

of commercial relations is indicated. It is, of course, inevitable that enthusiasm should in some instances have outrun discretion, and openings for Canadian trade have been talked of where no chance of competing with the present supplies could possibly arise. But such ill-advised utterances have happily been brought to the test, and fully discounted by the crucial examination and inquiry that have been made in all hands by British and European, as well as by Canadian authorities. It is, indeed, not too much to say that there can now exist little doubt as to the direction in which Canadian manufacturers, agriculturists, and men of business, may expect to find profitable employment for their energy and capital in the supply of other than home demands. Thus, we now know, with more or less exactness, on what lines Canadians can hope to reach the consumers of the United Kingdom and of Europe. Generally speaking, Canadian agricultural products may find in Europe markets to an almost unlimited extent. All the hard wheat that the Northwest can raise beyond the needs of home consumption, and all the dairy products and live stock that the various Provinces can export, will find a ready market here; while the fruits of Eastern Canada generally, and the fish products of the Maritime Provinces, are daily seeking new outlets with encouraging prospects. The woods of New Brunswick, of Ontario, and of British Columbia, already find their way to Europe in immense quantities, and yet the investigations carried on in connection with the exhibition have clearly show the possibilities of greater developments than have even been dreamt of in the past. The coals of Nova Scotia and of the Northwest are needed at home, but the various ores found in nearly every Province may meet in Europe with a profitable demand. Canadian manufactures, again, afford, in many respects, a prospect of extended commercial relations with Britain, and with British Colonies. Australasia is almost an untouched field for Canadian exports, and the little inquiry that has as yet been made shows it to be one of great possibilities to Canada as well as to Australasia itself. Indeed, if the events of this year have done nothing else, they have proved beyond a doubt that little more than a beginning has been made in the development of Canada's national wealth. Canadians need but have continued faith in their ability to work out their own destiny, and their highest anticipations will hardly be disappointed.

But the exhibition has happily done more than demonstrate the commercial possibilities before the Dominion; it has also shown the advance in the higher pursuits with which Canadians have been busy during the last few years. Never before have Europeans realised that Canada has anything to teach the Old World in education and in fine arts. The idea of backwoods with only here and there a civilised spot, and the thought of interminable winters, have had too firm a hold upon the mind to admit of that. But to-day no one will question the high rank which Canada can justly claim among the progressive countries of the world in regard to her educational systems, and the artistic and literary products of some of her leading citizens. In the face of such unanswerable proofs as the Canadian section has afforded these prejudices have lost their semblance of reality, and such a result, though not perhaps so directly productive an commercial extension, is as fully important in its bearing upon Canada's future welfare.

In speaking of fat and lean steers, "Bell's Messenger" says: "Though each may weigh enormously for its age and race, the amount of eatable substance of the dressed carcass does not much exceed that obtained from the carcass of an animal in fairly good condition for slaughter at half the weight." This principle is what we have been advocating all through the "baby-beef" boom, and our stock manipulators must realize the fact sooner or later.

SECOND PRIZE ESSAY.

How can Greater Economy be Exercised in the Use of Fences?

BY EDWIN E. OLDING, WOODBURN, N. S.

Farming is not haphazard work any longer. It has resolved itself into a systematic business which needs good brain work, and it refuses to be a successful business unless conducted upon a broad and at the same time an economical basis.

Economy is wealth. The person who can get along with the least fencing has more time at his disposal than one who has much fencing to look after. In the matter of economy in the use of fences, let us see when they are absolutely necessary. In laying off a farm, it is well to have the dwelling and barns as near the centre as possible—then we require a large barnyard, well fenced, a lane to the pastures, fences between the pastures and the cultivated land. These, with road and line fences, are what is necessary. In this Province of Nova Scotia, fences are necessary all along the highway, as herds of cattle, sheep and horses are allowed to wander along the roads finding pasturage as they may. If all farmers were required to fence their cattle in pastures, it would save miles of fencing along the highway, and the same may be said of railroad fences. It would be far better for the railroad company to give farmers a bonus to keep their cattle off the line than to fence the whole road. It could be managed in many cases without any more fencing, and the railroad would be less of a nuisance when it runs across cultivated fields, with its clumsy gates to open and shut and its fences taking up valuable space. Again, let the cultivated fields lie as much as possible in one block. It makes cultivation easier and no fences need be used inside the block, whereas each isolated field would need to be protected by a fence. The line fences should always be kept up. It is more economical to do that than to have quarrels for lawyers to settle.

In the matter of fences, durability is to be desired. A fence that will last 20 years is more economical than that which will only last 10 years, even if the former cost twice as much as the latter, because of the time and labor saved, while a fence that would last a lifetime would be proportionally more valuable. A man must see that his fences are not only proof against the attacks of his own and stray cattle, but are also built in such a manner as to render them durable at as low a cost as possible. Let us consider how this can best be done. In this country, where lumber of considerable size is hard to get, comparatively expensive, and smaller or second growth tolerably abundant, poles of from four to eight inches in diameter can be had at trifling cost. Anything from six inches upward could be got out in the winter, hauled to the mill and sawn into inch or inch and a half rails; these must be nailed securely to light and durable posts, which may be driven or sunk into the ground, according to the nature of the soil. This makes a cheap, lasting and neat fence; any poles less than six inches might be split or flattened to make them more durable, and put up in the same manner. The matter of posts is a serious consideration, as it is the ground work of the whole fabrication. The liability to rot or the upheaval with the action of the frost causes the greatest deterioration with which we have

to contend. When economy of land is not necessary, as in dividing pastures or uncultivated fields, this difficulty may in a measure be overcome by securely fastening the foot of a post into a sill instead of sinking it. If the post must be sunk, it pays to get cedar posts, or to use some of Dr. Chase's practical and cheap methods. Posts prepared according to the following recipe will last a great number of years, and can be made rot proof for two cents a piece. Take boiling linseed oil and stir in pulverized charcoal to the consistency of paint; coat the timber with this. This is superior to coal tar used for the same purpose, though it costs just a trifle more. Fence posts must be well seasoned, and should be placed butt end up. There are other cheap preparations too numerous to mention; nearly all have something to recommend them, but it is best to use one that has been tried and proven.

To combine as much of beauty as is possible with the greatest utility, should be the aim of every farmer, and to apply this maxim to fencing it is best to consider all the available fencing material and to choose that best suited to the purpose and his pocket, always keeping the beauty idea in sight. If one has plenty of time, he might make a hedge protected with rails for the first few years, but unless prepared to keep it trimmed, it is as unsightly a division as can be made. A cheap and reliable hedge may be made by making first a mound of earth and planting on it spruce trees. These grow rapidly, and if the tops are sawn off every two or three years, after the trees grow to be three or four feet in height, they will form a thick and impenetrable hedge, requiring little care and not unsightly, as it is evergreen, and while common enough everywhere in summer, in winter the eye greets every green thing with gladness. It is also a good protection against cold winds, and from snow drifts along a road. Whatever is the best, namely that which best combines beauty, usefulness and durability, is the cheapest in most cases. Appearances are often deceitful, but if we were to judge farms by the appearance of their fences, it would be found that other things being equal, the farms with the best planned and best fences would yield the best returns.

The satisfaction we would have in looking at a nicely made fence is to be set against the feeling of discontent which a roughly made one inspires. Of what money value that satisfaction would be cannot be clearly shown, but it would add to the farmer's happiness, and whatever adds one grain to what is the greatest aim of man's existence, is immeasurably above money valuation. We must also keep fences in repair and let the repairing be well done, although when there is too much of a fence to be gone over, it is better to build new than to make the rest worse. Fences are necessary evils; let them be as few as possible, as well made as your materials and purse will allow, and as cheap as is consistent with economy and beauty. If you do not wish or cannot find wood at hand to make fences, there is the barbed wire or the Everett fence made of slats and wire, which is snug and easily transported. Its cost is reasonable, but much more than that of the fence we have described. Fences require much consideration on the part of the farmer, and every one must do his own particular thinking to suit his farm and himself, and only generalizations, of the subject are of use here.