

Horticulture and Forestry

Planting Apple Trees.

The following advice upon tree planting is given by one of Manitoba's most successful nursery men:

"The best location is a northern exposure, sheltered principally on the south and west. High ground is desirable. See that the ground is thoroughly and deeply plowed and finely pulverized, then dig a hole large enough to receive the roots in a natural position without bending or cramping them, then see that fine and mellow earth is worked in and around the roots and firmly packed so that the trees will not be moved to and fro by every breeze that passes. If litter of any kind is used let it be on the surface and not in direct contact with the roots. After the planting is done see that the surface soil around the tree (for a good distance) is not allowed to become baked and hard. It should be stirred after every rain or watering as soon as the water soaks away and the soil is in good workable condition. Remember that thorough cultivation is important. In fact it is imperative to success. Do not plant windbreak trees too near your fruit trees to sap or shade the ground. Remember the roots extend as far as the height of the tree or farther. We are inclined to think the low headed trees the best and longest lived, but would have the trunk or body high enough to keep the limbs off the ground. Bear in mind that the trunk of a tree does not increase in length as it grows older, that is, a tree which has its limbs two feet from the ground when planted, these same limbs will never be any higher. Plant apple trees sixteen feet apart each way. Prune tops and branches severely, and roots moderately, when planting, afterwards very little pruning is necessary. Plant two inches deeper than they stood in nursery. Protect trunks in winter by wrapping with sacking reaching from ground to lower limbs. Remove all protection in May."

It is reported that the stud of Shires and Thoroughbreds, recently the property of Lord de Clifford, will be transplanted to Saskatchewan.

FIELD NOTES

A Rancher's View of the Live Cattle Trade.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

None will dispute the assertion that the existing condition of the ranch cattle trade leaves much to be desired. That a remedy will eventually be found, I have but little doubt. Some have been already suggested. The most popular of these, especially amongst ranchers of short experience, is to endeavor to have the embargo removed. This is a most attractive remedy. It means, that without any exertion on the part of the ranchers, or without any alterations in their methods, their cattle are suddenly to become of largely increased value. Great Britain is to act the part of the Fairy God Mother, wave her wand, repeal the obnoxious act, and the ranching trade will flourish. This is extremely fascinating, no doubt, but unfortunately experience proves that its foundations are no more substantial than is the case generally with fairy tales.

The arguments we hear at the present time to prove, that if we had free access to the British market for store cattle, it would greatly benefit us, remind me of the early days of ranching. The same arguments were used then as now, and I fear, if the embargo is removed, the same disappointments will occur.

The pioneer ranchers, at first, had no difficulty in finding market for their beef. The Mounted Police and Indian Reserves took more than they raised, and the surplus was supplied from Montana. As soon as the Cochrane Ranch brought in their large herd, and other large ranches quickly followed, it then became a burning question, as to how and where we could dispose of our steers, as there was little or no home market. The thought was unanimous, however, that the question would be solved when the C. P. R. was built, as we believed we could then send our young steers to Great Britain and sell them for stores. As soon as this became practicable, one of the largest ranches, which was owned by influential Englishmen, shipped all their yearling and two-year-old steers. The experiment was anxiously watched by all ranchers. We knew that it was undertaken by men who had every opportunity of knowing what they were doing, and that if they failed no other could succeed. It proved a dismal failure and was never repeated. It appeared rather a blue lookout for the future of ranching. We all predicted that fat cattle could not be sent from the foot of the Rockies and make beef when they arrived in England. There was nothing left us to do but

try it, however, and to our agreeable surprise it proved fairly successful. Those who had the skill and were careful to use it in selecting nothing but finished beef, obtained good prices for their steers, but the majority of ranchers, either from want of skill in selecting, or through desire of getting rid of their annual crop of four-year-old steers, shipped too many unripe cattle. This was always disastrous, although there was no embargo, still it amounted to the same, the feeders would have nothing to do with range cattle for their business, consequently, they had all to be slaughtered at port of landing, and those that were thin did not fetch much more than the value of their hide, which greatly lowered the average price. On the whole the prospects of ranching were gloomy.

In 1891 or 1892 Messrs. Gordon and Ironside commenced buying ranch cattle largely. Circumstances were greatly in their favor, as the ranchers were disheartened, which enabled them to buy just what cattle they considered were sufficiently fat, and paid for them at the rate of \$40 per head for fat four-year-old steers, and they were the sole judge of condition. These gentlemen, no doubt, made large profits, owing to the skill with which they selected the cattle.

When the embargo was first put on Canadian cattle entering Great Britain, the ranchers, for selfish motives, were well pleased. They considered that as Ontario had lost its outlet for young steers, they could be bought profitably by the ranchers and fattened on our ranges. This trade did start, but never reached expected proportions, as eastern steers are not quite suitable for range purposes.

The argument used by those in the West, who desire to see the embargo raised is this: "At the present time we ship our fat cattle to England, but the long journey entails such melting and bruising, that on their arrival they make but indifferent beef, but if these cattle could be held on the other side until they recovered their condition and bruises, they would make much more valuable beef." If this worked out, it would be an excellent thing for the ranchers, but unfortunately, it did not work out in old days, and conditions are the same now. What makes our cattle suffer so much on their journey? It is their nervous nature. This would condemn them for feeders at the other side. They would still keep going down in condition, absolute contentment is as necessary for cattle to fatten as feed. It is said that they are quite tame by the time they reach the other side, (the person making that statement has evidently never seen a shipload of rangers come on a dock), but this is more apparent than real. Their spirit, no doubt, is broken and they are weary, but that is not a condition to make successful feeders. If feeding is to be done, it is nearer home it should be done. This would mean that cattle would get thoroughly finished and gradually gentled before they were ship-



A SASKATCHEWAN CABBAGE GARDEN AT WM. DOWNS', BUFFALO LAKE, SASK. THIS MAN BUYS GOOD SEED.