

According to the plan we have recommended, works for treating both cattle and hogs would be distributed as widely as possible throughout the stock raising districts, provision being made for treating a greater proportion of cattle, or a greater proportion of hogs, should the particular locality be exceptionally favorable for the production of one or the other.

It would be practically impossible to build up a packing house industry within the Dominion, unless both cattle and hogs were treated at the same establishment. For the transportation of refrigerated meats and packing house products, (whether obtained from steer or hog) a thoroughly efficient refrigerator car service, controlled as regards temperatures by expert management, is equally necessary.

Another advantage of dealing with both cattle and hogs together, is the fact that the supply of raw material necessary for conducting operations on the scale we have indicated, would be forthcoming in a shorter time and also in greater quantities, and more continuously than would be the case if cattle alone were handled.

In putting forward this scheme it should be mentioned that the probability of the Hudson Bay Railway being built in the near future, has been kept in mind. The suggested distribution of Feeders, general works, and depots at ports would not be interfered with as regards economic operation, by the opening up of that route to the markets of Great Britain, and the working of the scheme would in no way be disorganized. It would only be necessary to provide cold storage facilities at Fort Churchill, and arrange for centralizing a greater portion of the business nearer the West, in order to take advantage of the new route, during that portion of the year that Hudson Bay was open to navigation.

Should the recommendations as contained in this report, appeal to you and your colleagues, it may not be out of place to point out a way, by which the various Provincial Governments could materially assist the undertaking. The establishment of Feeding Stations in connection with the various works, would be of great benefit, not only as assisting directly the production of the right class of cattle and hogs, but would also be particularly valuable from an educational point of view, as providing a convenient way of giving practical instructions, as regards the fattening qualities of various kinds of grain and other foods, and so assisting the work of the Agricultural Departments throughout the country.

The benefits to the producer and country generally that would result from the establishment of a scheme such as we have outlined, would be very great, and can hardly be exaggerated. There is no doubt that it would revolutionize the whole ranching and farming industry: producers would be stimulated to grow more and better stock, it would be well worth their while to finish them more properly, and turn off from their respective holdings the maximum amount or number they were capable of producing; and further, instead of impoverishing their land by continued grain growing, they would vastly improve their farms, greatly increase their yields, and at the same time improve their financial position.

Additional employment would be provided and farm labor distributed more evenly throughout the year.