

Canadian Live-Stock Journal,

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IN shrinking cattle to prepare them for weighing, it is quite possible for an avaricious greed to defeat its object on the part of the seller. The attempt to make the cattle weigh well by over-cramming when such a time is approaching, is dangerously near the land of dark dishonor. It is only fair that they should be fed in the ordinary way. When they have to be driven several miles they should be fed but half the quantity of their usual meal ration the night before, on the principle that a horse about to be exercised with unusual violence is far better to be prepared for it by a low ration immediately before it. On the morning of the journey give them hay only and water. If the journey is very long start the evening previous, when the sun is low, and at the halting place for the night give them only hay and water in the morning. The practice of feeding a large quantity of salt and gorging them afterwards with water on the eve of starting on a journey, is cruel as it is iniquitous.

OUR Scottish correspondent, in his paper on "Pure Stock Breeding in Scotland," speaks regretfully of the tendency manifested at recent stock sales in that country on the part of buyers to purchase large sires, without giving that attention to the quality of the beast which the importance of this possession deserves. He says, "Let quality and character rule rather than size," arguing that animals of this latter type are easier finished. There is a tendency in this direction also with not a few in our own country. Parties seem to forget that the large rough beast is not so easily kept as the one with less of bone, and more inclined to take on flesh. Those who are commencing herds are most prone to fall into this mistake (as we regard it), and individuals purchasing

bulls for crossing purposes in order to produce beef. Such should make sure that first of all the animal possesses quality. The more of size, then, that accompanies this, the better. In some parts the attempt to breed pure-breds has fallen into disrepute, and we think that the selection of a coarse class of stock simply because they were large, is in a great measure responsible for this result.

SOME of our old country exchanges manifest surprise at the decrease in the exportations of wheat from Canada almost steady since 1874. It should be remembered that before that date we exported no meat at all, now we receive a very handsome revenue from this source, which is steadily and rapidly increasing. It is meat that we want to raise, more than wheat for export. Prior to 1874 we gave nearly all of our rich stores of potash, produced by burning the magnificent timbers of our ancient forest to British farmers. Now, we want to keep the residue at home. In Ontario and some of the older Provinces the export of all kinds of grain will continually decrease, just in proportion as increased attention is given to stock-growing, and so we wish it. In the Canadian Northwest large quantities of grain will be exported for an indefinite number of years as soon as shipping facilities are measurably complete. The wants of our rapidly increasing population will use large quantities which will further lessen the amounts for export east of Winnipeg. Indeed we would not be much surprised if this portion of the Province would cease to ship grain altogether, unless in the form of meat, butter and cheese. In the older Provinces of Canada the decrease in the export of grain keeps pace with the increase in the intelligence of the farmers.

As has been sensibly stated in the *National Live-Stock Journal* of Chicago, while it may be wise policy for advanced breeders of pure-bred cattle to have respect to the tastes of their patrons as regards color, it is not wise in those who expect to sell all their steers to the butcher to worry over it. Usually a pure-bred bull of the unfashionable color can be purchased reasonably—one which might do excellent service in a herd of grades. It would be infinitely wiser on the part of owners of grades to purchase such a bull than to use a scrub simply because he possessed a fashionable color. It was different when there was hope of having the progeny eligible for registration after a time, but now that that hope is cut off, perhaps forever, why make such an ado about color in animals, the flesh of which must soon be cut up on the block? The butcher wants a good beefy carcass of splendid quality, and will ask no questions as to the color of the hair, if the above conditions are complied with as to the quality of the meat. Hundreds of farmers who do not consider themselves able to purchase a fine pure-bred bull of a fancy color, could find many such within their reach that would answer their purpose admirably if they would but look about. They should take good care, however, not to buy a bull lacking in quality whatever may be the pedigree or color.

ONE principal object with beef producers should be the growth of beef of a very superior quality as well as a large amount in quantity, or, as Mr. Dryden, of Brooklin, Ont., puts it, "The greatest quantity of the best quality." The average beef producer aims at a much lower mark. His principal object is the production of quantity. As with butter and cheese, so it is getting to be with beef, that of a superior quality will command a price perhaps one-half in excess of what is ordinarily realized. The producers of a supe-

rior quality of dairy produce soon secure regular customers who are very glad to get their produce. And so it is getting to be with the consumers of beef. One pound of beef cut from a carcass coarse in texture and strong of bone, is not nearly equal in value to a pound cut from that of a well bred animal, finer in the bone, finer in texture, and that has the fat and lean more intermingled, and consumers are getting to understand this better every day. In the production of this class of beef much depends upon the method of feeding, more upon the quality of the feed, more yet upon the quality of the dam, but most of all upon the quality of the sire. When Mr. C. Cilling observed in a certain butcher's shop in Darlington that fine carcasses of calves came in weekly, he enquired whence they came. On learning that they were nearly all the progeny of one bull, he at once sought him out and made him his own. This bull was none other than the famous Hubback. Bulls possessing similar properties are of the right stamp to use as beef-producing sires.

Farmers, Do Your Own Business.

The charge the above caption brings against our guild, at least by implication, is not a little grave. It involves the idea that farmers in the past have allowed those of other callings to do at least a part of the work that they might and should have done themselves, and therefore carries with it the idea either of inability or culpable neglect.

The question as to what is the business of the farmer in the widest sense is one of wide compass, so wide that we shall not attempt to encircle it within the limits of this paper. It would afford abundant material for a volume, and is more or less remotely connected with the interests of almost every calling under the sun. For instance, the work that the farmer may and sometimes should do affects the income of the blacksmith and carpenter, and so of all the trades and even the professions.

Our object in this paper is rather to cite a few instances in trade circles in which farmers have been remiss in duty, and in which they have allowed themselves, self-like, to bear the iron yoke of an unjust and unfeeling imposition, placed upon them by grinding corporations and grasping business men.

1. We commence with the *cord-wood* yoke. In a certain city not far away it has pleased the citizens thereof to appoint an inspector, usually termed a "measurer," to place his measure upon every load of wood coming into that market from time immemorial, and to chalk upon it what he considers the measure thereof, and the number denoting the quality of the same. A most monstrous imposition! and yet one patiently borne for the most part by the farmers within a radius of twenty miles of the said city during all those years.

To our certain knowledge the present wood-measurer, or, we might better say, robber of the farmers, seldom gives from 10 to 20 feet of the correct measure in any load of wood. To our certain knowledge the same King Bomba has marked No. 2 on a first-class load of wood, in which there was not one single limb or one stick of wood showing decay unless on the edge of a solitary piece which had a small amount of decay, which could have been scraped off with a jack knife in two or three minutes. This meant the loss of at least one dollar to the seller, and perhaps a drive home through the darkness for many weary miles.

The citizens of this same town will argue that such is a necessity; that self-protection demands it, as many of our citizen-buyers are not sufficient judges of the quality of a load of wood, or of the quantity