

give proper attention, this is only a matter of will. We urge upon our young farmers to rise and take possession of this field, which is as yet but little occupied. The producers of two pounds of flesh per day for the first two years are as yet more rare than bits in winter.

Retrospect and Prospect.

It affords us unmingled satisfaction to know that our very imperfect effort during the past year has not been in vain, and that the JOURNAL has met with a reception so favorable in every Province of the Dominion and in lands beyond the sea. There is true pleasure in the contemplation of the fact that it is read by the herdsman who looks down on the Pacific from Rocky Mountain slopes, and the shepherds, listening to the hoarse murmurs of the Atlantic main; that it lies upon the tables of many of the breeders of pure bred stock in that land which is the home of all the beefing breeds; that it is read by subscribers in the dairies of the native land of the famous little Jersey, and by the cowboys in their tents as they rest upon the Texan ranges.

It gratifies us to know that it is a welcome visitor in the homes of many of our statesmen, and in the libraries of legislative halls; but most of all we are pleased to know that several thousands of our yeomen, the bone and sinew of our country, await its arrival from month to month, as for the coming of a friend.

There is comfort in the thought that the past year has been spent in peace amongst our contemporaries, and that almost without exception they have dealt with us as with brethren, and we are proud to think that some of the best talent in our land has seen fit to honor us with their contributions.

But most of all we feel thankful that we have not labored fruitlessly. We believe that there is to-day more good stock in Canada than there was a year ago, and that in the improvement all along the line, though regretfully short of what it might be, and what it ought to be, the JOURNAL has lent a helping hand.

In all this there is cause for deepest thankfulness, and as we look back over the weary days and nights, we feel that we cannot let the old year die without again returning our warmest thanks to the stockmen and farmers who in our cause (and theirs) have so nobly stood shoulder to shoulder, some of them from the very first.

With a past so filled with sunny memories, we can surely afford to look hopefully into the future. We are more deeply impressed with the responsibilities of our mission as we journey onward. We are conscious that, like the fabled story without an end, so shall it be with the work on which we have embarked. Yet we trust that we shall not cease to "bend to the oars" till they drop nerveless from our hands, and are eagerly grasped by better and stronger. The thought of the one million of even ungraded cattle haunts us continually, along with that of £200,000 two thousand pounds per season dairy cow.

It will still be our aim to give to the readers of the JOURNAL original contributions of a high order in every number, in each of the departments.

Without slackening our efforts in the stock department proper, we shall give greatly increased attention to the subject of Dairying, being convinced that it is second in importance to no industry in the land. The Farm will also receive a larger share of our attention.

The illustrations of live-stock will be continued as heretofore. In this department as in every other, we shall never rest content till it fully equals that of any other live-stock journal in the world.

The additional features of the JOURNAL will be occasional illustrations of farm buildings, condensed reports of the live-stock markets, table of contents, etc.

Store Cattle vs. Finished.

Shall Britain get our cattle when, say 1,050 lbs. in weight the second autumn of their existence, or the following spring, when finished, and weighing about 1,400 lbs? This question is briefly discussed by Prof. Brown, of the Ontario Experimental Farm, in a paper which some time since appeared in our Canadian dailies, and afterwards in the *London Live-Stock Journal*. The Professor handles the question very cautiously, and concludes by hinting at the advisability of furnishing Britain with a contingent of both classes. He makes it clear that the direct profit in both cases would be somewhat similar; that the returns from the sale of stores would be one-third earlier, but that at the same time the after results from loss of materials of enrichment should be carefully studied, wisely adding that "immediate value is not necessarily the best value."

Taking the facts of the comparison, as the Professor has given them, and we have no doubt they are correct, we do not hesitate to give our opinion as to which course our stockmen should commit themselves. We pronounce unhesitatingly in favor of feeding our stores at home, and for the following reasons amongst others, which might be given:

Other things being equal, the question of manurial value alone should decide the matter as we look at it, as, according to the Professor's calculation, the manure made during the finishing term would be additional profit minus some small allowance for attendance. Now this is a profit that we cannot afford to lose, or rather, that our country cannot do without, as drainage in this direction is nothing short of a national calamity. The exact amount of this loss it is difficult to get at, owing to the different values placed upon manures by various feeders, but we think that the average estimate given by a number of our foremost practical feeders whom we interviewed last spring will be near the mark. They said to us that during the finishing term the manure was worth about \$24.50, equalling in value that made during the previous period of the life of the animal. Multiply this sum by say, 40,000 head of finished cattle that we sent over to Britain this present year, and we have the handsome return of \$1,225,000. We say that we cannot afford to lose this sum annually. Sources of enrichment to the soil are like monies put out at compound interest, the returns accumulate very rapidly in the ascending series of an arithmetical progression. Like the surplus capital which the business man places in the bank during the year, which enables him at its end to enlarge his business, the very first season the wise application of these manures very greatly increases the capabilities of the farmer, even that same year, by the increased returns which reward his labors in the form of food material, which can again be turned into increasing sources of enrichment, and thus it is that the farmer adopting this method of finishing his cattle at home from year to year is enabled to far outstrip his grain-growing neighbor who annually markets his grain, and thus continually diminishes the productive capacity of his farm. This latter course kills the goose that lays the golden egg after a very few eggs have been laid, selling store cattle, at a later period of her usefulness, but finishing them at home keeps the willing creature laying from year to year with ever-increasing indications of renewed vitality as time moves on.

We regard the course adopted by many stockmen during the past season, of sending store cattle to the United States, as equally suicidal. The forty thousand head sent over there last summer should certainly be finished at home. We are told these cattle find their way into the eastern and middle States, and are there finished on the grazing lands of these regions. If it will pay the American farmer to defray the cost of transit and the duty as well, it will certainly reward the Canadian producer handsomely to finish them at home. So completely convinced are we of the wisdom of the latter course that if our voice could reach the ear of every cattleman in the land, from Newfoundland to New Westminster, we would say to them, finish all your beef cattle at home. Mr. Moreton Frewen could surely find an outlet in this American trade for some of his surplus Wyoming stores, instead of clamoring for right of way for them through foreign territory.

The freight charges on the ocean favor the idea of finishing our stores at home. The cost of shipping a store beast at two-thirds the value of one fattened is just the same, so that finished cattle can be shipped for 33 1/3 per cent. less per head in reality than stores.

Then there is the argument of great moment, as we view it, arising from the furnishing of employment to farm hands during the winter season, and retaining their services in the country. We hold it is a stigma on Canadian practice that the larger proportion of successful feeders must be drawn at present from foreign sources. The practice of the past, however, has just been such as tended to bring about this state of things. Grain has been grown and sold with but little regard to the future. The system of the past has been quite content to see the young stock go out in the spring no better than they came in in the fall, and hence farmers' sons who should have been employed in the winter season feeding and tending the stock, and thereby fostering a love for the work, have been allowed to spend this part of the year more or less in time-dissipation, till very many of them will not now take the trouble to tend anything properly unless it be a carriage horse.

The summer work hands have usually been discharged on the approach of winter, and allowed to shift as best they could, which custom has expatriated tens of thousands of that class who would have made most excellent citizens. If good hands are to be retained, they must be employed the year round, and a sufficient difference made in the amount of the remuneration they receive to encourage them in the faithful discharge of duty as compared with those floating characters who, like the grasshoppers, sing in summer, and like the ground-squirrels, hibernate in a manner during the winter. The summer farmers do not gain so much by this six months labor term as many of them imagine. One result of its wide adoption has been that it has raised wages during the summer term to extravagant figures compared with those given for the winter period. For the six months' term, \$120, including board, is often given to the same party who, if employed by the year, would work for \$160 and board, making a difference of but \$40 and board between the half yearly and yearly terms of service.

At present we can see no valid reason as to why our stores should be sent to other lands to fatten, which is sure to involve at the same time the exportation of the grain that would otherwise be fed to them.

STOCKMEN wishing animals sketched for the JOURNAL will please first communicate with our office. We cannot consent to accept them on any other terms.