

price of cattle in the stockyards and the price of porterhouse, tenderloin and other fancy cuts on the butcher's block. While the highest price paid for cattle on the hoof is four and one-half cents per pound, the butcher charges 25 to 28 cents for porterhouse and 50 cents for tenderloin. Too large a spread, thinks the consumer! In truth the spread is larger than it should be, but there are several other facts to consider. A strange few of the cattle marketed at Winnipeg are "beef steak steers." Cattle that dress under 55 per cent, do not run very strong on the fancy cuts; cattle that dress under 45 per cent, hardly have any steak on their backs at all. Naturally demand exceeds supply, not demand for cattle, but demand for a particular portion of muscle about the center of each animal's back. Consequently those who insist on having this portion have to pay for it. High prices for fancy cuts improves the price of stock on the hoof only as there is demand at fair prices for the remainder of the carcass. The animal that carries the greatest proportion of high-priced meat is the most valuable from the producer's standpoint, just as it is the most valuable from the standpoint of the wholesaler and retailer. The price of livestock is based upon what the least desirable parts sell for, as much as it is upon what can be got for a certain few pounds upon the loin. Meat eaters and cattle raisers have a thing each to learn. If consumers could find out how to use something cheaper than porterhouse their butcher bills would be smaller and their stomachs as well satisfied. If cattle feeders could be induced to believe that their stock would stand more "finish" before marketing it would be better for them and the whole cattle industry. The trouble in the meat business is that cattle raisers are producing too much of the kind of meat that consumers don't want and too little of the kind they do.

MY OPINION ON SOME MATTERS NUMBER 24

IS IT ADVISABLE TO PAY TEACHERS IN RURAL SCHOOLS MORE MONEY?

I never talk to a teacher of a rural school but the impression is left that they have a difficult work to perform on comparatively low pay. Of course, salaries have improved greatly since I was in close touch with public schools, but still there is a doubt as to whether or not salaries are high enough—that is, for *competent and conscientious* teachers. There are, however, more teachers overpaid than underpaid. Teachers who instruct the youth for a period of years merely to have something to do until they get married or undertake something less hazardous and more remunerative are not worth half the monthly stipend they draw.

It seems to me that the present scarcity of good teachers, *competent* teachers, is due to the fact that ability and resourcefulness in teachers is not recognized by a proportionate increase in pay. A person who uses brains going about daily routine or office work gets at least \$1,000 to \$1,500, where a teacher, with more brains, more tact, etc., working under less congenial conditions, is obliged to toil on with several hundred dollars less as an inducement.

A noticeable feature is the fact that trustees refuse to part with cash, no matter what services are rendered. In reality, then, the trustees are at fault. If I were engaging a teacher

to instruct the children of any community, I would not let one of this ideal kind referred to go at any salary within reason. If farmers are not satisfied to pay for the services of teachers who know how to bring the children along and show them how to develop into men and women of the kind Canada needs, what will they pay for?

I have assumed all along that there are good teachers and those that are not so good. To distinguish between them is not always easy. However, trustees that are worthy of that honorable position can find out if they try. They should at least satisfy themselves that pupils are making satisfactory progress.

It is strange, though, how lacking in judgment or tact some teachers are. Since they have had high school and college or university training, we naturally expect to find them have common sense and sound judgment. Just the other day I heard of one who became very anxious to make use of the strap. She (it was a lady teacher) claimed she must make an example of someone. The *someone* in this case happened to be a timid girl, not over strong in constitution and one who never had given the teacher serious trouble. The strange part of it was the teacher had not detected any wrong-doing on the part of the aforementioned pupil until after four, and it so happened that the latter had remained after four to assist with some work that she should not have had anything to do with.

However, the fair teacher evidently had been out late the night before, or had been disappointed in some heartrending fashion and had to "get even" in some way or other. The timid girl was the object of attack and received a pair of blistered hands, a broken heart as well as a disturbed nerve system for a minor misdemeanor that would not bring punishment from any sober-minded teacher. Now, such a teacher as that, I would dismiss without any hesitation. She is a fairly good teacher, but she lacks self-control or, at least, is not fit to have in charge of a roomful of children who are there for sane instruction. The days of the mad use of the stick or gad or strap happily have passed. Those who cannot control ordinary individuals without administering corporal punishment should leave the teaching profession and go to the lumber woods, where they can wreak vengeance on saw-logs or men as strong and ready as themselves.

Within the next month arrangements will be made with hundreds of teachers to do duty for 1911. If the old one is thoroughly satisfactory, the salary should not stand in the way of re-engagement. Otherwise, my advice is to try hard to get one that is likely to prove satisfactory. Teachers gradually drift to where they are well used, and the trustees who pay good salaries, as a rule, get the best teachers.

"AIRCHIE MCCLURE."

Believes in Freer Imperial Trade Relations

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In your issue of November 2, page 1578, appears an article entitled "Arguments for Wool Tariff," in which the writer gives, as he thinks, conclusive arguments in favor of a tariff on wool. He is speaking with reference to the United States, but I believe conditions are somewhat similar in Canada.

First, let me explain that I am a farmer, and, as such, am opposed to the system of taxing the many for the benefit of the few. I am not an "expert" on tariff matters, but one argument in the article referred to does not seem plain to me. The writer says that when the duty was less than eleven per cent., the number of sheep kept decreased, and points out what a calamity it would be if the wool crop of the world was decreased by one-eighth. But would not the law of supply and demand take effect here, the decreased supply causing prices to rise, and thus benefit the farmer, who in this case is the producer, just the same as would a tariff? And would not a market, the result of natural conditions be better for all than an artificial one—the result of a tariff?

The article further states that England, with free trade, produces more shoddy than any other country. Now, I cannot prove the contrary of this statement, but is it not generally considered that a "Made in England" article is as good or superior to any other make? At any rate, such has been my experience. Now that tariff reform or change of our trade relations is a question which will shortly be discussed by our House of Commons, I would like to say here that while I am in favor of freer trade relations with our southern neighbors, especially in farm machinery, I would much rather see the conditions of trade bettered between us on the one hand and the mother country and other members of the empire on the other.

CHAS. N. LINTOTT.

The cow, the sheep and other animals that chew the cud have four stomachs, and a very perfect arrangement for grinding their food. Grain should be fed with roughage, as then it goes into the first stomach and will be rechewed. If the grain is eaten alone, it is apt to go to the third stomach and so miss the rechewing. To make sure that the feed is thoroughly chewed feed it with roughage. The best way is to cut the hay or straw, mix the grain feed with it, then it will go through the whole grinding process.

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Richard G. Carden, one of Ireland's Shorthorn enthusiasts and a capable judge, is to make the awards at this year's Chicago International Live-Stock Exposition.



MAKING THE HURDLES.