

FARM.

Texan relics. With the exception of the Texans, all were in fine shape. There was not a poor thriver in the bunch. There was not even a sign of scouring after a journey of fifty miles. They all had fine loose coats, low flanks and thick cuds, showing a uniform finish in condition.

Though sheep do well out here, it seems to me cattle do better. They do not lose, but rather gain, by the change to ranging habits, and it must be understood that they have to range more for food than in Ontario. There can be no definite estimate as to the average area required for range for each animal. Ten acres is said to be as little as will suffice. The grass is not heavy or thick. The stalks are short, and it grows in sparse bunches, rather than a thick turf, though in many places it completely hides the soil. It is called "bunch-grass." An advantage that cattle have over sheep is that they go in small, scattered bunches, while sheep have to graze in bands of two or three thousand. They have to be kept by a shepherd. The cattle are only brought together at the two round-ups each year; one in the spring, to brand the young calves, the other in the fall to cut out the beef.

Range cattle stand transportation much better than stall-fed cattle do. On account of their good muscular condition, due to plenty of exercise, and their hardiness, they do not play out, and arrive at their destination with slight loss of flesh. The beef from them is sweet, juicy, close-grained, tender, and well-mixed. Truly, beef is king in this country.

In beginning, a man usually homesteads a quarter-section, brings in his stock, and lets them go with his brand on. This brand is registered in the Territories and is his exclusive property. Where range is being taken up rapidly, a man usually rents from the Government for a term of years such additional land as he deems necessary to control in the interests of his bunch of cattle. In other cases the cattle are simply turned out and no land is bought or rented. His whole capital is in his stock. A good many young fellows begin by working as cowboys and taking their pay in cattle or earning money while their herd grows. By becoming a member of the Stock Association his cattle are rounded up and branded for him each year. It is not hard to understand how Western men can buy Ontario yearlings, pay high freight on them and make money, when range is so easy. The price for good threes during the past season has run from about forty to forty-six dollars. Cattle are generally sold by the head, not by weight.

Calf Raising.

To raise a good calf, commence by using the very best bull available. Continue by feeding your cows through the winter, instead of "scratching" them through at a straw stack. Take the calf away as soon as dropped, and neither cow or calf will fret (if cold weather, I let the cow lick the calf dry). I feed new milk for from two to three weeks; feed three times a day. Feed skim middle of day till calves drink it well, and then drop whole milk for skimmed. Use boiled flaxseed for supplementary feed, starting with very little and increasing to about a pint of the jelly in each feed. That is the system, but I think I had better mention the rocks one has to steer clear of to raise a good steer. Never feed sour milk, at all events till calves are 3 months old. Never feed cold milk, or too hot. Look out sharply for any indication of scours, which is the result of too hot or too cold milk, or too much flaxseed on the start. Feed three times a day as long as the calves will come for it, which will be till they are about two months old. The biggest rock of the lot in raising yearlings, is raising good calves in the summer and then letting them go to pieces in the winter. Always have your calves so that you can get hold of a handful of loose hide on their ribs without hurting your finger ends, even in the severest weather, and they will grow all winter; and good shelter, with hay and half a gallon of crushed oats at each end of the day, will do it. Second winter they will do well on straw, if good, and a ration of oat chop. Watch your beast and feed according to its needs, and whilst never letting them go back, don't throw the profits into the manure pile by over-feeding; a handful more to one and a handful less to another, just as they need it. I have one cow that will get fat on half a gallon of crushed oats at each end of the day, and straw; others will take three times that to keep in condition. I always use oats or mixed barley, and oats for crushing; but the judgment exercised in feeding has more to do with condition than the description of feed. I have no separator, having very few stock. I keep more sheep, but intend to increase my dairy to separator size.

ARTHUR C. HAWKINS.

Lorne Municipality, Man.

Feeding Test with Two Steers.

In a feeding experiment at the farm of the Royal Agricultural College of Cirencester, Eng., two Aberdeen-Angus steers fed during the winter a daily ration of 4 lbs. decorticated cotton-seed cake, 6 lbs. maize meal, 18 lbs. hay and chaff, and 15 lbs. roots, gained 14 lbs. per head per week. The cost of a pound of gain was 10.5 cts. Two similar steers fed a daily ration of 7 lbs. linseed cake and 3 lbs. of oatmeal, with the same amount of hay, chaff, and roots as the others, gained 12 lbs. per head per week, the cost of a pound of gain being 15 cts. The dressed carcass in the first lot constituted 60.6 per cent. of the live weight, and in the second 59.3 per cent. The flesh of the first lot was regarded as superior, showing more lean in proportion to fat.

Varieties to Sow and Plant in Eastern Ont.

SIR.—Now is the time farmers should be giving thought to the varieties and quantities of seed required for spring sowing. If our Institute meetings have been made the best use of the last three months, farmers ought to be pretty well posted as to kinds suited to their various localities, but, to my knowledge, very little discussion has taken place on this point, except, perhaps, in the case of fodder corn, etc. Now, what will do well on some soils and in some localities will not succeed in others. In experimenting, I have known potatoes and cereals that were a success elsewhere to lose all their characteristics with me in three years' sowing and planting. In my locality very little wheat is sown, and what little is sown is principally White Fyfe; it seems to do as well as any we have tried. Barley is grown almost entirely for feed. Two kinds are principally grown, namely, Mensury and black or hullless, both giving good satisfaction. Of oats, a great many varieties have been tried, but I think on the whole none have given better satisfaction than the American Banner. I imported a Scotch oat two years ago, known as the Jubilee. It has done very well, and has the good property of standing well, which is quite a consideration with us where oats are very liable to lodge. A measured acre and three-quarters gave me 104 bushels, weighing 41 and 42 pounds per bushel, and on just fair soil. In corn, people here are looking more and more each year for quality, rather than bulk, so that some of the Mammoth corns are not planted as much as formerly. White Cap Yellow Dent does very well with us, and if dealt with carefully as to time of planting, cultivating, etc., gives a good crop of ears for feeding or silage. Quite a number are planting some of the large kinds of sugar corn, such as Perry's Hybrid, with good results, but the soil must be in good condition to produce a big crop. Black Mexican is also a very promising sort here, and will be planted with increasing confidence this coming spring. Of potatoes, the different kinds are legion, many much-praised new sorts being planted one year, to be discarded the next. It would be difficult to name the kind that takes precedence. I still cling to the Early Rose and Beauty of Hebron for a choice table potato. Early New Zealand is also a good cropper, giving very few small tubers. The principal kinds of roots grown here are Danish Improved sugar beet, Giant Yellow or Intermediate mangel, Short White Vosses carrot, and the Champion or Jumbo turnip. In turnips, the Great Mogul I brought from England a few years ago is more thought of the longer we plant it, and has quite a reputation as a table turnip as well as a stock feed. It never grows a neck like some other roots; and has not such a strong taste as some other sorts. I am growing my own seed so far, but hope our seedsmen will soon have it for sale.

Wishing the ADVOCATE (our best agricultural journal) much prosperity, which it much deserves, Glengarry Co., Ont. JAS. H. ESDON.

Selecting Seed Grains.

SOWING MIXED GRAINS.

Just now, when farmers, and, indeed, everybody, all over Canada are more interested in the success of Lord Roberts or General Buller than anything else that can be put in print, and when a farmer does read an article regarding his own occupation he is more likely to be interested in such subjects as winter feeding of stock or winter dairying, it may be hard for us to interest ourselves in the matter of seed grains, yet when we get on the south side of the barn, in the well-sheltered barnyard, with the bright warm sunshine giving life and comfort to every living creature that can come in contact with it, we find ourselves almost involuntarily exclaiming, How very springlike it is!

So that when we think that in six or eight weeks we will be in the midst of seeding, we begin to realize that it is time to consider what we will sow, and if we have not the sort of seed which we want to sow, we must be looking around to see where we can best procure it. We have not raised very much wheat in this section the past two or three seasons, as flour has been low; and as our marshes, or dyked lands, produce almost unlimited quantities of hay, we find it more profitable to raise the coarser grains and roots for feeding cattle, and buy our flour. Our own practice has been to sow barley, oats and peas mixed, sowing 2 bushels of Banner oats, 1 bushel of Duckbill barley, and 1 bushel of Prince Albert peas. This mixture gave us a yield of 55 bushels per acre of grain weighing 47 pounds to the bushel.

Where wheat is sown, the White Russian seems to be a general favorite and reliable cropper. The Banner oat has done well with us for some time, and it is hard for us to believe there is any better.

We are sowing more clover than we did a few years ago. Our practice now is to sow clover seed (common red) with oats, cut the clover for hay the next year and plow under the aftermath for roots; after roots, we sow mixed grains or wheat seeded with 10 lbs. timothy, 4 lbs. Mammoth red clover and 2 lbs. Alsike; we then take two crops of hay, pasture one or two years, and begin again with oats. We find clover the best fodder we raise for milking cows, or sheep, or, in fact, almost everything except horses.

Wishing the ADVOCATE every success in the good work it is engaged in, and congratulating you upon the magnificent Christmas number of 1899, Cumberland Co., N. S. C. HOWARD BLACK.

Grains that Do Well in Perth Co., Ont.

Speaking for this particular part of the southern township of Perth Co., there has been comparatively little attention paid to new varieties of spring grains, popular attention being directed more to selection in fall wheat and potatoes.

Peas.—Owing to unfavorable meteorological conditions the last few years, and also to the ravages of the pea weevil, the acreage devoted to this crop has been gradually diminishing up till last season, when the phenomenally large returns of both straw and grain will likely result in the unstable class of farmers largely increasing their acreage. Our soil is not now so well suited to growth of peas, most of it being lamentably deficient in humus, warmth, friability. As to varieties, a great many have been tried, the principal being Mummy, Marrowfat, Multipliers, and Golden Vine. The result has been the adoption of medium-sized, white varieties, such as the Golden Vine, as producing a shorter, finer straw, and less liability to splitting in threshing. The most satisfactory method of seeding is on inverted, well-drained sod, spring or fall plowed, as is most convenient, but generally the former, and in such cases depth receives less consideration. Early sowing is usually practiced, as most farmers say that with early seeding "if we get the bug we have peas with it, but with late sowing we get neither."

Wheat.—As a general cropping spring wheat has been given up entirely, except the Wild Goose variety, which is quite extensively grown, and with careful nursing compares favorably with fall wheat in yield and generally in price. It, however, requires careful cultivation and favorable temperatures to insure a good yield. It generally does well on unplowed root land worked to a fine tilth. But, like all spring wheats in this section, it seems to be susceptible to some mysterious influence, whether it be in the climate or soil. I know of one particular case last season where it was sown as usual, and on good rich soil, but failed greatly in yield, being much less than that of other sorts near by. Spring wheat used to be a sure crop with us, and we would be pleased to have a possible explanation for its continued failure since the land was cleared.

Oats are most extensively grown of all our grain crops, being a pretty sure crop for all kinds and conditions of soil, easy to sow, harvest, and furnishing nutritious straw and grain that composes part of the ration for all herbivorous animals, man included. Of all varieties, the Banner seems to hold its own the longest. It is a heavy weight, with short, stout straw. The Egyptian had quite a run, but was forced out on account of length of straw and excess of hull, producing light weight. The Joannette had its innings, but black oats are not much in favor, and, besides, the soil must be rich or the straw would be very short and consequently hard to harvest with the binder. The Siberian is being tried, but, besides being somewhat late, is supposed to be weak in the straw, and has strong competitors in the White Russian and Golden Prolific. These three latter are still in the experimental stage here and cannot be intelligently compared with the Banner. On one farm where the White Russian and Siberian were grown, the former was preferred on account of being somewhat earlier and giving greater weight per bushel, but as to whether the comparison was sufficiently accurate or not, I am not prepared to say. As to sowing, oats have to take the worst chance. They are usually put on fall-plowed land after some grain crop—as barley. The land is usually cultivated lightly in spring, worked moderately fine and the oats broadcasted, especially if the soil is not very dry, which is usually the case, as oats are the first grain sown. Even "puddling" them in will usually insure a good crop on our land, which is mostly clay loam. They are often put on inverted sod, but the former method is preferred; especially if the sod land be light, dry, or poor, they are liable to suffer from drought and ravages of cutworm. On a light, dry soil, drilling is preferred to broadcasting.

Barley.—Of barley, the Mandscheuri is the general favorite among the hulled varieties, being a good yielder and weigher, and stands up well. We have not had much success with beardless barley, and it is not being used to any noticeable extent. Hullless barley is often sown for pigs and gives good satisfaction, but requires nearly as careful cultivation as wheat, and perhaps it is due to this fact and uncertainty of sure crop that it has not come into more general use. Our best farmers aim to have it come after roots or other cleaning crop, unplowed in fall, and worked fine and shallow in spring. A firm seed-bed is considered important. Sown the last of the grains, when the land is dry and friable, seldom broadcasted, and always rolled if weather is favorable, as is common practice with all our spring grains, although I think it should be lightly harrowed after to conserve moisture.

J. H. B.

Both Handsome and Useful.

To the Editors FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

GENTLEMEN,—The premium Bible and Folio duly received, for which accept thanks. The Bible is a very handsome one, and contains so much information of value to any Bible student. The Folio is a very complete and useful contrivance for preserving copies of ADVOCATE for future reference. I have been in the habit of binding them each year with a strong cord and putting on a strong papercover, but this beats it all out. I hope to be able to send you a few more subscribers.

Huntingdon Co., P. Q.

Yours truly, W. F. STEPHEN.