

in the spring, fall and winter. The cost of keeping these cows is estimated at about \$22.00 per head for feed, allowing nothing for labor or care; for the manure should be equal to these. Taking \$22.00 from \$36.00, we find that the best patrons of our factories are realizing \$14.00 per cow profit. Yet we find a large proportion of our farms are still inclined to hold back and stick to the old methods. They cannot get over the idea of selling their farms by the bushel. But if wealth will not tempt them to a change for a better plan, want will, or they will be driven from the field. Another great objection to grain growing is that it is a crop which is sold off the farm, nothing but the straw being retained. The average yield of wheat per acre in Ontario in 1887 was 16 bushels per acre, and in 1886 it was 20 bushels per acre. Now 18 bushels of wheat per acre takes from the soil 18½ lbs. of nitrogen, 8 lbs. of phosphoric acid, and 1 5½ lbs. of potash; valuable substances, and worth about \$3.75.

I shall now endeavor to show wherein dairying is the best, and can be made the most successful, and in what way it can be made more profitable than it is now.

The first thing to be considered in this connection is the man. It is a true saying, that no man can attain the highest success in any calling unless he has a natural love for the business or profession in which he may engage, or is engaged in. If he has no love for it he had better go out of it at once and take up that for which he has a taste or love. If he has this taste he will very naturally strive to gain all the knowledge possible in regard to his profession, not simply for the purpose of making his business more profitable, but because it is a pleasure to acquire this knowledge.

Some men engage in dairying because their neighbors do so, and not because there is any profit in it to them. Those who produce the most and best milk from a given number of cows are the men who make the most profit, and who are making the dairy business pay them. If I can make a cow which, up to a given period, yields only 3,000 lbs. per season increase her supply up to 6,000 lbs., I thereby lessen the cost of production and increase the profit. The key of success in dairy farming, to my mind, is for the dairyman to keep this one point continually before him, viz.: "Lessen the cost of production and increase the profit."

As I said before, the best patrons of cheese factories average about \$36.00 per cow, and the patrons which give the smallest yield of milk only get some \$16.00 per cow. Now, the cost of keeping a cow is about \$22.00 per head for feed, allowing nothing for labor or care. Taking 22 from 36 we find that men who have herds that have yielded \$36.00 per head have a profit of \$14.00 per cow; while those who realized the \$16.00 must have been working at a serious loss; and yet, how many are aware of this fact, or give the same a casual thought? Is it any wonder that some men say, "Dairying does not pay?"

Now, if a man is going to make dairying a special source of profit he should give it his special attention. He should not leave the whole management in the hands of the women folks, nor yet to the hired man. The man who feeds the cows should also milk them, and he will by so doing give their product his special attention; besides, he will look after the care and comfort of his cows if he has to milk them. Then again, a man, to get a profit out of his cows in the summer, should, during the previous winter months, plan and prepare the way to make this profit. This preparation must be gradual, and the result of close care. A man cannot start out and say:—"I am going to make my cows give me so and so much this summer;" it is no use for him to spring this intention on them, for they will not respond at once. He cannot get milk without suitable food; besides, he must prepare these cows by a course of treatment. The farmer, to get the most from his cows, must begin in the winter by planning how many cows he can keep; how much grain feed and green fodder he will need, and how and when and what he is going to grow, to make this grain feed and green fodder.

No man can succeed in anything unless he has

a definite aim in view, and a definite purpose and full determination of what he means to do. Neither can a man succeed who is content or satisfied with what he is now doing. His aim should be to get 100, yes, 200, lbs. of milk per cow more this year from his herd than he did last year. He must have the motto we mentioned a little while ago before him: "Lessen the cost of production, and increase the profit." This brings me to the next phase of this subject, viz., the cost of feed of the dairy cow; but my paper is now already too long.

After discussing this paper, the members listened to a very instructive address given by Mr. John Robertson,

#### ON THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

of the cow, which we will give with illustrations in a future number.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, the 21st day of March, when a paper will be read on the subject of dairying, in connection with soiling, corn fodder and ensilage.

### Stock.

#### Chatty Letter from the States.

[From our Chicago Correspondent.]

Last year's cattle receipts were the largest on record, but the current marketing of cattle is far ahead of the corresponding time last year. There are good men who think, however, that the entire year will show an increase, though current prices must be based on current supplies, and not on what may or may not be in the future.

Cattle were never before so low at this season. Plenty of good, fat 1200 to 1400 lb. steers selling at \$3.50 to \$4.

There is a perfect glut of cattle crowding forward to market, and prices are given no opportunity of advancing as they would on moderate receipts.

Mr. John Dunn, the well known cattle buyer and exporter, of Toronto, has lately been buying cattle at Chicago and exporting them *via* Boston. Mr. Dunn expressed himself as being pleased with the method of doing business at Chicago. London prices for States cattle, 13c. to 13½c. for best, dead weight, are as high as a year ago, while States cattle are being bought at \$4 to \$4.60, or \$1 less than a year ago. This gives shippers quite a profitable margin, though some of them are only making up the heavy losses of the past year or two. One of the anomalies of the hog trade the past month or so is the fact, that 100 @ 140 lb. pigs have been selling on the market at 50c. @ 60c. per hundred pounds—more than hogs averaging 400 @ 500 lbs. The latter have been very abundant, and the former very scarce. Owing to the heavy crop of corn and the fact that hogs have been scarce and worth more than any other kind of live stock, farmers have retained all of their brood sows, and nearly all of their pigs to make hogs for the future. When six or seven months old, pigs can be made to weigh 200 lbs. without extraordinary effort, and farmers now are disposed to drop cattle-growing and take up hog-raising. An over supply of hogs is only a question of a little time.

Too much drouth is bad, but too much rain is nearly as bad. Throughout the farming and cattle-feeding country of Texas, north of San Antonio, and east of Fort Worth, there has been so much rain fall this winter that the nutrition has all been washed out of the grass. Down there they have not learned the art or science of cattle feeding very well, and in a rainy season the feed lots are so muddled that the animals work off all their fat in getting around. At any

rate, the cattle being fed down there this winter are not doing much good.

The bitter fight against the dressed-beef men by the butchers is being taken up by the producers and grangers, who have carried the matter to the State legislatures. The "State Inspection" bills, of course, are only nominally in the interest of better inspection; their real purpose being to cripple the business of dressing cattle in the west at the principal centres, and distributing them in refrigerated cars. Some of the Texas and other western rangemen, whose cattle would not be suitable to peddle out at small, scattering, state markets, are beginning to oppose the State inspection plan. Their cattle are usually marketed in large numbers, are very wild, and oftentimes only suitable for canning. And the State inspection plan would be death to beef canners, because, under the proposed laws, canned beef could not be sold in the United States, and other countries would be slow to buy what one state would not receive from another.

However, a meeting of representatives of several state legislatures has been arranged to occur at St. Louis, March 12, for the purpose of investigating the alleged beef and pork combines.

Whatever or whoever is to blame, the farmers and producers are getting rather the worst of it all around, and they are ready now to do something desperate. On general principles, the farmers are down on big moneyed concerns, and the dressed meat establishments do not escape.

A Wisconsin man has discovered, or invented, a chemical compound by which he prevents the least sign of a horn appearing on a calf's head. The appearance of a six months' old specimen, examined by the writer, was as devoid of horn on one side as a natural Poll; on the other side, which was purposely not treated, was a finely developed horn. If the compound stands the test, (and the man is now successfully treating his second crop of calves,) it will cause a revolution in dehorning, and the Shorthorns and Herefords can, in a few generations, be made hornless.

#### Ontario Sheep Breeders' Association.

As announced in our last issue there will be a meeting of sheep breeders held on March 13th, at the Albion Hotel, Toronto. The meeting will open at one o'clock p.m., when the following programme is expected to be rendered:—

- 1—Formulating and adopting a Constitution and By-laws.
- 2—The Flocks of Ontario: Can they be Profitably Increased? By Mr. John Dryden, M. P. P., Brooklyn.
- 3—The Proper Management of Breeding Ewes, from September to June. By Mr. J. C. Snell, Edmonton, Ont.
- 4—Sheep Breeders' Need of Better R. R. Accommodation. By Mr. Robert Miller, Brougham, Ont.
- 5—The Sheep Best Suited for the Export Trade and Home Consumption. By Mr. E. B. Morgan, Oshawa.
- 6—The Most Suitable Wool for Canadian Manufacturers. By F. L. Towke.
- 7—The Advisability or Otherwise of Establishing Sheep Records in Ontario. By Mr. John Jackson, Abingdon, Ont.
- 8—How to Grow Large and Well Matured Lambs at an Early Age. By John Campbell, Woodville, Ont.

Arrangements have been made with the G. T. R. and C. P. R. to allow all parties attending this meeting reduced fares to Toronto and return. Those who wish to attend will be furnished with railroad certificates by applying to F. W. Hodson, London, Ont.

The Spring Stallion Show of the Clydesdale Horse Association is held on the following day. This will afford farmers a cheap and easy means of attending both meetings. Those wishing certificates should apply for them at an early date.