

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

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Popular Premiums.

Large numbers of new subscribers continue to come in. We are greatly obliged to our readers and agents for the splendid increases made, and are gratified at the satisfaction our premiums have given those making efforts on behalf of the ADVOCATE. Our offer is still held open and includes several new and attractive features. See pages 97 and 101. Drop us a card for further particulars and free sample copies. The paper commends itself.

Independent Canadian Records Should be Preserved.

There seems to be no end to the restrictions imposed upon stock farmers and breeders, beginning with the British cattle embargo and ending with the new railway tariff affecting breeding cattle, referred to elsewhere. Vexatious red-tape regulations on the breeding sheep trade between Canada and the United States have been promulgated from Washington. From the same quarter, also, issued the obnoxious "Treasury Order" compelling registration in the American live stock records in order to secure free entry of breeding stock shipped across. As one prominent American stockman said to us, their Government simply "did what they were told" in that matter. As a natural sequence, about a year ago a suggestion to amalgamate the Canadian records with those of the other side was "boomed" for a short time, but it did not find favor with our breeders, the proposal of the Hon. John Dryden to have a registrar of live stock directly in connection with the Agricultural Department commending itself to their good judgment as economical and efficient, being calculated to maintain in its integrity an independent, uniformly high standard. We notice, however, that the "amalgamation" scheme has been resurrected in a limited form—a proposal being suggested to turn the Canadian Clydesdale Record in with the American Association, whose registration is, no doubt, carried on with great enterprise and ability. All things considered, we still favor an independent record, keeping the work of issuing certificates, publishing volumes, etc., in the country, and having all directly under our own control. With a revival of the horse trade in view, this is all the more important. If transferred to the other side, it would tend to encourage inferior records springing up in Canada. It is all very well to propose liberal terms, but once the Canadian Record is abandoned where would our Association find itself in the course of a few years in the event of discovering it necessary to re-establish a Clydesdale Record here. Furthermore, it would be removing one of the strongest elements for keeping the Canadian Association together, the need for which, in dealing with railways, governments, fair associations, etc., is every day growing more important and necessary. As a Canadian institution, amalgamation would practically snuff it out. This might suit our friends across the lakes, but it is not in our interests. We have in the Dominion the men and the country, as our past achievements have abundantly demonstrated, for a splendid future in live stock husbandry, and towards that Canadians in every way possible should build. Furthermore, to amalgamate one record would be but the thin edge of the wedge for further projects in the same direction. If the Americans are disposed to do the proper thing in this matter, let there be a friendly agreement between these two Associations upon a uniform standard and system of registration, and a mutual recognition of each other's records—and also by the Government—which would certainly commend itself to our Canadian breeders and farmers in a way that the "Treasury Order" policy of forcing Canadian stock into United States books never can, so doing away with the extra trouble and expense involved in cases where horses are registered in both books.

What is "Character"?

[Paper read by Robt. Miller before the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association.]

The term "character," used in various ways, when applied to Shorthorns is one of which many people have but a vague idea as to its meaning. We have heard judges, when asked their reasons for giving one animal preference over another, answer, with a wise look, that it was because of the great amount of "character" displayed by the one in comparison with the other. The inquirer, being awed by the look and the ambiguity of the term, if a humble man with no great pretensions as to judgment, usually subsides at once, with a look of sorrow for himself because he had not noticed the great difference, or, perhaps, a look of admiration for the man with such wisdom and superlative judgment. We have also heard the term used to cover the indifferent qualities of an animal offered for sale, and intended to check the criticism of the would-be purchaser.

The term when used in either of the above ways is being abused, for it has a useful meaning, and to the practiced eye is the first consideration in an animal. It means *breed type*—in head, horns, carriage, color, hair, and general outline; or, in other words, the judgment of the eye.

While each of the points of an animal's make-up must always be of great importance, no one of them, or two or three combined, can be of such importance as character, because they cannot make a good animal without an even balancing of the whole. Constitution is an important factor in an animal; but of what use would a good constitution be in a bad animal? A good head or good back with well covered loin are both valuable points, but fail utterly in making a good animal without other points to agree with them.

The first impression destroys all chances of selling if it be unfavorable, and assists very much in making a sale if favorable; so that minor points are lost in the demand for a well-balanced whole, which must be present to satisfy the eye in order that a detailed examination be proceeded with. Too often style is called character, and style of the gaudy kind, such as a high head, rather long legs, with ribs inclining to be short. This may have been very nearly the meaning of the term twenty-five years ago, but it is now counted among the exploded fallacies, and left with the craze for fancy line breeding to be buried with the past.

Style is a term scarcely used now, because it is a very misleading one and cannot properly be applied to an animal of the most approved present-day type.

"Character" applied to Shorthorns means type of the most valuable, vigorous, early-maturing, smooth, and uniform kind; it is the first quality to be desired by the breeder who wishes to be successful, and must be the constant watchword of all breeders who aim to keep in the forefront with those who are making such rapid strides towards perfecting the greatest breed of cattle that the world has so far produced.

Shorthorns, though scattered throughout the whole civilized world, though subjected to all imaginable kinds of treatment in the hands of all classes of men, and in all climates, still retain their proud position of being the "aristocratic" cattle whose rich and hot blood overcomes all obstacles in their great pioneering work, which may be almost likened to the work of the British Empire in pushing the broad lights of Christianity and civilization to the darkest regions of the earth.

FARM.

The Pioneer Farm.

We take pleasure in drawing the attention of our readers to a little pamphlet just issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto, giving a brief account of the Pioneer Farm and the Wabigoon County, Rainy River District, Ontario. This is a section of country lying between the towns of Fort William and Rat Portage, on the C. P. R. While to all appearances it is well suited to agriculture, no settlers have hitherto taken up land there, and until the Department took steps to develop it, it seemed to have been entirely overlooked. Being situated within easy reach of a promising market, in a region where agricultural land is scarce, and on the direct line of railroad communication, its value was apparent. But Mr. Dryden did not feel warranted in drawing the attention of the public to the country without first satisfying himself as to what its agricultural capabilities really were. He, therefore, hit upon the plan of himself taking the place of the pioneer, and testing it on behalf of the Province by establishing a farm there, which he did in the spring of last year. As practically no clearing has to be done, considerable progress was made, and the experiment has thus far proved quite successful. So promising is the outlook that the Department decided to issue the pamphlet above referred to, giving general information regarding the section, which is now open for settlement. The pamphlet is illustrated and contains a map of the district.

At the present time, when considerable demand exists for cheap land, especially on the part of young men of small capital, any effort to open up and develop such resources is to be commended. Let it be shown that young farmers have as good or a better chance of securing farms and homes in their native Province than they have further west, or possibly in the United States, and much will have been done—it may be, even to prevent them from deserting farm life altogether. Of the resources of these new sections we have as yet but an inaccurate idea, but we believe that they are very considerable, both in the fields of agriculture and mining. We hope to see Mr. Dryden's colonization efforts eminently successful. Already we are told numerous enquiries have been received by the Department, and it is expected that a considerable number of farmers will have taken up locations before the season closes. Those who wish to obtain a copy of the pamphlet should address a card to the Department.

Weeds a Benefit.

There is little so bad that no good can be taken from it. Almost every dark cloud has its silver lining. Weeds have received many a hard word, and look, but had it not been for them some of the most valuable lessons in agriculture would never have been learned. We till to destroy weeds, and by that tillage cause crops to yield and multiply. While weeds are a menace to a crop in which they are allowed to grow, the one only and sovereign remedy for them is the very tillage which they have introduced. When their mission has matured, says *Meehan's Monthly*, they will disappear, because there will be no place in which they can grow. It would be a great calamity if they were now to disappear from the earth, for the greater number of farmers still need the discipline which they enforce. Probably not one farmer in ten would till his lands well were it not for these "teachers," and many of them would not till at all. Until farmers till for tillage sake, and not to kill the weeds, it is necessary that the weeds should exist; but when farmers do till for tillage sake, then weeds will disappear with no effort of ours.