

Echoes from the West

Great interest has been created throughout Alberta by a recent experimental shipment of twenty-one car loads of cattle to Chicago, the results of which show that, notwithstanding the heavy duty imposed, heavy-weight range cattle of this country can be profitably shipped to American yards. Should future consignments prove this to be the case it will be of great benefit to the stock raising industry of Alberta, which requires a large and reliable market for its proper development.

The shipment was consigned to Clay, Robinson & Co., and the cattle were the property of J. I. Geisinger, Chas. Reid, A. L. Powne, and George L. Root, the latter being Honorary Secretary of the Central Alberta Stock Growers' Association, whose headquarters are at Red Deer. The owners were extremely well pleased with the general results. One load of these steers averaged 1,396 pounds and brought \$6.10 per cwt., a gross figure of \$85.18 per head; 21 head, averaging 1,374 pounds, realized \$5.50 per cwt., a gross average of \$75.57 per head; another lot, 122 head, averaging 1,245 pounds, sold for \$5.30 per cwt., an average of \$66.00 per head; the fourth car of 64 head, averaging 1,159 pounds, brought \$4.60 per cwt., an average of \$53.34. In addition to the steers there were some cows of medium weight which averaged from \$40.00 to \$60.00 per head. The cattle were two and three-year-olds, mostly of Shorthorn breeding.

When it is considered that the duty is appraised on the basis of \$30.00 for three-year-old steers, and \$40.00 for four-year-olds, and that there is a general appraisement of \$20.00 per head on cows, the 27% per cent. oil these figures is not so prohibitive as might at first appear. It means in the case of steers \$8.25 to \$11.00 per head, and on cows \$5.50 per head. The results of these sales prove that the heavier and better quality of Alberta cattle can be profitably marketed across the line. With the prospect of a shortage of the corn fed cattle in the States, there will be a strong demand for the heavier weight ranchers throughout the season, and this should be a great inducement to Canadian ranchmen to give their attention to the Chicago market.

The cattle were loaded at Red Deer on Saturday evening, September 7th, and rested three times on the journey, the first stop of 36 hours being made at Moose Jaw; the next, 24 hours, at Velvand, and the last, 24 hours, at South St. Paul.

That this experimental shipment created much interest in Alberta ranching circles is shown by the fact that several telegrams were afterwards received at Chicago from Alberta ranchmen inquiring for information regarding the Chicago market.

Much interest has been aroused in Alberta as well as other Western Provinces in the report of Professor McBride, the biological expert of McGill University, that the experiments which have been carried on at Cambridge University, England, have demonstrated the possibility of increasing the wheat yield of the West by 100 per cent., without in the least destroying the quality of the grain. Professor McBride is an authority on heredity, and he feels that a new epoch in plant life is about to transform farming conditions throughout the entire wheat growing world, and that it will be proved that the hard wheat of Canada is not due to climatic conditions, but to the nature of the seed itself.

Canadian wheat, as is well known, though having a smaller head is superior to the wheat grown in England on account of its hard quality, making flour that produces light bread, while the English wheat lacks that hard quality essential to good milling wheat.

The Agricultural Department at Cambridge University, Professor McBride tells us, is endeavoring to unite the best qualities of the two kinds of wheat, so that the yield per acre would be 100 per cent. greater without diminishing the qualities of the hard Western grain or losing the advantage of the larger English head.

Profitable Truck Farming in Alberta

A remarkable instance of the money-making possibilities of truck farming in Southern Alberta, is supplied by Mr. George Wells, of Strathmore, who under date of September 1st, furnishes the following figures as

the result of his season's operations on a twenty acre plot of irrigated land:

Vegetables sold to date.....	\$ 625.50
Estimate of crop on hand:—	
800 bushels potatoes.....	600.00
2 1/2 acres sugar beets.....	100.00
(Pulled every other row, leaving half crop).	
10 tons mangels.....	50.00
8 tons white turnips.....	40.00
500 cauliflower flowers.....	30.00
10 bushels parsnips.....	17.50
500 bushels Swede turnips.....	250.00
75 bushels carrots.....	75.00
2000 celery (planted late, poor crop).....	100.00
20 bushels table beets.....	20.00
10,000 cabbages.....	500.00
Onions, peas, etc., on hand.....	200.00

Total.....\$2,608.50

"The foregoing estimate," adds Mr. Wells, "is based upon wholesale prices at Strathmore. Of course, the total would be much larger were the estimate based upon Calgary retail prices."

"In view of the fact that I handled and attended this crop alone, and that all the vegetables were put in on new breaking, I consider the results astonishing. I am free to say that this crop has exceeded my most sanguine expectations, and I have had twenty-five years' experience in raising roots—fourteen years in Alberta and eleven in England."

"I have worked on some of the banner farms in England, such as Eyre Bros., Cross, & Co., Derbyshire, where we won the Duke of Portland's silver cup for the best field of Swede turnips, and at Osberton Hall, Nottinghamshire, where we took first prize for field carrots against all England. When I tell you that I have had results as good here this year as on these farms with artificial fertilization was resorted to and no expense spared to get results, you will doubtless agree with me when I say that I consider the productiveness of the soil here something wonderful."

"The land at Strathmore, and throughout this district is especially adapted for raising roots, there being no hard-pan, with a subsoil which is loose and which requires no deep plowing or sub-soiling. Another point in its favor is the small amount of labor needed to prepare a seed-bed. A couple of strokes of the harrow and it is ready for the drill with no rolling and no cloths to pulverize. In England, I have spent a week with four horses working on five acres, and then failed to pulverize it sufficiently for planting. Here the soil does not bake after being irrigated. It is the only land I have ever worked that would not crust if worked while wet. It is an ideal soil for irrigation, as the porous sub-soil inures good drainage."

"From what I have seen of irrigation this year, I still only wonder go back to dry farming. The difference between the two methods is as the difference between the self-binder and the old scythe of my younger days."

"For the first time in Alberta, I am gathering cabbage that was raised from the seed out in the open. On a small irrigated portion of my garden the cut-worms were bad, but gave me no trouble on that portion which was irrigated. I have raised Stratagem peas for years, but never had such fine vines, large peas, or as many on a vine. Irrigation prevented