

sable; so the farmer need not trouble himself with what it costs to produce that beef.

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

With reference to the question of greater profit to be obtained by getting rid of beef when two years old, I wish to make an important public announcement to the province, through your agency. All assertions are comparatively valueless and untelling, unless brought home by practical demonstration. It is a fact, as I do now and have elsewhere publicly stated, that the loss or gain to the province annually on this one practice alone is not less than \$1,000,000, it is surely worth while to prove it thoroughly. We have several times given practical proof by the actual cost of producing two and three-year old steers at our farm; but, in order to face the country and drive the lesson home as hard as possible, I am prepared, on having Government consent, to exhibit, say three or four steers, two-year old Short-Horn grades, at any or all our principal shows next year, against a similar number of three-year olds of the same kind, on condition that the exhibitors submit a statement of the exact amounts and kinds of food given twelve months previous to date of exhibition, with the weights of cattle at same date. The judge, or judges, would then be asked to do five things:

1. Value the animals as they stood by age and weight twelve months previous to exhibition.
2. Value the foods eaten for twelve months.
3. Allow twelve months interest on value of three-year-olds, as they stood when two years old.
4. Value them at date of exhibition according to weight and quality.
5. To prove age.

This would be simple enough, and I give fair warning that I would show animals that will make the beam kick at 1,600 pounds, not pampered, nor in any way prepared for the occasion, but getting plenty of corn meal, or pea meal, or crushed oats, as the case may be, with turnips, hay, straw and bran—no condiments, nor linseed meal, nor oil cake, but straight, liberal feeding, as an ordinary and profitable investment for the export market.

In order to draw the public on this subject, I shall be glad to give \$25, if the Provincial Association, or the Toronto Industrial, give \$25 also, so as to make a \$50 prize.

THE GRAZING OF CATTLE.

Ontario is not a grazing country; it has no extensive natural or artificial runs for cattle or sheep, where growth of frame even can be systematically relied upon in preparation for stall feeding; there are neither prairies, nor uplands, nor valleys, nor hill ranges, where nature welcomes to a feast of fat things from May to October. The province is too rich all over for the ranche patriarch or strolling shepherd. We are grain growers, and therefore beef growers in this connection. But it must not be said that Ontario cannot graze her own cattle and sheep—it could be done, were we willing to do it,—not yet do we exactly feel the want of it, or rather, the value of, being able to build all our own bone and muscle, along with some flesh and fat, ere topping-off during six months of winter and spring for the butcher at home or abroad. It is a pity we are not feeling this grazing want more keenly; most of us are contented with turning out the yearling to the bush, the hay aftermath,

and the timothy pasture—where, no doubt, progress is often very good—wonderfully good indeed; but there is no annual and monthly reliability, no undeviating round of a variety of plants to meet all the wants of animals that should be rushed for the market. While our remarks apply more to beef and mutton, they are not foreign to production of milk. Such, now-a-days, in every country bearing up to the times, is the value of a rich piece of meadow on every farm, that were every farm in Ontario in possession of a properly managed five acre permanent pasture plot, the gain to the whole country would exceed \$5,000,000 annually.

As some of our more enterprising farmers, and others, have been in correspondence with me of late in regard to the character and probable standing of the entirely new line of cattle grazing opening in our North-West territory. I propose now to enquire somewhat fully into all its bearings: the question is directly ours and cannot be left as one only between the great outside markets of the world and any millionaire who chooses to invest; our sons have the best right to know what chances exist in this line of our profession for their thousands, as well as others for their tens of thousands of dollars. The importance and magnitude of the subject has, during the last two years, been often referred to in the public press and by some travellers—all so much in that tempting indefiniteness which makes "the mouth water" and wish for something more substantial or more practical. Let us try to meet part at least of this want. The first batch of thoughts is: on what terms can land be occupied or owned; what are the conditions of summer and winter reliability of pasturage; the kind of cattle most likely to succeed; how their management may be conducted; and what extent of investment would pay on the smallest scale so as to encourage limited means. The second batch naturally following is: the capital necessary, annual expenses, and probable annual revenue after everything is in working order. The Government conditions are substantially these: a lease of twenty-one years, with a renewal or surrender, on either side, two years previous to termination; no one party to hold more than 100,000 acres, rent one cent per acre; must possess or graze, one cattle beast to every ten acres, and the allowance of five acres to every one hundred acres as a cattle station in one block, as personal property, on payment of \$1.25 per acre. Difficulties may arise—in the near future, I hope, if anytime, in regard to boundaries and other second rate points, but no one can possibly find fault with want of liberality in these terms. To allow one person, or company, as much as 100,000 acres seems extravagant; but I am confident that very few such cattle lords will crop up in our time, and those who do will find the want of the "master's eye" over everything so big an item of debit, that their history will be comparatively short. Yet even 100,000 acre ranches could be repeated *five hundred times* on the best parts of our great North-West grazing lands. The maps now before us show the rich grass country lying to the extreme south-western part of our North-Western territories, in the angle between the boundary line with the States and the Rocky Mountains; not including the rocky mountain portion, the map embraces about 87,000,000 acres, and possibly will give 50,000,000 acres of good pasture. An idea

of the scale of this very interesting map may be best got when I say that the point of the finger covers 50,000 acres. Now my first conception of the make-up of such an enterprise is association—that is, more than one in its practical management on the spot, because of its comparative speculative character, of its hardships in a measure, and of the immense value of the personal supervision on the part of the principals. I would recommend the agreement of three young practical stockmen, in possession, let us say, of \$5,000 each, making a joint purse of \$15,000. Having chosen, by actual inspection, the particular district in view of (1) future railway communication; (2) shelter; (3) water supply; (4) rich enduring grasses; (5) the necessity, ultimately, of fencing cheaply by utilizing any natural advantages, such as rivers; (6) the very model of a choice of a home cattle station, and (7) the easy extension of the ranche should everything smile—we should consider a breeding stock. The sole aim of men, under such circumstances, would certainly be to raise the largest number of the best store beefing cattle, in the shortest time, and place an annual draft of them on a railway, or at sea-board, at the least possible cost. Which breed or breeds, crosses or grades, of cattle will do best on the "south-western part of our North-Western Territories adjacent to the Rocky Mountains?"

SUITABLE CATTLE FOR THE PLAINS.

The selection of cows and heifers must necessarily be confined to what can be had in the United States and Canada—from among those grades, or native stock, that, by their whole stamp as regards roominess, form and disposition, would throw the best possible grazer by the use of some kind of thorough-bred bull. The character of such a cow, otherwise, should be a good ranger, that is, active in searching for the best patches of grass; a good nurse, able to defend herself and charge; not a wanderer; a home-comer when required; hardly as regards changes of climate, and keeping up well on indifferent pasture if necessary. Such are plentiful all over the continent, at prices ranging from \$25 to \$40 per head. No difficulty exists, therefore, in knowing what kind of cows to use; the trouble, if any, lies in telling exactly what breed of bulls will clearly give us what we want from such cows and their offspring. Remember there is really no actual local experience to build upon, and all that can be advanced in these first steps of the rearing of store beefing cattle in our north-west is to experiment with what we do know can make the best average of all the requirements in other parts of the world. Take a systematic view of these requirements and what we know can be done by the leading breeding breeds of our common stock:

	Maximum Value of Bull.	Short-horn.	Hereford.	Galloway.	Aberdeen Poll.
Reliable breeders	5	4	5	5	4
Impressive power	10	13	9	8	8
Giving early maturity	15	15	12	8	15
Giving weight	15	15	10	9	13
Grazing & disposition	23	15	20	18	17
Hardiness	15	15	13	15	13
Least offal	10	9	10	10	4
Quality of flesh	5	5	5	5	4
Permanency of character	5	5	5	4	4
	100	83	57	52	57