve their consideration, and afford room for improvement. Probably no one will deny that the live stock department in these exhibitions is one of the most important features, if not the most important, connected with them. Let our Provincial Fairs be stripped of the display of horses, cattle, sheep, swine and poultry, that has made them so famous, and who will deny that their greatest attraction is gone? It is safe to say that the interest taken in them would be small compared with what it has been, and the attendance of visitors correspondingly small. Now I think a little consideration will convince any reasonable person that it is the worst-used department in the whole Exhibition. For the reception of the articles exhibited in other departments, a grand building is erected at an immense expense, where those articles can be displayed to great advantage, and men are paid to take care of them, and all this without any expense to the Exhibition; while for the live stock, which is infinitely more valuable, and just as liable to suffer from exposure, temporary sheds, which are frequently uncomfortable and inadequate, are provided, and if a box stall is required for a horse or a bull, an exorbitant rent fee is charged. Besides these things, feed for stock is only provided at extortionate prices, for an inferior article, and parties are not allowed to sell feed upon the ground at their own prices, because the Board has granted that special privilege to a special party, who is allowed to monopolize the business. How very different is this from the management of the State Fairs of our neighbors, where an abundance of good hay is furnished by the Association for the stock, without any charge,—where stalls are provided free, and Railway freights both to and from the Fair are free. If it be conceded that this is one of the most important features in the Exhibition, surely it ought to be encouraged. I write, not in the interest of our leading breeders and exhibitors of fine stock alone, for I know that they can afford to pay their own expenses, that by showing a large number of things they can secure enough prize money to pay the immediate expenses of their attendance at the Fair, besides finding a market for their stock; but I plead in the interest of the new beginners in this enterprise, and I hold that if greater encouragement were held out, there would be more exhibitors, and consequently greater interest manifested. For instance, according to the present arrangement, if a person living a considerable distance from the place where the Fair is held desires to exhibit a horse or a bull, he knows that if he is successful in

winning a first prize it will barely pay the expense of his carriage and feed, while if he fails to gain a prize the whole expense is lost to him, and in many instances these considerations deter persons from coming out. The expense of preparing stock for exhibition is heavy, and the charges for transportation are also great. Why cannot the same arrangements be made with our Railroads that the State Societies across the lines make with their roads? Canadians who take stock to the State Fairs can travel to almost any point with their stock by rail free of charge, and return free also. Surely the immense extra passenger traffic which these occasions bring to the railways ought to be sufficient to pay the expense of conveying articles to the Fair, and allow a good margin for profit. When we consider that it is these that make up the Exhibition and draw the crowd, surely some liberal policy ought to be adopted to encourage our young farmers to embark in this enterprise. I claim that in fairness and reason, stock ought to be transported to and from the Fairs free of expense to the exhibitor, and also that stalls and fodder should be provided free.

Hoping that these suggestions may receive the careful attention of the Board,

I am, yours, &c.,

YOUNG FARMER.

[For the ONTARIO FARMER.]

SHORTHORNS.

BY MR. W. GOMERSALL, OTTERBURN, YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND.

As the day is gone by for arguing on the merits of the pure-bred Shorthorn, the following remarks, it is hoped, will be acceptable without further apology than the mention of the fact that the writer, after twenty-five years' experience as a breeder, finds his affection for them stronger than ever.

Pure-bred Shorthorns have, from the very beginning of the present century, been largely exported from England to nearly all the countries of Europe. They have made their way to the United States; and Canada, Cape of Good Hope and South Australia, have each dipped (as the English breeder loves to term it) into the pure blood. Even at the very time these remarks are being penned, the shipment of a couple of Shorthorns is taking place at Liverpool, en route by the great Pacific Railroad to San Francisco!

In the presence of these facts, it seems quite unnecessary to advise either Canadian farmers generally, or Ontario farmers particularly, to breed pure Shorthorns. Leaving that branch of the subject then, it may, nevertheless, be interesting to many readers to have a few practical remarks sent across the Atlantic on the breeding of Shorthorns.

Those parties who have already commenced, and those who may contemplate beginning to keep pure Shorthorns, will probably think it the most interesting part of the subject. That it is a very important branch of the subject, all will willingly admit. In the first place, then, unless farmers as