

was the leading object aimed at, but extended to all the interests of the farm.

As the production of meat increased, it was found that grain-growing became more profitable, not only from the greater yield obtained on a given area, but also from the greater area that was brought into a suitable condition for producing grain crops; in effect, the production of butcher's meat enabled them to grow paying crops of grain in spite of foreign competition. Moreover, manure in many instances became the leading object in feeding, and the direct profits of meat production were looked upon as of secondary importance. The cheap grains from foreign countries finally came to be purchased by the farmers themselves, to feed fattening stock, as the cheapest method of securing the desired supply of manure.

At the present time the experience of the farmers of Great Britain in feeding stock is of the greatest practical interest to the farmers of America, as it clearly indicates the direction in which their efforts to improve their system of farming may be most successfully made.

The recent experiments in the shipping of fresh meat and fat stock from America have demonstrated the fact that the British farmers can no longer retain the monopoly of these staples in their home markets. The success of this new enterprise cannot fail to have an important influence upon the agriculture of both countries, if the farmers of America make the best use of the opportunities now opened to them. The opening of a new market for one of the most desirable farm products should mark an era in the agricultural prosperity of this country by leading to the practice of a better system of farm management, in which the production of fat stock of the best quality is made an important, if not the leading interest.

It may, at first glance, appear that the farmers of Canada and the Eastern States are not, from conditions of climate and soil, particularly interested in the production of meat for foreign markets, and that the broad prairies of the West are destined to supply this demand.

A careful examination of all of the elements involved in this problem must, however, show that the benefits arising from this new enterprise cannot be exclusively appropriated by the Western farmers, and it may possibly prove to be true that the farmers of Canada and the Eastern States have a preponderance of advantages in their favor in supplying this demand.

The present system of stock feeding at the West is not the best adapted for furnishing meat supplies to foreign markets, and it is not probable that any decided change in this respect will be made in many years.

The farmers at the East have quite a margin in their favor in the cost of transporting their live stock to market, while the manure resulting from the process of feeding has a value that will more than compensate them for any supposed disadvantages of soil and climate to which they may be subjected. Under a thorough system of farm management, that provides for the best returns from every source of profit, the fattening of animals on the average Eastern farm cannot fail to give satisfactory results.

It may even be an object, in many localities where the best methods of practice prevail, to follow the example of the farmers of England in their system of feeding, and purchase the grain grown on the cheap lands of the West and convert it into meat for foreign consumption and manure for increasing the fertility of the soil under an intrusive system of cultivation. With this double source of profit at command, in connection with the saving in freights from their comparatively short distance from market, the farmers at the

East, on farms adapted to tillage, where stock feeding has long been neglected, have every inducement to make fat stock a leading interest. Thorough tillage, on well-drained land, must, however, go hand in hand with high feeding to give the best results in the older sections of the country where land is valuable, while the neglect of either of these interests may even prevent the profitable practice of the other.

Without considering in greater detail, in this place, the intimate relations of stock feeding to a high or intrusive system of farming, we will direct our attention to a brief examination of the principles that should guide the farmer in selecting the stock that he purposes to feed for the foreign markets.

An examination of the market reports in any of our large cities will show that but a small proportion of the animals sold are of the best quality, and it will further appear that the price of the cheapest stock varies greatly, while the best animals command a good price at all times at comparatively uniform rates. Every one familiar with the trade in fat stock will readily perceive that it will not pay to export animals that do not command the highest market prices, as too large a percentage of their value must be paid for transportation, and the prices are liable to be depressed by excessive competition.

The foreign demand will not in all probability affect the value of inferior stock in our home markets, but it will have a tendency to increase the prices of the best class of animals, even under a largely increased rate of production. The direct profits of feeding, under the best system of management, will, to a great extent, depend upon the ability of the animals selected to fatten rapidly at an early age.

In the improvement of the modern meat-producing breeds of cattle, sheep and swine, the tendency to early maturity has been developed until it has become one of their most important characteristics.

The saving in time through the rapid conversion of the vegetable products of the farm into an animal product of greater value, is not the only advantage to be gained in feeding young animals, although this in itself is of considerable importance. A young animal, through the activity of its organs of nutrition, will give a better return for a given amount of feed consumed than one that is older, provided all other conditions are equal. This rule applies alike to the coarse "native" stock of the country and the highly improved pure-bred of the most fashionable blood. The quality of this increase in live weight will, however, vary greatly in different animals, and a corresponding difference will be observed in the actual value obtained for the feed consumed.

In the coarse, slow-growing "native," or unimproved stock, when liberally fed at an early age, a large proportion of the increase in live weight will consist of bone and the coarser, soft parts of the system, so that the carcass of a given weight would command but a small price in the market. The improved breeds, on the other hand, in which the tendency to early maturity is well developed, will give a larger proportion of valuable flesh, which will command the highest price when placed on the block.

It must also be noticed that there is a great difference in animals of the same weight, in the proportion of choice pieces they furnish when cut up on the block, and that quality rather than the quantity will enable the feeder to obtain the highest price for the entire carcass. The young animal is to be preferred for feeding because it gives the largest return in live weight for feed consumed, but it must also be capable of converting this feed

into the best quality of flesh, to give the greatest profit.

In this connection it may be well to notice the fact that has been fully demonstrated by actual experiment, that young, growing animals will consume a larger amount of feed in proportion to their live weight than animals that are fully matured; but as the profits by feeding depend upon the returns obtained for feed consumed, rather than the amount of feed they are capable of eating, this cannot be urged as an objection to early feeding. The profits to be derived by the farmer from the export trade in fat stock, either dressed or on foot, will, therefore, depend upon the intelligence and skill that he exercises in devising the best system of management upon the farm as a whole, and the judgment with which he makes his selection of animals for feeding. Good stock and high farming are the essentials of the highest success.

Stock raising in its relations to feeding will be discussed in a subsequent paper.

#### American Beef for Europe.

The commissioner appointed by the *Scotsman* newspaper to obtain information on the subject so important to British farmers—how far the supply of meat from America was likely to reduce the prices of beef in the English markets—has finished his enquiry. To us Canadian farmers it is a subject of great interest. We have for some time been sending our surplus beef and mutton to English and Scotch markets, and we are anxious to know if we can continue to do so. Were the English markets to cease to purchase from us at remunerative prices the incentive for stock-feeding, and consequently for improved farming, would no longer exist. And this might occur from an over-supply being exported from America.

The commissioner in reviewing his investigations on the subject now gives his own impressions of what he has seen and learned. He has learned that if beef of prime quality—such as would command the highest prices—can be procured for the English market, it must be in very limited quantities. Cattle are numerous and grass and corn-producing lands are cheap, but there is little of what may be called really good meat. In previous numbers of the *FARMERS' ADVOCATE* we impressed upon our readers the necessity of feeding well-bred stock, and finishing them off in prime condition, if we are to compete for remunerative prices with the stock-feeders of Britain; and now our reasoning is fully borne out by the commissioner's remarks. Inferior beef can be sold in the English markets, but at very low prices—such as cannot be remunerative to the feeder and shipper. But let us hear him for himself:

"It may be stated that in spring a wrong impression seemed to prevail both in England and Scotland as to the parts of America which the imported beef was coming from; and therefore, also, as to the cost of its production. During the first three or four months of the present year a great deal of writing and speaking took place among agricultural communities on the subject of American beef, and somehow or other almost all these writers and speakers seemed to have got possession of the idea that the beef we were getting from America was produced on the cheap grazing lands of the Far West; for all their calculations were based on the cost of production there, and not in the older States, such as Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania, where, in point of fact, the greater portion of American beef that has arrived in Britain has come from, and where the cost of production is very different from what it is in Texas and the other more westerly States. Advocates of the trade tell us that America can boast