

Farming for Profit

A Department Devoted to the
Practical Problems of Farmer and Stockman

SUPPORTS HEREFORDS

From well nigh as far north as the Peace river in Canada southward to the Gulf of Mexico, beefmakers are confronted by the necessity of producing their own feeder cattle, writes John Mason in the Chicago Live Stock World. It is only a few years ago that the ranges of Alberta were sending their trainloads of four-year-old steers to Liverpool. Winnipeg stockyards were often so badly overflowed that the buyers quit making offers and the cattle in consequence had to lay around until room could be made for them. All summer and early fall beef was so cheap in the British Northwest that no one made any money out of cattle. Farmers keeping a few cows and rearing the calves found that the beggarly pittance offered them sufficed not to pay the railway transportation charges, selling commissions, incidental expenses and leave anything for the cost of production. This soon put a stop to the breeding of cattle on the grain farms. Most of the early efforts to keep a few sheep met with equally discouraging results, and it is only of very recent times that prices have gone high enough to warrant any farmer in Northwest Canada trying to grow a few meat-making animals.

On the Alberta ranges it was found that the Herefords gave the best results and as a result most of the she stock available for breeders West of Winnipeg sport the livery of the Whiteface. Most of these rangereared cows came from a Shorthorn foundation, on which had been imposed many Hereford tops and under the most severe trials they have been proved to do far better than cows of other blood. Side by side with others grown up from youngsters shipped to the Northwest from Ontario or even still further East, these native whitefaced cows have lived and produced and returned a profit, whenever the price, or rather the supply, would permit. With the steady encroachment of the nester upon the range, the amplification of home consumptive demand and the decline in the range cattle business caused by other agencies, values of latest years have reached a level where there is a small margin of profit for the farmer who rears a few calves annually and feeds them out. Of course, the great question in the wheat-growing country, wherever settlement is at all thick, is one of suitable pasture. Of course, in some favored localities alfalfa does well, and then the pasture question solves itself, but in most wheat regions neither legumes nor tame grasses thrive at all well.

This condition makes the keeping of cattle considerable of a conundrum. Nevertheless, if the fertility of the wheat land is to be conserved, stock of some sort must be maintained on each farm. At the price to which land has risen in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, anywhere at all close to transportation, it is impossible nowadays to summer fallow any large acreage. All of the soil must produce its crop year by year. No one can afford to pay taxes and interest on the investment necessary to have two acres to raise the crop of one—one acre to work and the other to lie fallow. Instead barnyard manure must be applied and applied continually in small amounts, so that it is not so much a matter of keeping a big herd on a small farm as of keeping a few head on every farm.

According to the latest developments pasture enough can be supplied without utilizing too great a breadth of ground to carry cattle through the earlier portion of the grazing season. After the flush of the grass is eaten down recourse must be had to stubbles for a short time and, in cold weather, a lot of very rough feed has to be consumed. Of course, there always is an ocean of damaged wheat in the British Northwest, unsuitable for milling purposes, but very useful indeed for stock feeding.

All through the corn belt the pasture problem is pressing for solution. Farmers are making up their minds to the fact that they cannot keep on much longer robbing their lands annually and making them no return. Some of them have already sensed the truth of the contention that they can put one-half of their cropping ground into alfalfa, and by proper rotation and application of barnyard manure raise just as much grain on the other half of their cropping land as they have of late years hitherto been getting from it all. To make this sort of a change, however, takes a little time, and even after it is made it will be found that on even the best ordered cornbelt farms there will be a vast amount of roughage that must be consumed in order that a profit may be made on the whole year's business. In other words, the roughness must be milled by the stock into fertilizer to conserve the fertility of the land. It does not make much difference what section of the country is selected as an example, the nub of the whole affair is the necessity of changing the roughage grown on the farm into valuable fertilizer.

In regions where alfalfa thrives the problem is easily solved. There is no crop that can be grown anywhere it does thrive, that produces a greater money return per acre. There is no forage that

nure when no larger yield of cash is in sight. He cannot afford the risk. Instead he must provide himself with the digestive capacity and fleshing ability to consume the necessary amount of low-value roughage and then after a brief season of forced feeding on concentrates, go to market at a profit.

For these purposes and uses there is no steer so good as the high-grade Hereford. His enormous capacity for turning even rather indifferent grass and dry roughage into growth, and his ability to lay on fat when fed grain are superior to those of any other breed. It was the aim of the founders of the breed to provide themselves with cattle that would return them a profit on the lower-priced forage. To this end the capacity of these cattle with the white faces has been increased until it equals, if it does not exceed, the capacity of some dairy breeds. And not alone this. Not only will the Hereford steer make growth and, therefore, profit on rough feeding, both green and dry, but he will respond instantaneously to any improvement in his fare.

In favor of the Hereford it may be said, then, that under all circumstances, good and bad, he is the most profitable feeder. When fare is rough and poor he makes more and better use of it than any other. When placed in conditions



Poultry farm and residence of S. J. Pink, Neepawa, Man.

produces as much growth in young farm animals—cattle, sheep or horses—but even when there is plenty of it available, there is also a still greater plenty of very rough feed that remains to be converted into manure and returned to the ground. Fortunately alfalfa will thrive in many different latitudes and under many varying conditions as to rainfall and sunshine. But no matter where the choice of location may be, the fact remains also that invariably there is a lot of rough feed that must be made over into manure to the end that the most profitable results may accrue.

In the tobacco districts of the East and Southeast they house cattle in winter solely for the purpose of metamorphosing straw, cornstalks and similar coarse stuff into fertilizer. They count the profit good if they get back from the cattle in the spring the first cost and expenses and have the manure left to boot. Naturally the very coarsest and lowest grade animals serve the purpose of these tobacco farmers, but it is different with the owners of acres in the cornbelt.

Products of cornbelt lands, with the exception of alfalfa, are not heavy yielders of money to the acre. To be sure 60-bushel crops of 70 or 80-cent corn give back a gross return of \$40 to \$50 the acre, but no one can afford to keep his cattle merely to provide ma-

of plenty he goes forward by leaps and bounds, making progress far in advance of some of his competitors. He is far and away the best when conditions are adverse, though no improved breed can be expected to do well when too poorly kept. Under the most fervid forcing systems he still leads. Neither condition, however, is to be desired under ordinary circumstances. To consume at a profit the low-value roughage of the farm, and then flesh up quickly into high priced beef on the more costly grain products is the ideal role for a steer to play. That is the part the Hereford takes in the present day stock feeding drama. He is, therefore, the best for the twentieth century farmer to grow and feed.

Not alone, moreover, is his merit as a converter of grass and roughage into valuable growth, and grain into meat superior to all others, but he is more easily bred to type and size than any other sort. High grade Hereford cows are, by the records, the most profitable producers the farmer can keep. Their immunity from tuberculosis is alone a factor of untold value. There is no breed like the Hereford when all are measured by the requirements of present day agriculture.—American Hereford Journal.

DOWNIE'S BIG HEREFORD SALE

Messrs. Simon Downie and Sons, of Carstairs, Alta., announce in this issue their first annual sale of pure bred Herefords, made up of 7 young bulls, 25 breeding cows, 7 yearling heifers and 18 calves, of both sexes.

There will also be sold some 18 head of Clydesdales and a bunch of Shropshire sheep.

The sale will take place on the farm, adjoining Carstairs, on Friday, 28th November, and special rates will be available on all railways.

Carstairs is 41 miles north of Calgary, on the Calgary-Edmonton branch of the C.P.R., and as the sale is announced to take place immediately after the Calgary Fat Stock Show, there should be a record crowd of stockmen present.

Good terms will be given. Catalogs will be ready shortly. Further particulars of the stock will appear in our next issue, and the auctioneers will be Col. Fred Rippert, Decatur, Ind., and Capt. J. G. Riddle, Carstairs.

CASWELL'S GREAT DISPERSION

SALE The Shorthorns

As announced in our advertising columns, this great dispersion sale of Shorthorns and Clydesdales, from the Royal Stock Farms, Saskatoon, owned by Mr. R. W. Caswell, is to take place at the Exhibition Grounds, Regina, on the 19th and 20th of November. This great shorthorn herd, which was established some twenty years ago, has had a famous record throughout the large show rings of Eastern and Western Canada, as well as the great shows of the United States. Year by year fresh blood has been introduced into the herd, and year by year a marked improvement has been noticeable, till at the present time we have a herd of 70 head of Claras, Lavenders, Jilts, Duchesses, Missies, and Clippers, headed by such great sires as "Gainsford Marquis," the premier shorthorn bull of America, and the sire of a large number of the young stock to be sold; "Marshall's Heir," 83028, 3 years old, by "Whitehall Marshall," by "Whitehall Sultan;" "Lavender Marshall," 2 years old, by "Whitehall Marshall," a straight Lavender on his dam's side; together with some eight yearlings and six young bull calves, the latter mostly the offspring of "Gainsford Marquis" and "Marshall's Heir." Among the other young males may be mentioned the following outstanding animals: "Red Rose Duke," by "Marshall's Heir," also "Saskatoon Sultan" and "Sultan Marshall," by the same sire, "Lavender Marshall," already referred to; "Gainsford of Saskatoon" and "Duke of Saskatoon," by "Gainsford Marquis," and a choice bull calf, "Royal Sultan," by "Marshall's Heir," that was conspicuous as a prize winner at the fairs last year.

Among the younger generation of females are such well known prize winners as "Dale's Gift," by the great "Avondale," the hero of a hundred show ring battles, on the other side, a cow bred by Carpenter and Ross and purchased from Jas. Watt, of Salem, Ont.; "Imported Fancy 11th," 8755, "Merry Maiden," 94020, by "His Majesty," a bull from Sir Wm. Van Horne's herd; "Pleasant Valley Crocus," 96318, by "Lancaster Floral," from the herd of Geo. Amos and Sons, Moffat, Ont.; "Imported Gainsford Raglan," by "Gainsford Pride II," from the herd of Harrison, Darlington, Eng., the same herd as produced "Gainsford Marquis" and "Burnbrae Wimple," a great yearling by "Uppermill Omega," from Bob Miller's well known herd.

Other breeding cows are: "Gem of Ballechin 4th," by "Gill Victor" and out of "Gem Ballechin 2nd;" "Golden Bud," by "Deeside Chief," out of "Fanny's Gem;" "Golden Dream," by

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