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## EDITORIAL

Again we say save the good calves.

Everlastingly preparing for war is a likely way to bring one about.

After the cold spell recently experienced there should be no "short crop" of ice.

Can you tell the age of a horse by his teeth? If not, an article in this number should prove of unusual interest.

The last month of winter, as is often the case. exploded all the prognostications of the man who prophesied a mild winter.

War is the method of wild arimals and savages lacking the intelligence to settle differences in a humane and rational way.

Canada is not the only country whose educational system has led the young of the land cityward. Scotland is now grappling with the same problem.

Prepare to shoot or pay the shot is the alternative flung in the face of peace-loving Canadians. The design seems to be to make them do both.

"Scotland Yet," in his letter in this week's issue, hits the nail on the head when he talks of the educational system making clerks and typists instead of ploughmen and dairymaids.

If the war lords who are so zealous to lead the campaign against imaginary enemies would tackle some of the real ones that prey upon the country it would better serve the interests of the

A few illustrations of dairy Shorthorn cattle and the record of a certain Canadian herd published elsewhere in this paper should remove the doubts from the minds of the skeptics and prove conclusively that there is such a thing as a dualpurpose cow.

The Ontario Government was ushered into session on February 18th, 1914, with great form, dignity and grandeur. If the business or the country were conducted with the same practical exactness that a dairy herd must be managed, there might be a Record of Performance estabdished once in a while.

A well-known American writer has said apropos of the rapid increase in urban population, as compared with rural dwellers, that "life in the city destroys the nerve of a man to take his chances with just nature. He would rather risk pauperism to get a 'job' than to endure with fortitude the chances of the seasons in the country. He has lost his plowhandle muscles, and his capacity to hope for a harvest just from the earth. He wants wages 'by the day' or month. He lacks the courage to believe in the soil, to endure the hardships of cold in the winter, and of heat in the summer." For these and other reasons he does not care to return to

## Dear Beef, The Embargo and The Feeder.

LONDON, ONTARIO, FEBRUARY 26, 1914.

A few days ago the daily papers contained a report of certain proceedings at a meeting in the Old Country where the high cost of living came up for discussion. It seems that this condition of society is beginning to be keenly felt on the other side of the Atlantic, notwithstanding the fact that increases in this respect have not been anywhere in comparison as high as they have been in America. It is not the statement that living is getting higher in England that we wonder at, but rather at the cause given. Some of our friends over there made bold to state that Canada was responsible, because her export trade, especially in beef cattle, which formerly was carried on almost exclusively with the Mother Country, is now largely diverted to our neighbors to the south.

Years ago Great Britain placed an embargo on cattle entering that country as a safeguard against the pleuro-pneumonia scourge, and made it imperative that all animals so imported should be slaughtered within ten days at the port of entry. Once on, the embargo remained. Of course, this shut out Canadian feeding cattle, which, while we do not believe in trade restriction, was not, in our opinion, a very hard blow to the Canadian feeder, notwithstanding the acrimonious statements made largely for political purposes at the time. We never did believe that it paid farmers in the long run to sell an unfinished product, and this applies with all possible force to cattle feeding. While embargoes are not generally in the best interests of trade in any particular line to which they may apply, this particular impediment did little harm. The opening of the United States market has developed a new state of affairs in cattle breed-There are ing and feeding in this country. those who now rise up and with ready persiflage blame Great Britain for the present trend of the trade, hinging this blame on the embargo which she placed on Canadian feeding cattle. Such is uncalled for and unwarranted.

The new market has drained many sections of Canada almost completely of young stock and thousands of head have been sold in the raw, feeder or stocker state to be finished off the green hills of Vermont and Pennsylvania, which would have in the end paid the farmers of Ontario for the feed and labor of finishing. We would not care to see an embargo placed on Canadian feeder cattle by the United States. Such would not be in the interests of trade and whether or not an embargo is held against our feeder cattle by Great Britain or any other country should not matter to our feeders as long as the finished product is allowed to enter these countries duty free. Every cattle feeder who has land to grow winter feed, cannot afford to sell his stock in the young, thin and unfinished state. Finish every good animal; whether it is accomplished at ten months, eighteen months, two years or two and one-half years matters little. The earlier the finish the better, but the point is "FINISH."

will sell in the highest markets and do not feel of meat in the Old Land. They do not get too to keep the best heifer calves. If they choose to

much. The Canadian farmer has very little cause to lament that an embargo exists on his cattle entering England in so far as it applies to feeder cattle, and if they blame us let them remove the embargo. Let our finished animals have access to the world's markets and, of course, it remains with the breeder and feeder as to whether or not he finishes his stock. Legislation cannot successfully govern this branch of the farming business. The feeder should have free hand and free choice in the matter, but we look to the feeders to see the importance of finishing as it applies to farming in the long run and not have their eyes blinded by large immediate returns from selling unfinished cattle.

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The farms of our country need all the fertilizer to maintain and increase fertility that the stables of the cattlemen can turn out. Regardless of the high cost of living, Tembargoes, legislation and the opinions of consumers far and near, let the feeder settle down to the sure and safe policy of feeding as much as possible of his crops on the farm and selling the finished product, whether it be steers, milk or butter or what not.

## The Calf to Kill and The Calf to Keep.

One of our valued subscribers recently suggested that "The Farmer's Advocate" inaugurate some sort of campaign against the slaughter of female calves. He was a man interested in the milk business and one who has the future of Canada's live-stock trade and the welfare of farmers interested therein at heart. He complains that drovers are cleaning out the young dairy cattle and that farmers are not realizing what is happening. Very soon they will have to buy and prices are sure to be exorbitant. This applies forcibly, not only to the dairy business, but also, and perhaps more strongly, to the beel-cattle trade. The good and the poor calves go at an early age, no discrimination being used in selecting them, ' All the young things have been sold from many herds and this practice continued year after year cannot help but have a detrimental influence on the cattle-breeding industry, whether it is dairy cattle or beef cattle.

Radical means have been suggested to stem this tide of live-stock depletion. Some have gone so far as to state that legislation should be brought down by our Governments, setting an age to which all female cattle should live before being slaughtered. . Good cattlemen have opposed such a scheme, and rightly so. Too much legislation is not a good thing for the live-stock business. It is up to the men who own the cattle to see to it that the best female calves in their herds are retained for future use in these herds. If they will persist in selling promiscuously simply because high prices are paid for the youngsters upon them will be the burden in a few years when it becomes necessary to replace some of the old worn-out matrons.

No one regrets more than we do the over-selling of veal calves, very often almost too young to be called veal. We have always held that the safest, surest and quickest way to build up a England has no right to blame Canada for the high-class herd, either of beef cattle or dairy high cost of living over there, basing the blame cattle, is to retain in that herd females from the on the meat supply alone. Our cattle feeders very best cows on the place, and, of course, from a high-class sire. The breeders have the matter so charitably inclined as to lower the season's in their own hands and they must be the judges. returns in dollars and cents to decrease the price It is to be hoped they will be far-seeing enough