

been partly destroyed, partly owing to the exportation of our best animals during the Civil war and the ten following years, and partly owing to the ill-advised crossing of our little Canadian mares with the 1-ton draft horses of inferior quality, then with the Standard-bred, then again with the Coach horse, and so on. . . . The only really effective work of the Board of Agriculture during this time, as regards live stock, was the encouragement given to the raising of Ayrshires, and the improvement of a portion of our breed of swine by the Berkshire.

A REVOLUTIONIST.

Our agriculture was saved from ruin by a man who is now no more, Mr. E. A. Barnard. As early as 1870 he advised the farmers to improve their farming, to fertilize their lands, to adopt a system of rotation, and to keep their live stock, which, he assured them, were as good as, if not better than any others, and to improve them by feeding them better, and by keeping only the best to breed from. He instituted a school, which in 1883 had replaced the old one in all the spheres of the administration. He was the first to realize that the salvation of the Province lay in dairying, was fortunate enough to convince the late Sir Adolphe Chapleau, the Prime Minister, of this fact, and founded the Dairymen's Association and Farmers' Clubs.

A BETTER ERA.

The movement thus inaugurated has gone steadily on. Since 1880 we have devoted ourselves to dairying, and, of late years, to the production of bacon. Our breeds of swine are being improved by going back to our old racer pig of 50 years ago. Our farmers have greatly improved their system of cultivation, and they who 25 years ago hardly ever had any money now fill the banks with their savings.

NEGLECT OF THE SHEEP INDUSTRY.

But there is a reverse side to every medal. The reverse of ours is that dairying and the development of the national textile industry have made us neglect the raising of sheep. . . . As to the quality, I must say that, while we have a certain number of good flocks, our sheep consist, in the main, of grades of little value. The fact is that our farmers have still to be educated with regard to sheep-raising. At present we have a great many flocks of pure-bred Leicesters, Shropshires and Cotswolds, and there are grades of these breeds in every corner of the Province. The Leicesters and Cotswolds are good; the Shropshires, Oxford and Lincolns are not at all so good; they are degenerating; they need new blood.

PRESERVATION OF CANADIAN HORSES.

In 1885 a small group of men, who saw with regret the gradual disappearance of Canadian horses, made up their minds to preserve and improve what remained, and prevailed on the Provincial Government to open a Record Book for the type. In 1895 the French-Canadian Horsebreeders' Association was founded, and, as a result of its efforts, between 1895 and 1905, about 2,000 horses were selected and recorded. Last year, the Hon. Mr. Fisher, in order to give more weight and value to the Records, proposed that a new selection of the best animals be made by a Commission, and promised financial aid towards carrying out the project. Since the organization of this Commission over 3,500 horses have been examined, and 650 entered in the National Records, all possessing, more or less, the characteristics of the old breed.

The maximum height for stallions is 15.3, of mares 15.2. Maximum weight of stallions, 1,350 pounds; of mares, 1,150 pounds. Moreover, the type must be compact, strongly built, active, alert, sound, and must have a nice action. The Commission has reason to hope that 4,000 mares and a hundred stallions of this type will soon be recorded.

* * *

The same men who had undertaken to rehabilitate the French-Canadian horse, also turned their attention to the French-Canadian cattle. They brought about the opening of Record Books, organized competitions for the production of milk and butter, had lectures given on the subject, and saw to it that herds were sent to the great exhibitions. At Buffalo, and also at the Central Experimental Farm, where our cattle took part in the competition for milking breeds, they proved that they gave the best returns for the food consumed.

The propagation of the Ayrshire breed has also been strongly pushed, and Quebec has now the best Ayrshires on the continent. They have been exclusively adopted in the agricultural schools. The climate is too severe for Jerseys, which are likely to succumb to tuberculosis. Holsteins are still few in number. In the Eastern Townships are to be found some Shorthorn milkers, which are in great favor with the milkmen of Quebec and Montreal. We have also a few herds of Guernseys, which are excellent milkers, robust, hardy, and profitable.

We have a few herds of beef cattle (Short-

horns, Herefords, Polled Angus, Galloways), but so long as dairying is prosperous there will be little room for these.

To sum up:

This Province has devoted itself to dairying, the production of bacon, and the raising of a general-purpose horse. Consequently, as regards pure-bred stock, we can supply you with the best milking breeds, the Canadians, Ayrshires and Guernseys. We also can supply you, already, with some Canadian horses, and in ten years we will be in a position to supply you with all you need. We may sell you, at times, good Clydesdales or other draft horses, but we raise none.

You can supply us with Yorkshire and Tamworth pigs. We are, however, on the eve of being able to meet our own needs.

You will find an excellent market here for Shropshires, which are much in vogue; for Lincolns and Oxford, which are beginning to be; while the Hampshires will soon become so if made known to our people.

There may be a place for a few coach horses each year.

MOUTH-WATERING ESTIMATES OF PROFIT.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I may be somewhat slow in seeking to express some of my views on the hog situation, but, being a producer on a somewhat large scale for a good many years, am always interested in letters on the business. It has often struck me as strange that the experiences given, in which very large profits are made in hog-feeding, are usually given by people who are either not actually engaged in the business, and therefore not in a position to know, or are given by men who are willing to accept pretty Government jobs when offered and leave the aforesaid profits to take care of themselves for months at a time, or altogether. These mouth-watering estimates remind me of a prospectus which was presented to me some years ago in promotion of a hog-producing industry. It was claimed, on the basis of results obtained at the O. A. C., that dividends to the extent of 30 per cent. per annum would be paid on the shareholders' stock. As a matter of fact, the concern lost 700 little pigs the first winter, and went out of business soon after. I heard that the shareholders' money went up the same spout. The trouble with most prospectuses, and also Prof. Day's figures, is they leave a lot of small things out of their calculations.

I wish the Department of Agriculture would advance Prof. Day, say, \$10,000, to be invested in the production of bacon hogs on a farm, have him run it for five years, and give us the particulars in bulletin form. There would be no risk to run, for he would be able to pay good interest (say 5 per cent.) on the capital, leave the farm worth more money, and get a good living in the meantime. As an extra inducement, he should be offered the balance of the profits to put in the bank for himself.

On a recent visit to the O. A. C., I tried to find some of those profit-making hogs, but in a piggery capable of accommodating say 150, found five or six brood sows, overloaded with fat, suckling litters ranging in number from two to six. My impression was that they were giving a demonstration of how NOT to manage things. I could not help wondering why there were so many empty pens, in view of prospective prices.

Some fifteen months ago I decided (much to the surprise of my neighbors, who thought I had a gold mine) to reduce my breeding stock nearly one-half. In view of present prices, this was fortunate, but I am not a prophet, and made the change for other reasons. I had been breeding two sows for each cow, but decided to increase the number of my cows (which, by the way, are pure-bred and grade milking Shorthorns) to equal the number of sows, stocking on that basis to capacity of farm, or more (as I prefer to buy feed for the sake of the farm). Keeping a heavy stock of hogs necessitates a large acreage of grain, even on a farm which will produce corn for ensilage, roots, rape, clover, etc., and that means more labor. In spite of pasturing, more labor is required in summer. Greater skill is required to keep hogs in the thrifty condition we must have to make profitable gains. All this means higher wages, and therefore more outlay, because my labor bills have to be paid in hard cash. Whatever may be the cause of the present depression in prices, whether overproduction, a packers' combine, or unloading too quickly, there is only one remedy, as far as I can see, viz., reducing the supply.

I am willing to do my share of that reducing, but, in view of the rush to unload, I am breeding more sows than I intended this winter. If Prof. Day's advice is followed generally this will be a mistake, but I am taking a chance that enough will go out to bring a higher range of prices 10 or 12 months hence.

Wellington Co., Ont.

R. D. NODWELL.

OUR EXPORT TRADE FROM THE EXPORTER'S STANDPOINT.

(Address by Donald Munro, Live-stock Commission Agent, Montreal, before the National Live-stock Convention.)

From an exporter's point of view, the Canadian live-stock export trade is on the decline, and in a more unhealthy condition to-day than at any time since its inception. This is due to a combination of circumstances which will require the united efforts of the Government and the different agricultural organizations to remedy, if Canada hopes to hold her own as an exporting country.

If we look back over the past decade alone, we cannot help noting the changed conditions. In Canada a large number of farmers in many of the best districts who bred and fed large numbers of pure-bred cattle have been turning their attention to dairying, with the result that the quality and numbers of really good export cattle are on the decline. The well-bred and well-finished cattle of former days are being supplanted by a rougher and more common grade that cannot compete with the live cattle from the United States and dressed beef from the Argentine.

In some of the dairying districts, any scrub of a bull will do, so long as he is cheap, the farmers not figuring on keeping the calves for a longer period than they can help. They usually sell their calves to some dealer, thus a number of these trashy animals find their way to the farms in other districts, where stockers are wanted, defying the best efforts of the most experienced feeders to turn them into good beef, the result being that at certain seasons of the year, both the home and British market are flooded with common, rough cattle, that not only sell for poor prices themselves, but pull down the value of good stock as well. This is particularly noticeable from the middle of August until about Christmas, as during those months the bulk of the Northwest shipments go forward.

THE WESTERN CATTLE.

With regard to the Northwest cattle, as they are at present entirely grass fed, they are not usually ready for shipment until about the middle of July, from which date until about Christmas the year's production is rushed forward to market, and as double the number is shipped that the British markets can profitably absorb of what the importer considers a second-class article, it can readily be understood what the result must be to the owners, when these heavy shipments go forward on top of a similar class from Ontario.

If some plan could be devised whereby part of these cattle could be winter fed, and shipments made covering the whole year, instead of rushing them all out in the short space of about four months, as at present, it would mean a great deal to the stock-raisers of the West, as more uniform and profitable prices could be got for them. Under the present conditions, the good suffer along with the bad.

In support of this statement, I will quote some remarks by the editor of the London Meat Trades Journal, who voices the opinions of the British importers regarding the live-stock and dressed-beef situation. He says:

"The Canadian shipments from the middle of July were mainly ranch cattle, amongst which it was rather the rule than the exception to find animals of such quality and condition as to admit of their being classed higher than middling and inferior."

Shippers of Canadian live stock hardly appear to have realized the fact that where secondary or inferior grades of either sheep or cattle are sent, they meet the strongest possible competition from Argentine and Australian dressed meats, and unless a higher standard of excellence is maintained, the probabilities are that prices at all the different British markets will fall to a much lower level."

Gentlemen, these are hard facts that cannot be ignored by the stock-raisers of this country and by our Government, who have the development of the live-stock industry at heart. No effort should be spared in improving the breeding of the live stock, for if the feeder cannot get the right kind of animal to work on, it will be impossible to turn out beef cattle that will stand the remotest chance of competing with shipments from other countries where breeding receives the first consideration.

For a great number of years past the stockmen of the Argentine spared no expense in procuring the very best pedigreed animals that Scotland and England could produce. The result of their efforts can be seen by a visit to any of the British markets where the dressed-meat products of these high-priced pedigreed animals come pouring in in ever-increasing quantities. The quality is equal to the very best that Ontario can produce, and it is laid down at the different markets in perfect condition, that country now is and will be in the future our strongest competitors.

To meet this competition, a radical change must be made from present methods of farming in both the East and West. The first consideration must be to get rid of the common stock as quickly as possible, and to replace them with the very best pedigreed animals obtainable.

The second consideration is, if necessary, to ship fewer cattle, but to see to it that those that are shipped are of the highest quality, and fed to a finish.

The story is told of an Irish drover, who, giving evidence in court, was asked by the judge to define what "drover" meant. His answer was that a drover was