

it is little wonder that Canadian breeders conclude that the game is not worth the cost, and decline to enter under such exasperating disabilities.

Leading Canadian exhibitions are open to the world on equal terms, the records of the United States and other countries, although of lower standard than our own, being recognized, registered stock allowed entry through our ports for sale for breeding purposes, and every reasonable facility afforded for the transaction of business between the two countries. In view of this, and the terms of the St. Louis Exposition, the blandishments of the glib-tongued commissioner sent to the late Toronto Exhibition to invite our Canadian stock-breeders to compete, were, to say the least, anything but complimentary to the spirit and intelligence of our people. There is scarcely a county fair in Canada but could give cards to the so-called Universal Exposition in the matter of liberal rules, for with few exceptions they are wide open to the world. It is but just to say that the broad-minded Chief of the Live-stock Division of the St. Louis Fair is not held by Canadian breeders responsible for the narrowness of the rules of the show, which, doubtless, owe their condition to interested representatives on the directorate, whose influence is also evident in the customs regulations of the United States Government.

The Preferential Propaganda.

In discussing the fiscal reform and preferential trade propaganda of the Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, the Southern Standard, one of the leading newspapers of New Zealand, describes it as "the fight of the century," and says: "The advantages to a producing country like New Zealand cannot be disputed, and viewing the position from that standpoint, there will probably be a general desire in this colony that Mr. Chamberlain will succeed in his fight." The changes of fifty years, and the uncompromising trade attitude of the other leading countries, who aim to sell as much to and buy as little as they possibly can from Great Britain, compel her statesmen to consider her economic position and reconsider her fiscal policy. The Southern Standard goes on to say: "With the vast producing areas of Canada, South Africa and Australia supplying practically all that the Empire requires, it is difficult to see how a system of reciprocity is going to injure any class of the Empire's subjects."

The New Zealand Parliament has just passed an Imperial Preferential Trade Bill. Mr. Chamberlain is stirring the heart of England and the Empire as it has not been stirred for half a century. Whatever may be the final outcome, he is to-day the central figure—and a heroic one—in the eyes of the Empire and the world. Preferential treatment by Britain of colonial agricultural products would be a great boon to the Canadian farmer. He is doing marvellously well as it is, and under its incentive he would need to bestir himself beyond all previous records to do his share in supplying the demand.

The announcement made by the C.P.R. that grain shipping will continue all winter, should come as good news to all interested in the grain business. With a special steamship service between St. John, N.B., and England, and an all-rail freight rate within reach of grain shippers, it is expected that Ft. William elevators will be considerably lighter by the time navigation opens next year.

Guard within yourself that treasure, kindness. Know how to give without hesitation, how to lose without regret, how to acquire without meanness. Know how to replace in your heart, by the happiness of those you love, the happiness that may be wanting in yourself.—[F. W. Faber.

While keeping step with the most advanced agricultural thought of the age for the benefit of progressive students, it is at the same time the policy of the Farmer's Advocate not to "shoot over the heads" of the rank and file to furnish information that can be applied with success in everyday practice. Point this out to your neighbor who is not yet a reader, and induce him to subscribe.

Stock.

The Western Ranges.

[By E. B. Osborn, Special Correspondent of the Morning Post, London, Eng.]

As the westward-bound traveller on the iron trail of the Canadian Pacific Railway passes out of the great wheat field in the center of which is Regina, the aspect of the vast plain that seems slowly to revolve about him changes considerably. From the busy market town of Moose Jaw to the point where the locomotive charges the seemingly impregnable rampart of the Rockies,



CORONET -41730-.

Yearling Shorthorn bull. Sire Scottish Canadian (imp.); dam Imogene, in gold medal herd, 1898, and first in C. P. R. herd, 1900, Winnipeg Exhibition.

PROPERTY OF A. E. HOLE, MINNEDOSA, MANITOBA.

grain fields are small, and few and far between, but everywhere horses and cattle and sheep are abundant. In the region of the Chaplin Lakes, which begins a hundred miles or so from Regina, the high prairies are everywhere scored and scarred with buffalo trails and wallows. Over this ancient and many-wrinkled face of earth wander bands of antelope; here and there from a little hill the lean-visaged coyote contemplates the passing of the train. Thence up to Calgary, all the land is pasturage—pasturage which cannot be overstocked until the number of its cattle exceeds that of the vanished northern herd of buffalo.

But the old adventurous rancher's life—the lonesome life of an Ishmael—is passing away. The conditions of ranching have greatly changed during the past few years. The man with the plow is invading the ranges, and cattlemen with large herds are being crowded out of the game, or compelled to curtail their undertakings. Then, the encroachment of the sheepman must be taken into account. Sheep eat the natural pastures of Western Canada to the bone, and cattle would not, if they could, feed

population than parts where the water supply is unattainable, and the ranges adjoining such localities will first be overcrowded. In these places the ranches will be gradually modified into stock farms. In my opinion, a great part of the West will never be capable of irrigation, and in such parts the cultivation of crops within the above-mentioned boundaries must always be something of a lottery. I am not speaking of Northern Alberta, where climatic conditions are different, and where the plow-team already predominates over the saddle horse. Southern Alberta, with the Medicine Hat and Maple Creek districts, with their more moderate temperatures and lighter snowfalls, are the objective point of seventy-five per cent. of the would-be ranchers now moving into the country, and in certain of these localities the supply of natural hay is already unequal to the demand. East, west and south, the boundaries of the rancher's operations are plainly marked. Northward, with limitations and decreased herds, he may still extend his sphere of influence. Nearly all the cattlemen are now alive to the fact that at least some portion of their herds will require feeding in winter, and large quantities of hay are put up every summer. At present the supply comes from natural sloughs and benches; but as the benches will not bear cutting during successive years, in the case of a crowded locality great areas must be gone over, necessitating long hauls to the corrals, and adding to the expense of the work. Where irrigation is practiced a much larger bulk of feed may be procured from a much smaller acreage, which is generally close at hand.

It is clear from the foregoing that the Albertan ranch of the future will be a stock-farm. Whence it follows that the old methods of handling cattle will become obsolete, since the man with a small herd must send his steers to market in good condition. Already the Albertan rancher understands the market value of mercy to his beasts. There are ranches where the cowboy who asks for a stock-whip asks for his summary discharge. The use of the lariat is also being discouraged. . . . The Albertan rancher of the future will, I think, conduct his business in this wise: He will own an irrigation ditch, and a thousand head of cattle, more or less. He will grow feed on his irrigated lands, and ship stall-fed steers, which will come into the British market about midsummer, when prices reach the climax of the year's curve. He will not grumble at the exclusion from British pastures of Canadian cattle, for his steers—beasts with the white faces of the Hereford—will be a filled and finished product, so that what was formerly money in the pockets of Scottish graziers will be money in his own. His cattle will be mild-mannered—even gentler than the range cattle which I saw in the Winnipeg stockyards. . . . As for the cowboy—a little more of the romantic gilding will be rubbed off his life. "The beggar will have to hoe potatoes," says one who has studied the matter. In conclusion, it may be said that there is room for hundreds of these twentieth century ranchers in Western Assiniboia and Southern Alberta.

On my return from British Columbia I had the opportunity of visiting Macleod and Lethbridge. . . . Macleod is a typical ranching town, where a cowboy of the old style feels at home, and the side-saddle is not regarded as a deportment necessity for a pretty girl. But Lethbridge has a destiny of wider scope. Much of the territory adjoining is irrigated by means of the Galt Canal, the best and cheapest irrigation system on the continent; there is a well-equipped coal mine in the neighborhood, and the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway makes it the natural supply point for mining camps of British Columbia, which are forced at present to import agricultural



IN THE EDMONTON DISTRICT.

A bunch of C. & W. Black's Shorthorn grades, Babbit Hill, near Strathcona, Alta.

after them. They have been called "hoofed locusts," from the cattleman's point of view.

The ranching district of the Canadian Northwest may roughly be said to extend from the third meridian to the mountains, the greater part of it lying between the International boundary and the South Saskatchewan and Red Deer Rivers. The western and more favorable part of this stretch of country is already filling up, and cattlemen with large herds are beginning to find both their range and hay supply inconveniently curtailed. Those portions which are capable of irrigation are also capable of supporting a larger

produce from the State of Washington, despite the high duties levied on farm products entering Canada.

The success of the Galt Canal, whereby the waters of the St. Mary River are distributed over an area, hitherto unsuitable for the raising of cereals, of close on one thousand square miles, shows how profitable will be the establishment of a "Canadian Colorado" in this remote corner of the Northwest Territories. . . . While the artificial application of water to growing crops increases the original cost of farming, and adds to the farmer's labor, it enhances the quantity and