

compete with States meat. The meat must not be frozen, only chilled."

As will be seen from the above, the Canadian chilled meat trade has a future full of promise. Our stock-breeders' associations and farmers' associations should give the matter due consideration. With judicious breeding and feeding, the farmers and ranchers of the West can produce the best of beef which, if sent to the markets as chilled meat, will be transported more easily and economically than is the case at present, allowing to the producer a better remuneration for his outlay of capital and labor. Besides the advantages already mentioned, which would result from the introduction of the chilled meat trade, we should keep at home the hides and offal which would supply raw material for many industries.

AN ALBERTAN.

[Nearly every one agrees with the statements made above. The difficulty is not to convince people that it would be in the interests of the trade to send Canadian beef to the Old Country in a chilled state, but to induce capital to invest in the enterprise. The interests which now practically control the business of exporting meat are satisfied with present conditions, which concentrate all the trade into four or five months of the year and require the minimum amount of capital to operate. The cattle dealers say, "Why should we go to the expense of building large abattoirs to dress the cattle which now go forward alive when these buildings would have to stand idle for six months of the year; and besides, we should get no more out of it than we do at present." On the other hand the farmer says, "Why should I produce cattle at cost or very little better when the dealers make no attempt to improve markets or prices." In the cattle business there is as near a commercial deadlock as it is possible to get, and the question very properly arises, "What should the Government do about it?" Whatever may be said for or against governmental operations in such enterprises, this seems certain, that governments should extend more assistance to pioneering enterprises than they do to established industries; that is, a government would be justified in extending assistance to the meat industry in the West as it is to-day, because the producers are exerting every effort to evolve a national industry, and governmental interference would not compete to any particular extent with the vested interests of private capital. The extension of the cattle industry will depend upon the extent to which capital is judiciously employed to handle the finished product; the market is assured and producers have always and are able to respond to the demand of the trade as to quantity and quality.—Ed.]

British Bars Stay up Against Argentine Cattle.

Some months past reference appeared in these columns to steps that were being taken by the Argentine Meat Co., in conjunction with a powerful group of financiers in London for the establishment of extensive abattoirs on the Island of Alderney, in the English Channel. Blocking the scheme was the Foreign Animals Order of 1903, which prohibits the landing in Great Britain of slaughter animals from the Argentine Republic. This Order the promoters sought to have waived, so far as Alderney was concerned, but the ultimate effects of such partial removal of the restrictions were emphasized by those whose interests were threatened. Foot-and-mouth disease is rampant in the Argentine, and it is believed to be impossible to exterminate it. Not only was there strong protest from the purebred stockmen of the mainland, but the dairy breeders of the Channel Islands were quite strenuous in opposition to an enterprise which might introduce disease into their midst. For these reasons, the decision of the Board of Agriculture not to grant the requested privilege is received with great satisfaction throughout Britain.

Livestock Values Not Satisfactory.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Permit me to make a few comments on what I notice in the 9th of January issue of your valuable paper, re "The Livestock Trade Increase in Value." It appears to me this report was got out for a fixed purpose; namely, to make a big showing on paper and to conceal the facts. No doubt in the very near future the Royal Commission that is going to take evidence re the beef trade will draw out some hard nuts to crack, and this report will show at what a high average

prices were this past year. "Over 130,000 head of cattle...from the Winnipeg stock yards...85,000 exported, prices for cattle steady and fairly satisfactory, with the exception of the month of September when the low point of the year was touched." Then to follow the interesting average price for the months!

As for the hog situation I will not take it up, as I believe this is closer to the mark; but for the cattle it is very misleading and contradictory as to the cattle industry of this country.

In the months' average price, why is there twelve months in the year in the hogs and but eleven in the cattle? Then taking the cattle and following down we find instead of September it is October and November that are quoted as the lowest; and why leave out December which would still reduce the average?

Now this comes under the heading of average prices for butchers, stockers and feeders, and as these are the classes of cattle which we in Manitoba supply, I think prices are not, nor have they made, this average of \$3.55. It is more like \$2.55, at least this is what we as producers get and I know for a fact of cattle in my own district which were bought for \$2.25.

This article wants some explanation. The price of export cattle at point of shipment was \$47 per head; this is a good price for three-year-old cattle in first class condition; and had the price of butchers' cattle been ascertained and given, this matter would not look just so bad. While I am willing to admit that the export trade governs all prices, I am not willing to admit that butchers' cattle as quoted here made any such average as \$3.55. I know for a fact that cattle sold in Winnipeg for \$2.75, \$2.50 and \$3.00 last of November and first of December; in fact, we were told by men who know and I myself saw the prices for best steers right at the very time of the year, off cars \$3 per cwt. and our shippers could not get cars last enough to take all that was offered. I am quite satisfied that as regards November, we had more cattle shipped out, and all that. I am also satisfied that at \$47 per head to the man who got it at point of shipment this is all correct; but to make it appear that those farmers who were so fortunate that they struck a Cobalt claim in going into cattle raising to make money fast at such prices as we producers received this last year is, to say the least, very misleading.

In conclusion let me say as an old cattle man or mixed farmer that there is no money in feeding cattle in this country at present prices nor at prices for the last few years, notwithstanding all this bombast and all that is said and written to the contrary. There is no money for the work and less for the feed.

I have raised a lot of cattle and sold a lot, and always produced good cattle and in finishing them aim to have first-class stuff to offer, and nearly always find that like all other produce we offer, the price of poor stuff is always quoted so as to get the good down. There is no inducement for any man to produce first-class goods.

As to the cost of producing an animal (first class) to raise and finish, let us see. To raise a good calf it takes a lot of care and feed for a whole year. Now I consider it worth every cent of \$16 to have a good yearling fit to go on the grass in the spring. Then it is worth one dollar a month to keep this calf each succeeding year until he is three years old. This would make a calf worth \$40 at three years. Is this anything like the price we are getting, or what price do we get? Shall we get \$2.50 to \$3.50? Say this calf was raised on an average farm; it will weigh 1,100 lbs. and the average price \$3 would be \$33 or \$7 less than it cost to raise him.

Our wholesale men make more out of this calf twice over in a few weeks than the man who has put all the work of three years and feed and care out on him. I am not discrediting stock raising, not by any means; but the poor rewards for the stock and labor in this country where labor is not of the best class for stock caring scarcely warrant it. These are a few facts which I state in justice to myself and the cattle industry in which I am very much taken up and believe in. But the chances are very much worse now than a few years ago, and if we are to judge the future by the past, will be much worse in a few years more. Darlingford.

WM. STOREY.

[On the question of the monthly averages we plead guilty to a typographical error in October and November figures, which should have been \$3.01 instead of \$2.01, and as for December being left out the statistics were made up immediately after the ranch stock had ceased coming forward

and it is to this class of stock that the comment referred to apply. There is no doubt of the justice of Mr. Storey's contention that first class stuff should bring higher figures and that \$47 does not cover the cost of a farm-raised three-year-old, although it is a fairly good price for a ranch steer. As we say in another column, it is only where a man has cheap land that he can afford to raise cattle at prevailing prices and under present market conditions. It is positively galling to a man who is able and willing to breed and raise steers which at two and one half years are worth on the basis of beef prices in every Western city six to eight cents per pound live weight, to be offered from two to three cents per pound. Truly the beef industry needs investigating and advertising!—Ed.]

For the Friends at Home.

Dear Sirs:—Enclosed find \$2.00 to cover the subscription of W. J. Purnell, Fox House, Westmoreland, England. I must say your paper is highly appreciated in England. Yours very truly, Chater, Man. W. PURNELL.

FARM

(Comments upon farming operations invited.)

Persist with Clover Sowing if You Want a Catch.

Many a man has sown some clover seed and has been disappointed with the results, and has made up his mind that clover will not grow here.

On the Red River valley soils little difficulty seems to be experienced in getting a catch compared with that found on the higher, drier lands further west.

Clover cannot be expected to make a catch or do well on land from which the humus has been entirely worked out, with results—lack of moisture and decline in fertility. On land where clover has been sown unsuccessfully, we should suggest another trial with the land lightly manured.

We are still of the opinion that clover can be grown if sown with a cereal, and that it is not necessary to rest the land a year, or to sow the legume alone on summerfallow, although such a method would be far preferable to the bare fallow. If sown with a cereal we believe wheat is the better crop to sow with, judging from our own experience; others prefer barley, and some oats; it is evident that the particular cereal is not so important as the state the land is in, the method of sowing and the quality of the seed. Well colored bold, well ripened seed is indispensable to a good catch. We prefer to sow with a grass seeder attachment either ahead of the drill or separately, and if time will permit and the other work allow, and the force be available, would sow the clover seed mixed with timothy crosswise of the cereal sowing. In sowing timothy with the grain we have noticed the tendency to fall into drills and to give room for weed growth. The additional cultivation from the harrow by sowing crosswise will not be lost. Many farmers south of the international boundary are trying clover sowing between the corn rows. This is a method we should like to see tested in Western Canada. Have the corn sown in rows, each row thirty to thirty-six inches apart; the necessary cultivation between the rows will keep down the weeds, and if just after the last cultivation for the season, clover seed were sown in the spaces, a good catch might be expected. It would not interfere with the corn cutting and if the corn stubble were left high, the necessary snow blanket would be held. A drag harrow run over upside down first thing in the spring would probably break down the corn stalks out of the way of the mower, and if not the field could be pastured. The quantity of clover seed to be used will vary with the quality. Sow only the best, rather than sow alone at the rate of fifteen to twenty pounds per acre we would suggest a mixture of from seven to ten pounds of red clover seed and three pounds of timothy.

A Saskatchewan Home.

Herewith we publish the plan of the farm house belonging to Mr. Frank Shepherd of Weyburn. The fact that it appears here, however, does not imply that it is a perfect house by any means; rather we are inclined to pronounce some of its features very objectionable and regret

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