

"For a number of years, the cattle feeding business in Manitoba has been on the wane owing largely to the low prices that have ruled for beef. The small profits to be realized have been out of proportion to the amount of capital required for buildings and equipment and the cost of labour. The value of the manure, which is considered by many cattle feeders as equivalent to the cost of labour, is not generally regarded so in Manitoba. The inducement to feed cattle has to be, therefore, that it offers a better market for the coarse grains than to sell them directly off the farm. The tendency to grow more oats and barley is becoming greater every year as their usefulness as cleaning crops is demonstrated, and, as diversified farming becomes more general, their growth will be stimulated further.

One of the deterring factors to the more extensive feeding of steers has been the amount of capital required to house them in comfortable quarters. Buildings of any kind are expensive, and those that are strictly essential are generally all that the average farmer cares to build. He is quite reasonably averse to putting money into buildings in which to feed stock when the profits from feeding are, at most, meagre. To overcome this serious objection, a system of feeding has been advocated in which the cattle are allowed to run outside without any shelter. The strongest advocates of this system are men who have been practising it successfully for several years. By this method, the stock, steers of about 1,100 to 1,300 pounds, kept in the open throughout the winter, are fed straw and chopped grain and allowed abundance of water. The claim is made that steers handled in this way make good gains economically, do not suffer from the cold, and can be handled with infinitely less care and with the outlay of much less capital than when comfortable quarters are provided."

The equipment provided for the first winter consisted of nothing more than a straw rack made of poles and large enough to hold two or three sleighloads of straw, and a plank trough 16 feet long and 3 feet wide. The only outlay was a few cents for the plank in the trough and the time necessary to construct the rack and trough. No artificial shelter of any kind was provided. The site chosen was one that provided good natural shelter; it is a south slope and is a small clearing in a thick growth of scrub oak.

During the first two winters the cattle got their drinking water from a stream in a coulee nearby. This was not entirely satisfactory as it meant chopping the ice every day, and, if a steer did not drink soon after the hole was opened, he lost his chance for that day. For the third season, a well was sunk, a large trough provided and a tank heater put in the trough. A very small quantity of coal burned in the tank heater will keep the ice off the water in the trough. This system has been used each year since it was adopted and has given satisfaction. The outlay for the tank heater was \$8, the cost of a trough will vary with the construction and can easily be estimated by anyone interested.

RESULTS IN 1908.

The inside lot was started on Dec. 5th, 1907, on a ration consisting of silage, 25 pounds; straw, 8 pounds; hay, 4 pounds; roots, 10 pounds; grain, 4 pounds. The grain ration was increased from time to time until by the first of April each animal was receiving 10 pounds of grain per day.

The outside lot had oat straw before them at all times and was fed grain in the same proportion as those inside. During the last three weeks of the experiment, coarse slough hay was substituted for the straw, the supply of which gave out. The grain was fed twice daily and water was available in a neighbouring coulee.

Three of the steers that were stabled had to be dropped from the test before it was complete, so that five only are included in the results. Both lots were sold April 20th, for \$4.25 per hundred. In considering the results which follow, it should be borne in mind that the winter of 1907-8 was an unusually mild one,