

In further proof of the urgent need that exists for improving the stock raising industry, we may point to the addresses of Mr. Dunean Anderson, in which he refers to the wholesale spaying of heifers and deplores the existence of conditions which tend to reduce rather than increase flocks and herds.

As showing that the serious position of the stock raising industry indicated above, is not likely to materially improve in the near future by the establishment of packing plants erected by private enterprise, we may quote a resolution passed by the East Clover Bar branch of the Alberta Farmers' Association, at a meeting held on the 30th Nov., 1908. This resolution which was passed unanimously and a copy ordered to be sent to the Pork Commission, reads as follows:

"Whereas, it was contended that the new packing house erected by the J. Y. Griffin Co. would remedy the grievances for the farmers with regard to the prices of beef and pork; we desire to call attention to the fact that this plant is now in operation and so far from having provided a remedy, the condition of things is worse than ever, the price paid for best light hogs at the present time being so low as 4 1-2 cents a lb., and beef being bought for 1 1-2 cents a lb., to be kept in a frozen condition until spring, when it will be put on the market in competition with stalled beef; and it has been brought to our notice that pork has been imported from Chicago, cured at the packing plant in Edmonton, and then shipped to British Columbia and the Yukon as Alberta pork."

It is unnecessary to dwell on the immense importance of mixed farming to a country such as this, the benefits being well known. It would enable coarse grains which can be produced cheaply, to be utilized to the fullest extent for fattening stock, and damaged or frosted grain of which there will probably be a small proportion until settlement advances and the country is more opened up, could be turned to good account by being fed to stock, experiments having proved that the fattening qualities of such grains are but slightly impaired; it would also be the means of providing employment for labor on the farms more continuously throughout the year, and assist in the disposal of and turn to profitable use straw and other material which is now wasted. We feel confident that if a market could be assured say at 5 1-2 to 6c per lb for prime hogs, and at 4 1-2 to 5c. for well finished cattle in the West, with proportionately higher prices in the East, corresponding to the saving in cost of transportation to the larger and more important markets, an enormous stimulus would be given to the industry. Farms and ranches would be brought to their highest producing state, and vast numbers of cattle and hogs would be raised, resulting in increased wealth, and the whole farming and ranching industry—the main stay of the country—placed on a better and sounder footing.

Evidence of Prof. G. E. Day, of the Guleph Agricultural College before the Pork Commission, Edmonton, July, 1908.

Asked the specific question as to whether Alberta could produce hogs for the British markets, Prof. Day said it could be done provided breed and feed were right. He thought the feed proposition in Alberta was much the same as in Ontario. There with a reasonable price for the finished hog, the farmer found one of the most economical methods of disposing of his barley and other grains, was to convert them into pork as quickly as possible."