



The Shorthorn Cow, Havilla, to be sold at John Bright's sale on Oct. 14th next.

## Live Stock Conditions in the West

Mr. Duncan Anderson, of Rugby, Ont., has just returned from a two months' trip on Institute and Fair work in Manitoba and the Territories. He addressed meetings and judged stock at a number of important centres, including Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Calgary, Edmonton and Medicine Hat. Speaking of the live stock conditions of the West, Mr. Anderson says: "The possibilities and prospects for a good class of live stock out in the north country are good. Lacombe seems to be the centre around which the best cattle stock of the Territories is to be found. There is already a knot of skilled and ambitious cattlemen there. My meeting at this centre was attended by over a hundred, and the district is full of first-class animals, principally Shorthorns."

"At Calgary and Edmonton horses seem to be in the ascendant. At the former place the agricultural classes are well represented, but at Calgary the Clydes and Hackneys. I visited the Hackney ranch of the Rawlinsons, near Calgary, and it was a revelation. The bachelor brothers have been importers and breeders of this class of horses for eighteen years and now are sending their stuff to the east instead of bringing it from there, Beith, of Bowmanville, Ont., being a good customer."

"These men conceived an ideal and bred to it. The first sight I saw was sixty-five of the finest and evenest Hackney mates with young colts I ever saw in my life. Their character and style shows that the Hackney is a well-fixed type of horse of the highest merit."

"There is, however, lots of poor stock every place. I saw a lot of Mexican cattle at Medicine Hat which are being brought in in considerable numbers. All head and horns, long, scrawny brutes. Their narrow frames can never be covered to make them good beef cattle. The best of them will be a poor

grade of butchers' cattle and most of them are canners. I am surprised that there should be any faith in the business of bringing them in. Even though they should be found good rustlers, and so desirable as female stuff on that account, life is too short to grade them up to anything like a decent beef standard. There may be good ones among them, but I didn't run across them."

"The stock interests of Manitoba are assured. The men who are engaged in the business have the confidence and foresight to get the best going. The business is a-wa-past the initial and experimental stage. Manitoba stockmen are among the most progressive in the Dominion. They get the best and give it the best of care. They excel in heavy horses and Shorthorns. They are past the pioneer grain-growing stage. Some of them have stayed with wheat growing too long, perhaps. There are some fair-sized patches of mustard that have come from cultivating too much land and tilling it too little. A few sheep would help them out, but then they would have to fence, and besides the wolves and coyotes have a relish for lamb, so the sheep business is at low ebb."

"The rancher is all right. Three million dollars worth of cattle left the West last year and it might just as well have been ten millions. There is no over-stocking of the ranges. The ranching is a good business and there is money in it for the syndicate—not much for the little fellow. If good cattle were selected in the east and not brought out until about June and carefully wintered there should be large profit to the investor. There's another thing, the rancher must change his ways, and he is slow to learn. This country is undergoing an evolution that he cannot appreciate or understand. First, it was the buffalo, then the rancher, then

the grain grower, and now it is the mixed farmer and the arable land is steadily encroaching on the grazing land. Things are being reversed for the rancher. Instead of buying young stock to finish as he now is the rancher will be growing the stock and it will be finished by the farmer."

"The farmer is getting behind, too. He will have to concentrate his produce and turn his grain into more valuable commodities, such as pork and butter. This will conserve the fertility of his land and will save him freight. Three hundred and ninety pounds of grain and a few roots will make a hundred pounds of pork. The pork is worth twice as much and weighs less than half as much."

"Then, another thing about feeding enterprises. They will prevent the glut and low price of stuff in September and October. If beef can be held and sold any time of year instead of all at once, the price will be better. At present the buyer gets the good at the value of the poor stuff."

### Outlook for Beef Cattle

There is not much that can be said of a definite character at this time in regard to the outlook for beef cattle this fall and winter. And yet there are conditions governing this trade that may have an important bearing upon future buying and selling. These conditions have to do with the position of things in the United States, which, as our readers know, has more influence upon the cattle trade than upon any other Canadian industry.

Conditions to the south of the line are different from what they were last year. In the spring of 1902 cattle prices were abnormally high. Those who had fed cattle made good money. The farmers of the Middle West believing that these good prices would continue, and having a large supply of unsaleable corn on hand went into cattle feeding on a large scale. Those who usually brought one load bought two or three carloads of grain. Large prices were paid for feeders and an enormous number of cattle were fed. Reports from all quarters of the large number fed created a panicky feeling, and there was a general rush of half-finished cattle on the market about the beginning of the year. The market broke and there was a great slump in prices which has continued ever since. Many last spring sold their finished cattle at prices no higher than what was paid for feeders last fall.

Conditions this year are different. Cattle prices are low and feeders and stockers at Chicago are the lowest they have been for some time. Some see in these low prices a good reason why the farmer should feed beef cattle. One authority reasons thus: "Then cattle prices were high. This, in itself, was the best evidence that they would fall. Prices are now low,