

of the skin, work with brush, cloth and hand must be constant, all the time the animal is being fitted. It cannot be done in the last week or two, but must have been persisted in from the beginning.

It sometimes happens that the feet of show animals become overgrown and out of shape and serious results follow. Constant attention should be paid to them so as to avoid this. If kept clean and frequently dressed they will preserve their natural shape and healthy condition.

If the horns are rough or out of shape much may be done to improve their appearance by the exercise of a little ingenuity. To polish them, first scrape them smooth with a piece of glass and finish by using different grades of sandpaper from coarse to fine and then emery paper. When perfectly smooth, take a piece of soft cloth, moisten it with sweet oil and rub the horns well with it; then put some whitening on the oily cloth and rub that well over them. This treatment will leave a beautifully polished horn. The hoofs should be treated in the same way. Before placing the animals in the ring go over both horns and hoofs with an oily piece of flannel and they will present a very handsome appearance.

While fitting an animal for the show ring it should be handled as much as possible and trained to stand in any desired position, this enables the exhibitor to show it to the best advantage when before the judges.

Alberta Cattle Conditions

There is now in progress in Alberta what may be the last great round up of range country so far, at least, as the old ranching ground is concerned. The breaking up of ranching land into smaller holdings is rapidly changing the cattle raising conditions. The round-up party which commenced its operations on June 1st at Lethbridge are finding that the losses are not so serious as reported some weeks ago. Cattle that were supposed to be dead have been found to have strayed in some cases far south into Montana where they fell into generous hands. Not only were feed and shelter given them, but the cattle have been dipped in accordance with Montana regulations. As the round-up proceeds American and Canadian parties will make their exchanges and settle up accounts in a business way.

One of the largest herds in the country was recently disbanded. The Waldron Ranch Company, with headquarters at Montreal, have sold their entire stock of some ten thousand head, the price received being about one-quarter of a million dollars. This is one of the finest and oldest ranches in the West and what has befallen it is gradually overtaking many of the others.

S. B.

Cost of Producing the Bacon Hog

I have read with much interest the able letter in your issue of July 1st "The Evil of the Poor Hog." Your correspondent has brought out some good points in favor of the production of the proper type of hog, the one that will produce the choicest hams and bacon and help to increase the market for our products. When, however, he speaks of the cost of production and uses the illustrations given to prove his argument, he is to my mind pretty wide of the mark, unless he means that the one hog shown in the illustration at the top of the page can be produced as cheaply as the two at the lower left hand corner; if this is his contention, then I should think he is about right.

Undoubtedly Fig. 1 is a model from the packer's standpoint and those in Fig. 2 are not. But suppose these three hogs had been reared as hogs should be, were turned out at two and a half months old to rustle, and were fed from two to four pounds of mixed chop per day for two or three months, with a few roots, or all the clover or rape they would eat, and then brought in and fed for one month, I think their photographs would tell a different tale, and so would your correspondent if he were the farmer who fed them.

I am not by any means one who wishes to discourage the production of the perfect bacon hog; it is in the interest of our bacon industry that he be produced. But as matters are now and have been, he is being produced chiefly in the interest of our packers, and in many cases to the loss of our farmers. I say this after having experimented for several years in trying to produce the bacon hog as cheaply per pound as I can the lower set fleshy hog, and I find in every case that it requires more feed, more time and more care to do it, and I am confident that the opposite results are only obtained on paper, instead

of in the hog pen. It rests with the packers and with them alone to encourage the production of the model bacon hog, and if they are ever going to induce farmers to go into the production of this class and stay at it, they will have to give us the extra price which it certainly costs to produce them; they will never succeed in any other way.

As to the custom of shipping under-weight unfinished hogs to market, I could understand a few farmers being forced by circumstances to do this, but am surprised to learn that such a large percentage of this class are received at Eastern packing houses. It is a serious and unnecessary loss to the country as well as to the individual farmer to slaughter those unfinished frames. When you have a healthy frame of hog, you have a ready and profitable market for your grain.

F. W. S.

Note.—Whether our correspondent is right or wrong in regard to the cost of production of the thick fat and the bacon type of hog, everyone will agree that the packer should make more discrimination than he does in favor of the bacon type. An advance of 25 per cent. in favor of the select hog will do more than anything else we know of to increase its numbers.—Editor.

Sheep Quarantine

A press despatch that appeared recently in a number of daily newspapers referring to a change in the period of quarantine for imported sheep, gives an erroneous impression in regard to the alteration recently made by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa. Under the regulations previously in force the quarantine period was of fifteen days duration after the stock had been landed at the station. Under the new regulations the period is changed to thirty days reckoned from the date upon which the vessel carrying the sheep left the British port. The usual time occupied by a freight steamer from port to port is from ten to fourteen days, so that the change does not impose an increased stay of the sheep at the station of more than four or five days at any time. It might be pointed out that the quarantine period of sixty days imposed on imported cattle is reckoned in the same way—from the time the vessel is cleared at the European port.

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