

Buying and Feeding Export Cattle.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In reply to your inquiry re my system of feeding cattle and as to the kind of steers I prefer to put up for export, etc., I will say I generally get three-year-olds that will weigh twelve hundred and over, in good fair condition, but if I could get two-year-olds weighing 1,150 pounds and over, I would much rather have them—good, straight, smooth, beefy fellows, well sprung out on the ribs, with lots of room for their dinner. But these kind of cattle are hard to get. Farmers that raise these good cattle generally try to finish them. The beef breeds have steadily deteriorated in this Province since the dairying business has started. As a rule, they think any kind of scrub bull is good enough for their dairy cows. Fifteen or twenty years ago, it was no trick to buy up a few two-year-olds and have them weigh, in the spring, fourteen hundred pounds and over; now it takes a good bunch of three-year-olds to make those weights. But, no matter how careful one is in buying, after he gets his bunch home he generally finds he has a few that he would rather be without; at least that has been my experience.

As to the type of cattle, I would like low-down, short-legged, thick, beefy cattle, good along the back, good over the kidneys and well filled out behind the shoulders, with a pair of good hams; in fact, I would like them beef from the head of the tail to the horns. There is money in such a steer, money to the feeder, to the exporter, and to the butcher on the other side that gets him, and I may say here, that the Old Country people do not like them too fat. If you do not get a good bullock to start with, it is impossible to make him a first quality by feeding. Beef and fat are two entirely different commodities. If you can get them combined proportionably, then you are all right. I had a conversation with a wholesale butcher in Glasgow about a year ago. He said they did not want cattle too fat. He would sell to the different butchers throughout the city, half a carcass at a time, and their customers again would come in and ask for two-pence to three-pence worth of meat. If there was any fat on it, it had to be cut off, or their customers would go somewhere else. So too much fat on an animal is not wanted. When they want fat they can buy it there almost as cheap as we can here. About three years ago I got in a few fat heifers to ship with our cattle. The weighmaster said they were the fattest cattle he ever weighed. Well, those same heifers were the last of the bunch that were sold in Liverpool—too fat, too fat. You will often hear farmers wondering how it is American beef sells in the Old Country for one-half to a cent a pound more than Canadian beef. The American cattle are bred for beef, and, as a general thing, are fed from start to finish, and when they get to the Old Country will dress sixty pounds and over to the hundred live weight, while Canadians, on the other hand, average fifty-three pounds to the hundred weight. A Canadian steer does not make so much beef, and of poorer quality, so they can afford to pay more in Chicago for export cattle than they can do in Canada, even if they did not have any advantage in transportation rates. I do not think we will ever be able in Ontario to compete with the Yankees in beef cattle. There are too many butter and cheese factories here. As a rule, a first-class dairy cow will not raise a first-class beef, unless she is of a milking strain of Shorthorn or other beef breed and bred to a bull of a beef breed. The beef type and the dairy type are generally nearly diametrically opposite in build and make-up. Now, as to my mode of feeding, I may say that I have not anything new to add to what has often appeared in the ADVOCATE, but I will give you the system I have been following of late years. When I put the cattle in, which is generally from the 10th to the 15th of November, I dehorn all those with horns on, and, if possible, keep them all together in the one pen. I would not put any cattle that had been dehorned, probably a year ago or longer, with the newly dehorned ones, as they would boss them around too much. I keep them in for a few days, till they heal a little, before I let them out. I generally open the silo whenever I put the cattle in the stables. I do not feed very much on the start, till they get used to it. I mostly mix some bran along with it, and they very soon get to like it. I mix all the meal that I feed with the silage. Always have a batch mixed up twenty-four hours ahead. I am feeding just now about three pounds bran, five pounds chopped oats and two pounds peas and barley meal per head per day (making ten pounds meal per head per day), about twenty-five pounds silage and all the cut feed they can eat up clean. My cut feed consists of two parts oat straw and one part clover hay. I feed the cut feed first, and then put the silage and meal on and mix all in their manger with a short-handled, four-pronged fork. The cattle are doing finely on it. I do not intend to feed any corn meal this season, as we have lots of corn in the silo. Last year the corn crop was excellent, having lots of well-filled ears. The variety I have planted these last few years are the Butler and Leaming. These have not quite so much stalk as some other varieties, but always a fair proportion of cobs. As the season advances, I may increase the meal ration to some of the thinnest steers, and may finish them off with a little oil-cake meal. I might mention here that when I mix the meal and silage together, I put on enough water to dampen all the meal thoroughly,

and add one-half ounce of salt per head per day. I am satisfied that when the meal is dampened and left twenty-four hours before feeding the cattle get more good out of it; it softens the particles and renders it easier of digestion. If one had the room and everything convenient, it would be the best way to mix all the cut feed, silage and meal together, and always have a batch mixed up twenty-four hours ahead, or a little longer would not hurt, just long enough till it starts to ferment. The cattle would eat more of it, and lick up the last particle of it. Unless you get a steer to fill himself, he will never make the gain that he should. The most of my fattening cattle are running loose; they feed better than those that are tied up, and gain faster. I have water in the stable for the loose cattle, which I consider a great advantage, as when they are feeding they will leave the manger, go and take a drink, and back again to their feed. The cattle that are tied up have no water in front of them. I have to turn them out once every day to get a drink. I also clean their stables out every day. The loose cattle are bedded with sawdust. I clean them out once a week, and haul the manure right out on the field, putting it in small heaps handy to spread in the spring. I think when the manure is put in small heaps it freezes solid, and there is no waste. The heavy rains and thaws in the winter do not affect it, but when the manure is spread during the winter, as soon as taken out of the stable, the most soluble portions of the manure get washed out and lost during the heavy rains that we have, and more especially when the ground is frozen solid. There seems to be quite a difference of opinion on this same question, but either of the ways is far ahead of hauling out twenty or thirty loads in one heap and letting it heat, as it has been proven that manure so treated loses forty per cent. of its value. I like to give the cattle good ventilation, and always have some windows open on the lee side of the stable, and try to keep the thermometer at between forty-five and fifty degrees Fahrenheit. According to experiments made with cows giving milk, and fed the same weight and kind of food, they gained in their milk as they raised the temperature of the stable till it

in a while are not in it with the large shippers. There are too many middlemen making a living out of them. The large shippers have an agent at the point of debarkation, also an agent on the other side, and they get the last dollar out of them. The spring of 1900 I was over with a shipment. I paid fifty shillings for the ocean space. That same space was bought by the large shipper for forty shillings. That was about \$2.50 on every bullock the first crack, and it is something like that all the way through.

WILLIAM MURDOCK.

Huron Co., Ont.

Care of Draft Breeding Stock in Winter.

As to stallions, it is best to have a box stall, and yard for exercise (that is, if they are not exercised every day on the halter). From the first of February until the season commences they should be walked out about three or four miles every day. As to feeding in the winter, I think it best not to feed them over three quarts of good oats and the same quantity of bran, morning and night, and about eight or nine quarts of pulped turnips in the middle of the day. Some prefer carrots, but I have not much use for them only for horses that are working hard or milch cows. I feed hay three times a day. About a month before he commences the route I feed boiled oats about three times a week, and when he commences the season I boil a little wheat with the oats. Some will ask, what quantity of grain? Of that the groom will have to judge, as there is so much difference in horses. The feet will have to be well looked after through the winter—well pared down at the heels. The shoes should be taken off soon after the season and left off until near spring—about six weeks before commencing his route again.

I never use a brush or comb on a stallion through the winter, but when the season commences you cannot give him too much of it.

My draft brood mares are either working or get exercise every day through the winter. I think they would be better working if the work is not too heavy. Brood mares lose more foals the beginning of the winter than any other time of the year. The reason is, I think, that they are left out too late in the fall and not fed enough grain when the grass is frozen. I generally commence feeding a little oats and mix a little wheat in it as soon as the grass gets poor in the fall. I think there is nothing like a little wheat for mares that are in foal. I never had a mare cast a foal when I fed a little wheat with the oats, and I feed the wheat and oats up to the ninth or tenth month. I am speaking now of mares that are working every day, for I do all the work on the farm with my brood mares. I feed some straw, but I don't like it as well as timothy hay. I find that neither clover hay nor straw is good for brood mares, but may do all right on it if they get turnips. I would not feed carrots to mares that are in foal, as I think they act too much on the kidneys. The colts will come stronger if the mares are working most of the time or have plenty of exercise.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

E. W. CHARLTON.



THE LATE MR. JAMES P. PHIN.

reached sixty-five degrees; from sixty-five to sixty-seven degrees, their flow of milk was stationary; after passing sixty-seven degrees they gradually decreased in their flow of milk. So it is pretty hard to judge what is the right temperature at which to keep a stable full of fattening cattle. If I were feeding cattle for the grass, and giving them a light meal ration, I would keep the temperature a little higher; that is, without sacrificing the ventilation. I have not had any experience in feeding salts, spices or drugs of any kind. I have more faith in a good bin of meal than in a load of drugs of any description.

When the cattle come into the stable in the fall, I generally cut their tail switches off, clip the long hair from along the back, and if there are any vermin or lice of any description on them I rub a mixture of coal oil and lard on to them. I generally find one application is sufficient.

Rotation.—The rotation of crops I follow is a four-year rotation. First year manure the land and put in hoed crop, principally corn, and balance peas. Next year I seed that down with a little spring wheat, a few acres of barley, and the balance oats. I sow a little over one bushel of oats per acre, and I may say that I have never missed a catch of clover since I have started to seed in that way. I got that pointer from Mr. Wm. Rennie, O. A. C., about six years ago. Third year clover hay, with second crop for seed. Fourth year plow down clover sod and put in oats. So every four years the land has a coat of fifteen or sixteen loads of manure per acre; it also has the advantage of the clover sod plowed down once every four years. By following this system I think I can keep up the fertility of the land, as I never sell anything off the farm that cannot walk off. Do I consider it any advantage for a farmer to ship his own cattle? If a farmer can get a fair price for his cattle when they are ready, I think he would do better to sell at home than run the risk of taking them over to the Old Country, but if there was a drop in the market when the cattle were ready, and buyers did not care to give a fair price for them, I certainly would ship and run the risk myself. But farmers and those small shippers that just ship out a load once

Death of Mr. James P. Phin.

Many readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE will learn with regret of the death, on January 24th, of Mr. James P. Phin, of Hespeler, Ontario, widely known as a prominent and successful importer and breeder of Shropshire sheep. Mr. Phin was born in 1841, on the farm known as "Kennaquhair." He was educated at the public school and the Rockwood Academy, and was for several years a successful teacher, being for three years principal of one of the schools in Waterloo County. On his marriage at the age of twenty-one, he bought the fine farm formerly owned by Mr. John Warner. On this he erected the elegant residence and modern outbuildings now known as "The Grange," making the place one of the most complete farm homesteads in Ontario. He gave the farm his personal supervision, farming it well on scientific principles until a year ago, when his son, George, assumed the management. Mr. Phin was closely identified with the stock-raising industry of the country, having been for many years a breeder of Shorthorn cattle and a successful exhibitor at local and central exhibitions. For eighteen years he was a celebrated sheep-breeder. Importing and breeding pedigreed animals, he made his Shropshire flock widely known. He took a lively interest in horticulture, and his large and well-kept apple orchard was admired by all who saw it. He was vice-president of the North Dumfries and South Waterloo Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company, a director and manager of the Guelph and Ontario Investment Savings Co., a Justice of the Peace for Hespeler for 30 years, a license commissioner for several years, and at intervals county councillor. He was twice married, nine children being the fruit of the first union, seven of whom are living, and of the second family of seven children, six, with his widow, survive him. He was an honorable, upright and intelligent man, a good citizen in every relation, and his career as a farmer and stock-breeder was eminently successful and creditable.