

products, use only honest methods in our packages, and exhibit our products in the best market in the world, so that we disarm all over-seas opponents of the Chamberlain doctrine!

WESTERNER.

Early and Modern Methods of Feeding.

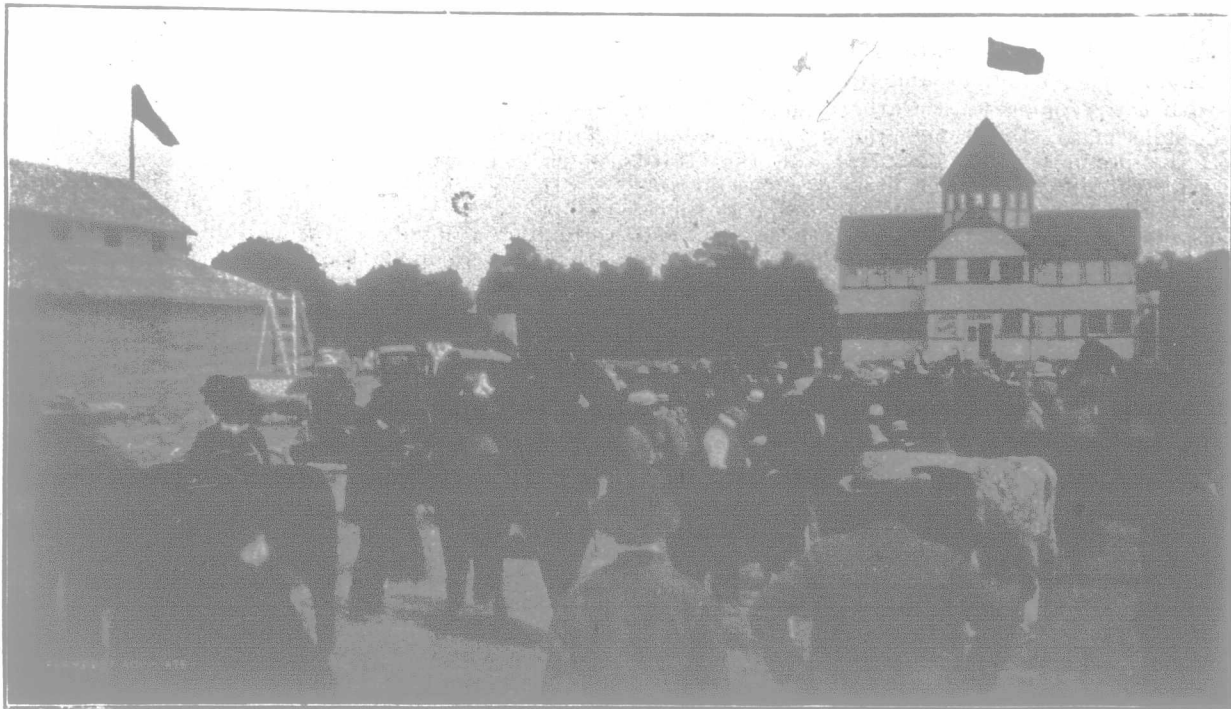
If after reading in current agricultural literature of the production of a champion one turns to an account of the work of improvement of beef breeds carried on by early improvers, he cannot fail to have his attention arrested. Bakewell had a farm of 440 acres, yet upon this acreage he kept sixty horses, one hundred and fifty cattle of all sorts and ages, sometimes as many as one hundred and seventy, and four hundred sheep, and his cattle were described by a writer of that time as "fat as bears," and also wrote: "If the degree of fatness in which he keeps these cattle be considered, and that he buys neither hay nor straw, it must appear that he keeps a larger stock on a given number of acres than most men in England." Another writer says: "His heifers in later years were made to do the draft work previously done by oxen. They lived on straw, and as soon as they were ready for breeding, were put into the team, bringing their first calves when they were well forward in their fourth year. All lean cattle in winter—from November till the end of March—had straw as their only food; young cattle required to be kept in a growing and thriving state, and cattle in process of fattening, straw and turnips, until the turnips were finished in spring, afterwards hay as the sole substitute for roots."

Surely if Bakewell's Longhorns kept "fat as bears" on such scanty food, there must be something wrong with our methods of feeding and breeding to-day. Now most of our beef cattle require hay, ensilage, roots, grain, etc., many of them seldom tasting straw, and in the production of a fat-show champion months of the very best of feeding and care are required. A comparison of the early and modern methods of feeding cattle gives one something to ruminate upon. Nor do we need to go back to Bakewell's time to find examples of highly economical use of fodder. On our ranches to-day it is the wonder of good feeders how cattle can subsist and grow fat in winter weather upon no other feed than the dry prairie grass.

The question now arises, why do the great majority of our cattle require better and more feed to maintain them in a condition of flesh no higher than that maintained in the herds of the early improvers, or of some of the stock upon the ranges? It would appear that we have neglected or destroyed a very valuable trait in our cattle by liberal feeding, unnatural treatment, injudicious selection, or a combination of all. In beginning the work of improvement, early breeders must have selected those animals that showed remarkable fleshing propensities upon very ordinary feed. Their foundation stock must have had the power to convert food of whatever quality or lack of quality into carcass, and to have possessed the power to subsist upon very small allowances, else it would never have been recorded of Bakewell that his stock were "fat as bears," or that he kept so large a stock upon his farm.

If we agree that one of the chief characteristics of the foundation stock of the beef breeds was their ability to make an economical use of feed, for Bates says, speaking of the Duchess family, "I selected this tribe of Shorthorns as superior to all other cattle, not only as small consumers of food, but as great growers and quick grazers," then we must assume that by high feeding and pampering, these characteristics have been largely suppressed. It would be no very difficult task to eliminate this trait from a herd by high feeding, for as soon as the best feeders became so high in flesh as to destroy their usefulness as breeders, the herd would lose the influence of some of its most useful members, and there is not the least doubt that many of the very best cattle have been sent to the shambles for their inability to breed, owing to obesity. Is it not possible that such a course carried on through generations has resulted in "hard feeding" in cattle? Have we not fed too liberally in order to produce show-yard winners, and so indirectly obliterated the power to make the most economical use of food, natural selection acting to retire the most useful, leaving only those that were capable of enduring high feeding without having fecundity impaired?

The question is certainly open to speculation, and is one of the most vexing problems before the breeders of beef cattle. The fact that some of the best breeders refuse to exhibit their cattle where a high condition is required in order to obtain honors, is a significant protest against modern methods that is carrying considerable weight. We cannot get away from the fact that excessive obesity is an unnatural condition, impairing fecundity and constitution, and no breed can survive the rigors of natural selection that is impaired in these two vital functions.



JUDGING AT PORTAGE FAIR.

A strong class of yearling Shorthorn heifers waiting for awards.

Bugaboo Bidding at Auctions.

By-bidding at auction sales, or "white-bonnetting," as it is called in Scotland, is a vicious practice which should be frowned down wherever it crops up, and the auctioneer who sets himself to stamp it out deserves all possible encouragement.

There are auctioneers in Scotland who have stopped their sales and ordered prominent men out of their marts. They had detected them bidding up their own stock, or having an agent to do so. No man with a spark of honor does a thing of this sort, or traffics with any one who would be likely to act as decoy in such a transaction.

At a Northumberland county court a case was recently decided which shows how the law stands in relation to sharp practices at auction sales. At a certain farm sale, among other lots put up was a horse, which the plaintiff bid for and eventually bought. He, however, having ascertained that the price was run up by someone acting as agent for the seller, brought his action, and, the running up being admitted, the county court judge gave judgment for the amount claimed, holding that the defendant's action amounted to a secret reserve and caused the sale to become fraudulent. In some conditions of sale it is stated that the vendor reserves the right to bid one or more times, either by himself or his agent, in which case the vendor is within his rights; but if nothing be said, no "puffer" can be employed. It is obvious that if people be employed to run up the prices of different lots, it is not an unreserved sale, and is of necessity fraudulent. The difficulty, of course, in most cases, is to discover culprits of this kind, but the law is definite enough upon the subject.

Quarantine Shortened.

An Ottawa despatch says: "An order-in-council has been passed reducing the period of quarantine on cattle imported into Canada from Great Britain and the Channel Islands from ninety to sixty days, counting from the date of shipment. This modification has been made because of the fact that pleuro-pneumonia no

longer exists in the British Isles." Cattle at present undergoing quarantine come under the provisions of this order.

Farm.

Carberry Fair.

The seventh annual summer fair of the Norfolk Agricultural Society No. 1 was held on Wednesday, August 5th. As an agricultural exhibition the fair was a decided success. The district is one of the most prolific in fine horses and pure-bred cattle in Manitoba, as the reports of our Provincial fairs will bear out, Messrs. Graham and Barron's herds of Shorthorns taking a large share of the prizes, both at Winnipeg and Brandon. Both herds were in full force at Carberry, and showed not the least deterioration or fatigue after their competitive campaign through the Province. New blood was introduced by Mr. O. J. Mackinnon, and although his exhibit was not a very extensive one, it was in that respect a creditable number to make a start with, and the quality was highly gratifying. Mr. Mackinnon found himself in about as tight a place as a new beginner could well be in when he drew swords for his first battle against such veterans of many fights as Mr. John Graham and Mr. J. G. Barron. Yet his one-year-old bull carried away the red ticket in his class. He is somewhat lanky, but otherwise of pretty good conformation, and gives promise of great growth. Mr. Mackinnon also showed a bull calf, and a very nice pure-bred Shorthorn cow. He also showed a very fine cow in the grade class.

The other classes represented were one Gallo-way bull, shown by Mr. John Harkness, which won the first prize and diploma; and a few animals in beef and dairy grades, where fairly good types were shown in both classes.

The Carberry district is no less celebrated for



A HARD RING.

Judging Shorthorn herds at Brandon Fair.