

and, to my mind, the disadvantages far outweigh the advantages of that system.

In the first place, the system is certain to result in injury to the milking qualities of the dams. This takes place in all cases where calves are allowed to suck their mothers, but more especially will it be found to be so where the sucking takes place at all times during the day, when there is no one at hand to watch proceedings; and, as the calves grow older and stronger, they are very apt to injure the udder by their persistent "bunting" in the hopes of inducing a further flow of milk. No breeder of dairy stock who is solicitous for the welfare of his cows would ever think of following out such a system.

The plan which I have followed, and which seems to me the best, is to have one or more small fields near the barn for the calves to run in by themselves. Here they can run in the daytime, from the time pasture starts till the flies get troublesome. After that I keep them in the stables in the daytime, and let them out at night, till the weather gets cold again. The bulls and heifers are separated as soon as the former show signs of being troublesome. In addition to what they pick up in the fields, they get their grain, and other rations if required, fed to them in the stable. By having the fields near the barn, the labor of turning out and bringing in the calves is reduced to a minimum.

Cattle Raising in Aberdeenshire.

A special correspondent of the *Dundee Courier*, who has been travelling a good deal in Aberdeenshire, has the following to say about the system of cattle raising and feeding pursued in those parts:

"The rearing and feeding of cattle being the primary object of all Aberdeenshire farmers, the growing of grain and potatoes is with them only a secondary consideration. The great aim is to have the farm so laid out as to produce the greatest amount of food for the cattle, and, as oat straw is much better for that purpose than that of any other grain, the cereals grown are nearly all oats, and only sufficient potatoes are grown to serve the people on the farms. Knowing the high repute of the county for superior beeves, I expected to find the system of cattle-rearing and feeding to be high pressure from calfhood, but was surprised to find it the most natural system imaginable, the cattle being kept almost exclusively upon grass, turnips, and straw, only getting an allowance of cake for six or eight weeks before leaving. No greater number of cattle are kept than will permit of each getting such a sufficiency

of the home produce as will keep them in a forward growing condition, a good foundation being laid in calfhood by an ample allowance of sweet milk, after which great care is taken never to let the animal lose its calf flesh. Ordinary commercial animals are sent to market fat when two years of age, but those great animals meant for the Christmas shows and sales are kept a year longer upon plain ordinary fare, so as to let them grow to large size before they are put upon forcing rations. There is a general belief amongst north country farmers that a beast will neither attain great size nor perfect symmetry if forced when young, but cattle meant for the young class shows must be forced from the day they are calved. In setting aside the animals for the great Christmas shows and longer keep great care is taken to select the best sorts and the best doers.

"The prevailing pure breed of the county is the Black Polls, but the great majority of the commercial herds are crossbred, a purebred bull either of the Aberdeen-Angus or Shorthorn being used. The using of a Shorthorn bull with the black cows begets a good sprinkling of the beautiful blue grays so much admired in the southern markets. The most of the cottars keep a cow or two, and these and many of the small farmers sell their stirks as stores to the large farmers to keep their herds up to the proper standard. Besides that, a good many Irish stores have to be purchased. The Irish are, however, not so much appreciated, and are only resorted to when homebred stirks cannot be got. A good many of the large farmers have tried Canadian stockers, and found them to pay for their keep much better than Irish cattle, and not much, if any, behind the homebreds. The housing of the cattle is all in byres, there being scarcely a cattle court in all the county. The byres are very long and two-headed, with a broad passage down the middle behind the rows of cattle. When feeding, everything is raked from beneath the cattle so as to let them stand on the bare stones to cool their feet. They are carefully curried and brushed daily, and let out once every two days to a lea field for water, air, and exercise, and with the great care and attention devoted to their welfare they thrive equally well as they would in covered courts. Nevertheless, many of the farmers would prefer courts, but not so much because of the greater comfort to the cattle, but because they believe the manure would be much richer. Very few sheep are kept on low country farms. I did not see above half a dozen lots of sheep on turnips in the whole county, and very few grazing on the leas, the farmers preferring to reserve all the keep they have for their cattle."