

The Dottie at Home.

To the Canadian visitor, the condition and standing of the Aberdeen-Angus at the big British shows must have been, in a way, a revelation; in fact, several well-known Canadian seekers after members of aristocratic Shorthorn families (they are not all aristocrats, because you can't find their ancestry in Coates' herdbook previous to Volume XX.) were free to express their admiration, especially at the Highland Society's Show, where the dottie was unquestionably on top of the heap. The beef ideal was more nearly approached by the Aberdeen-Angus there than any other breed—such smoothness, evenness, quality and likelihood of little offal was not to be found in the other claimants for favor at the hands of the beef growers. This bonnie black polled breed has always been a keen contestant at big fat-stock shows, and a successful one too, except in Canada, where the breed has not been brought out as it ought to be. Unfortunately for this paragon of beef virtues, whose evenness and firmness of flesh and great quantity of that flesh over the high-priced cuts, are convincing, even to a prejudiced Durhamite, they are in Western Canada in the hands of dilettantes, whose only ambition seems to be to grow polled cattle with black skins.

Judging by the "Advocate's" report of the Winnipeg Show, the Angus henchmen are only stall fillers—and take money in the form of prizes for stock which brings no credit to the breed or the show. The specious excuses of "lack of feed, or time to fit up for show, or a belief in field condition for breeding stock," should not be allowed—what is worth doing at all is worth doing well! The Angus men should get the parable of the buried talents well into their minds, and spend a few shekels for bran, oats and oil-cake. It would be philanthropy to use the money hitherto offered for prizes at Winnipeg and Brandon as a travelling scholarship, so that the breeders of this great beef breed might see at the Chicago International, the Highland, the Royal, and the Smithfield, what the breed can do if properly and intelligently handled. These breeders probably do know, yet by the attitude they take are a positive drag on the wheels of progress, and are recreant to their trust—the care, upbringing and advertising of one of the paramount breeds at the block. No man is entitled to money intended to be used for educational purposes in agriculture, merely because he pays freight on a few critters to the shows. In a country where "grain and grass are king," one would at least expect the cattle to be fitted for show. As it is, the specimens appearing at the Industrial and the Western Agricultural damage the reputation of the breed rather than help it.

This season, a few good Angus cattle have been bought in Great Britain for Canada. The majority of dottie emigrants, however, settle in the States, where inducements are held out by the lucky, good-market-potential Yankee, who knows that corn and the dottie make that valuable alloy called beef. The most wonderful alchemist of modern times is the beef steer, which can convert corn into gold, and who does it in nature's laboratory without fire, crucible or acids. Seeing that the great Canadian West possesses the alchemists and the raw material, why are these two great forces, on which the health of mankind depends, not brought together by the Canadian breeders of Aberdeen-Angus cattle?

INTER PRIMOS.

The Cattle Feeding Outlook.

The two main items which enter into the cost of cattle fattening are the cost of cattle for feeding purposes and the cost of the feed. While there is no doubt a big corn crop in the West this year, it is probably overestimated and a good deal of it will be soft. If this be correct, prices for good corn will be higher. The U. S. National Provisioner recently sized up the cattle situation as follows: "Stockers and feeders furnish the feature of the cattle market. They are being bought in very large quantities, but at high prices for such stock. This indicates that next year's market will be well supplied with finished beef, but at what price the future alone can tell. As the feeders cost now an average of over \$4 per 100 lbs., live weight, it is safe to say that they cannot come back into the market as finished beef steers at under \$6.50 per 100 lbs. average price on the hoof. That means high finished beef next year. The present lower price of grass beef means nothing. Such beef is always cheap at this time of the year."

Do you want to do a good turn, lasting in its benefits, to some friend near or far away, who does not know the "Farmer's Advocate"? Then put him in possession of its stores of information for one year. He will appreciate it ever after.

Anthrax.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Perhaps a note of warning with regard to one of the most insidious of diseases may at the present time be a help to some who may have lost cattle from anthrax. The disease seems to be confined to low-lying meadows, and to be, perhaps, more prevalent in wet seasons as the present. Often the first sign of anthrax is the finding of a dead animal, which a few hours before appeared in perfect health, so quickly do the germs multiply after once gaining an entrance to the circulation. Death, in many cases, occurs painlessly; in others, life is not given up without much struggling. Any animal dying suddenly, and from whose nostrils bloody froth is escaping, and blood is seen upon the dung, should be viewed with the greatest suspicion, and means taken at once to remove or confirm the almost certainly correct idea of anthrax. A trace of the blood, after being strained, may be examined under a microscope, when the rodlike form of bacillus anthracis, the largest of all bacteria, may be seen, or an ear of the deceased animal may be sent to the bacteriologist at Guelph or to the nearest veterinary college. In cases of death from anthrax, or allied diseases, as blackleg, the body of the animal should be at once either entirely burnt or, what is generally easier, buried with quicklime in plenty above and below. All the excrements should be thoroughly disinfected by a plentiful supply of lime scattered upon and around them. If it is necessary to move the body, the anus, mouth and nostrils should be plugged to prevent blood from issuing, which would infect the ground and cause trouble, perhaps many years after. The anthrax bacillus in its productive state is very easily killed, but as soon as the germs are exposed to the air they form spores which are extremely difficult to kill, and which will live in the ground for an unknown period—ten years at least. From this it will be seen how important it is that the body should not be opened; the bacilli will die off very quickly in the dead carcass. It seems that little can be done to prevent a future outbreak, except what has already been spoken of. Plowing the field for a number of years would not much lessen the possibility of reappearance of the disease.

SUFFERER.

Soft Corn for Fattening Cattle.

Many American cattle feeders are inclined to believe that the early frost has almost completely ruined the feeding value of late corn. The corn being soft and presenting a chaffy appearance is considered to be almost worthless. We have taken the matter up both from a scientific and practical standpoint. The results in feeding two lots of cattle up to this time would indicate that "soft corn" possessed nearly as much feeding value as fully matured corn. The chemical analysis shows that the "soft corn" contains about the same amount of protein and fat as mature corn. The only perceptible difference is that it contains about twenty per cent. more water and in some instances a trifle higher percentage of protein. On a water dry basis, the results are approximately the same. This would indicate that when the corn is husked out and dried, pound for pound, it will contain as much nourishment as fully matured corn. The chaffy appearance of the corn is unmistakable evidence that the yield per acre is very much less than it would have been had the corn fully matured. There will be a much larger percentage of cob in comparison to the amount of corn than in former years. Thus corn-and-cob meal will not be as valuable as when fully matured corn has been ground. We were unable to find any noticeable difference in the chemical composition of the cob of the "soft corn" and that of the cob of mature corn. From the chemical analysis made, we would be inclined to regard 120 bushels of the "soft corn" in its present state to be equal in feeding value to 100 bushels of matured corn. As the "soft corn" dries out, this difference will gradually grow less, pound for pound, until the "soft corn" is thoroughly dried, when they will be of equal value, pound for pound.

If the corn can be properly dried, feeders need not change their former methods of feeding. While the corn is "soft" nothing will serve a better purpose in "firming up" the ration than the addition of from five to ten pounds of ground barley, ground oats, Buffalo gluten feed or old mature corn. Feeders will have to feed about twenty per cent. more of the "soft corn" than they would of mature corn to supply the same amount of nourishment.

W. J. KENNEDY.

Iowa Experiment Station. P. G. HOLDEN.

Likes the Microscope.

Dear Sir,—I received the microscope and I am very much pleased with it. Many thanks for your promptness. I remain,

Yours respectfully,
Prince Edward Co. ERNEST BOND.

Better Beef Cattle Wanted.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—The section of the stock department in the "Farmer's Advocate" to which I wish to draw attention is that devoted to beef cattle, in particular, the noble red, white and roans. That section relating to the dairy breeds I am sufficiently narrow-minded to care very little about, and will leave it to some one who has the bad taste to prefer the scrawny "triple wedge." Now, I think all lovers of good beef cattle unite in deploring their scarcity in the hands of the average farmer, while the market is flooded with inferior stuff which never has paid for the food consumed in fattening them. Also, I think they are fairly well agreed that the fault lies, in a great measure, in the general lack of knowledge of what actually constitutes merit in live stock. "Inter Primos," in your October 1st issue, says, "The remedy for this is in the judging school"; and, in a slightly less restricted sense, I think this is true. Men will never breed good stock till they know definitely what constitutes such and what enormous advantages they possess, and, in consequence, abhor the "scrub." But we cannot all attend the judging school or see the ideal beef animals for ourselves, and this brings me to what I wish to say. I think the next best thing, and an excellent substitute, inasmuch as it is available to all, is a careful, persistent study of first-class engravings of the best cattle. In this I find the "Farmer's Advocate" exceedingly valuable, and yet this is just where I wish to find fault. We all know the old saying among horsemen: "No foot, no horse," and I think Shorthorn men might almost say: "No back, no beef." Now, taking the "Advocate" for a year back, we find upwards of half a hundred good illustrations of Shorthorns and only one giving a glimpse of a back, and one or two of chest, yet the Shorthorn score card gives 24 points out of 100 for chest, back and loin. In personal experience I have noticed many animals sadly deficient in chest measure and width back of the shoulders. In fact, it seems to me easier to find an animal perfect in any other points. Now I think it would be an excellent thing, and a great help to all beef-raisers, if the "Advocate" could, from time to time, give illustrations of an approximately ideal front, rear and top view of Shorthorn bulls and cows (not necessarily naming the animals), and discussing the strong and weak points, as it did those of feeding steers in a recent issue. I know such articles are always exceedingly interesting to me, and I expect to others, and I think that in this way we should have a very good chance of becoming as good judges of cattle as those who are fortunate enough to be able to attend the judging classes at Guelph and elsewhere.

F. WM. WRENSHALL.

Grey Co., Ont.

The Outlook for Fat Stock.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Gentlemen,—Replying to your recent favor, would say that the feeling here in the States, especially in the market centers, seems to be that cattle will sell lower next spring; to what extent, however, nobody seems to care to venture an opinion. Times are prosperous, and we don't believe that the decline will be very severe from present prices. Of course, there was a big shortage of ripe, well-finished cattle this spring, and prices were forced, and we look for these ripe, well-finished cattle to sell about steady at present prices.

We think that there will be quite a few fat cattle on the market around Christmas time, and they will sell lower, but think that a little later in the season again, towards January or February, they will command good prices, especially as the country seems so prosperous and there is an excellent demand at all periods. We fail to see any prospects of any severe decline in hogs or lambs, and feel the same way on cattle.

Even in the face of the extremely heavy supply of lambs in all the markets, prices have held up very well, and in a short time the exporters will be buying these heavy lambs and shipping them to Europe, and this will force the price of the heavy weights up a little higher.

Just at present, the Canadian heavy lambs that are coming in the market for sale are rather dull and draggy, especially when weighing over 90 lbs., in the market. It is the handier or lighter grades that the trade are wanting.

EIRICK BROS.

East Buffalo, N. Y., Stock Yards.