

HINTS FOR THE FARMER.

PROFITABLE BEEF CATTLE.

Practical and experienced feeders who breed or purchase steers for fattening observe striking differences in the aptitude of animals of varying types and make-up to lay on flesh readily and in such form and quality as to command the highest price on the market. It requires a well-trained eye to detect in all cases the possible variations of results in the store, or stock, steer; but there are some distinctions that are easily detected. There are certain types of cattle, for instance, that never feed profitably under any conditions, and it is quite as important to discriminate against these in the feed lot as to be able to recognize the excellence in other types.

The characteristics that make the profitable feeder are naturally more difficult to detect in animals in stock condition than when fattened; but, notwithstanding this, there are a number of indications that are fairly reliable. Though the young steer may be comparatively thin in flesh and temporarily lacking the thick, even covering of the back and ribs so essential in the finished carcass, he must, nevertheless, present that blocky frame and stoutness of build, accompanied by short, straight legs, wide back and loin, well-sprung ribs, fullness back of shoulders and in flanks, prominent brisket, full neck vein, wide chest and well-rounded barrel, together with a good, soft, mellow handling skin and fine, silky hair, giving what is termed the thick, mossy coat; without coarseness, and with it all a good, strong, vigorous head, clear, full eye, and quiet temperament. The importance of an overcovering of flesh and good handling quality can hardly be overestimated. The bone should be moderately fine and clean. Coarseness, either in the bone or about the head and horns, is particularly objectionable, as it indicates coarseness of texture throughout and a greater percentage of offal and cheap meat, as well as a tendency to sluggish circulation. The head should present a certain refinement, finish and vigor that in a measure indicate a general quality and superior excellence of finished product, though this refinement must be accompanied by delicacy.

THE FARM GARDEN.

The garden should never contain less than half an acre, and better be two acres. A garden of this size can easily be worked with a horse, saving much hand labor, which is required in smaller plots. If more is grown than required for home use it can usually be disposed of at some nearby market, or to some neighbor who will not have a garden. Or the area can be devoted to potatoes, or roots for stock can be increased. Being near the house, it is of easy access, and the farmer can spend many half hours working his garden, when he would not think of going to the field for that length of time.

The garden should contain all the small fruits, such as berries, currants, etc. Plant these in single rows, and far enough apart so that they can be easily cultivated. The space between can be devoted to some vegetable, which will compel working around the shrub. If the market gardener, upon lands ranging in price from \$300 to \$1,000 per acre, can upon a half dozen acres sell more dollars' worth of produce than are sold off many large farms, why may not the farmer grow in his own garden articles for food that will take the place of much of the more expensive commodities bought in town? The garden cannot be had without labor, but with less, considering the amount produced, than is required for general farm crops. Two and sometimes three crops can be grown upon the same ground in one season. With the addition of a few hotbed sashes the garden can be made to produce fresh vegetables for the table all the year round.

EXTRA LARGE VEGETABLES.

It is a worthy ambition that leads one to seek to raise the biggest and fairest specimens of vegetables possible. The county fair may be the objective point for these specimens, or it may be that the grower simply desires to raise the finest squashes, tomatoes, cucumbers, etc., for his own gratification. In any case he deserves to be assisted by the experience of those who have been able to raise splendid specimens of garden truck. Excavate a round hole 2 1/2 ft. deep and 5 ft. across. Select good loam and mix thoroughly with half its bulk of well-rotted stable manure. Fill in the excavation and round up the surface. Set the plant in the center and cover the surface with coarse manure, covered with a mulch of straw. Allow only a small amount of fruit to set, and keep the plant, or plants, well supplied with water during the entire growing season. Under such conditions some first premium vegetables can be quite confidently reckoned upon. It will be a practical object lesson also of the value of deep culture, a rich soil, mulching the surface about

growing plants and of limiting the production of each plant.

VALUE OF WOOD ASHES.

It would probably be hard to find a commercial fertilizer of much greater worth for dry upland soil than pure and simple unleached hardwood ashes. A bushel of this home fertilizer is worth more than a bushel of oats to any farmer, and yet how often do we see it dumped as a heap of worthless refuse to leach in the rains and part with its hidden value until it becomes worthless.

Our lands as a general thing have become deficient in potash. This is one of the main sources of fertility that have become exhausted. It is good for corn, it is good for wheat, it is good for potatoes, and clover can not thrive without it. Try a little experiment next spring. You who burn wood this winter, store your ashes where they will keep dry, and sow them on your young clover as you would plaster. You will be agreeably astonished at the result. You will find many dollars added to your product. Nor is the effect gone with the first crop, as is often the case with commercial fertilizers. It lasts for years, and its benefits are often extended to many succeeding crops.

THE HOME ORCHARD.

The home orchard and fruit garden should contain a sufficient number of plants, vines and trees to grow an abundance of fruit for family use. Beginning with strawberries, it should also contain raspberries, currants, gooseberries, grapes, cherries, quince, pears, plums and apples, and a number of varieties of each, ripening in regular succession, so as to keep up a constant supply of good fruit the whole year. It would be a matter of causing health and pleasure if carried into practice.

RETURNED THE MONEY.

A Millionaire Atone for a Crime of Many Years Ago.

A master mason in Bentschen, Germany, named Jacobs, was delighted to receive a remittance recently from a man in New York. The sender was unknown to him, but the remittance amounted to 60,078 marks, equal to \$15,000. The sender, Jacobs believes, must have signed an assumed name. He says the only explanation he can give for the strange transaction is that the money came from a former partner, who absconded 30 years ago.

He says that in 1869 his partner in business disappeared suddenly, taking with him 12,000 marks which belonged to Jacobs. Every effort was made to find him or get a trace of his whereabouts, but all was unsuccessful, and after awhile he resigned himself to his loss. About a year ago, he says, while on a business trip in North Germany, he was thrown in contact with a party of American tourists travelling in the same direction. He talked with them and they told him of many successful Germans who had settled in the United States.

He remembered his absconding partner and wondered if he had migrated to America. He told his newly made companions the story of his trouble and mentioned his former partner's name. The Americans said they knew a millionaire of that name in Chicago. Mr. Jacobs thinks it possible that the Americans told the Chicago millionaire of the interview when they returned and that the remittance was the result. The money sent represents the amount of the original loss, plus compound interest. The name of the Chicago millionaire was not divulged by Jacobs.

"IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN."

It is sometimes possible for a lawyer to prove that his opponent is the wiser man. A police justice was disposing of cases at the rate of about two a minute, with great exactness and dignity, being judge, jury and attorney all in one.

Then you are sure you recognize this handkerchief as the one stolen from you? he said to a complainant.

Yes, your honor, was the reply.

How do you know it is yours? demanded the justice.

You can see that it is of a peculiar make, your honor, replied the witness. That is the way I know it.

Are you aware, sir, shouted the justice, drawing a similar one from his pocket, that there are others like it?

Indeed I am, replied the questioned one, still more placidly. I had two stolen.

OH, GO AHEAD.

Mrs. Meddler—Not another word! It is an outrageous scandal and not fit to be repeated; not another word of it will I listen to.

Mr. Meddler—But I haven't finished yet.

Mrs. Meddler—Oh! Go ahead!

PAT "CHATES" THE RAILWAY.

Well, said Pat, chuckling, I've just chatted this old railway company nicely.

How so?

Why, I've taken a return ticket, and I've no intention of going back at all, at all.

DISCOVERED.

When did they discover that the burglar was a woman?

When she looked in the glass to see if her mask was on straight.

THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL.

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

Counterfeit ten-cent pieces are in circulation in Hamilton.

The annual Horse Show will be held in Toronto on April 12 to 15.

The first railway train has crossed the summit of the White Pass.

Nova Scotia expended \$549,330 last year, and the revenue was \$855,960.

Lord Strathcona has given \$1,000 to the St. Jean Baptiste Society, of Montreal.

Parliament has been summoned to meet on Thursday, March 16, for the despatch of business.

As a result of recent accidents the Winnipeg Street Railway will attach fenders to their electric cars.

A large emigration is promised this season from the Parry Sound district to the North-West.

Toronto is planning a four-days' festival to celebrate the opening of the new municipal buildings.

The Provincial Government has put aside \$15,000 to help advertise British Columbia at the Paris Exposition.

The C.P.R. car shops at Perth, Ont., are turning out this winter 300 box cars, 60 coal cars, and 50 flat cars.

The Ottawa license commissioners have decided to reduce the hotel licenses from 77 to 70, and the number of shops from 33 to 30.

A by-law will be submitted to the ratepayers of Winnipeg in April to provide for the city owning and operating its own electric light plant.

American physicians having been refused permission to take out licenses to practice in the Atlin district, they have sent a deputation to protest to the British Columbia Government.

Mrs. Mary Annie Cameron, wife of Rev. A. A. Cameron, has issued a writ against the Ottawa Electric Railway Company, for \$6,000 damages for injuries sustained in an accident during exhibition week.

The C.P.R. line in the west is to be greatly improved this year. Wood bridges will be replaced with steel ones, and a double track between Winnipeg and Fort William is among the possibilities.

A report comes from the Peace River valley of an attempt of a party of Yukon travellers, whose supplies had run short, to kill one of their number named J. A. McNabb for the purpose of eating his body. The young man effected his escape.

Mr. Alex. Sinclair, of the Elders Dempster Co., who is now in Montreal, says that the company will institute a weekly passenger service between Montreal and Liverpool, with the finest steamers ever seen there. The line will be distinctly a Canadian one.

The Nova Scotia Legislature is to be asked to incorporate the company, headed by H. M. Whitney, of Boston, which proposes to buy from the Nova Scotia Steel Company the principal part of its iron deposits at the Straits of Belle Isle and establish blast furnaces in the island of Cape Breton. The capital of the company is to be \$10,000,000.

The first military camp at Niagara will begin on June 6, when all the regular infantry corps will go out for two weeks' instruction, together with four squadrons of cavalry, viz: The Governor-General's Body Guard, Toronto; A Squadron, Royal Regiment, Canadian Dragoons, Toronto; Second Dragoons, St. Catharines; First Hussars, London.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The estate of the late Ferdinand James de Rothschild is found to be valued at £1,488,182.

The announcement is made that Bristol Channel will be defended with guns of the latest type.

Sir Robert Romera will succeed the late Sir Joseph William Chitty as Lord Justice of the English Court of Appeal.

In the British House of Commons Tuesday Mr. Wyncham announced that recruiting for the regular army in Canada was under consideration.

J. Pierpont Morgan, the New York banker, will contribute \$25,000 to the cost of establishing an electric light plant in St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

The decoration of the Imperial Order of the Crown of India has been conferred upon Lady Curzon, wife of Lord Curzon, of Kedleston, the Viceroy of India.

London and German papers are advertising for Prince Ludwig Freudenberg, missing since he attended the Duke of Portland's party at Welbeck Abbey.

The Lord Mayor of London has instructed his private secretary, W. J. Soulsby, to take steps to prevent the swarming of uninvited guests at the Mansion House reception.

A bill has been introduced in the New York Legislature to prohibit discrimination in freight rates by common carriers. It imposes a minimum penalty of \$500 for each offense.

Cotton operatives in South Lancashire have agreed to give a month's notice of their intention to go on strike unless an advance in wages is allowed them. Over 80,000 persons are affected.

The London municipalities bill, introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. Balfour, divides the metropolis of Lon-

don into fifteen municipalities, each electing a Mayor, Councillors and Aldermen, with full local power.

The increase of the importation of Canadian butter into Great Britain continues. For the period between September 24 last and Jan. 14, 1899, the amount imported into England was 118,849 cwt., as against 84,725 cwt. for the same period in the previous year.

Sir Arthur Arnold presided at a meeting in London in aid of the peace movement. He said it was desired to hold an annual peace day celebration on Feb. 22, because that day was the anniversary of the birth of Washington, who was not only a great soldier, but a friend of peace.

UNITED STATES.

Prof. R. W. Wood, of the University of Wisconsin, has discovered a method of thawing out frozen pipes by the use of electricity.

A separate bill appropriating \$20,000, for payment to Spain under the provision of the treaty of Paris was passed by the House at Washington.

Philip D. Armour has given \$750,000 more to the endowment fund of the Armour Institute, Chicago, making his total gift to the Institute \$2,250,000.

Charles Lyle Beebe, 6 years old, passed through Chicago, travelling alone from Manchester, Eng., to relatives at Mason City, Iowa. A big tag and a ticket passed him on.

A new leather combine, capitalized at \$60,000,000, is being organized to take over the tanneries outside of the United States Leather Company. The name of the new organization will be the American Hide and Leather Company.

Mayor Quincy proposes that Boston shall build a municipal crematory, in which to incinerate the bodies of paupers, criminals and others whose burial devolves upon the city. The idea is to do away altogether with the Potter's Field.

Articles of incorporation have been filed at Trenton, N. J., of the American Car and Foundry Company, with an authorized capital of \$60,000,000. The company is authorized to manufacture freight, passenger and street cars, also car trucks and car equipments.

E. D. Morgan Rowland, of New York, who suffered the loss of a \$500 bill which he handed to a waiter in the Grand Pacific Hotel, Chicago, to pay for a meal—the waiter decamping with the money, was awarded a verdict against the proprietors of the hotel for the amount lost.

Jennie Abrahams, who has two little girls, one 6 years old and the other an infant, sought relief at a Philadelphia police station, and said she was starving. Her hair was cut off. On enquiry it was found that she had clipped off her long tresses and sold them for \$1 to buy food. She has a husband out of work.

GENERAL.

Germany is taking up an attitude strongly adverse to the American claims in Samoa.

Count Sollogub, a Siberian convict, has inherited the fortune of his brother, 5,000 acres and \$1,470,000.

A committee of the German Parliament has rejected the Government's proposal to increase the salary.

The Paris police have seized 10,000 medals bearing the head of the Duke of Orleans, and five moulds for striking them.

The Congo Free State is enlisting a Belgian legion for police purposes. The native insurrection can only be suppressed by a white army.

Rev. J. R. Thompson, a Canadian clergyman, chaplain of the 1st Washington Volunteers, has died at Manila. He was a graduate of Queen's.

The debts of the Princess Louise of Cobourg, who eloped from her husband, Prince Philip, in 1897, with Lieut. Koglevitch, and is now in an asylum, amount to \$1,000,000. Much of this was incurred by the Lieutenant.

An Imperial manifesto has been issued at St. Petersburg, depriving the Finnish Parliament and the Senate of the exclusive right hitherto enjoyed of discussing the measures designed to bring Finland into closer conformity with the rest of the empire.

CURIOUS BURIAL CUSTOM.

The Servians have a curious custom of giving a parting kiss to their departed friends before final burial, and the observance of it has caused a serious epidemic of diphtheria. The police issued stringent orders against the custom, prohibiting it for the present, however, only in the case of those persons who have died from that malady.

NONE.

Timmins—I had a notion to write a paragraph to the effect that this sort of weather justified a man in getting drunk, but I was afraid the weather would change before I could get it published.

Lushforth—And how could that make any difference?

THEIR ATTACHMENT.

Cums—What a sweet wife young Fosdick has. Where did he meet her?

Cawker—Their chain of matrimony was forged on the golf links.

A CONFIDENCE MAN.

Why do you call Jimpson a confidence man?

Because he's always taking people aside and telling them his private affairs under pledge of secrecy.

The telegraph lines in Chili are owned by the government. A message of ten words can be sent to any part of the country for about eight cents.

A Berliner has asked the permission of the local authorities to establish a public cemetery for pet animals. He believes it would meet a long-felt want.

PURELY CANADIAN NEWS.

INTERESTING ITEMS ABOUT OUR OWN COUNTRY.

Gathered from Various Points from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Niagara, B. C., wants a post-office. Kamloops is to have a mining school. Midway, B. C., will have a new hotel. There are 3,777 voters in Victoria, B. C.

Nelson, B. C., is to have a dramatic club. Carriage horses are scarce in eastern Ontario.

In 1898, 434 arrests were made in Rossland. Digby, N. S., will build a new House of Refuge.

Dynamite is to be manufactured near Nelson, B. C. The miners employed in Rossland, B. C., number 1,333.

A Nelson firm sold 3,000 pounds of coffee in one day. A Board of Trade may be formed at Manitowaning.

Sandon, B. C., spent \$20,000 on new buildings last year. Revelstok, B. C., wants to be incorporated as a town.

The Miner thinks Rossland should have a new theatre. An effort will be made to incorporate Woodstock as a city.

Moncton, N. B., has a surplus of \$3,100 in Scott Act funds. The sale of stamps at Rossland last year reached almost \$15,000.

The Noxon Works at Ingersoll are employing 210 men at present. Creston, a new town on Kootenay Lake, B. C., has fourteen hotels.

The value of the buildings erected in Moosejaw in 1898 was \$133,000. Rossland's Presbyterians raised \$6,025 last year. The membership is 89.

In Belleville Police Court last year 489 persons had charges to answer. Mrs. Susan Smith died at Shelbourne, N. S., at the age of 100 years.

A Victoria, B. C., Chinaman sold liquor to an Indian, and was fined \$100. A company is being organized to establish a felt factory at Regina, N. W. T.

Four ratepayers of Yarmouth, N. S., pay one-eighth of the taxes of that town. Some Woodstock councillors think that town should have better fire protection.

A three months' course of lectures will be given at Rossland's school of mining. Four carloads of eels have been shipped from Richibucto, N. B., to the United States.

Ex-Warden Lavell of Kingston penitentiary, draws a superannuation allowance of \$1,140. Every member of Vancouver's city council, with one exception, came originally from Ontario.

John McBain, Manitoba, had his leg injured in a football match, and had to have it amputated. John Simpson, of Regina, sold liquor to Indians, and was sentenced to six months in jail and fined \$100.

A new post office opened in the Lake Temiscamingue district will be known as Lorrainville, after Bishop Lorrain, Pembroke.

Willie McCormack, aged six years, of Little Red Deer, N. W. T., was shot in the neck, accidentally, by his brother, and killed.

The Chief of Police of Meaford is also water-works engineer, public works overseer, trustee officer, sanitary inspector and caretaker of the town hall.

Joseph Turner, of Dorchester, N. B., fell from the top of a tree and was impaled on a branch, which penetrated his body six inches. He died from the injuries.

BRIEFLY MENTIONED.

Chinese streets are not often more than eight feet wide.

In parts of Cuba two crops of tobacco are raised every year.

The chance of two finger-prints being alike is not one in sixty-four billions.

It has been estimated that steamers are 20 per cent. safer than sailing vessels.

A polite Chinaman considers it a breach of etiquette to wear spectacles in company.

Puerto Rico has a population of about 800,000. Two-thirds of its inhabitants are white.

It is a popular belief that a holly bush planted near a dwelling protects the house from lightning.

In Mr. Rhodes' Cape-to-Cairo railway project the distance is 3,229 miles and he needs \$50,000,000.

There are three possible verdicts in a criminal case in a Scots court; guilty, not proven, not guilty.

Until the reign of Henry VIII. English sovereigns, as well as their subjects, ate with their fingers.

The output of English shipyards in 1893, including warships, was 802 vessels, aggregating 1,559,125 tons. This surpasses all former records.

Nine-tenths of the finest tea raised in China is sold and consumed in Russia. Most of the next best grade finds a market in Great Britain.