



EDITORIAL

This is a good time to save the breeding heifers.

Read the convention and live-stock show reports in this issue.

Just two more weeks to wait for the annual Christmas Farmer's Advocate.

High prices for finished beef, pork and mutton should mean better feeding this winter.

"Any port in a storm" is manifestly a safer slogan than "this boat can weather any storm."

If you would have healthy, thrifty stock, keep them in clean, light, well-ventilated buildings.

Weigh a few of the steers from time to time, and note their comparative gains according to feed consumed.

Manufactured into good beef, pork or lamb, what would that load of grain offered at the elevator be worth?

Feed plenty of live stock to feed the farm and take just as good care of the barnyard manure as of the stock fodder.

The young orchard needs protection from mice. Now is the time to attend to this if it has not already been done.

A good beginning for the writer's thoughtful consideration of farm subjects is attendance at some of the winter exhibitions and conventions.

Cold-weather comfort in the stable does not mean high temperature, but it does mean fresh air in abundance.

Perhaps there is no essential in good stable construction so little understood and so badly neglected as proper ventilation.

Some have again been convinced that it is not the best practice to leave apple-picking, turnip-pulling and potato-digging too late in the fall. November weather is uncertain.

Attend the agricultural meetings. It may be possible that things will be said with which you do not agree. If so, get in the discussion. You will get more out of it, and so will the others present.

Chicago cattlemen complain that Canadian cattle have a starved appearance. Either they are not getting the best stock, or many of our cattle are being offered unfinished. We hope the latter is not the case.

There is no better means of gaining knowledge than getting out and seeing what the other fellow is doing. Take a holiday and exercise your powers of observation while away.

Get in touch with your member of parliament before the coming session opens, and make the needs of the rural population known. You have elected him as your representative, but your duty does not end with the marking of the ballot.

The Economy of Good Highways.

Road-making is one of the biggest questions in Canada to-day. Railroads, steamship lines and motor trucks can never solve the transportation problem till that five- or ten-mile stretch of highway between the depot or town and the producing acres of our country is put into such condition as will allow the grower to greatly increase his output and still be able to draw it to market. One individual in the Niagara district of Ontario increased his acreage contract for tomatoes from five acres to forty acres on account of improved shipping facilities. A neighbor contracted for seventy-five acres because he could dispose of his crop after he had grown it. Does not this picture plainly the relation of roads to production? With the increase in production will come a decrease in price. The grower must take less for his output and the consumer will buy his necessities for less money. The producer gains through his increased acreage, the consumer through a diminished price. This condition warrants a universal movement towards better roads. It is not a rural question alone, but the onus should be borne by urban centers as well as rural districts. The expense will be great, but the results will correspond. One man in the neighboring Republic said: "If we had all the money we have expended on our roads we could pave our streets with gold."

With a far-reaching result in the marketing of produce with communication established between town and country, with the producer and consumer brought closer together, the Provincial Parliaments and Federal Government can well afford to liberally assist with the construction and maintenance of roads.

The Cost of Living.

A public school principal of successful experience in a leading Canadian city for many years, and well acquainted with urban and rural conditions, respectively, has tersely expressed to "The Farmer's Advocate" his conclusions on the popular newspaper topic of the day—the so-called high cost of living. The question, he concludes, simply resolves itself down to two main causes. First, there is the abnormal flow of people to the towns, swelling the consuming population and lessening the ranks of those on the farms and retarding production. This has already in the case of some foods had the effect of enhancing values. The second, and a very immediate reason, lies in what may be termed high living, or to put it more mildly, the people have forsaken the ways of plain living. There is perpetual and increasingly costly craving for recreation day after day and night after night. Nowadays people insist on better and more modern homes in which to live. As a result of the massing of people in towns, property values have gone up and taxes and rents have increased. People demand more modern homes and a house which a few years ago could be secured by a workman or clerk for nine or ten dollars a month will now probably exact a monthly rental of eighteen dollars. No, it is idle and wrong to lay at the door of the farmer the high cost of living for which people themselves are largely responsible. As may be expected, a variety of nostrums and cure-alls will be prescribed by politicians and newspapers, most of them superficial and futile as far as affording any real help either to farmers or town consumers is concerned and

indeed some of them may be positively mischievous in their nature. There is no easy, short-cut method to a solution of the present situation in town living. If the people must all dwell on the front street and enjoy orchestral accompaniments with their meals, they will have to pay the price.

Sell the Heifers -- Spoil the Herd.

What is a big price for a big, healthy, thrifty yearling, two-year-old heifer? She need not necessarily be pure-bred, but a grade of the kind that every cattleman, who is a judge of what constitutes a likely valuable breeder, takes pride in owning. Hundreds upon hundreds of this class of heifers have been sold off Canadian farms this fall, to be fed for the butcher's block either in this country or in the United States. It is bad enough to see the steers going elsewhere to be finished, but it does seem almost criminal to further deplete the breeding herds of good young females by selling the promising heifers to be fattened. A correspondent in another column in this issue shows just how grave the situation is. From one small district in Middlesex County, Ontario, 113 yearling heifers, which averaged 634 pounds each, were shipped in one day early in this present month, and the drovers and dealers still have their lines and drag nets out to make the largest possible haul of cattle. They are ready to buy anything which is beef or looks like making good beef when finished, but they place a premium on size and quality.

There was a time when the drover or butcher did not care to buy heifers, or, at least, he beat the farmer down in price favoring steers. Not so now. Good heifers are in demand for feeders and beef, and the result is sure to be an increasing scarcity of beef cattle. Sell the heifers, and the herd of the future is gone: Only upon the best young females bred to the best-breeding bulls can a satisfactory future cattle business be founded. Remove the foundation and the building collapses; sell the good heifers and the cattle business totters and is destroyed. It is more serious than many seem to realize, and the suddenness of the upward trend in prices, which, in the cattleman's parlance was correctly known as a "jump", has been and even yet is being taken advantage of by buyers. Five or ten dollars per head more than he could have obtained for good heifers or young cows or good steers seems quite a consideration to the man who owns the stock, and yet on a thousand-pound or twelve-hundred pound animal it is very little per pound. We have heard of several "deals" being put through where the first owner got what he thought was a good price, being \$5 or \$10 more than he expected a little while previously, the second owner turned the same cattle over almost immediately at an advance of \$5 or \$10, and in a few cases a third transaction has been recorded at a still further advance. This is the way it goes, but it all leads to fewer heifers and spoils good opportunities for bolstering up the cattle-breeding business. There are two values to place on the heifer, viz., what she is worth for beef, and what she is worth as a breeder. Be sure the price is more than covers her worth for the latter purpose before selling.

Before feeding up nearly all the grain or disposing of it in any other manner, would it not be advisable to clean and put away in the best bin the seed required for next spring?

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