

It costs about \$33 to raise a mule ready for market, including the service of Jack, finding a ready sale at three years old, if he is of good size, at prices ranging from \$150 to \$200 singly, and for good matched pairs sales have taken place as high as \$1,000 a pair. The mule has been, until lately, essentially a Kentucky and Missouri product, but the breeders of the Middle and Western States have had their eyes opened to his value by the demand and quantity required and purchased by the agents of the British Government, who came over from the "Old Sod," their pockets bulging with bank notes, and purchased everything in sight under the name of mule. England would have found it more difficult to hush the song of Boer bullets and claim the Transvaal had it not been for the mule. He was a great factor and backbone in that war. England should erect to his perpetual memory a monument, in gratitude for service rendered.

Illinois.

E. RUSSELL.

Seattle held a very successful horse show the third week in October, at which were gathered horses from Washington, Oregon, California, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, and Vancouver and Victoria. The saddle classes were the feature of the show, each section containing from nine to twenty entries. The only serious drawback to the show was the lack of accommodation for spectators. The seating capacity of eight hundred was taken a month before the show by the elite of society. Hundreds of men contented themselves with a look at the horses and equipments at the entrance and exit. The judges were Dr. Thos. Fees, of Montreal; Aurel Batonyi, New York, and Mr. Hulme, New York. The manager of the show, to whom most of its success is due, is H. W. Treat.

The pendulum is swinging back in the horse business. The other day a dealer told us he picked up a carload of good work horses for less than one hundred dollars. The short crop in some districts is forcing horses off the farms but the movement is expected to be only temporary. Farms will require horse power again next spring and if the crop is heavy, more power still in harvest will be needed. But in the meantime there being notes to meet and very little work for horses to do, they are being sold for ready cash.

STOCK

The Status of Cattle Feeding.

At present, feeding cattle may be purchased anywhere in the west at from two to three cents per pound. The run of butcher stock, of cattle susceptible of being fed into heavier weights, at the Winnipeg stockyards has this fall been exceptionally large. Farmers everywhere seem anxious to dispose of their feeders. Cattle are cheaper, cheaper perhaps than they ought to be, and if winter steer feeding ever held any profit making possibilities it seems to hold it now despite the high prices of feed. Men conversant with live stock conditions on the other side of the line are advising farmers to buy feeders, to stay with the cattle business, to make corn, even at the present prices, into meat. And if the American farmer can turn sixty-cent corn into beef and make money by the transformation, Canadian farmers, purchasing their feeders at half the price now quoted on American markets, can surely do as well. We are, of course, quite cognizant of the fact that the American feeder sells his finished product in a higher-priced market than the Canadian farmer does his, but he buys at higher prices and he makes his gains from higher-priced materials.

Conditions all over America point clearly to the fact that beef prices are going higher. No one for a moment doubts but that American beef made from this year's grain has got to sell at an advance over present figures. It may not, but the chances are about a thousand to one that it will. Then the decline in the cattle business all through the states must be considered. Farmers all over the West have been stampeding from cattle into sheep. Ranch after ranch in Nebraska, Wyoming and Idaho have switched from the one industry over to the other. Down through the great middle States, in the corn belt in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, even in Ohio and the East as far south as Tennessee, the general tendency has been towards heavier holdings of sheep. This,

too, is going to make for higher beef values. No one believes that sheep are being overdone. American farmers are simply coming around again to the point they left in the sheep business about ten years ago. But when one kind of livestock, already high in price, is displaced and seriously decreased in numbers by a general movement into another, and when the demand for the products of that kind stand steady or even become greater, the only result possible is for a price advance in it. This is exactly what American livestock dealers expect and predict. Because of this and because of the unprecedented advance in all feeding stuffs, buyers, that is packers and abattoir men, have absorbed all offerings made in all American markets this season—and offerings have been unusually heavy—without once inducing a break in values.

It's a good time to walk when the crowd begin to run. It's generally sound policy to keep out of a good thing that everybody else is trying to get in. The present is a good time to stay with the cattle business. There are a lot of men now clamoring to sell half-fitted stock who next spring may wish they had more finished stuff in their yards. There is abundance of good chaff and straw in the country just now. Cattle are plentiful, cheap and easily procured. Conditions here and on the other side of the line indicate higher values. There have been times when winter feeding showed little chance of profit making, but they were not times when such conditions as now exist, prevailed.

Present Conditions Conducive to Improvement.

There is a tendency in some quarters to regard ominously the conditions of affairs likely to result in this country from the unfortunate combination of high-priced feed and low-priced stock. It is assumed that the result will be disastrous to the livestock industry, that the high prices prevailing this year for all kinds of grain, considered in relation to the low prices being offered for livestock, is going to give a further impetus to grain farming to the detriment of this other branch of agriculture. Undoubtedly it will, but it will accomplish something else also. This present season is going to drive home to Canadian and American farmers more forcibly than it has ever been demonstrated to them before, the fact that high-priced feed and low-priced stock make a combination hard to equal in the way of money losing possibility. They will get one real look at one pertinent fact that to them will be worth months of talk. The present year is going to preach the doctrine of stock improvement as it was never preached before.

It is an undoubted fact that livestock values are going to advance before the meat now being made from our high-priced grains is ready for market. One of the closest observers of livestock conditions in the West has expressed the opinion that cattle will be two cents higher next spring than they are to-day. The American livestock trade anticipates a material advance in meat values, and packers for several months have been stocking their cellars in preparation for it. Everything indicates that livestock prices are going to go higher; that if winter feeding ever held any profit-making possibilities for the western farmer, it holds them now. Yet in the face of all this there will be fewer cattle fed in this country this winter than has been stall fed for some time. One reason for this is that farmers have not been too successful in this business during the past few years. But the great trouble is that too much of our stock is low grade and too little of it the kind that can be turned into meat with profit on high-priced grains. On pastures costing next to nothing, mongrels of almost any kind will produce beef with some profit, but attempt to put meat on these same animals by using fifty-cent oats and seventy-cent barley and the chances are that, even should the optimistic expectations of Pat Burns be realized and five or six cent exporter next spring be the rule, there would be mighty little profit in it for the farmer.

There is only one kind of feeder that will produce profitably under present conditions, but that type unfortunately is not any too common. It is this kind that the present season is going to emphasize the value of. And while some temporary check to the cattle industry may naturally be expected, that check will not be permanent by any means. Farmers will discover that the kind of cattle they could feed liberally for a small return on cheap grain, is not the kind that will

turn in a profit from equally liberal feeding when grain is high. And discovering that there will be a general movement to improve the grade.

Conditions it must be remembered largely influence quality in agricultural products. So long as conditions are such that almost any kind of the bovine species will produce meat with some trifling profit, a large proportion of our cattle will be of the lower grades. But change the situation and let conditions for a time prevail such that all but not the better grades will be money losers and general improvement will come more quickly than by any other means. High-priced raw material makes in everything toward improvement in the quality of the product. It will work toward this end in the present case.

The New Idea in Stable Ventilation.

Since basement stables have come into more general use the necessity of providing some means of introducing fresh and removing foul air has become more urgent. We were not troubled seriously with ventilation problems in the old airy constructed kind of stable. Cracks and crevices in the wall could generally be relied upon to furnish all the fresh air required. But now when stable walls are constructed of such impervious materials as brick, stone or concrete, it is urgently necessary in most cases to provide some way for conducting fresh air into the buildings and taking the foul air out. The first basement stables built of these materials had no other means of accomplishing this than by the opening of the doors and windows. Experience, however, quickly showed that unless some means were provided for constantly introducing fresh air and as constantly removing the foul, the walls and ceilings of the building would be coated continually with frost, the air within the stable would be cold and moisture laden; it would be unhealthy for the stock. To overcome this condition systems of ventilation to no end have been devised, systems many of which seemed perfect in theory but failed wholly or in part when put to the practical test. No system yet invented has fulfilled the requirements demanded of it.

Prof. King's system, a system operating on the principle that the difference in temperature between the air in the stable and that outside, causes a difference in pressure, the warmth inducing expansion which makes the air within relatively lighter than that outside, and causes an inflow of fresh cold air from without, and an outpouring of foul, warm, moisture-laden air from within, has hitherto been regarded by agricultural scientists and practical farmers as the most satisfactory system in use. The trouble with most systems, and the King, too, to some extent, is that they do not provide for a proper diffusion of the fresh air which they introduce into the stable. They cause draughts. A good many of them are not automatic in operation and require constant attention. They are rather expensive to install and none of them are more than partially effective. The ideal ventilatory system is one that will supply a sufficiency of pure fresh air at all times and yet keep the stable reasonably warm; that will not cause draughts; that is not easily put out of order; that can be cheaply and easily installed. No system yet devised comes anywhere near fulfilling these requirements, unless it is the one now so extensively favored by American and Eastern Canadian agriculturists. Only introduced a couple of years ago but already widely popular and regarded as the most effective scheme of ventilation yet devised. Briefly, the Muslin Curtain System, now extensively used in many basement stables, a description of which we pass along without comment.

The muslin curtain has been an established feature in the ventilation of poultry houses for a number of years but it has only recently been regarded as a possible scheme for ventilating larger buildings. It consists simply of muslin, cotton or canvas tacked across the window sash and taking the place of the glass. Or if preferred, the windows may be left part glass and part cloth, rather than all cloth or all glass. It has not yet been exactly determined what amount of cloth space should be provided. Roughly speaking, it would appear that where cheese cloth or very loose burlap or muslin were used, the cloth space should be about equal to the glass surface. Some who have had experience, prefer cloth on one side of the buildings only, others provide cloth openings on all sides. Where