

Canadian Live-Stock & Farm Journal

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

HAMILTON, CANADA, OCT., 1888.

OUR readers will please notice we are giving this year a beautiful lithograph of the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm, Guelph, about 16 x 24 inches. The picture, which is beautifully shaded, gives a very accurate view of all the buildings and the front portions of the farm. It will be given to all new subscribers whose subscriptions are forwarded by January 1st, 1889, and to all old subscribers not in arrears. Single copies of the picture will sell for thirty-five cents, and when framed will form a valuable adornment of any dwelling. Parties subscribing now will get the picture and the JOURNAL to the end of 1889 for \$1. In remitting, send by registered letter at our risk. Address The Stock Journal Co., Hamilton.

DURING the autumns of 1886 and 1887 the JOURNAL only, of all the papers in Ontario, printed the prize-lists of the leading exhibitions. We stood alone in the contention that so it should be, and as a matter of right, due the farmer. Our contention has already received complete vindication in the publishing of these lists this year by the principal papers in the country. Last year one of our agricultural monthlies charged the breeders for printing their prizes; this year it has printed them free in pamphlet form, and is pressing them upon farmers indiscriminately as a gift. We felt quite sure all along that our contention must succeed, but sooner than we anticipated has this end been attained. In this matter the farmer will henceforth get his due. What higher tribute can be paid the influence of the JOURNAL than what it has achieved in this direction?

We have no better axiom to offer the farmer than that of "Know your surrounding conditions." Be it in crop management, breeding animals, or any division of farm work, there is not another factor that so much influences success. We notice the great vim with which the different breeders extol the many excellencies of their favorite herds. One states—and he is a man of honor—that the Shorthorn is of all others

supreme; another of equal integrity asserts that none equal the Jerseys. On first thought we would think that statements, so markedly opposed, cannot be made consistent with each other; but when we note the variety of conditions existing on every side we are forced to withdraw our hasty conclusion. Similarity is unknown in nature. As each blade of grass differs more or less markedly from its nearest neighbor, so does each farm vary from that nearest to it in soil, aspect, etc. There is not a breed of any animal in existence to-day but have filled a vacancy or are doing so at the present time. Not a breed of domesticated animals exist but which, under certain special conditions, surpass all others. The vital question is to know your own requirements, as determined by your market, soil, etc., and knowing these, choose such animals as will best meet them.

PROBABLY there is not a term in the breeders' vocabulary of more importance than that of "quality." Every feeder knows that it is this that greatly influences the profits or losses, and consequently he always looks for it. By feel he expects to find that mossiness and mellowness characteristic of it; by sight he looks for compactness of bone, fineness of hair, and skin velvety in nature. We must not, however, confuse the indications of this requisite with those signs that denote weakness of constitution. Exceedingly fine bone and hair, with papery skin, are features peculiar to animals of constitutional weakness, and are easily distinguishable from the indications of quality above mentioned. The horseman, be his favorite the heavy draught or high-strung thorough-bred, always gives this requisite a prominent place. Of all differences, and they are many, existing between the scrub and the pure-bred, none are so marked as this difference of quality. Coarseness of bone, thickness of skin, coupled with coarseness of hair and looseness of build, are the marked features of the scrub as much as those that are the direct opposite of these are the strong features of the pure-bred. Why men continue raising animals possessing no redeeming feature, has always been a mystery to us, and it grows more so as years roll on. Our great consolation is, that these ideas, however obstinately persisted in, must in time give way to those which are the handmaids of progress.

It may be, and doubtless is, wiser for a majority of stockmen to breed grades rather than pure-breds, always taking care to use pure-bred sires of a good class. This does not arise from the fact that grades are superior or even equal to pure-breds in quality, but because of the first cost of getting the foundation and of the superior skill required in making the work a complete success. That the results in breeding from pure-breds, when the work is properly done, will be more certain than when grades are used on the side of either sire or dam, is a self-evident truism, or atavism counts for nothing. There need be no doubt but that where animals are bred upon an equal footing grades will produce more culls by far than pure-breds, or pure breeding must count for little. When we say that breeding pure-breds requires more skill than breeding grades, we mean first, that it is more difficult to make a corresponding improvement in the same time with the former, as the pure-breds are already much nearer a standard of excellence. The advance upon the present average attainment of society is slower than the elevation up to this standard from any gradation beneath it, because of the experience in the latter case, which is lacking in the former. The consequences of mistake are usually more serious, too,

in breeding pure-breds, for grades can bring their meat value any time when in condition, and their true value when of the beef breeds is seldom beyond this. The ordinary farmer who has demonstrated that he can breed grades successfully, is the proper person to invest in pure-breds when he makes his next purchase, for the principles of breeding both well are much the same, only in pure-breds a more advanced skill is necessary (or call it experience, if you please) for the reasons already given. It is always unfortunate when men undertake to breed pure-breds and do not make a success of it. The attempt not only brings loss to him who engages in it, but disrepute upon the breed.

Valedictory.

It is never altogether pleasant to be called upon to cut the moorings that have anchored us amid associations that have been of the most congenial nature, and to cast anchor in another harbor, the soundings of which are but partially known to us, although the surroundings may apparently be of the most attractive character. And yet this is precisely what we are called upon to do at the present time.

It has pleased the Ontario Cabinet to bestow upon the writer the management of the Ontario Experimental Farm, and to appoint him to the chair of agriculture rendered vacant by the resignation of Prof. Brown, as doubtless most of our readers know ere this, and before this paper has reached them we shall have entered upon the tremendous responsibilities of these respective offices.

This renders it necessary that we should retire from the editorship of this journal, which we have conducted without the assistance of an associate from its inception in August, 1883. Very many of our readers have journeyed with us from that date to the present, and we feel safe in saying that our associations by the way have usually been of the most pleasing character, so that to sever them now is a trial, neither light nor trivial. It is mitigated, however, by the thought that we are not about to leave the Ontario that we love, but to engage in the discharge of duties which will still bring us in contact with perhaps a larger number of the farmers of this province. The work will also be much in the same lines but in more advanced stages, and if properly done will wield a more potent influence on the progress of agriculture in the Province. Some of our readers, alive to the mighty influence of journalism, may shake their heads at the above enunciation; if so, all that we can say to them at present is, wait.

We hope we shall not be brought less in contact with the farmers of this province in our new sphere, while we can reasonably expect to be brought more in contact with their sons. If the fathers of our farmer boys feel that they can safely trust them in our hands, we should greatly like to make the acquaintance of at least two or three hundred of them this present season as students of the college. We promise them (and we know that all the members of the staff are of a similar frame of mind) that it shall be our constant endeavor to do them only good continually, and that they shall be sent back to their farm much better equipped for their life-work than when they came.

It is only reasonable, however, that we should expect good average boys. We have no confidence in our ability to manage a young man who will not obey his mother, and who has become insubordinate to his father; but if good, solid boys are sent to the college, with an average amount of brain in the form of raw material, we are quite willing that the finished product shall be judged upon its own merits. The work of the session will have commenced ere this writing reaches our farm homes, but we are quite safe-