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A Noteworthy Feeding Trial.

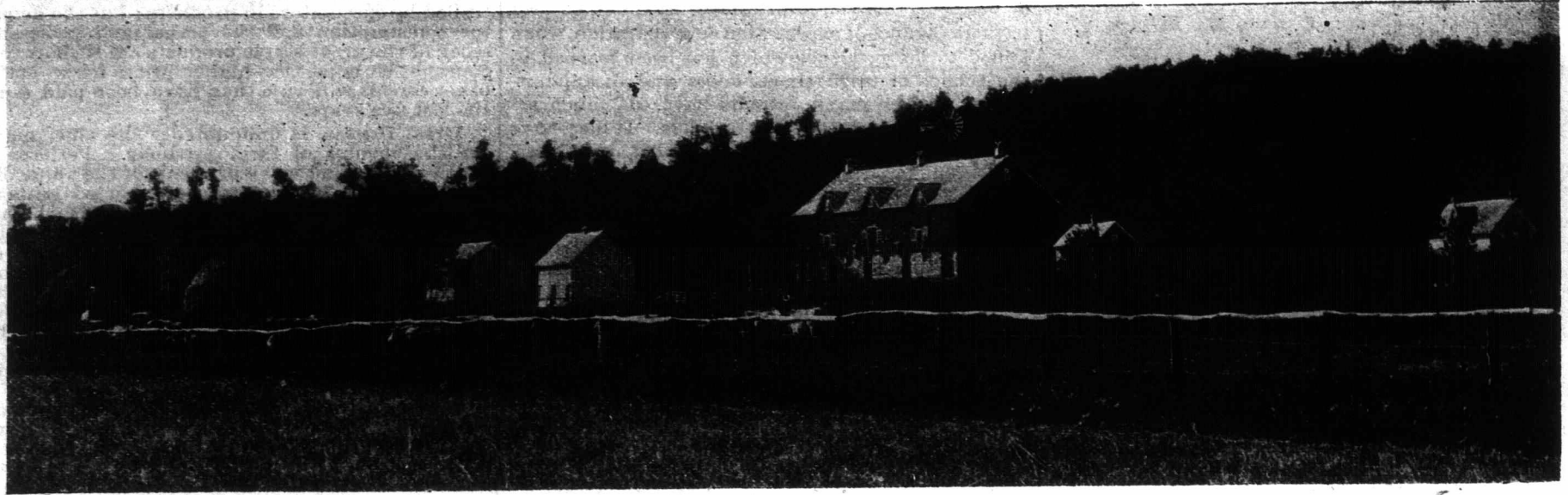
Early in the year we published a report on the comparative results of fattening steers tied or loose, as tested at the farm of Hon. Mr. Mulock, in York County, under the superintendence of Mr. Wm. Linton. The results given in favor of the latter were so remarkable, though in general borne out by several other prominent feeders whose letters we published on the subject, as to suggest the advisability of further tests, both privately and at some of the public experimental institutions, for the purpose of verification. We are glad to note that Mr. Wm. Rennie, Farm Superintendent at the Ontario Agricultural College Farm, has an experiment now under way on this very important subject. At this writing the loose cattle, given the same food as those tied, were reported to be showing the greatest gain. The final result will be awaited with great interest by cattlemen everywhere.

An Unfounded Official Slander.

We give prominence to the letter of the Canadian Agricultural and Dairy Commissioner, Prof. James W. Robertson, correcting the unfounded statement contained in the recently published annual report of the United States Secretary of Agriculture, reflecting upon the character of Canadian butter shipped to England, and given widespread publicity in various American dairy and other publications. Indignant protests have also reached us from prominent Ontario and Manitoba dairymen. No injurious preservatives, or preservatives of any kind, are used in the manufacture of Canadian butter. Attempts have been made by United States parties to introduce by

Good Move by the Dominion Minister of Agriculture.

It will be interesting and gratifying to stock breeders throughout the Dominion to learn that to a deputation which waited on Hon. Mr. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, at Brantford, Ont., last week, it was intimated in response to the expressed wish of many breeders desirous of introducing fresh blood into their herds, that the regulations respecting quarantine have been so far relaxed as to admit of the importation of cattle from Great Britain which have passed the tuberculin test applied by approved veterinarians in that country without being required to submit to a repetition of the test on arrival at Canadian ports, though subject to the 90-day quarantine against pleuro-pneumonia. This is simply placing Britain on the same footing as the United States in regard to protection against tuberculosis. And it may seem strange that for so many months the motherland has been discriminated against in this matter as compared with a foreign country. The only explanation we can see is the fact that in regard to the neighboring country a mutual agreement was entered into in order to facilitate trade and to allay any fears which might possibly exist as to the danger of introducing that ailment, which we apprehend as it becomes better understood will be less feared. It is gratifying to the breeders to realize that in response to their associated representations this obstruction to the progress of their business has been happily removed. It affords us genuine pleasure to announce that we have received intelligence of the shipment of a dozen young Shorthorn bulls by Mr. John Isaac, of Markham, Ont., from Glasgow, as the first fruits of the



THE HOME OF NELSON BEDFORD, GLENCROSS, MAN.

A Year of Good Cheer.

Such has been the record of 1897, the best year in many ways of a decade to the Canadian farmer—such the wish of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for its readers everywhere in 1898. To its realization we shall, as publishers and editors, bend our best energies, with full confidence that hereafter, as before, our efforts will be generously appreciated. That this will prove mutually advantageous, no reasonable man can doubt. To promote better and more remunerative farming, and a still higher and more intelligent type of home life on the farm, shall be our steadfast purpose. We bespeak for the Canadian farmer and farmers everywhere a year of good cheer, and shall be glad to know that this Christmas Number of the ADVOCATE is a fair assurance to our readers that we will do our part.

Nature Study in the Schools.

Mr. John Dearness, Public School Inspector, an educationist of long experience and excellent repute, who had charge of the Ontario educational exhibit at the World's Fair, contributes to this issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE an article of great interest on the subject of agricultural education. The unsatisfactory results attending the introduction of this subject in the public schools on this continent plainly indicate the need for a clearer comprehension of it on the part of the public, and, if we may be pardoned for saying it, by the educational authorities themselves, if failures are not to be repeated. More science teaching is needed, but to do it by merely pouring into the mind text-book technicalities will prove futile. Nature study in the school directed by teachers properly trained as to method is nearer the mark. We commend a careful study of Mr. Dearness' article, both to agriculturists and educationists.

means of advertisements such substances in Canada. More than once they were tendered the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, but refused, and their use condemned through our columns and by every dairy authority in the Dominion. Canadian butter, like its cheese, being pure, clean and good, does not need to be doctored by so-called preservatives, and is steadily forging to the front, both in quantity, quality, and price, in the British markets.

Tendency of British Agriculture.

Our regular British correspondent, "Scotland Yet," contributes to this issue a vigorous review of agriculture in the Old Land. Notwithstanding the continued tremendous inflow of foreign food products, 1897 was "a good year" with the farmer, inspiring hope for the future. Hereafter his efforts will tend towards two objects: the turning out of products superior in quality to those imported, and by means of Government regulations, involving, we presume, such restrictions as branding, marking, etc., more or less protective in their nature, secure what he terms "fair play." Since competition from all quarters of the world is not likely to grow less keen, the moral for the Canadian farmer is obvious—produce the best and produce it cheaply. The Government is undertaking to see that efficient transportation facilities are provided and that no unreasonable charges are imposed upon the traffic.

Suitable for Framing.

The handsome and lifelike colored engraving of the group of Mr. H. D. Smith's famous prize-winning Herford cattle will be appreciated by lovers of good cattle everywhere, and well deserves framing. High-class live stock portraiture of this character is seldom produced, and this one, like several celebrated pictures the FARMER'S ADVOCATE has previously issued, will long adorn the walls of the homes of our stockmen.

new order of things, and which we trust will prove only the advance guard of an influx of high-class bulls, as well as females, of that and other breeds, which will have a good influence in the improvement of our herds and give encouragement to breeders to seek to improve the quality of their cattle, and that the reflex influence of this auspicious movement will be seen and felt in the elevation of the standard of our cattle to the remotest parts of the Dominion.

Seed Grain for Test from the Central Experimental Farm.

Dr. Wm. Saunders, Director of the Dominion Experimental Farms, writes us that the annual distribution of samples of some of the best varieties of seed grain to farmers, for test in different parts of the Dominion, which has during the past ten years done much to direct attention to the importance of sowing the best sorts of seed in order (together with greater care in selection and improved methods of cultivation) to improvement in the yield and quality of the grain produced, will, under instruction of the Minister of Agriculture, be continued this season. Nearly all the varieties sent out are grown on the Experimental Farms and are selected from among those which, after being submitted to careful and repeated tests, have produced the largest average crops of grain of good quality. As heretofore, one sample of one variety only can be sent to each applicant, and the distribution will be confined to samples of wheat, oats, barley, field peas, Indian corn, and potatoes. All letters addressed to the Central Farm at Ottawa may be sent free of postage, and the samples, weighing three pounds each, will be sent free to the applicants through the mail. Applications may, however, be sent in at any time before the first of March; but after that date the list will be closed so as to ensure the sending out of all the samples in time for early sowing.