

local inconveniences, are no longer a factor in serious competition, nor in the production of cheap goods. The day of that is past, even in the old countries. The concentration of kindred industries, together with specialization and a huge output, is the chief factor to-day in reducing the cost of production.

It is not necessary to dwell longer on the carelessness and bad system of handling wool in Canada, and its serious results. If our leading sheep-breeders are not already aware that the system is as bad as it really is, they know that the wool trade has been very unsatisfactory for many years, in spite of all the theories advanced as remedies. They will now, it is hoped, welcome some information on the subject, and lend their support to practical solution of the difficulty, as well as to the creating of some organization for carrying it into effect. Others, who have been too indifferent to give the matter any serious thought, or imagined that their present condition was good enough, will now be able to reconsider their careless methods, and contrast them with the improved methods of other countries where wool-growing is a lucrative occupation.

Weight for Age of Cattle.

In the *Live-stock Journal*, published in London, England, an interesting discussion on the question of size and weight versus quality in judging fat cattle, has recently appeared, in which a part has been taken by J. J. Cridlan, who officiated as judge of beef cattle at the International Show at Chicago in December last, and who is a butcher, as well as a breeder and successful exhibitor of Aberdeen-Angus cattle. Two other writers have stated that, while they do not advocate judging by weight for age first, and other points nowhere, they consider that early maturity is reaching the point of a craze, and, in support of their claim, one of the writers emphasizes the Yorkshire motto, "When you have done weighing, you have done selling." Mr. Cridlan admits that it is easier to produce weight, size and commonness than it is to produce perfection of form and quality of flesh, and he asserts that early maturity is the savior of the present-day farmers, and that if they were to relapse to the methods of their ancestors, in the face of to-day's foreign competition, they would soon be ruined; that the true cause of the production of baby beef was the advent of French cookery; the huge sirloin and large saddle of mutton which used to grace the baronial and other sideboards is now a thing of the past. With the coming of the French menu, with its many courses, came the demand for the small joint. To meet this demand, Argentina is yearly grading up its cattle by the use of best British bulls of modern type, and producing great quantities of baby beef, in place of four and five-year-old carcasses, such as they used to send to England.

"Our up-to-date farmers," writes Mr. Cridlan, "produce two young fat steers in the place of one such. When I was in that country, I saw some of the cattle from an estancia which, four or five years ago, fed off 1,800 to 2,000 four and five-year-old steers per annum. Owing to the advice of the frigorificos (the buyers), they adopted the early-maturity system, and that same estancia now finishes off from 3,000 to 10,000 steers at half the age in the same time. They recognize that the loss of the calf flesh is the loss of a year. The greater and smaller the quarter of Argentine beef, the greater the demand and the more readily it sells, and the better price it makes. I fully coincide with the advice: 'Do not sacrifice the size of any of our established breeds of cattle in a desire to reduce them all to one model of excellence.' No one advocates such a course; it is the aim of all breeders to feed their biggest and best. A good big one should naturally beat a good little one, but an ordinary big one should not take precedence of a symmetrical animal full of quality. The true breeder's goal is perfection of form, depth of level flesh, and the minimum of coarse meat and waste. Quality is the butcher's desideratum, and he willingly pays an enhanced price for it. Get weight and size with it, if you can, but do not be blinded by idiosyncrasies or Yorkshire proverbs, and thus grasp at the shadow—weight, and in so doing lose the substance—quality."

Head and Shoulders Above.

I think "The Farmer's Advocate" is head and shoulders over any other paper or agricultural journal published in Canada. There is no Yankee or trashy matter in it—all Canadian. Please forward "The Farmer's Advocate" to the enclosed new subscriber. W. W. ANDERSON, Prince Edward Co., Ont.

Cattle Feeding on Prince Edward Island.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Since dairying has been made a special line by most of our best farmers here, the feeding of high-class beef cattle has fallen off very materially. So much so, indeed, that our butchers have quite often to import fat steers from Ontario to supply the demand in our cities and towns for first-class cuts. Still, some of the best farmers have stuck to the Shorthorn or dual-purpose cow, and feed off every winter a bunch of cattle of the best beef type—as many as half a dozen to the hundred-acre farm. These cattle are practically all their own raising; very few stockers are purchased for feeding, as the raising of them is not made a business. Stall-feeding begins here about November 1st, and the best type of steers are generally fed through till May or June. Most of these are two and a half years old when tied up, though some yearlings are also fed.

The daily ration, up to January 1st, would be about 50 pounds of turnips, fed in two feeds, morning and evening; a feed of hay morning and afternoon, and straw at night, and most feeders give a light grain ration after watering at noon. After New Year, the ration would be about the same, except that the grain ration would be increased, and the straw replaced with hay, preferably clover. Some good feeders do not feed any grain the first two months, but my experience is that a light ration, say about three pounds of chop, to begin with, will give results, especially if clover hay is not available. Later on in the feeding period, I would increase gradually the grain ration, keeping a close watch on each individual animal, to be sure that it was assimilated, as I consider the great secret of economical feeding is to know just what amount of grain each animal can profitably use. Oilcake or cottonseed meal can be used to advantage during the latter part of the feeding period, but a man must feed brains mixed with those high-priced foods, or he may fail to get cost of them. I have never weighed cattle during the fattening period, and very few, if any, of our feeders do so; but I think it would be a good thing to know at what times feeding cattle gained most, and what ration was producing a pound of beef most economically.

My experience has been that, with yearlings of the right type, that have been kept thriving from calfhood, beef can be produced most cheaply. Between buying and selling price I think a feeder should have at least two cents a pound. But in this matter I have had very little experience, as I have nearly always raised my own stock.

The supply of beef cattle for shipping to local markets has been large up to this date. Great numbers are being slaughtered since October, and shipped to Sydney and other points on the mainland. But these are mostly cows and steers bred from dairy stock, and are not by any means first-class. They bring all the way from \$6.50 per hundred early in the season, to \$8.00 in midwinter, dressed weight. Buyers are now offering for best steers, for June delivery, 6 to 6½ cents, live weight.

The feeding of prime steers was quite an industry here before co-operative dairying was inaugurated, and there are signs of a return to beef production since the labor problem is beginning to cut such a figure in our farming operations.

Queen's Co., P. E. I. WALTER SIMPSON.

Sheep and Dogs.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

After reading your editorial on "Sheep and Dogs," in Feb. 1st issue, I must say that I quite agree with what you say, and I also believe that Ontario farmers should keep many more sheep than they do at present, and I don't think there is any stock on the farm that will give as good return for the feed and care given them as a good flock of sheep.

But there is always the danger of the flock being destroyed by dogs, which are far too numerous throughout the country and country towns and villages; in fact, a person would almost think that dog-breeding was the staple industry of some villages to see the number of dogs on the streets.

Now, I will tell you my own experience. In the fall I got together a nice flock of twenty-five sheep, and one morning, about three weeks ago, when I went out, I saw two dogs getting out of the barnyard, and my sheep scattered, torn and bleeding. Two were dead, and two more have died since, and I am afraid more will die yet. Out of the 25 sheep, there were only 11 whose wounds we did not have to dress, and I don't suppose there is a sheep in the flock but was bruised or hurt in some way, and I expect I will have more trouble at lambing time. I started after the dogs as soon as I could, and tracked them to a farmer's place about four miles away. When I got there, one of the dogs started away across the fields, and the other was in the house, and the owner told me that his dog was shut up all night.

Now, although my flock has suffered severely, I am not discouraged, and have plenty of con-

fidence in the sheep industry, and I would like if every sheep-breeder would do his utmost to get better protection from dogs. I think the number of dogs could be very much reduced, and those that are left should be shut up at night. Any dog that is not worth going to that trouble for is not worth keeping, and would be better under the ground than on top of it. J. M. Ontario Co., Ont.

Money in Two-year-olds.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In taking up this important subject of raising, feeding and marketing of beef cattle, I will try to answer your questions as briefly as possible. It has certainly been a conundrum this last few seasons to know when to buy, how to buy and at what time to have them ready to meet the best markets. I have two things in view at all times in my farming operations: one to make my farms produce as much hay, grain, roots, etc., as I possibly can, and the other to turn this raw products of the farm into a finished article, such as beef, pork, horses, butter, etc. How different with our "tariff-blessed" manufacturer, who simply buys his raw material and with machinery turns it into a finished article? We read their business card, "Jones & Co.," and form the conclusion that company is one who furnishes part of the capital and also takes his per cent. of profits. Would that farmers could realize that with them it is "Farmer & Co.," with Providence or nature as a silent partner, and then they would study more their calling and work would become such a pleasure and satisfaction as no other profession is privileged to enjoy.

With regard to the amount of stock fed, seasons vary somewhat. There are two hundred and ten acres of working land, about twenty of same used for pasturage. Last spring, after studying the probable future of the cattle industry of our country, I bought another large farm, and seeded part of it down to a permanent pasture, and at present am buying yearlings for next year's feeding. Besides the horses needed on the farm a number of colts are raised, which as soon as able are put to work, and those horses that come to their full value are sold. Two or three brood sows keep up a constant supply of growing and finishing porkers. A herd of six good Shorthorn grade cows is the most profitable asset on the farm, and a few calves are generally bought through the winter and spring, for as many as possible are raised. This supply is prepared to go to the market at two years. From 50 to 60 head have been fed this last number of years, and the number is gauged according to the amount of feed on hand. Now, "well bought is half sold," although, an old motto, stands good to-day.

I try, if possible, to buy direct from the farmer, and invariably have found that animals that have been well cared for are the most profitable. I usually buy about the 15th of October. One reason is to have better choice, and another to give the cattle a month or so on rape to get them in condition for winter feeding. I make no set choice of weights in buying, and if my judgment classes them as good, likely, thrifty stock, I buy, if the price per pound is in accord to weight, for it must be remembered, if an 800-pound steer is worth 4c., a 900-pound one is worth 4½c., and a 1,000-pound one 4¾c., and I very seldom tie in one over 1,050. When I commenced feeding, my means would not allow it, and now, with the means, my experience will not allow it. These cattle are all tied in, and turned out every day in the yards for water. A few minutes of exercise once a day is to them like whiskey to an Irishman: It makes them "sit up and think." As proof, read the bulletins of the experimental station in Manitoba.

Now, the greatest mistake any feeder ever made is in the amount of grain fed in the opening period. The change from rape and grass to dry fodder and grain should be very gradual, commencing with a light ration of crushed oats or mill feed, and the opposite with roots. I have never fed corn, and at the commencing period we spare no roots, and as we increase the grain we decrease on roots. About two pounds per day of crushed oats or mill feed is a fair beginning, and gradually increase in quantity and quality, till ten pounds is reached about the first of March. I know some of your readers will criticise me on the silage question, but when feeding to make a growth and flesh at the same time, good turnips, clover hay and a little mixed grains are just ideal. The roots are fed whole to the two-year-olds, and pulped for the yearlings. Also, the heavy cattle are fed three times a day of equal rations, and the yearlings are fed at another barn, and are just fed twice, which has proved very satisfactory. Taking in the amount of spread necessary for a profit, some seasons would demand more than others. In the winter of 1909-10 some were not weighed at stabling, so it would be difficult to give exact gains. The heavy cattle were sold at 7½c., with an average gain per head of \$48.50, and the butchers' at \$6.50, which included the year-olds, at a profit of \$42.50. The winter of