

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

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to show any more. The public have some rights as well as exhibitors, and one of their rights is to see the stock which is entered in the catalogue of exhibits, which in most cases they have paid for in addition to paying their admission fee. To refuse to place the entries on exhibition weakens the show and tends to bring it into disrepute. Besides this, the exhibitor, particularly if he has a substantial grievance, will in large measure lose the sustaining judgment of the onlookers, which in these days of well-informed, independent criticism is surely worth something. Due allowance should be made for difference of opinion and of judgment; and even if a mistake is made in one class it does not follow that it is going to be repeated in others, and to throw away the opportunity of advertising one's stock by withdrawing them from the ring is only making matters worse for the owner as well as disappointing to visitors. The exercise of proper discretion in the selection of judges is the first desideratum. The publication of the names of judges some months before the show is due to exhibitors, in order that they may file objections or use their own judgment as to entering under the judges appointed; but when the entries are made subject to the conditions, rules and regulations of the show the exhibits ought to be forthcoming under penalty of a fine, unless good reasons, such as the death or sickness of the animal, can be assigned. This is the rule of the Royal Agricultural Society of England and of other leading fair boards in that country, and we see no good reason why it should not apply here.

Dealing in Options.

Prof. Robertson, lecturing before the Manitoba and N.-W. T. Dairy and Live Stock Associations recently in Winnipeg, alluded to the injurious effects upon market values of option dealing, stating that the low price of cheese last spring was caused in great measure by one or two big firms offering at low prices cheese not yet made—offering June cheese in March. He believed the law should interfere and lock any man up who sold things he did not own. That the gambling in wheat carried on at Chicago has a depressing effect on values is generally admitted, but the question of option dealing is perhaps not very well understood by those not initiated into its mysteries. The following extract will be read with interest:

"Mr. W. E. Bear read a paper before the London (Eng.) Farmers' Club dealing with 'Wheat Options.' In the course of his remarks Mr. Bear dealt with the subject from the point of view of the farmer. After explaining the intricacies of the question, the speaker referred to the effects of the system, pointing out the extent to which spot prices were regulated by the prices ruling in America for 'paper' wheat. Mr. Bear then came to what he termed his first indictment. It interfered with and governed legitimate trading. The lecturer dealt with the influence of the 'bull' and

the 'bear,' which, he maintained, were not in any sense counteractive. In other words, prices did not in consequence become self-balancing. Nearly all the merchants whom he had conversed with on Mark Lane were agreed upon this point. The daily offering of vast quantities of fictitious wheat tended to lower prices. 'It is objected,' continued the speaker, 'that there are as many buyers as there are sellers. This would be the case if the actual quantity of wheat were multiplied ten times. There would always be buyers at a price, and yet no one will contend that the offer of ten times the quantity of real wheat would not lower prices. It may be objected that enormous purchases of fictitious wheat raise the prices on a particular day, just as great offers depress them. Then why do not the ordinary purchases of fictitious wheat, which go on daily, tend to raise prices, though in a less degree?' This last argument, the speaker said, was the strongest which the supporters of the option system had. The conclusions arrived at by the speaker were as follows: (1) That the option system is a system of gambling which ought not to be allowed in the commercial exchanges of any country; (2) that the price quotations of the great option markets are those of gambling transactions, and that they entirely rule the prices of wheat in the United States, and influence the prices of grain of all kinds throughout the world; (3) that profuse offerings of fictitious wheat have a lowering effect upon the market prices; (4) that the maintenance of the option system involves the active operation of men who are professional market wreckers; (5) that in ordinary times the 'bears' are much more powerful than the 'bulls,' because it is easier to create panic than to produce inflation, also because most of the persons who rank as 'bulls' are the outsiders who have no opportunities of manipulating the markets; (6) that the fixing of low prices for distant 'futures' reduces the prices of spot wheat and near 'futures,' and tends to stereotype the prices of distant months at low rates; (7) that the gambling and trickery of 'bears' and 'bulls,' and their frequent defalcations, create a constant feeling of insecurity among capitalists, and so exercise a generally depressing effect upon the markets."

Practice, with Science.

(Concluded.)

My last on this subject was not complete, and inasmuch as you have devoted a leader upon the subject perhaps you will allow me space to finish my argument so as not to be placed upon a wrong footing. My excuse for not furnishing the remainder of article promptly is illness.

In my last I stated that I would give extracts from a paper prepared by Mr. James Black for publication in report of Highland and Agricultural Society, covering some eight counties in all. I will only give a few, commencing with

ABERDEENSHIRE.

Mr. Mailland.—"Cattle rising two years old are kept growing rapidly and in good condition till October, when they are housed and fed as many turnips three times a day as they will eat, with a little cotton and linseed cake, and sometimes a mixture of hashed oats about 3 p. m. They are well groomed, part in the forenoon, part in the afternoon. They are washed when put up to fatten, and occasionally at other times, with soft water and McDougall's dip."

Mr. Smith.—"The winter ration begins about the end of September in the stall. It is 120 lbs. to 130 lbs. turnips per day, straw *ad libitum*, and two to seven pounds of cake or meal, increasing as fattening advances. The turnips are given at 6 a. m., 11 a. m., and 4 p. m., the extra feeding at 8 p. m. The cattle are all groomed daily and occasionally washed."

Mr. J. Reid.—"The winter ration begins in stalls. It is as many roots and as much straw at 5 a. m., 10 a. m., and 4 p. m. as they will eat, with oats and barley at 8 p. m. All feeding cattle are washed once a fortnight after being housed, and are groomed once a day, the leaner half from 8.30 to 10 a. m., and the fatter half from 1 to 4 p. m."

I might give several more extracts, which while they would differ in minor points still the general tenor is as above. Before drawing the attention of your readers to the salient points of the system of feeding embodied in Mr. Black's report, I would say that those of us who attended the cattle markets of the Midland Counties in England in the fifties can well endorse the quality of the steers sent weekly from Aberdeen and Banff, seeing that they came into competition with our own district fed stock. Notwithstanding we were feeding more scientifically, as we thought, we never sent them out as ripe or in such bloom. The feeding in Scotland was then practically as now—turnips, straw, linseed cake—while we in England were employing labor and machinery to cut hay into chaff, and pulping turnips, mixing cake and grain all together, feeding three times a day, straw scarcely used except for bedding, hay at night *ad lib.* Yet, notwithstanding the extra feed given and trouble taken, we could not ripen our cattle as thoroughly. It may be argued they have a better feeding lot of cattle. Not so. They depend upon purchasing their feeders. Often Ireland supplies them, and they were the men whose representatives fought so hard to remove the Canadian cattle from the list of scheduled ones. As Mr. Colvin also quoted in the paper above referred to:

"I have found that Canadian cattle have paid

better for the past five years than either Irish or home-bred beasts, as they can be bought at less money and they are healthier than Irish and as a rule fatten more quickly."

What I would particularly wish your readers to notice is the large quantities of turnips used and small amount of concentrated food, the cake ration being two pounds a day at commencement of feeding, gradually increasing to seven pounds as the extreme limit. Oats and barley are occasionally substituted, fed warm at night, and these feeds do not exceed six pounds. I may say that in addition to the words quoted of the foregoing noted breeders, the majority of others in the report state that the grain is all fed at night, 8 p. m. the rule. I would ask what sort of a balanced ration is this, 120 lbs. turnips, 10 to 15 lbs. oat straw and 4 lbs. linseed cake per day? And this is the ordinary feed of the steers that top Inlington market during the winter months! Note every steer is curried or brushed every day, occasionally twice. Some enthusiasts has written "tillage is manure." The Aberdonian might with equal propriety declare "currying is food." And then in addition to this daily toilet operation note the occasional washing. This keeps the skin clean and cool, as well as checking vermin. Another thing that seems queer to us is the manner of giving the grain at one feed, generally at night. Now, in England we would be fussing about cutting into chaff all the hay and straw and pulping the roots, mixing all together with whatever grain or cake may be.

This appears the rational way, and science endorses it, and by her aid we know just how to mix the various foods in the proper proportions, the number of feeds a day, and the amount graded so that the digestive organs are supplied in just the quantity and at the time required. The engineer who supplies his engine with coal and water at the right time will get more work out of it and at less cost than one who is continually either letting his fire door or blowing off steam. Now, I think this seems reasonable—is reasonable—but if I were to say that the Aberdeen farmer does not understand his business, and that he is feeding at a great loss because he does not follow the scientific principles as laid down, I should leave myself open to ridicule with those who know better. No men in any business or occupation look closer after their interests than these same Aberdeen farmers; none keener at a bargain; close, careful observers; and could there have been a better or cheaper way for them to convert their roots into beef they would have found it out long ere this. And this brings us to a point that must not be overlooked when criticising the methods pursued by others when they do not agree with our own views. Here comes the question, "Does the scientist in formulating his scale of nutritive equivalents take into consideration the sources of the various food elements?" Is the protein in linseed cake of no more value for feeding purposes than that derived from blood? Is not the value of turnips greater than analysis shows? Practice in Scotland surely proves such.

As I stated in my former letter, this is not intended as casting any reflection on the chemist or his laboratory work, but it is intended to teach the young feeder—the enthusiast—that there is something more in stock-feeding than simply dumping down before them a balanced ration, no matter how skillfully prepared. There is the everyday schooling, as it were—the day-by-day practice that the man who becomes a skillful feeder learns little by little. He must be an observant man, for he quickly learns his charges are as kittle as a lot of boarding-school girls, and that a stray dog, a steer loose or any excitement will cause a day's feed to be thrown away. He must study each steer's appetite. Science would say: "Here is a 1,200-lb. steer; he must be fed so-and-so." Practice, as exemplified by the watchful feeder, would say: "This fellow did not clean up yesterday. I'll wash out his manger and stop his grain: he'll get no more until his appetite sharpens."

Nearly every agricultural paper now has its food expert, and the common talk is of albuminoids, carbohydrates, etc. Why, in going to New York Fat Stock Show I came across a Chicago traveler who could give me pointers in feeding. He vouchsafed: "Oh, you fellows just keep in the same rut. You ought to feed scientifically. You know nothing about protein. If you would bring the same intelligence to bear in farming as we do in business, and read up the science of feeding, you would coin money." I got riled, hence this letter.

I wonder if our scientific friend knew anything of the brushing, the washing, the tempting of the appetite, the root ration; and whether he, with his intelligence, his business habits, without the concomitants mentioned, would get far ahead of Sandy.

The motto should be: Practice, with Science.
"Belvoir." R. GIBSON.

A Note from Mr. Macpherson.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In carefully reading over my letter in the ADVOCATE of May 1st I notice several corrections which I wish made.

1st. In referring to "The expensive mineral elements are phosphate, potash, lime, etc., and one (not our) air element."

2nd. In referring to constituent elements ("market value and constituent value") you have "The

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