

Canadian export of beef; with special reference to Veterinary Science.

Read before the Montreal Veterinary medical association
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Gentlemen, -the study which I bring before you to-night embraces such a large field, that it gives ample room for any one who knows anything at all about it to express their ideas. It is a very important one, not only to the agriculturist, veterinarian, and shipper, but to the country in general, as it brings in a large revenue. It has developed into a large trade, as I will presently show you, and our cattle have made no small name for themselves in the European markets.

I have divided the subject into the following headings. 1. Trade; how it has increased so rapidly and to such an extent; 2. Climate and soil adapted to raising cattle, 3. History of the prominent breeds and the ones best adapted. 4. Most profitable way of feeding and raising, 5. Most important diseases and their preventions.

I shall endeavour to give a short account of each of these headings, taking them in the order given. The first to come under our notice is Trade: this is of comparatively recent occurrence, as I remember coming out from England on the same ship with a man who was just returning on the trial trip of a cargo of cattle, which he had brought and sold in England. I also remember him saying that he had been very successful; and I presume had realized a handsome profit on his now enterprise, as far as I can remember, it was about the first of August 1876, and from this recent date the cattle trade between Canada and Great Britain has developed, until now it has attained such a large and important export.

The following are the amounts of the exports to European ports:

1877.....	6,940
1878.....	18,655
1879.....	25,009
1880.....	50,905
1881.....	45,535
1882.....	35,735
1883.....	55,000

Mark the very rapid increase from '77 to '80, showing what handsome profits must have been realized by the shippers, as they seemed to have bought up all the available cattle. This has been partially the reason why the decrease followed during '81 and '82; there are also several other reasons which seem to present themselves to me as the cause of this decrease. viz., farmers find that it does not pay to raise common native-bred cattle, as they are too small for shippers, costing the same rate for freights, which deducts considerably from the profit of the animal; also the large expense it is to lay on a few pounds of fat to cover their ill-formed ilia, scapula, and ribs, so that the farmers find it more profitable to raise one fine animal than two inferior ones. Another reason is, the latter animals do not come up to that standard of roast beef which the Englishman's stomach seems to yearn for. Another reason, is a higher duty put on corn by the present government, which is the best and cheapest grain for cattle. There is still another important cause for the decrease, viz., the exports to the U. S. of '82 have more than doubled those of '81. The figures are:

1881.....	7,558,
1882.....	16,145

This great increase in the exports to the U. S. is attributed to the cheap freight to Europe via Boston.

I learn that the number of cattle exported this year to Eu-

rope is 49,234 up to date; this nearly reaches the number shipped in '80; such a very large increase this year is due to the freights being put at a figure which competes with those from the U. S. Another reason is, that farmers now see that raising beef cattle is a very lucrative business, and are now producing cattle of such a standard as to be worthy of shipment, this standard could not be brought about inside four years, as the average age of shipping cattle is over three years. There will not only be a most extensive trade of beef export from Ontario, but I hope to see a large one from the Far West plains of British America which will develop into one of the most important industries of Canada, if not the greatest. I think a few remarks would not be out of place to show how this trade has sprung up in Chicago. A few years ago, a few hundred head of cattle would have glutted the Chicago market coming at the same time, while now thousands will not affect it. The coming business was a great help, especially for the consumption of the small and rough class of animals shipped by the ranchmen. Another reason is, that, nowadays, there is more meat consumed in proportion to the number of population, also, it has largely increased in U. S. Last year Western grass-fed steers brought as high figures as sixty dollars (\$60.00) each, per head, in many cases. This fact alone ought to be enough to show not only the great importance of this trade but the immense profit which must be realized by it. There were also numbers of steers shipped from the Western states to the Eastern ones to be fattened more, for the European market, this branch of the trade can be done between the North-West territory and out thence to the English markets.

The cattle purchased by the North West ranchmen are of superior quality, being highly graded with Shorthorn blood, although originating from the Spanish cattle. This fact gives a decided advantage to the N. W. over that of the Southern cattle, growing plains, as down there, the high grade cattle do not thrive, and in many cases die, on account of the climate not being adapted to their health and preservation; on the other hand, there is a disadvantage of breeding too highly-graded animals, as they are apt to become lazy, and do not forage for themselves in the very severe storms which are apt to occur throughout the N. W. territory.

There has been a great scarcity and consequently a great demand for cattle by the ranchmen of the Western states: this has been caused by the great decrease of cattle from Texas, on account of railways going into that country, and giving a direct market communication with Chicago, which is the great centre of the Western States markets. A few years ago, between three and four hundred thousand head of cattle were driven up from Texas, and one to two hundred thousand from the Pacific slope, annually, and sold in Wyoming and Colorado alone. This shows what an immense trade there must be done in the Western States in the cattle business, and if the North West territory proves to be as suitable for growing beef, it will not only line the pockets of the ranchmen, but will make this country one of the most important and richest countries of the world.

2. Climate and Soil adapted to raising cattle.—

Our climate cannot be surpassed for its healthy invigorating qualities and freedom from disease. In the older provinces, in the summer, cattle are allowed to graze on the most luxuriant pasture, well supplied with pure water, large areas to run over, where they can obtain the great varieties of herbs necessary for health, growing muscle, and laying on fat. The winter season is somewhat chilly, as I have heard Americans say, but this does not prevent the animals from thriving, as they are close in comfortable houses, where a proper temperature is maintained.

(To be continued.)