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TORONTO, AUGUST, 1890.

Original Plans, Devices, and Ideas.

If you have an original plan, device, or idea, that you think would be of benefit to your fellow farmers or stockmen, turn to our March number and see how we will pay you for it if you send it to us for publication. Space forbids us printing the whole scheme in full, as usual. We would refer those desiring to know more of this to our January, February, and March numbers, where the premiums are given in full with complete particulars.

Our Barley Competition.

From the many indications apparent up to the present, that enable us to form an opinion as to the favourableness of the season for the barley crop, we think we are warranted in drawing the conclusion that the conditions for the success of our barley competition have been excellent, and that the results following will be intensely useful to the farmers of Canada. We desire to strongly urge the competitors to make an extra effort to forward us the sample and full report as soon as possible, so that results may be announced early. When the required sample has been chosen and the schedule filled do not delay a moment in forwarding them both to us according to directions given on the printed form. We are satisfied that by the competitors giving close attention to all the features of this competition, reporting exactly, and observing to the letter all requirements, immense good will surely accrue to them and to the Canadian farmer through the knowledge that may be obtained from the facts that will be brought to light.

THE Americans say that the new tariff bill as amended by the Senate Committee prevents the free admission of horses for breeding purposes registered in the Dominion Draft Stud Book or the Canadian Draft Stud Book; as the amendment requires that all animals admitted free for breeding purposes must be "pure bred and of a recognized breed," and must be duly registered in the book of record established for that breed. The *Breeders' Gazette* calls the attention of the custom officers to this and urges them to see that the principle of the restriction is fully carried out.

Our Conditions for Beef Production.

In an essay on American Cattle Markets in the journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, Mr. John Clay, jr., of Chicago, gathers together

much interesting information on the beef industry of the United States, but he allows his mind to wander beyond the bounds of certainty in such a passage as this: "The nature of the climate and the vast tracts of barren land contained in the British Dominion will never allow it, at least for many years, to become an important factor in the beef trade of the world." Let us remind our declaimer that through the nature of our climate we send vigorous and healthy beeves to Great Britain, and thereby win a premium of twenty dollars above the price received by our American friends, and also that the vast tract of barren land exist not in our Dominion, but only in the slander breeding brains and sold opinions of a few American immigrant agents. Those districts that may be barren from an agricultural point of view are rich in minerals and not wild wastes of sun-scorched and blizzard-driven sands. William Warfield wrote years ago about such conditions as ours as follows: "The greater capacity of all classes of animals bred in cold climates to make peculiarly rapid and vigorous growth during the summer, a capacity shared by all nature and the tendency to lay up fat as if stored for the long winter's drain on the system; the effect of the invigorating air on the whole constitution, deepening the chest, filling out the form in every way needed to baffle the winter's cold, springing from these we find an active digestion, rapid assimilation and fine flesh-producing qualities." In the last decade, Canada has tripled her exports of beef cattle to Great Britain sending last year eighty-five thousand head, and from the reception of those and with an awakening in the minds of our farmers we may reasonably hope that his trade is yet only in a lusty infancy. We have the conditions and the grading stock to enable our products to surpass those of any country on the globe, and the only assistance needed further is a greater reliance from our farmers upon this trade, and a strengthened appreciation such as only years of profit will nurture.

The New Polley of Shorthorn Breeders.

As a whetstone for the wits, quickening thought and stimulating action, few things serve the purpose better than a spell of hard times. The beef interests have experienced a slight depression, but that has not been wholly bereft of good, for it gave birth to a searching consideration of methods, and led to a change of thought which demanded retrenchment and called for new policies. This is true particularly of Shorthorn breeding, and especially does it apply to those who gave a free rein to their ideas of fashionable, and in some cases perhaps whimsical, fancies, making pedigree their compass instead of the well defined trend of the market. The days are not far distant when the amenities that followed the work of the breeder were largely drawn from pedigree certificates and herd books, and when the reaction set in against breeding by paper, hands were raised in stricken horror at the mere semblance of the thought of deprecating the opinions of those within the charmed circle who took upon themselves the power to determine what was fashionable breeding. The pleasures of Shorthorn breeding as well as the profits must come from other sources. It was the mistaken notion of some that making the Shorthorn fit into the niche cut out by the market would rob it of those distinctive Shorthorn traits of character that, though they may add not to the returns given, augment greatly the pleasure that follows the work of the breeder. It would be an uncalled for sacrifice on the altar of utility to neglect those personal charms of

appearance, the gay look, and royal carriage, and the neat and symmetrical form, that gives Shorthorn character to any animal. Though it may be couching the thought in words too forcible, yet, there is much in the statement of Mr. Warfield in the *Breeders' Gazette*, that it is nothing less than a sacrilege to make this breed only a beef or only a milk breed. They are a perfect congruous entity, he says, and there is no reason to take away one of their fine traits. He goes on to say—"One critic looks at a yearling and thinks her a trifle too gay—'beef cattle you know, should have a heavy disposition. They feed better.' Yes, that is just one of the troubles. Men do not seem to fully appreciate what is meant by fineness. A Shorthorn has a right to be fine, to have a gay and sprightly carriage. We do not want to lose this even at the price stipulated." It is the mistaken fancy of some breeders that it is impossible to cling to those more pleasing and pleasurable features of the Shorthorn and yet fully meet the stern demands of a market at low ebb. It is possible to enjoy the pleasures of such breeding and receive to the full the profits, and perhaps no breeder illustrates this more than Mr. Warfield in the course of his own work.

A large index finger points to many evidences of the reversion of opinion in regard to the past policy of breeders, and chief amongst these may be noticed the marked popularity and surprising success in the showing of those Shorthorns that at all times carry their pedigrees with them. Those breeders who have kept along the line of work blazed by the earliest workers have experienced little depression, and as long as the north of Scotland cattle-feeders can make the descendants of animals so bred pay 20 shillings a month for their board, they have little reason to fear hard times. As Robert Bruce says in an article, part of which we reproduce elsewhere. "Instead of aiming to breed cattle with certain pedigrees, that for too many years have commanded a good market, independent of the personal qualifications of the individual carrying such pedigree, they have gone for the animal and not without reason. If a pedigree animal, say they, is not a better individual than the ordinary stock of the country, he is all the worse for us as breeders. Being a pedigree animal he is all the more likely to reproduce stock like himself, and if he does what can we expect to breed?" With the lessened demand in the fashionable market, breeders began to realize the truth of these words and to cater to the requirements of the feeder and wants of the consumer, seeking to supply stock that would give thick-fleshed steers that mature early, and yield not blubber but nourishing flesh. A combination of that rare quality of flesh that is a leading characteristic of the "black-shins" with that early ripeness that has ever been a fixed feature of the old Durham in its evolution up to the present, would prove a fusion that would greatly brighten the outlook and enlarge the profits of a most important industry.

Violent Changes to be Avoided.

The power of adaptation both in animal and plant life is wonderful indeed, but in the case of both it has its limits. A plant whose native habitat is in the valley may be made in time to flourish on the plateau, but this is better accomplished when a longer period of transition is chosen, the changes being made as it were by successive stages. So too animals whose home was at first in the tropics may be made to flourish on the confines of the frigid zone, but this is better accomplished when the change is made by