

Feeding Cattle on Grass

To many, feeding cattle on grass means a turning out to pasture and allowing the animals to shift largely for themselves. If, however, the pasture is good and they have a good run cattle will make good gains during the season.

But fattening cattle on grass means a good deal more than this. The feeder must have regard to the market, to the kind of cattle he puts out to pasture, and whether he wishes to finish them in midsummer or to hold them for the fall market. Then their age will have something to do with the treatment cattle should receive on grass. So that, while feeding on grass will not require the attention that feeding inside will, yet it is no sure cure if the best results are desired.

Cattle that have been grain-fed pretty heavily during the winter, will shrink very much if the grain ration is not continued on the grass. And it is very essential that the grain ration should be continued if the cattle are intended for market in early summer. In fact, there are those who contend that it is better not to turn cattle on the grass at all if they are intended for the June or July market. However, the feeder will have to be governed by his own conditions as to this. In any case grain feeding should be kept up.

Then as to feeding on grass for the fall market. Some of our most successful feeders make a practice of giving a grain ration all summer, not necessarily large, to be sure, but enough to keep the cattle in good thrifty condition and enable them to make substantial gains. Of course, if the cattle are being run over to be sold as feeders in the fall there will not be much advantage in feeding grain on grass, providing the pasture is good. But when they are intended to be transferred from pasture to market a grain ration is a necessity. With younger cattle oil meal or cotton seed meal may be given to advantage along with a grain ration. If, however, the pasture is made up largely of alfalfa or clover, there is less need for these feeds.

The kind of cattle that will make the greatest gain on grass are those wintered largely on roughage. But while this is true, they will not finish well enough to compete with the best grain fed cattle on the market. The feeder may be able to sell at a lower price and make good money, but if he will add a grain ration towards the finishing period he will get a higher price and be well repaid for his outlay.

In feeding cattle on grass as well as in other ways, it pays to do the job well. There are too many half-finished cattle on our markets. And this has been particularly true this spring. For the past month or two the bulk of the cattle offering on Toronto market have been of this character, and have had to be sacrific-

ed at much lower prices than if they had been kept a few weeks longer or given a better finish. The cattle trade at the moment is not as satisfactory as it might be, but it is likely to improve later. If the dry weather, as noted by our English correspondent this issue, continues, it may mean a scarcity of good beef in Great Britain before the year is out, which would certainly advance the price of cattle very materially on this side the water.

They Affect the Farmer

At the session of the Ontario Legislature just closed eight Acts were passed of direct interest to farmers. They are as follows:

Respecting agricultural societies. Respecting horticultural societies. For the suppression of foul brood among bees. To amend the Act respecting the Agricultural College. To provide for the exemption of woodlands from taxation. To regulate the width of sleigh runners. To regulate the speed and operation of motor vehicles on highways. To amend the Act to prevent fraud in the manufacture of cheese and butter.

Editorial Notes

The wool market keeps at a high figure. Unwashed wool is quoted here at 17 and 18c, and washed at 25c, and it looks as if a higher figure would be reached before long.

The railways in operation in Canada to-day total 22,843 miles; 3,412 miles have been added during the past two years. The next five years will largely increase this total. Last year Canadian roads carried 22,148,000 passengers and 47,373,417 tons of freight.

At Vermilion, five hundred miles north of Edmonton, or fully nine hundred miles north of the boundary line, 12,000 bushels of good wheat, besides oats and barley, were grown last year. Who says this is not a big country? We are only beginning to know something of its possibilities.

If you don't know what constitutes a good road, write to the Commissioner of Highways, Toronto, for some literature on the subject. Every pathmaster, at least, should have this information, and better and more permanent roadways would be the result if he applied it conscientiously to this year's statute labor work.

Of the 1,400,000 bales of wool produced annually in Australia 1,100,000 are sold at home, or 82 per cent. of the whole. The clip of 1905 showed an increase of 200,000 bales over the previous year. On the whole the business of the pastoralist in that country is on a better footing than for many years back.

When you go out to do road work this year, don't make it your sole

aim to pass time by swapping stories in the fence corner. The King's highway is your highway, and the better condition it is in the easier it will be for you to get your produce to market. A good road will greatly enhance the value of your farm.

In a letter just received from our English correspondent, he promises to send two or three articles on Swedish dairying for *THE FARMING WORLD*. The Swedish government have invited him to visit their agricultural show in Stockholm and see a portion of the country. This show is only held every five years. The articles in question will be at first hand and of interest to every dairy farmer.

The government power bill, though not drafted along lines laid down by the report of the power commission, provides for legislation that will mean cheaper power for the municipalities if they wish to avail themselves of it. From the farmers' standpoint, the benefits will not be as large as if the government had gone into power production on its own account.

Our readers will remember the commotion raised a few years ago by the announcement that a gigantic farmers' wheat trust had been formed in the United States to hold wheat for one dollar a bushel. It is a sad commentary on the movement to have to report that the business of the promoter of the scheme is now in the hands of the receiver, the promoter himself having deserted the business.

The Alberta government is preparing to boom sugar beet growing in that province. A bill has been introduced into the legislature, just adjourned, setting aside the sum of \$250,000 for distribution at the rate of \$30,000 a year for five years to the sugar beet industry. All standard grades of refined beet sugar made in the province will command a bonus of 2½¢ per pound, the manufacturer being compelled to pay farmers for beets on the sugar content basis.

If farmers were to work on the farm the same as many of them do on the roads statute labor time, the hired man would have a glorious time of it. There would be no rising at 4 a.m. and working till dark. In fact, the energy expended in eating three meals a day would constitute the biggest part of the day's work. Seeding and harvest would never be accomplished, if the statute labor day, as many see it, was applied to farm work.

Like It

I am taking *THE FARMING WORLD* for the first time this year. I like it splendidly, and think I will take it another year too. George Gibson, Leeds Co., Ont.