

if I give you my own principle and my own experiences it may induce others to follow my lead and give us their experiences. I have found that the great point in producing meat in as economical a way as possible is beginning with the animals as soon as they will eat. For instance, my practice is with cattle never to allow the calves to lose their calf-flesh, as when this is gone it is the most difficult thing to restore it, and requires a far larger expenditure to put the animal into a growing and feeding condition than if a small outlay in extra food had been made at first. So also with lambs. They should be pushed on from birth. It is astonishing how soon they will begin to eat oaks and corn, and it is the greatest economy to let them have it. Our great object is to get quick returns, and the only way to do this is by having our stock matured as early as possible. Nearly all beef is now killed at 2 years old, and sheep at 1 year old, and if this is done to make the best of them they have no time to lose from their birth onwards. I sell my sheep—that is, the wethers—as soon as they are shorn the first year. They are fed on a mixed diet of cake and corn from the time they were weaned, beginning with a quarter of a pound per head, and increasing it up to 1½ lb. This is of course in addition to the roots and hay, when I can spare it, during the winter. This, I am glad to hear, is the opinion of Professor Tanner, who says that it goes further than either corn or cake given by itself. I usually start as soon as the lambs are weaned, and if I started before, as soon as the lambs could eat, it would, I believe, be all the better, but there is then one difficulty—that you would then have to feed the ewes as well, unless the practice is carried out to have lamb hurdles for the lambs to run through to eat the cake inside the enclosure where the ewes cannot follow, and I believe that would pay any man to carry out. My practice with the calves—for of course in this breeding district I do not dairy at all—is to let them run out with their mothers. During hot days I always get the calves in about 11 o'clock, and they stay in the yard until they the cool of evening. I give them cake (an average of about 1 lb. each), which results in but a small expenditure, and is, I find, the most economical way of getting the animal forward into condition. As soon as the nights get cold this system is changed, and they come in at nights instead of in the day. Of course the quantity of cake is increased as the animals grow older, and when necessary they have artificial food or grass. This helps the land, and is really the cheapest way of manuring it. Now comes the question of what food to use. I have found that a mixture is better than one sort by itself. My usual mixture is half undecorticated cotton cake and linseed cake mixed, of the best quality, for all kinds of stock; but even store sheep not intended for the butcher get the undecorticated cake by itself, and sometimes the cattle also when on grass. I am very fond of good dry peas mixed with the cake for sheep and also a little barley, but not if it is out of condition. I consider that a regular system of feeding and regular hours is necessary, and a quiet attentive feeder is absolutely necessary, with the constant eye of the master to detect the first symptom of anything wrong. Mr. Hill also re-

ferred to the great importance of good dry yards and shedding to put their cattle in, for they could not expect animals to make flesh fast if they were half their time up to their knees in water or shivering in a cold wind. He was very badly off himself in that respect, and when he saw the accommodation which was being provided on a neighbouring estate it made him very down-hearted. Landlords had no idea what their tenants were losing who were not properly provided for in that respect. The arrangements of the yards were, he said, often bad, and necessitated unnecessary labour, and, consequently, expense in feeding. He had two German agriculturists at his house the other day. One could not speak English at all, and the other could only speak it a little. They came over to examine a number of farms, and he had the honour of having his selected as one of them to be examined. Those gentlemen had never seen Herefords before, and they were very much pleased with the whole of the arrangements on the farm. But he was very much struck with one thing they told him in regard to the way in which they carried out the feeding of stock. They have a much more systematic way, and go more thoroughly into the scientific part of the business than we do. They are taught a regular scale of the value of feeding stuffs, and the constituents wanted to put on fat or muscle and to increase bone, and they make their mixture according to scale, giving so much artificial food, so much hay or clover, and so on. They go by rule and book, and know the why and wherefore—what the English farmer does by experience and practice without troubling himself to find out the reason. He thought himself that a combination of those systems was the best.

The PRESIDENT asked Mr. Corfield if he would tell the meeting how he fed his bullocks.

MR. CORFIELD: It is a very good thing is regular feeding, but we cannot get the men to do it now. There is this education—they are getting too knowing.

PROFESSOR TANNER: As to the use of malt, its great value, according to the general opinion, is not so much in its being feeding as in its helping other food to be more perfectly digested. Hence they found two classes of stock for which malt is especially valuable, first of all young stock where the digestive powers are weak, and the other class is where stock is being over-fed—finished for exhibition, where the system has been overcharged by reason of a very abundant supply of food, and the animal was not able to make the best use of that food given. In such a case the malt gets the animal into a more progressive condition. The reference which had been made to the covered yards was a testimony to the fact that protection was equal to a certain amount of food. If you expose an animal to severe weather, the heat of the body is kept up at the cost of the food used. He was glad to hear how Mr. Hill treated his young growing stock, for their policy was not to make them too delicate—they must retain a certain amount of hardihood of character, and must not be made too tender.

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