places with the drive-house, putting the cow stable in the place occupied by the root cellar. In this case the wagon would have to be backed up into the root-house to be unloaded. Light can be secured into the root house by making a partition of slats.

We join issue with Mr. Murray in his manner of handling the manure. This is by far the most important consideration in the arrangement of the stables. The time must soon come when farmers will find this out. His plan is a waste of time, labor and money. The handling of large quantities of manure in the busy seasons is an obstacle which farmers must overcome. According to our arrangement of the stables, the manure from all the houses, except the cattle stables, can easily be heaped together, where it can lie all winter to be fermented.

With regard to the cattle manure, we would dispense with liquid tanks, manure sheds, and straw bedding. We would not slope the gutter towards the outer end of the stable for the purpose of giving drainage to the liquid manure. We would use absorbents under the cattle and in the gutter, and would have a trap-way in the gutter close to the outer end, under which a sleigh or wagon could be backed up and loaded, and the whole mixture, solid and liquid manure, litter and all, could be hauled to the field as fast as made, and spread directly upon the snow or frozen ground. This may seem somewhat radical, but, all things considered, it is the most economical plan. An objection has been raised that it costs so much time to haul the absorbents, but it must not be forgotten that a ton of dry muck has as much manurial value as a ton of the best stable manure, and, besides, most all the work can be done in winter. Another important consideration is this: our flax industry is developing very rapidly, and oil cake can be had at reasonable figures, which can be fed with straw at about one-half the cost of the hay and grain ration. Bran can also be utilized in the same way, so that all the best straw should be saved for food instead of being wasted in litter, by which means a large quantity of solid and liquid manure is also wasted, there being a considerable amount of ammonia lost in the process of cleaning out the stables, fermenting and turning the manure, etc. Our plan would pay from the standpoint of cleanliness alone. Fermenting manure in or around a stable is very unhealthy for the stock, and very injurious to the milk and dairy products. This can all be abolished by our plan, as dry earth absorbs the bad odors, and the manure is not allowed to remain about the building to leave it in a filthy condition.

We leave the suggestions to the consideration of our readers, and shall gladly afford space in our columns for criticism. We are thankful to Mr. Murray for his excellent ideas, and hope to see other farmers follow his good example.

The heading, "the food-cooking folly," startled me a little at first sight, for I scarcely ever even eat an apple or take a drink of water that has not been cooked, says a cor. N. Y. Tribune. But when I found it to apply only to graminivorous creatures I could assent to every word; having made experiments thirty years ago, at considerable cost, which proved the uselessness of cooking their food. Potatoes, however, when fed to pigs, may be an exception.

Trade Prospects.

The press is now full of prophecy on the prospects of a near revival in all departments of industry. We seldom indulge in such speculation, knowing that people of the soundest judgment are frequently very far astray in their calculations.

With regard to our live stock prospects, Mr. G. F. Frankland, of Toronto, who is our best authority in such matters, advises caution, but refuses to sink his reputation in prophecy. He informs us that our live-stock booming has been greatly overdone, other agricultural interests having been too much neglected; that the poultry trade has increased so rapidly that it has caused a depression in other forms of meat; that the large quantities of refrigerator mutton glutting the English market have delapidated this commodity, dressed mutton carcasses now being sold in the English market for 6 to 8 cents per pound; that beef is a cent a pound live-weight less than a year ago—hogs and geese about three cents less; that the wool markets are still worse, and that we can no longer compete with Australia in the production of mutton and wool.

There being a growing demand for well-marbled mutton and for medium wools, the Down breeds of sheep have at present an advantage over the long wools, which have a tendency to lay on too large a percentage of fat. The depression in sheep and wool in the United States has forced breeders to lower the cost of production in the West, as well as improving the quality, thereby creating a demand for Down rams; and importers who exhibited at the recent Chicago Fat Stock Show inform us that they have no reason to complain at the prices they received from western breeders, Southdown ram lambs having brought $35, ewes $30 to $50. In the West there is also an increasing demand for Polled Angus bulls in sympathy with the higher prices paid in the English markets for Polled Angus beef, it being of better quality than that of the coarser breeds. Draft horses and roadsters in Canada have fallen 25 to 30 percent since this time last year, and it is difficult to predict anything definite with regard to the prospects.

Business men are living in hopes of a speedy revival, forgetting that such an event would only be the beginning of another collapse. When everything is cheap, nobody has a right to complain. The present depression exists more in the imagination than in the reality, and if people would endeavor to accommodate themselves to existing conditions, they would thrive better in the end. High, abnormal prices are the unmistakeable forerunners of disaster. By stricter economy and closer calculation in the cost of production, the times would soon materially improve without the expected advance in prices. Consumers must lose as much by high prices as producers gain, so where is the advantage to the whole community?

Judging by the experience of the past, however, high prices and high hopes, by a misnomer called good times, must soon come. There is a repletion of money in all the great business centres, which is one of the most pronounced indications of revival. It is money that people are after; now it can be had exceedingly cheap, and yet there are wailings of lament. If the hankering is after any other commodity, the same remarks will apply. It is hard to say what direction the agricultura booms will take upon the coming revival; but as in the past, it is quite likely that we shall be compelled to waste considerable time, space and money in resounding the notes of warning. With one exception, all the booms which we raised our voice against have already collapsed, and there is still sufficient vitality left in us to brace ourselves against all the coming dangers to our agricultural interests.

The political and social complications and uncertainties in England, the United States and Canada, may retard high expectations in the immediate future. Business people are afraid to embark in speculative undertakings at present; they are waiting to see what will turn up. When something does turn up, the letting loose will go forward with only greater violence.

How to Judge Fat Stock Shows.

Fat stock shows being an offshoot of our general show system, and being supported by our Government, it would be well to inquire into their principles and tendencies. Laudable objects need nothing more than sound arguments for their support; other objects, familiarly known by the name of "boom," are supported by a cry.

Nobody having attempted to advance any arguments in favor of the fat stock show, we are forced to examine into the cry. We do it "just to see what can be done," cries one. "The block is the crucial test," tells another. If a farmer built a glass house over a compost heap in order to raise wheat for exhibition purposes, his fellows would brand him as a lunatic, and yet, on the same principle, he would just be seeing what could be done. His lunacy, however, would be of a milder form, for the bread from the wheat would be quite eatable, which cannot be asserted concerning the brute monster of the show ring in the skating rink. Drawn to its logical conclusions, the reasoning is this: An animal, under high pressure, lays on a large quantity of diseased tallow; therefore, under a lower pressure, it can lay on a less quantity of wholesome meat.

Let us also examine into the cry: "The block is the crucial test." This means that the butcher is master of the situation, that all meat products must be governed by his profits. If he can persuade his customers that "baby beef" is best for the well-being of society, the farmer and the drover must bow to this, and if he can show that well-marbled, three-year-old beef is desirable, then the farmer must change his system of feeding and breeding accordingly. It will not do to say that the consumer demands "baby beef," for its production goes before the demand. Figures go to show that a well-bred steer will put on 2.50 lbs. per day the first year of its life; 1.75 the second, and about 1 lb. the third year. These figures are accurate enough, but they prove that, although figures cannot lie, they can mislead, which may be far worse than lying. It stands to reason that if an animal is stuffed two-thirds of its life, there is little or nothing to stuff the remaining third. What we want to know is, what will be the increase per day the third year if the animal is kept in good growing condition the first two years? Experiments conducted in this direction would benefit