

1. Value the animals as they stood by age and weight twelve months previous to exhibition.
2. Value the foods eaten for twelve months.
3. Allow twelve months' interest on value of three-year-olds, as they stood when two years old.
4. Value them at date of exhibition according to weight and quality.
5. To prove age.

This would be simple enough, and I give fair warning that I would show animals that will make the beam kick at 1,600 pounds, not pampered, nor in any way prepared for the occasion, but getting plenty of corn meal, or pea meal, or crushed oats, as the case may be, with turnips, hay, straw and bran—no condiments, nor linseed meal, nor oil cake, but straight, liberal feeding, as an ordinary and profitable investment for the export trade.

In order to draw the public on this subject, I shall be glad to give \$25, if the Provincial Association or the Toronto Industrial give \$25 also, so as to make a \$50 prize."

For stall-feeding the Professor would select, first, the Shorthorn and its grades; next, the Aberdeen Poll and its grades; third, the Herefords; assigning the Galloway a fourth place, "except for permanency of character, and quality of flesh, in which respects he bows to none."

The Professor is of opinion that most of our stall cattle managers are extravagant in their feeding, for the one prominent reason that they look upon straw as only fit for bedding, or at the most, that only a small quantity should be allowed with hay. He says:—

"I am not prepared to show that singly, or as a mixture, wheat, oat and barley straw is equal in feeding properties to hay of timothy and clover; but I do assert, without fear of disproof, that when properly managed by being changed in form when associated with other things, our common straws are just doubled in value for cattle food, and therefore anyone is not only extravagant, but wasteful and very improvident, who treats straw largely only as bedding. When we think of the fact that we must continue extensive grain growers, and must produce, on an average, as much straw per acre as hay, it is plain that even though only one-third equal to hay as a feeder, the mismanagement of straw stands as a serious national loss."

That there is great waste of straw perpetrated from ignorance of its feeding value is most true, and it is questionable if even the Professor has not underrated it in the foregoing remarks. It is certainly "more than one-third equal to hay as a feeder." The statement has been made that 2,500 lbs. of good oat straw is equivalent in feeding value to 2,000 lbs. of ordinary hay. Perhaps, however, the straw was not very cleanly threshed. If the Professor could devise some substitute for straw as bedding, of no feeding value, but yet fitted to make manure, he would confer a great benefit on that class of farmers who are, or think they are, obliged to use up the most of their straw for bedding. Dry muck has been suggested, but it makes a dirty stable; sawdust has been tried, but unless it be made from hardwood, its manurial value is almost nil, while for light soils it has too loosening an effect; and Mechi's "sparred floors" lack the humane element, not to speak of other objections.

The Professor's remarks on the grazing of cattle are eminently wise and practical. While not considering Ontario a grazing country, in the sense of having large natural or artificial runs for cattle and sheep, where a feast of fat things can be relied on from May to October, he still contends that we are quite able to provide good pasturage, were we only convinced of the importance and practicability of so doing. Too many are contented with turning out the yearling to the bush, the aftermath, and the timothy field,—he might have added, the grain stubble. These sources of supply are too precarious to keep the young animal constantly improving, so as only to need "topping-off" for the butcher. He makes the startling assertion, that were every farm in Ontario possessed of a properly managed five-acre permanent pasture plot, the gain to the whole country would be \$5,000,000, annually. Yes, we pay too little attention to the cultivation of grass for permanent pasture.

The latter part of this address deals with the great North-West as a cattle-ranching region, and

is highly interesting. It is estimated that three young men having \$5,000 each might enter into partnership to carry on this business, with a reasonable prospect of clearing about \$9,000 in two and a half years. This is a tempting prospect certainly. The details in regard to realizing it are minutely given, and involve cost of land, stock, building, and equipments generally. Of course, the partners must be working stockmen. They must choose their location wisely. Certain facilities must be afforded by the Government land system. The stock must be suited to the location. The Professor recommends for cows, natives or grades, having such qualities of roominess, form, and disposition as are likely to produce desirable beefing progeny, when crossed with a thoroughbred bull. For bulls, he advises, firstly, Herefords, and secondly, Aberdeen Polls. While the Shorthorn is unrivalled for an old and well-settled country, he thinks the breeds named better suited to the North-West.

Trios of young men can be easily found to go into this promising business, but the difficulty is that but few can muster \$5,000 apiece. With such a capital, industrious young fellows can do well in Ontario. The great inducement to taking Horace Greeley's advice, "Go West, young man," is that a start can be made there with such an amount of capital as would be wholly insufficient in Ontario. Whether with \$5,000 in hand it would be better, all things considered, to settle on a farm in Ontario, or take one-third interest in a Manitoban cattle-ranch, is a question concerning which much may be said on both sides.

#### GAMBLING AT THE FAIRS.

The *New York Tribune* has done good service to the cause of public morality by publishing an article on the above subject, at the suggestion of a lady correspondent. We gladly insert it, and hope it will be carefully read by all into whose hands this number of THE RURAL CANADIAN may come:

"I noticed some time ago that you invited people to write to you, saying that communications received by you often contained food for thought and sometimes furnished a theme for remarks. Perhaps what I have to say may serve as a text. Shall we have the sermon?"

"Every year, as the agricultural fairs come round, I am impressed to write to some paper and free my mind, but lose my courage before I begin; but at last have hit upon the plan of writing to you, and trust that you will write something for the 'Home Interests' department upon Gambling at the Fairs. The papers call upon farmers to go to the fairs and take with them their wives and children, and any articles of merit which they may have for exhibition also. The trustees are so anxious to raise money with which to pay premiums (mostly for horse-racing) that they allow men upon their grounds with games of chance who urge boys to step up and try their luck. The boy pays a few cents for a chance, and if he wins he is given a cigar. Thus boys at the fairs are not only given their first lessons in gambling, but taught to smoke also; for what would a boy be likely to do with a cigar when one is given him but do as others around him do, smoke it? Is not this a fitting subject for HOME INTERESTS? Shall we not see it brought face to face with the people through *The Tribune*?"

This letter comes from a lady in Maine, but it might with as much reason come from any other State in the Union, for the evil it deprecates is common, we might say universal. Gambling in some one of its forms is as common almost as tobacco-smoking, and in every way as pernicious in its effects on the intellectual and moral nature of the gambler as smoking is in its effects upon the smoker, or liquor upon the drinker. There are some men on whom tobacco and liquor make but little impression; they are moderate users of these enemies to mankind. There are others who cannot stop when once they begin till their nervous systems are ruined by one or both these insidious but mighty foes. So there are men who can dabble in speculation and stay on the outer edge of the maelstrom that draws so many gallant craft to ruin. Men of lethargic temperament, of indurated nerves, may venture and make, may withdraw at a favourable time and save themselves; but the overwhelming majority sooner or later meet their fate, and are swallowed up in some unexpected financial gulf. The alcohol drunkard would be in no danger if it were not for his appetite; so of the opium eater, the tobacco drunkard, and so of the gambler. The excitement, the hope, the exultation over gain, the anxiety to make up losses—these become a necessary part of his existence. The capacity for steady remunerative labour is entirely destroyed by the passion for gambling. Said a young man to a friend of ours: "Ten years ago I was a salesman in one of our large dry goods stores at a salary of \$1,600 a year. Having several hundred dollars laid by I ventured a

portion in Wall street and doubled it; then I ventured again, and in a short time I had doubled my entire capital. Of course I couldn't go on drudging at \$1,600 a year when by a lucky turn I might make that in a day. I gave up my clerkship and went into the street. I have had various success. True, I am all cleaned out now, but I may have better luck next time." Another of whom we have knowledge after successful ventures in Wall street gave up a valuation and legitimate business and became a broker. Prosperity followed him for awhile, and then, as it invariably does, turned against him. He was utterly "cleaned out," and now will take small sums that should go for bread for his family and invest them in policies, raffles, chances, lottery tickets, so inveterate has the appetite for gambling become to him. Though able-bodied he cannot work, because he will not, the capacity for honest labour has been killed by the passion for gambling. He is but one of thousands who have been ruined in the same way. The first steps in this downward path are frequently taken at country fairs, at church festivals, where cake or something else is "raffled" for. The principle running through these "innocent" speculations is the same throughout the whole range of them, whether a cake or a fortune be the object. It is getting something for nothing—it is risking a little for a great deal. It is a notable fact that great fortunes made in Wall street rarely stay by their makers. The great fortunes in this country were made by legitimate industries and combinations, and though the owners of some of these fortunes may have increased them by successful speculation, the risks they have taken have been such as would not bankrupt them had they lost. This is not said in apology, but only to state a fact.

If country women who attend country fairs and patronize them will set their faces steadfastly against gambling in all its forms at the fairs, their voices will be heard, and they will to a greater or less extent suppress the evil. If those who would not be seen in the stock market will see to it that their money is not put in there, they will aid in checking gambling. If parents will teach their children that a fair equivalent for services rendered or money invested is all that in equity they should desire, this will help to keep them in a healthy state of mind financially, and make them content with the safe results of honest industry. "Money that comes easy goes easy." Large estates built up by honest and gradual accretion remain in the same family generation after generation, while those quickly accumulated are generally as quickly cast to the winds and banished from sight.

#### PINK EYE.

The first symptom of this disease is a running of the eyes or a swelling about the nose. Then the legs swell, a high fever sets in, the horses become very depressed and refuse food. As soon as the fever is broken the equine patients recover rapidly. With proper care and treatment the disease is readily controlled. Dr. E. S. Brown, Veterinary Surgeon of the Chicago fire department, has had a large number of cases in charge and has not lost a single animal. He uses aconite, belladonna and arsenicum, and sweats the horses about the head and throat to draw out the inflammation. He encourages them to eat, giving them bran, oats, or, if they do not tempt the appetite, ears of corn. He also administers cold water freely and frequently. He does not advise giving them warm food of any kind. The disease lasts from three to ten days.

Mr. J. R. GRANT, of Brussels, brought with him from Manitoba a very large pair of Rocky Mountain elk's horns. They measure 48 inches from tip to base, and with the twelve branches to the antlers aggregate 28½ feet.

STRANGE BUT TRUE.—An exchange says: A bachelor friend has a rooster of the Brahina variety that has taken charge of a brood of twelve chickens, about three weeks old. Having doubts upon the matter, your correspondent investigated the case, and one evening went over and saw the male bird with the brood nestling under his wings. Upon our making an attempt to take up one of the fledglings, the rooster made a dash for us with all the fury of a sitting hen.

Dr. Fox, of Hornby, bought land in Manitoba last year for \$1,800, and has been offered \$9,000 for it. Mr. James Barber, of Milton, bought four lots in Winnipeg about a month ago, paying \$750 each for them. Last week he received a letter saying that the four could be sold for \$1,000 each. Mr. John Leslie, formerly of Milton, bought a lot in Winnipeg on Oct. 20th for \$1,000 and sold it inside of a week for \$1,200. We hear, says the *Milton Champion*, that other speculators who bought land in Manitoba from Toronto agents have not been so fortunate.