

"I have frequently heard the remark, 'Oh, it's all very well, but she's an exceptionally good Ayrshire.' Now, I say she is not, as I have others deeper milkers and giving equally good milk, one, when in full milk, giving 24 quarts a day, another 22 quarts. Now, let me consider at what cost I obtain this quantity of milk, which is my great point in comparison with other breeds of cows. Of course, the Jerseys and the Guernseys are out of the question, as they give considerably less milk, and theirs is for butter making, not milk selling. Now for the pure-bred Shorthorns. It is well known they barely give enough to bring up their own calves. Now, having disposed of these three breeds, I come to the class of cows one finds, in nine out of ten, in every dairy farm, and which can best be described as under-bred Shorthorn cows. I have some of these, and one has given me, when in full milk, 24 quarts a day, and sometimes 25, another 22 quarts, but both these cows consume at least one-third more than an Ayrshire, and, as the chief object of a dairy farmer must be to produce the greatest quantity of good milk at the least possible cost, there can be little doubt but that the Ayrshire, being also very hardy, should be the milk-selling dairy-farmer's cow; and to partly confirm what I have written, I refer you to the account from an American farmer in your *Journal* of January 9th, which is most interesting. The Ayrshire is also highly appreciated in our colonies, and at a sale by auction held in Sydney last year, one, 3½ years old, was sold for 260 gs."

HARD TIMES AND BOOK FARMING.

It has always been the fashion among a large class of our Canadian farmers to decry "book farming" as being altogether the opposite of practical farming. The farmer who year after year blunders along in a hap-hazard sort of way, making up in a great measure by plodding industry what he lacks in intelligence, is pointed to as the practical farmer, while the man who goes about his work like a rational being and insists on thoroughly understanding it is called the "book farmer." Now it often happens that for the first few years of the careers of two farmers of these widely differing types the so-called "book farmer" appears to have considerably the worst of it. They are on new farms perhaps, and as the soil is of apparently inexhaustible fertility the one's care in saving manure is to all appearances thrown away, though of course it tells in his favor in the long run. In the mean time the "practical" man is skinning his farm and putting the proceeds into his pocket in the shape of dollars. And in the matter of stock the "book farmer" is spending his money in laying the foundation of a well-bred herd of cattle and a valuable flock of sheep, while the "practical" farmer is contenting himself with "scrubs" that cost him a mere trifle. To all appearances the latter has much the best of it, but any one who visits them ten years after their start in life will see that while the book farmer has been laying

deep and sure the foundations of a prosperous career, the so-called "practical" farmer has been absorbing his resources in making a mere show of prosperity.

The present season of unexampled agricultural depression in England has shown the value of "brains" to the farmer. Times are so hard there that it is only what we are pleased to call "book farmers" who can succeed at all. Every pound of manure has to be saved, and every foot of land made the most of, so that it is easy to see how quickly the so-called "practical farmer" would be left out in the cold in the practice of a pursuit based on such accurate calculations as to cause and effect.

THE RANCHING INTEREST.

When the story of this winter comes to be told it will doubtless be found to have been a very severe season on the cattle ranching industry. It seems that this winter has proved an exceptionally severe one all over this continent, and if ranchmen do not lose heavily before spring it will be surprising. Stockholders in large ranches, when they come to learn what sort of a year's business has been done, will be eager to sell out at any price. There are among investors in ranching, as well as other enterprises, so many who are eager to throw in their money recklessly as long as a business looks prosperous, but who are always quick to take the alarm at anything that looks like disaster, that it will not be surprising if within the next six months ranches and heavy interests in ranches should be selling at whatever they may fetch. Should such be the case it will only add one more to the many thousands of cases where the patient, the strong-minded, and the cool-headed have been able to reap a crop, the seed of which has been sown by fools who were too childishly impatient to wait for the harvest. Profits in range cattle would be large if three winters out of five were more severe than this one has proved itself; but it is well known that such winters as this are very exceptional, while those during which no healthy, sound, range cattle die of the cold are the rule rather than the exception. As it is, profits on range cattle are very large, and taking one year with another singularly constant. If therefore this hard winter should scare many inexperienced investors out of the cattle business it will also give cool-headed cattle men extra chances for safe and profitable investments.

IN COLD WEATHER.

During this astonishingly severe weather there are some simple facts that the stock-breeder and feeder should always keep in mind.

He should keep his stable warm and snug, remembering that the nutriment required to put on fat and promote the growth of young animals will be wasted if it has to go toward keeping up the temperature of the animals fed.

He should remember that certain kinds of feed are much better calculated to supply the system with carbon than others, and that at a

time when the mercury is coquetting with zero for a week at a stretch, he should not be sparing in supplying the carbon to his sheep, cattle, and horses.

He should also remember that while roots and other food containing a large percentage of water are capital articles of diet for mild weather, they are not suitable for such temperatures as we have been having most of the time this year, and that they should be fed moderately if not indeed very sparingly.

FEEDING ENSILAGE TO DAIRY CATTLE.

Not long ago a very perceptible flutter of excitement was raised among farmers and stock-breeders on both sides of the Atlantic by the announcement that the manager of a very extensive milk-condensing establishment in London had issued a circular, or something of the sort in which he unsparingly condemned the feeding of ensilage to dairy cows. He not only condemned the use of milk from cows fed on ensilage for condensing purposes, but added the following paragraph which of course gives his letter a wider signification:—

"Both in our interest and in the interest of farmers who may contemplate the use of silage, we find it advisable to announce at an early date that our future contracts for the supply of milk will contain a clause declining to receive milk from silage-fed cows. Experiments with silage were begun in America several years since; but we are informed that agitation there regarding it has in a great measure subsided; that large numbers of silos have been thrown into disuse. The American condensed milk factories without exception decline to receive such milk, and many butter factories do the same. Milk is a peculiar substance, its soundness can scarcely be graded—it is either sound or good, or it is bad. It is our opinion that milk not good for one purpose is also not good for any other purpose. We shall much regret any diverging interests which may arise between us and farmers who have been long supplying us with milk. We shall soon be able to distribute a considerable number of extracts from American papers on the ensilage question, which will show that silage where it has longest been experimented with is less favorably looked upon than formerly."

Now, this only goes to show how completely even a clever man may go astray when he attempts to jump at conclusions. No doubt Mr. Haddor had a rather unpleasant experience with some milk from silage-fed cows, but that is hardly a sufficient reason why he should hastily condemn a system which is likely to lead to a very great improvement in the material prosperity of dairy farmers the world over. It is only a very short time since farmers began using silos, and of course there are occasional mistakes made both in their construction and management. Cows in pasture will occasionally manage to find some noxious weed that will flavour two or three milkings, and it would be very easy for a farmer to make just such a