

buy the year round. We must change this so that the supply is more constant and regular the year round.

Prof. G. E. Day followed with an address on "Canadian Beef on the British Market." Classification of meat on the British market, he said, was according to quality alone, and there is no doubt that the best Canadian beef might be sold for the same price as the best Scotch if it were equally good, and this is the place to face the question. A great deal of Canadian beef arrives on the market in poor condition. One reason for this is the system of buying. Sometimes a dealer will bring in January and February stock to be finished and shipped in May or June. Then, too, they are not always finished properly. Too many do not know what a perfectly finished condition really is, and lots of stuff sold and shipped should have had 4 or 5 months more in the stalls. Our great hope is, after all, a mutton year trade. Then we will be able to hold our own with the world. Till then we will not be able to do so.

#### VARIED SUBJECTS

On the evening of March 8th, the addresses were of a more popular character. G. H. Clark spoke on seeds and outlined the work and objects of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. He was followed by Mr. Boyce, of Merryvale, who dwelt upon the greatness of our agricultural interests and the importance of protecting them from the encroachments of noxious weeds. An interesting feature of the evening was an address by W. Staley Spark, of Canterbury, Eng., who recounted his experiences and observations while the Argentinian last summer. Conditions were not on the whole favorable, he said, for the opening up of a trade in live stock with that country, and the prices paid there were very big. The immense abattoirs on the La Platta had so far only proved a partial success.

The meeting concluded with an address by Hon. Sydney Fisher. He said, among other things, that he believed the exhibition of stock was a success. The show is a school, and the educational features are of the greatest value. He spoke of the work of the Dominion Department of Agriculture. He felt that the work was becoming enormous. The great problems of agriculture in the country are pressing for solution. Farmers are now wide awake, and are thinking about the development and distribution of their products. The live stock interests are becoming more important yearly, and in a few years will be of even greater importance. Even the west cannot afford to grow grain only; the people there must buy and raise live stock to insure their permanent success. He urged careful selection of breeding stock and the scientific breeding of the best strains. There is room for every farmer to breed good stock. It will improve the market for all.

#### KEEP MORE SHEEP

The addresses were resumed on March 9th, when Mr. Miller again addressed the audience on "Why sheep should be kept on every farm." "Because mixed farming was the principle that carried the greatest insurance against the fluctuations of the market is a factor of economy in mixed farming. They live for a great part on roughage of no commercial value, fence corners, roadsides, etc., furnish a large part of their pasture. Noxious weed seeds, etc., which a sheep eats, will never grow again. This is

not the case when fed to other domestic animals. Cattle feeding, the horse industry, many other lines have had their booms and have fallen flat, but the sheep have never yet seen the time that they did not pay. At the present time there is a splendid market for well bred sheep in the U.S., which offered remunerative prices to those who had a few of the right kind. Also, there is no more palatable, more available or healthy food than well kept, well fed mutton.

Mr. John Jackson, the well known Southdown breeder, of Abingdon, Ont., followed with a few pointed and able remarks on the subject. "You can produce a pound of prime mutton," he said, "on less feed than a pound of beef, and it will sell for a good deal more money. It is always ready for market at any time of the year. Sheep will eat any green thing that is grown, will look for thistles, burdocks and ragweed first and then for grass. At the present time building material is becoming very dear. Sheep will do with buildings at half the cost of other stock. The question of labor is becoming a serious one, and sheep require little attendance. "Wintering breeding ewes" was the subject taken up by Mr. A. W. Smith, the veteran and popularly known Leicester breeder, of Maple Lodge, Ont.

#### CARE OF THE SHEEP

Last but not least on the program was that young but successful breeder of Leicester sheep, Mr. J. M. Gardhouse, of Weston, Ont. His remarks on feeding and care of sheep were practical and to the point. Whatever line you are in, nothing succeeds like success. If you find a method successful, use it to the utmost. A good ration for breeding ewes was clover hay in the morning with unthreshed peas at noon, and pea straw at night. Peas should be given three times a day, with moderate quantity of turnips, was also a good ration. Would prefer not to feed grain to ewes before lambing. Kind treatment always brings good results and roughness usually brings bad results.

For salting, some salt to which has been added a little sulphur is much better than rock or pure salt alone. It is best to dip in the fall and to shear unwashed before sheep are turned out to grass for the summer.

#### THE HOG AND THE DAIRY

On the afternoon of March 9th Prof. Grisdale spoke on the bacon hog.

R. Clark, Ottawa, in a short but characteristic address, told of his experiences in feeding bacon hogs for the market. He was followed by Prof. G. E. Day, of O.A.C.

Dairying was discussed by Prof. H. H. Dean, of the O.A.C. He advised dairymen to breed for yield in milk regardless of breed. Performance was more to the point than form.

J. W. S.

#### Feeding Beef in Manitoba

A mile from Neepawa in the valley of a little stream with hills and bluffs and scrub on every side are being carried on some of the most extensive steer feeding operations in Manitoba. The establishment is the property of Dan Hamilton, Esq., of Neepawa, butcher, drover, rancher and hotelman. Dan's credit is to the town, and Dan's ranch is the biggest thing of its kind in the district. Dan's name is widely known and Dan himself is a jolly good fellow, as everybody knows and says.

On a perfect morning in the first days of March, our genial host drove a lot of us out to see the steers and

watch them feed. Leaving the main road and turning into this valley ranch we came on a very busy scene in the midst of a village of shanty houses surrounded by various large bunches of cattle.

A thrasher engine busily at work was driving a blizzard blower into which our men were industriously shoving oat sheaves, to be cut up and later mixed with oat straw to feed the husky bees.

The system of feeding is cheap and apparently economical. Rough single board sheds 150 feet long or thereabouts and 40 feet wide or wider stand in yards in which the steers run at will. Along the walls inside are troughs about a foot deep and two feet wide. The cut straw and oat sheaf is hauled along in trucks and a goodly allowance thrown all along the trough.

Following the straw wagon comes the meal cart. A mixture of crushed barley fills its roomy box and is scattered on top of the straw in the feeding troughs. The steers are then allowed to enter and quickly the whole meal is consumed. If the weather be severe an extra feed is given, or a little hay scattered in the yards and sheds. As a rule, however, no hay enters into the feeding, although a large amount of hay was stacked up in the neighborhood of the yards. The sheds and the feeding and the general view were interesting, but the best part of the whole visit was the critical examination of the steers and the entertaining remarks thereon by the redoubtable "Dan."

The steers included grades and crosses of various breeds and strains, but Short-horn blood entered into nine-tenths of the stock or more. The rest were of Hereford or Angus blood, as then called, and there a Jersey "dogie" strayed up from the East, and here and there a Holstein grade, the two latter sorts brought, as our host expressed it, "to them from the States." The Holsteins had come from "Harry" and showed a warm affection for their ancient proprietor.

The feeding was being on for about three months and many of the steers were ready or nearly ready for the block. The broad backs and loins, the deep quarters and well covered pins all testifying to the efficacy of the straw and coarse grains of the province as material for beef production. The financial side of the operation, always of paramount interest, was, our host assured us, quite satisfactory. The labor, the cheapest available, was paid with board, "a whole lot of conversation, and a very small amount of cash."

The men's quarters, which were roomy, very convenient, quite comfortable and well looked after, were certainly models of cheapness, and a splendid example of how to do things well and at the same time economically.

The steers had been brought in from Medicine Hat, and had cost, landed at Neepawa, about \$35.00 per head. From the end of November no starch would cost to feed them, all expenses included, about \$15.00 per head.

The steers would average about 1,400, which at \$4.25 per cwt., a price already refused, would leave a margin of several dollars profit per steer. In addition, there was the immense amount of valuable manure, a big thing in itself, though to our thinking not sufficiently valued in the Prairie Province.

That beef production on a large scale is possible in Manitoba, this man's experience abundantly demonstrates, were there not at the scene the steers with equally successful records to show. While growing is yet in the ascendant, however, and it is just possible that an abattoir will be needed to precede the move to be desired revolution.—J. H. Grisdale.