

Co-operative Wool Marketing in United States.

The Sheep Commissioners, W. T. Ritch and W. A. Dryden, appointed by the Dominion Department of Agriculture to report upon the condition of the wool industry, and offer suggestions for its improvement, having completed their investigations in the Old Country, have started out through Canada, visiting prominent sheepmen in Ontario first. Prof. H. S. Arkell, of the Livestock Branch at Ottawa, accompanied them recently on a trip to Chicago, where they visited a wool warehouse belonging to the National Wool Warehouse & Storage Co., and obtained from the foreman some particulars concerning the company's organization and character. The company, it appears, is a co-operative one, composed of Western ranchmen from important wool-producing States like Montana and Idaho, who were apparently unable to obtain generous terms from the local or wholesale buyers, commission and other charges eating up too large a share of the returns. A few years ago, these wool-growers, who had a good deal of financial backing, organized themselves into a joint-stock company, and are now handling about 20,000,000 pounds of wool per year, holding their product when necessary for favorable prices, and selling direct to the trade. It is said that the prices obtained compare proportionately with the regular wholesale dealers' prices in Boston. The wool-grower who markets his wool through this company, receives a certain amount of money in advance of the sale of his wool, being charged interest on the amount so advanced until such time as the wool is disposed of, when the proceeds are struck on a pro-rata basis, and forwarded to the producers, less the amount advanced. So far as could be learned, the wool-growers seemed to be well pleased with their returns, and it is believed that the experience of this company offers a suggestion of value to Canadian wool-growers. Fuller particulars are to be obtained for the Sheep Commission's official report.

Skim-milk-fed Baby Beef.

The question of profitable beef production is one of almost universal importance. Under the conditions in a few neighborhoods, it is still profitable to turn beef off at from thirty to forty months of age, but in many sections, and their number is constantly increasing, more intensive conditions, increasing the price of land and the cost of production, are making the earlier methods unprofitable. In these sections beefmaking is either being abandoned or readjusted along new lines, wherein twenty to twenty-four months, and in some cases less, becomes the marketing age of the steers.

This production of baby beef is receiving the study of the experiment stations and the practical feeders. The Michigan Experiment Station has recently completed quite a comprehensive investigation of this method of beef production, the results of which, as summarized in Bulletin 261, are presented here:

The experiment started in 1905, and ran till the summer of 1909.

Two herds of ten grade cows each were used, the calves from one herd being nursed by their dams, also receiving supplementary feed, and after weaning were finished and marketed as baby beefs at eighteen months of age. The calves of the other herd were weaned at birth, reared on skim milk, with supplementary feed, and finished and marketed with the other lot, while their dams were milked. The first lot of calves were by a Shorthorn sire, the second crop by a Hereford, and the third by an Angus.

RESULTS OF THE FIRST YEAR

The calves which were allowed to nurse their dams consumed, up to 18 months of age, on an average, 2,986 pounds silage, 1,446 pounds hay, 175 pounds roots, 241 pounds beet pulp, 2,260 pounds grain, making the average cost of feed \$32.57 per head at 543 days. Their average weight was 937 pounds. The average cost of feed for the dams of these calves for one year while suckling calves was \$33.47, making a total cost of \$66.04 per head for these heaves, and the cost per cwt., \$7.04. The selling price, as sold in the market, was \$5.00 per cwt.

For the hand-raised calves, the average amount of feed consumed from birth to marketing was: Whole milk, 416 pounds; skim milk, 3,012 pounds; silage, 3,322 pounds; hay, 1,754 pounds; roots, 224 pounds; beet pulp, 217 pounds; green feed, 235 pounds; and grain, 2,183 pounds, making the average cost per head \$43.35. The average weight at this time was 918 pounds, which compares favorably with the other lot, since they were a month younger at the time of marketing. The cost of production for this lot was \$4.72 per cwt., which was \$2.32 per cwt. cheaper than the other lot, while they sold at the same price of \$5.00 per cwt. During the year, the cost of feed for the dams of these calves was \$34.65 per head, and they yielded on an average 5,330 pounds of milk, which yielded

\$58.19, or a profit of \$23.54 over the cost of feed.

SECOND AND THIRD YEARS.

The second crop of calves that were nursed by their dams weighed 1,016 pounds each at marketing, at a cost of \$6.44 per cwt. The skim-milk-fed calves averaged 982 pounds at eighteen months, at an average cost of \$5.42 per cwt., with an average profit of \$27.70 from the milk of their dams.

The third crop of suckled calves averaged, 1,032 pounds at marketing, at a cost of \$6.78 per cwt. for production, while their skim-milk rivals weighed 999 pounds each, at a cost of \$5.51 per cwt., and a net profit from their dams of \$30.60.

All the second crop sold at \$5.75 per cwt., locally, and \$6.85 in the Detroit market.

The third crop all sold at \$6.15 locally, with no distinction between the lots.

From these figures, it would seem safe to conclude that baby-beef production by the skim-milk method is much cheaper, and gives better results than by the suckling method," says the author of the bulletin. The skim-milk-fed heaves, for the three years, cost on an average of \$50.60 per head, while the suckled heaves cost \$66.97 per head, or the former were produced for \$1.50 per cwt. less than the latter.

"It is hard to get rich on a multiplication table," says Uncle John Hagatt, of Prince Edward Co., with reference to calculations on the profit of feeding hogs.



Two-year-old Shorthorn Heifer, Mystery.

First prize and Shorthorn champion, Birmingham Fat-stock Show, and reserve grand champion at Smithfield. Property of His Majesty the King.

THE FARM.

Mr. Hanna on Co-operative Associations.

At the meetings to the general public during the recent Winter Fair, at Guelph, one of the most popular addresses was that of W. J. Hanna, Ontario Provincial Secretary, upon co-operation. Not every speaker can handle a generally-discussed and vitally important subject in so entertaining a manner as did the genial Provincial Secretary. Beneath his irrepressible characteristic humor was expressed the conviction that co-operative associations afford the opportunity to each man of being benefited by his neighbor's experience, and thus making possible every man's success. He emphasized the advantages which come from distinctly identifying the producer with the article marketed, and thus giving him the credit for the kind of article which he produces. It not only obtains an enhanced price for products, but it builds up a market and assures a permanent outlet at these higher prices, by delivering satisfactory goods. Failure through lack of co-operation was pointedly illustrated from the bacon-hog trade. Farmers accepted the teachings regarding bacon type, and throughout the country produced largely this desired type; but at the loading points the producer of the fat hog and of the ordinary hog received the same prices, and all were loaded into the same car. Had co-operation been in vogue, the producers of bacon pigs would have been able to produce a finished-meat product of such superiority as to guarantee them a market, and have rendered permanent the production of high-class Canadian bacon and bacon hogs.

Have you read our premium announcement on page 2071 of this issue?

Silo Experience.

That corn will grow successfully over a very large part of Eastern Canada, is being proven by success in nearly every county of Old Ontario, and many sections of Quebec.

In the Ottawa Valley, Peter White filled two silos this fall with about 180 tons of green corn, off 10½ acres. These silos, by the way, are one of wood, and one of cement. The wooden silo was built some years ago, with two thicknesses of boards, and tar paper between, and elm staves. It was solidly erected on a cement foundation. The cement silo, 16 x 32, was built at a cost of a little over \$300, stone on the place being used to reduce the amount of gravel and cement. It was plastered, and washed on the inside, and has given excellent satisfaction, the silage having kept better in this than in the wooden silo.

The corn matured fairly well, and is coming out in nice condition.

Oils and Oiling.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As we sit by the fire during the long winter evenings, reading "The Farmer's Advocate" and studying the bulletins sent out by the Guelph and Ottawa Experiment Stations, we are given a splendid opportunity to reflect on the successes and failures of the past season, and, best of all, we have the time and chance to plan for the future. Wherever there has been friction or wear in the past, whether in the field or in the house,

let us try to remove it in the future. For this purpose, nothing is more useful than plenty of oil of the right sort. To-day I would write of the variety to use on farm machinery. Some of the older-married men would, perhaps, tell us of the kind to use on the wheels of the domestic machinery, in order to avoid trouble.

A friend of mine was complaining of the gearing of a certain make of wind-mill wearing out. "How often did you oil it?" I asked him. "Oh, three or four times during the summer," he answered. It served him right to have to buy repairs; he should have oiled it at least every two

weeks, and kept the oil cups reasonably full. How often we see binders, mowers, rakes—in fact, every piece of farm machinery—sent to the scrap-iron heap after a very short term of service. Lack of oil and lack of shelter are the two principal causes of this loss. Plenty of oil, applied at frequent intervals, is a sure way of having a short repair bill at the end of the season. Every implement with wheels should carry an oil can. Dust-proof boxings holding roller or ball bearings go a long way towards lessening draft and friction, but even these must have a fair share of oil or grease.

The quality of oil used is also of great importance. The ordinary stuff sold by grocery and hardware stores as "machine oil" or "harvester oil," when used during our hot summer season, is little better than greasy dishwater. It costs anywhere from thirty to forty cents the gallon, and is dear at the price. This stuff, when kept for a length of time, is liable to separate into two parts: one, a thick, sticky mess, settles to the bottom, the remainder floating on top, has become so thin as to be worthless. Even when oil of this sort is fresh from the manufacturer, it has not body enough for machinery during the hot season. It runs off the axle after a few revolutions of the wheel, and the bearing is soon dry again. During the past summer I used cylinder oil, with good satisfaction. Less oil and less frequent applications are necessary than when ordinary machine oil is used. A fair quality of cylinder oil can be obtained in gallon cans for seventy-five cents the gallon. When the character of the bearing and oil-cup will permit, axle grease makes a good lubricant. It will outlast most oils. The common black oil used by threshers is superior to the common machine oil, but is rather dirty to use. It can be bought for about twenty cents the gallon. For oiling machinery during the cold weather, common machine oil is satisfactory; if cylinder oil is used, it must first be warmed, or it will not flow. When using cylinder oil, it is advisable to cut an inch or over from off the top of the oil can spout, in order to allow the oil to run more freely.