

be fair. This practical democracy is a good training for the future duties of citizenship, and tends to develop the social conscience and that sense of individual responsibility for collective action which is so essential in any democratic community. We find the general behavior and morals of our pupils relatively high. Healthy and interesting natural surroundings, absorption in constructive work, and plenty of good reading, in addition to the democratic practices which I have described, do much to remove temptation and counteract bad influences. Here, perhaps, you have a clue as to how the school is maintained financially. Compare, if you will, the industrial efficiency and savings of a young man of twenty-five, thoroughly trained in our schools and enthusiastically interested in his business, with those of a young man of the same age who, after a smattering of the rudiments, is unfortunate enough to get intellectually stranded and to fall in with bad company, whereby his daily work becomes drudgery and he goes to the nearest town to spend his small earnings on tobacco, alcohol, and cheap theatrical sensations. Doesn't it pay to get the young fellows well started on the right road?"

I had to confess that I did begin to understand; and as the hour was letting late I very reluctantly bade the principal good-bye, wondering all the while how long it would be before our country schools were like theirs.

### Weaning the Foal

There is no more critical period in the growth of a young horse than the time of weaning. It is an uncommon sight at this season of the year to see foals which have been weaned that have fallen off in flesh very much and are poor, dejected, miserable looking little creatures that have lost more during the first few weeks of weaning than the best possible care during the winter can restore. In fact it is doubtful if they can ever be made quite as good as though they had not been subjected to such treatment.

If we would consider a little we could easily see how a young animal that has subsisted up to weaning time largely on its dam's milk (the most nourishing and easily digested food in the world) will, if suddenly deprived of nature's nourishment and thrown on solid food for sustenance, fall off in condition very quickly. The change has been too sudden made, the digestive organs have not become inured to solids and even though a plentiful supply of food is provided the young creature will not do very well.

A foal should be trained to eat hay and grain while still nursing the dam. In cases where the mare is working this is usually the case, the little fellow soon learns to eat at his mother's out box. In this way the stomach becomes gradually inured to the digestion of solids, and when he is deprived of his milk supply he will do much better on the solid food than if the change had been too suddenly made. A foal should have the best possible care as soon as weaned, an abundant supply of pasture, or if that is not practicable, plenty of well cured clover hay with a ration of grain or meal at least twice daily. A foal weaned in this way will not fall off in flesh but will come through the winter in good condition and go out to pasture in the spring a well grown yearling ready for another summer's growth.

It is a great pity that so many foals come through the first winter in such poor shape, that it takes all of their second summer to attain the growth they should have had as yearlings. Exercise should also be provided when in winter-quarters. A box stall with a yard adjoining in which he can run at pleasure is probably the best means of getting exercise. Where this is not convenient he should be turned out every day in a yard protected from larger and stronger animals. It pays to be good to a foal the first year.—"Centaur."

### Buying Stockers and Feeders

C. A. Whitham, Wentworth Co., Ont.

It is a common practice for farmers to buy young steers with the object of feeding them for market. The steers are procured generally at this time of the year, fed through most of the winter months and put on the market in the spring or early summer. The practice is a much more difficult undertaking now than it was ten or more years ago, since dairying is now receiving more attention and more cattle of the dairy type are bred than in former times when the majority of cows kept were either Shorthorns or Shorthorn grades.

When one goes out to buy stockers or feeders, all animals bought should be of the best type. Dairy-bred steers never give good returns for the food consumed and seldom if ever pay expenses. The factors in determining the profits from this work are the skill of the purchaser in selecting animals that will make good feeders and then buying them at a proper price. The skill lies generally in being able to estimate the possibilities of improvement in the animals selected. To do this with any degree of certainty, calls for a practical knowledge of the conduct of animals in the feed lot.

#### THE BEST FEEDERS

The best feeding steers are comparatively wide, round, and deep ribbed. The steer that stands high from the ground, light in the flanks and shallow in the heart-girth rarely makes a good feeder. In type the form of the store steer should fill out a parallelogram. He should be broad and deep both in front as well as in the hind-quarters. As much width as possible is desirable if it is not accompanied with roughness over the shoulders or hips. It is not to be expected, however, that the store bullock should be as level and smooth in form as the finished animal ready for the block.

It is desirable that the steers bought be of best quality. Animals of quality usually fatten more quickly than those that are rough and coarse, though if they are exceptionally vigorous, they will sometimes make greater gains than those having quality of too much fineness and delicacy. Quality in the steer means fine bone, soft mellow hide, and silky hair; while such attributes as a very rough, heavy frame, coarse joints, prominent ragged hips and rough, open shoulders are the most pronounced evidences of deficiency in this feature.

When handling a steer the condition of the hide is one of the most valuable indications that may be observed. If the skin is mellow and elastic it is said to possess good handling and such an animal generally fattens rapidly. If the hide is heavy and stiff it indicates slower fattening qualities. This feature of good handling cannot be magnified too highly in judging all classes of beef stock, for it not only reflects the thriftiness of the animal at the time but also foretells its future progress.

A good feeder should have a broad, short head, and a thick, wide, low-set body. The eye should be large, somewhat prominent yet placid, indicat-

ing a quiet temperament. Quietness and laziness are characteristic of the good feeder. The horn should be of fine texture. The neck should be short and full and should blend evenly and smoothly into the shoulder. The shoulder blade should fit closely to the body. The chest should be full, deep and wide; the brisket light but prominent enough to fill out the squareness of the frame to the proper degree. The ribs should be long and hooked so that the animal may have a large heart-girth showing abundance of heart and lung room, as well as ample room for the stomach and other vital organs. The hind ribs, also, should be comparatively long, bringing the plates and flank almost on a level with the fore-part of the body. The loin should be wide leaving the ribs on a level and joining the hind quarter with little departure from a straight line. The hind quarters should be long and carry out the squareness of form which should be characteristic of the fore quarters of the ideal feeding steer.

If the type of steers described were always procured by farmers the fattening of animals for both the home and foreign market would be a more profitable branch of farming than it is.

### Large Loads Save Time and Money

"For farm work it pays to use large, strong horses that are able to haul heavy loads," said John Fixter, the manager of the MacDonald College Farm, at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que., to a representative of The Dairyman and Farming World, who recently visited the college farm. To illustrate his remarks, Mr. Fixter drew attention to a college team that was walking past hauling slightly over 11,000 lbs of potatoes that had just been weighed on the college scales. This team had hauled the load from the fields and were able to handle it with ease.

"Many farmers," said Mr. Fixter, "lose time and money by using small wagon boxes and light



A Combination to Be Proud Of

Few dairymen are so fortunate as to be possessors of a milk house like this one. It is built over an artesian well, from which flows a constant stream of water. It is an easy matter to properly cool and care for milk under such ideal conditions.

horses. The result is that when teaming is being done they have to make two and three trips where a stronger team with a larger wagon would make only one." Near the college, some farmers were hauling manure from the station. They were hauling two and three loads that the college team, the day before, had more than equalled in one. The incident served to illustrate how greatly needed are better roads and heavier horses in many of our best farming centers.