

The work carried on this winter is intended as introductory to more extensive trials. Experiments of the sort above outlined must be continued for a number of years, when different kinds of seasons are encountered, before the results can be considered of any great value. The past winter's results may be taken as representing what may be expected in an unusually mild winter free from severe storms or prolonged cold spells. How these results will compare with what may be obtained in a more severe winter remains still to be seen.

Outdoor Feeding by a Private Owner.

The results achieved at the Brandon Experimental Farm in the one season tried have been verified over and over again, year after year on Manitoba farms. The following description of a number of years' feeding near Newdale prepared by Mr. Grayson, Mount Pleasant stock farm, of that place, and published in the *Nor'West Farmer*, shows the method to be a profitable one even in severe seasons:—

Some fifteen years ago Mr. John B. Cook, of Newdale, in connection with the late Dr. Harrison, built a large barn and started somewhat extensively into the business of winter feeding of beef cattle. After about three years' experience during which time the balance was always on the wrong side of the ledger, another bunch of cattle was bought and fed hay in the shelter of the scrub which extends along the north side of the farm, the intention being to bring the cattle to the barn as the weather got colder. The cattle had access to open water in the ravines and appeared to be doing so well that they were left out all winter. A small allowance of grain was added to the hay about March 1. These cattle were sold early in the summer and were the first cattle to net their feeders a profit. Since that time Mr. Cook has continued to feed from sixty to one hundred head of steers each winter, and the writer, as well as others, has done something along the same line with satisfactory results.

'In this article I propose to give some idea of the work carried on here. In doing so I know I shall say things that are at variance with what most of us believe to be essential to the production of beef, but I would ask readers to remember that what I am writing is actual experience and not theory. Years ago Mr. Cook's plan was to buy in the fall a bunch of cattle, big, lean steers and thin cows and heifers, almost anything with a large frame that might be made to carry meat. But to-day nothing is selected but steers of good beef conformation and weighing from 1,100 to 1,300 pounds in the fall, steers that carry a considerable amount of flesh. Experience has proved that the fleshy steer is the most profitable to winter and makes better gains than the leaner one in the hunch, and we rarely find a steer so fat from the grass that he will not stand a finishing spell with grain. These steers have usually been bought from some regular cattle buyer, a premium being paid for the privilege of selecting suitable feeders.

'The steers are usually bought during October and allowed to run on the farms until winter sets in in earnest. As early as convenient after the steers are bought they are dehorned. Clippers are used for this purpose and a handful of lime is pressed on each stuh to assist in checking the bleeding. With the approach of winter the steers seek the shelter and straw is drawn to them.

CRITICISMS ANSWERED.

'I have noticed from questions that have been asked me and from criticisms that the generally held idea regarding shelter is, that the cattle retire into the bottom of some thickly wooded ravine or into some heavy bush where they would be almost as much shut in as they might be in some sod building without windows. Instead of this the cattle prefer the high open spaces, with just enough scrub to prevent the snow from drifting over the straw. The cattle enjoy the life and especially enjoy the sunshine so long as the winds are broken from them.

'Here I may speak of another point and that is the manure. One of my critics of a previous article seemed to think that it would be out of the question to gather the manure from among the scrub. Now if straw is fed in a comparatively limited