

cultivation they are expensive on man's time. But for homesteading, where stabling is crude, grain scarce or lacking, water often inconvenient, and where a large part of the work consists in logging, breaking and long trail trips of many hundred of miles, oxen are the thing to begin with. They are less subject to ailment than horses, cheaper to buy and keep, more suitable for pioneer work and when they have served their day in harness may be fattened and converted into beef nearly equal in value to their original cost. If thin enough when the fattening is commenced, finished to a proper killing condition and cooked for about a day and a night they make excellent eating.

By way of showing what may be accomplished with three bulls—not young ones either—I counted up the other day the main items of work done by ours this past summer with the help of an extra ox for about a month: Grubbed 15 acres; broke 30; plowed 40 acres stubble; drilled 36 acres; harrowed 100; double-disked 145; and were employed for a month or more at stacking and miscellaneous teaming with not a little time lost in going to and from work at distant points. About half the time they lived entirely on what they grazed. For the remainder their fare consisted wholly or in part of prairie hay and sheaf oats. The disking was done with a big 18-inch plate disk, heavily weighted. About half the breaking was scrub land, the grubbing of which was a bigger job than the plowing thereof.

Oxen are becoming scarce on Grand Prairie, but there is a brisk demand this winter from new settlers for what are left, prices ranging from a hundred and sixty to two hundred and fifty dollars a team, with harness usually thrown in.

One class of farm work for which oxen are particularly ill-adapted is reaping and mowing. They are too slow on the start. In the early days when they were used here on the binders it was necessary to have two men, one to drive the four bulls and one to operate the machine. That scene is obsolete. There is now and then a team that will do on the mower—I happen to own one myself—but horses are far better. Necessity knows no rigid law, however, and in the early days when the wild hay was a heavy crop a friend of the writer cut 24 loads of it in one day with bulls on a six-foot cut, working teams in shifts.

The ox has been an invaluable friend of man. I realize it here as never in the East. As Will H. Ogilvie put it in "Treck Oxen," written for the Christmas Farmer's Advocate of 1911:

"There is never a lonely siding set down by the Western roads
But has watched us come with our lolling tongues to leave our towering loads.

"They spared us not—our masters—the butt, the thong, the goad;
Our heads drooped low in the furrow, our hoofs grew hot on the road.
Our necks by the bow were blistered; our ribs by the whip made raw,
But—we gave our hearts to the drawing for the God that made us draw!

* * * *

"We have given our bones to the ages, we have given our power to the Past;
As the buffalo fled from the Prairie, we shall fade from the roads at last,
Shall those—our masters—remember the lesson the years repeat—
That we carried the kings on our shoulders, and fashioned the realms with our feet?"

Grande Prairie District, Alta. W. D. ALBRIGHT.

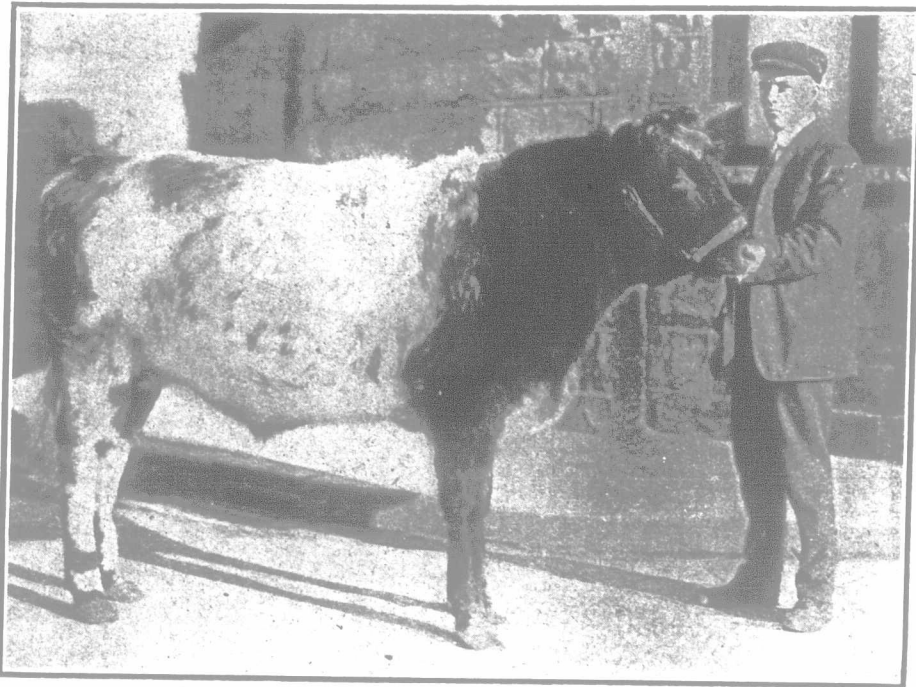
Feeding and Exhibiting a Steer.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The bullock that I fed and exhibited in the Boys' Steer Feeding Competition at the Guelph Winter Fair was a grade Shorthorn steer. His dam was an aged Shorthorn grade cow, of a dual-purpose type, giving over 10,000 pounds of milk in a year. The steer was dropped April 1, 1915, and was just twenty months old at the close of the competition, November 30, 1916. He weighed 1,100 pounds at the Toronto Stock Yards, after being away from his own stable a week and starved twelve hours. The cost of feeding was reckoned according to the schedule sent out by the Department of Agriculture, and the feed for the twenty months cost \$97.16. The calf was valued at \$5.00, which brought the cost to \$102.16. Valuing the animal at nine cents a pound, he would be worth \$99. This was a loss of \$3.16. However, he was sold at Toronto Stock Yards for thirteen and three-quarter cents per pound, which brought his value to \$151.25. Of course, I had some expense for exhibiting, but, considering everything, I had very good training in the feeding and exhibiting of an animal and consider that I am well repaid for any trouble I went to.

The steer did not receive professional feeding by any means. The main object, as I found out by experience, was to watch and see how certain feeds and different quantities agreed with him. He was nursed by a young cow for seven months, and as she was in her first lactation period he did not get a very big supply of milk. Other than the milk, he was fed similar to the other calves and received oil-cake meal, bran,

rolled oats, and good clover hay. During the last two months he was fed on much heavier feed, such as wheat and oat chop with some oil-cake meal mixed in the ration. From the time of commencing to feed, the quantity was increased as the animal seemed able to consume it. During the winter of 1915 a few roots and some silage were fed, but he received neither during the summer and fall of 1916. During the latter part of the feeding about a pound of oil-cake meal was fed three times per day. Work on the farm somewhat interfered with giving the animal the best of care, but during the whole length of the competition I found the work very interesting and obtained a good deal of valuable information.



Emerson's Pet.

Winner of Inter-county Baby Beef competition. Exhibited at Guelph by E. McConachie.

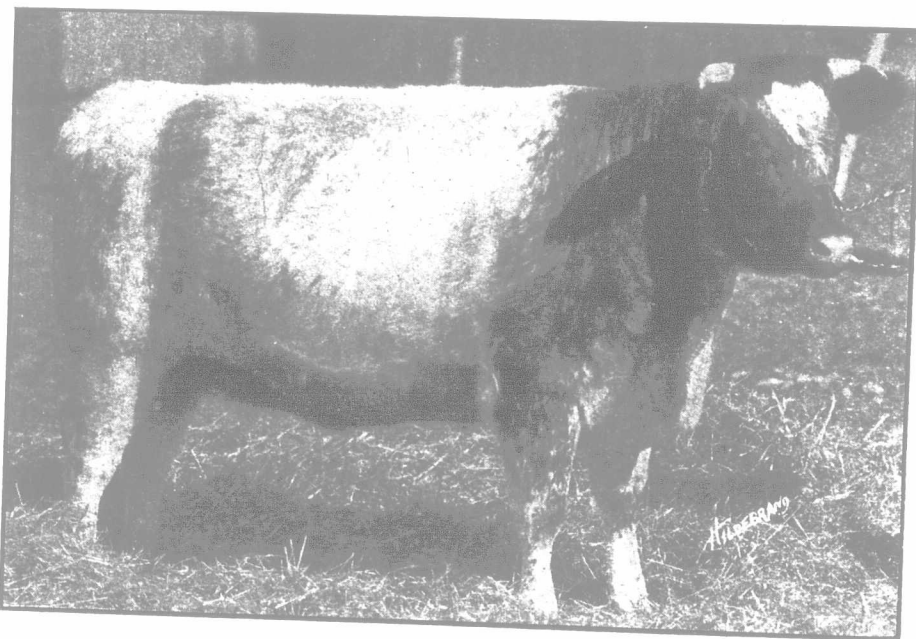
There were only two animals in competition at the Guelph Winter Fair. I cannot understand why a large number of young men do not enter the Feeding Competition, conducted under the Department of Agriculture, and then show the animals at the Fair. It is a splendid education.

Haldimand Co., Ont.

E. McCONACHIE.

Alberta Angus Breeders Form Association.

Out of 60 odd Aberdeen-Angus breeders in Alberta some 28 met at Edmonton during convention week and formed an Alberta Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association. The officers elected were: President, G. H. Hutton, Lacombe; Vice-President, J. H. Reid, Innisfree; Second Vice-President, Chas. Ellet, Sandy



Countess Missie.

This heifer from A. F. & G. Auld's consignment to the recent Toronto sale, sold for \$1,100 the highest price for a female at the sale.

Lake; Secretary, F. R. Cathro, Calgary. Directors.—A. Noad, Olds; Lew Hutchinson, Duhamel; L. McComb, Huxley; L. G. Cowan, Bassano; C. R. Morton, Vegreville, and E. Massory, Loughheed.

Among matters taken up was Angus exhibits at fat stock shows. It is the intention to arrange among the breeders to have high-class exhibits of Angus steers at these shows in the future. Arrangements will also be made to hold an annual sale of breeding stock in the province. Such a sale will not likely be undertaken this year. The Alberta Government will also be asked to establish herds of Aberdeen-Angus on its demonstration farms.

THE FARM.

Fair and Square Dealing for Permanent Peace.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

For the last guid while back there has been an unco' lot o' talk about arranging for what they call a "permanent peace" after this war has come tae an end. A guid many plans hae been pit forward; even President Wilson has his ain particular method for getting the nations tae live quietly thegither on the one airth. The general

idea seems tae be tae form a sort of joint-stock company wi' the different countries o' the world as shareholders, an' a world parliament for the administration o' international affairs that will hae the final word in settling a' matters in dispute, as weel as controlling all commercial relations. Ony disagreements will be straightened oot by arbitrators appointed by the national parliaments, and no fighting tae be allowed.

Noo, there's juist one weak spot in this program that I notice, an' it's this: Suppose one o' the countries that's no' ower weel civilized, starts a row about s o m e t h i n g, thinkin' maybe she's no' gettin' fair play, or perhaps juist wantin' tae gie expression tae the auld instinct that tak's human nature as weel as animal nature sae lang tae get rid o'.

What's gaein' tae happen then? The ither nations will hae to turn in an' force the quarrelsome member o' the concern tae be quiet. An' how are they gaein' to dae it wi'oot gaein' tae war? An' wha can say hoo lang this war may last or how it will end, for there's no' tellin' but some mair o' the nations will tak' the chance tae square some auld account an' join in the rebellion against the international order o' things. As I understand it the idea is to hae some kind o' a military police force for the preservation o' order in each state or republic, whatever it will be, an' how can ye hae that an' disarmament at the same time. For it winna' dae tae disarm yer police. Gin ye dae that the next thing wad be mob rule, which is juist anither name for war gone mad. Ye can control the regular army, but there's no controlling a mob. It seems tae me we're no' quite far enuch along the highway o' progress yet tae mak' permanent peace possible.

Some great world revival o' religion that will change the nature o' humanity tae a conseederable extent, maun tak' place before it will be safe for us tae enter intae agreements tae mak' war impossible. Moral suasion is a richt when the ither chap is educated up tae it. Juist let us each look back ower his ain career frae the time we started tae decide matters for oor-selves an' see how we think we should hae got along wi'oot discipline or punishment o' ony kind. It wad hae been one big spree for the maist o' us. Wi'oot warning or restraint we wad hae juist gone on tae extinction an' naething less. But Nature doesna' wark in that way. When we sin we suffer, individually. An' it's the same when we gae wrang on a national scale. The nation as a whole suffers. There is no other way for it.

We're children in a big schule an' the Teacher maun keep order or the hale thing will gae to smash. Sae this is why I think that the nations canna' maintain a "permanent peace." They hae tae chastise ane anither, as ye might say, until they hae all reached the stage o' moral development where they no langer need tae be whipped. Then war will end naturally an' wi'oot the help o' ony peace societies.

President Wilson is a well-meanin' mon, we canna' deny that, but when he begins tae talk about "peace without victory" it shows that he has been thinkin' along wrang lines. He may hae no particular sympathy for either side in this scrap, but he's planning trouble

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