

it can endure a few years of absolute starvation without immediately giving evidence of the extraordinary strain that is being put upon its resources, but sooner or later the day of reckoning must come to the farm that is systematically starved in this way. And indeed, one would think the farmer must sometimes see that in selling off his farm anything that cattle or pigs can fatten on, which dairy cows can turn into milk, or sheep convert into wool, he is simply disposing of his raw material which some one else will, with a handsome profit, convert into the manufactured article. And who can make beef, pork, wool, or milk any more cheaply than can the farmer, with his broad ranges of pasture and all his produce at "manufacturer's cost"?

It is not alone, however, that he can feed his own farm produce more cheaply than any one else, but that in feeding it on the farm a very large proportion of the plant food which it cost to produce it is sure to be restored to the soil.

But there are other leaks that do not appear to be any too well known, even to some of the most careful of our farmers. They are found in the cattle management of some of our farmers that are so careful in some respects that they would be shocked to be told that they were wasting a few dollars on every steer or heifer raised on the farm. And all this is because they are too close-fisted to buy the best obtainable when selecting animals with which to stock their farm. The *Chicago Breeders' Gazette* puts this view of the case very lucidly in the following paragraph:—"For instance, we read in the markets that steers are selling all the way from three to five cents. It seems a trifling, common-place matter, which most people read about without comprehending that each cent's difference in the price represents a difference of \$10 on the value of a 1,000-lb. steer, and that taking the three-cent cattle and the five-cent cattle as they come, the heavier grades will carry an additional \$10 worth of meat for each cent difference in the price. Some one has said that half a loaf is better than none, but this is a difference between a whole loaf and no bread. Then there are farmers who have cattle which they know are not capable of giving as satisfactory returns for the food they consume as could be secured by cattle of a more improved character, but never stop to think what this difference in feeding quality amounts to, or what it costs them during the life of a steer. There are mouthfull of grass gathered in the pastures as the hours lengthen into days and these into months; there are forkfull of hay night and morning, and measures of grain as the sun goes down and as it rises, and no adequate comprehension of the fact that a little of each is lost by not being turned to the best account, and what all these littles amount to in the end, or the frightful aggregate of these little wastes which go on hour by hour and day by day, extended through years and years. There may be small occasion for educating most people to a real appreciation of what the millions mean, but there is certainly a crying necessity on all

sides for a better conception of the true meaning and importance of the *small things* which are continually occurring in the every day life of almost everybody, and especially those who have to do with live-stock management."

NORTH-WEST PROSPECTS.

According to present appearances the recent outbreak in the North-West is not likely to operate nearly so unfavorably upon immigration and business prospects generally as was at first supposed. Everything in the shape of an Indian war panic has wholly disappeared, and altogether it appears highly probable that hereafter the lives and properties of settlers in the North-West will be as carefully and efficiently protected as in any other portion of Her Majesty's domains. In spite of all that ill-advised and misdirected political partisanship can do, and in spite of the doleful letters which men who could never succeed in any country have sent to Great Britain about it, the North-West has continued to settle up with rapidity. Hard times and long-continued depression have been the order of the day since the spring of 1882, and yet, though land prices are low, settlers are pouring into the North-West, while the grain and other products have increased at a rate that would seem incredible. The truth is that such wonderful stretches of fertile soil as abound there on every side could not long remain unoccupied. And it now seems as if our territory were coming into the market just when it would seem to be needed most. From the 49th parallel to the southern limit of the great Republic the cattle kings of the Great West are elbowing one another in such a way as to make it look very unpromising for any luckless new-comer who should by any chance be trying to obtain a foothold among them, and all this time their herds are increasing. Just now, in our country, while the land is obtainable for a trifle, it takes a lot of money to secure the stock; but in a few years, when settlement shall have filled up our free grant regions all over the country and when the over-crowded ranges of the United States can no longer meet the demands made upon them, then will come the time when every foot of our North-West Territory will be of value, and when many a thousand acres now lying almost unknown among the foothills of the Rockies will be eagerly sought after by cattlemen in search of a range. No better country for the purpose of cattle-ranching can be found under the sun, and it only remains for us to avail ourselves of the advantages thus offered us.

Correspondence.

THE AMERICAN FAT STOCK SHOW.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN BREEDER.

The premium list of this great exhibition of the skill in feeding and good judgment in breeding of the cattlemen of the United States is at hand, and a very liberal one it is too; also

the premium list of the State Fair to be held in Chicago. The Fat Stock Show is now recognized as the rendezvous of all the prominent breeders of beef cattle in the United States and Canada, and has come to be regarded as one of Chicago's fixed institutions. To it come breeders and feeders from New York, California, Maine, Texas, and Canada. All the leading beef breeds of cattle will be found here represented, and this year it is expected there will be a large representation of the dairy breeds. Last year we had a grand show, Canada leading off in the sweepstakes race with flying colors. She was also well represented in the horse department, showing the energy and enterprise of Canadian horsemen in bringing their stock, especially as no premiums were offered. This year, though, they will have an extra inducement, as there are several valuable premiums, reference to which will be made hereafter.

In the cattle class there are cash premiums offered by the State Board to the amount of \$4,720, and special cash premiums to the amount of \$660 offered by the citizens of Chicago, and besides this the Hereford Breeders' Association of America, the Aberdeen-Angus, and the Holstein-Friesian Associations of America agree to duplicate all premiums won by their respective breeds, and if I remember aright the Iowa Shorthorn Breeders' Association voted \$3,000 for the purpose of duplicating all premiums won by Iowa Shorthorns. If I am not mistaken the Shorthorn Breeders' Association will duplicate all premiums won by Shorthorns. Taking all in all, I think this makes one of the most attractive premium lists ever offered in this country or Canada. By the liberal offer of the Hereford society a Hereford steer can win the magnificent sum of \$840, and an Iowa Shorthorn can get above the \$1,000. This certainly ought to spur breeders on to renewed efforts, seeing that these are only cash prizes offered by the State Board and the Breeders' associations, besides which there are numerous other valuable prizes.

In the sheep class there is \$1,950 offered by the board, besides which there is \$100 in cash and \$12 in special premiums. This is certainly a very creditable showing, but I do not doubt that it will be increased before the show by individuals and associations. \$2,062 is certainly a large amount to be distributed among sheep.

Hogs come next, and are little behind sheep. In this class the board offers \$1,295 in prizes, besides which \$100 in cash premiums, and \$92 in special premiums. It is to be hoped that Canada will be represented in the swine and sheep departments this year, as they were not last year. It certainly would be a profitable experiment for some Canadian breeder to exhibit here.

The holding of a dairy show in connection with a fat-stock show may, and probably does, seem a little strange to some of your large circle of readers, and it struck me as rather injudicious at first. But after carefully weighing the