

A Paradise for Steers.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

With regard to the cost of raising calves, I may say the field for discussion is big. I notice in your journal letters on raising colts, from different men in Canada. Their conclusions vary greatly. We, in the Maritime Provinces, have been unconsciously trained to believe Ontario to be a "Goddess of Wisdom." We continue weekly to read of the writings generally from that great Province, and then we think, and think, and think. Sometimes we believe what they say, very often we do not. Circumstances alter cases so much in all the Provinces that results are very different. Farmers have very different ideas of which kind of a horse is the most profitable. That depends upon whether we are a lover of a trotter or a puller. Being brought up alongside the Mt. Allison College, our training has been to look with horror on a horse that ever entered a track. We watch the college boys in cold weather, with bare legs and bodies, running from five to twenty-five miles; we also watch the hockeyist pound his opponent stiff on the ice, and the football player split the other fellow's nose—all carried on under advanced Christian education. Then, we farmer boys conclude, if a human being can run 25 miles, we can be justified in breeding a colt to trot a mile in two minutes.

On account of our close proximity to the new education, we have very largely bred the heavy-draft horse. We have done it so well that, at our exhibition, October 7th, Dr. Standish, the judge, said: "This is the best local exhibition of horses I have ever seen in the Maritime Provinces or Quebec, but I must draw the line when it comes to Ontario and the West."

So now, Mr. Editor, we feel right alongside of that great big Ontario. Since reading some of the statements of the cost of raising a colt, I hardly dare speak. Ideas and costs are so big up there that, until Dr. Standish came and told us what we were, we had almost thought of moving away. In Sackville and Westmoreland Co., N. B., we can raise horses and cattle at—I will say half the estimate that has been made in Ontario. It is one thing to raise a horse for fun, and another case to rear it for a living. We here raise them for the bread that comes so dear. I think I told you before of these wonderful Tantramar marshes. I made some big quotations then, and, strange to say, no one this year has disputed that we grew more hay to the foot than any people in the world. Cheap fodder is and will be ours forever. Here is the secret of cheap raising of any live stock. We don't feed and stuff any of the stock from birth, as all the farm papers in Canada that I have seen suggest.

First, we breed to the heaviest and best pure-bred Clydesdale stallion we can find. This year I bred three grade Clydesdale mares to a stallion weighing 1,900 pounds; fee, \$10, and cheap at that. That much money, with \$2 for castration, is all the cash we pay out, until we get \$250 for the animal at five years old.

We feed the colts hay that is not salable, and is fully as good for the stock as the clover and timothy that goes to market. They also get pulped turnips and a pint of oats daily the first and second winter, when they begin earning their living, as they usually weigh 1,100 pounds at two years old. From three to five years old, the horse earns enough more than his keep to pay for all he cost from birth to when he went to work; so that, when he comes to be five years old, weighing 1,500 pounds, and worth \$200 to \$300, we consider him as that much money that is worth more than bank stock. In this section, the raising of these heavy horses is more profitable than any other part of the farm operations.

Now for the steer. The general-purpose cow is where we get him. I read constantly in your valuable journal that the most profitable way to raise beef is to keep it fat from birth, and sell at 16 to 24 months old. That seems to be the ideal way of all the writers that talk in "The Farmer's Advocate." I have had a lot of experience, too, in that line. I have stuffed a calf from birth with all the new milk it will take with other feed; got it very fat, and kept it so for two years, and then sold at \$10 per hundred, dressed weight. After I had allowed for the butter-fat for six or eight months, and the cost of all the extra middlings, corn and potatoes, I found that the beast cost too much for what he brought. In other words, I cannot bring up a Methodist family, with fifteen cows on the farm raising their calves, at that kind of business. No sir! we do different from that. We keep Shorthorn pure-breds or grades, as our inclinations lead us. After two weeks we have the calf on skim milk; that, with some meal and nice fresh grass, fodder corn, or other green feed, we give him until six months old, ready to eat pulped turnips and this sweet Tantramar hay. The first and second summer they don't get clover up to their stomach, but perhaps a rough pasture, with trees, etc., where they grow nicely, but cost very little. The second winter in the barn, hay only. They grow fairly well, but lose the fat gained in the summer. My "The Farmer's Advocate" or the Experimen-

tal Farm experts will say, what a waste to allow that beast to lose flesh after it once had it on. Yes, let it lose flesh, rather than cost so much to keep it on. When the beast is 2½ or 3½ years old, often he is put in the barn on this hay and a bushel of turnips daily, and sold when he will weigh 1,200 pounds, at 5 cents per pound—\$60. With this way of farming, all the cream has been saved to go to the factory, or manufactured at home.

Give me a boy who warmed his bare feet on the cold September mornings where the cows lay overnight. That is, a boy with a good mixture of Scotch, English, French, or Irish, and I will show you the man who every time is at the head of all progression the world over. Why? Because he had to hustle for the education and bread that he earned.

Give me the grade Shorthorn steer from a good milking cow, brought up with plenty, but not pampered, and I will tell you, Mr. Editor, that those steers will fatten, when they get a chance for something good, equal to a city walf when fed on hot turkey.

Of course, when fitting animals for exhibition purposes, they will need to be fed all they can eat from birth. Do that, my friend, take him to the show-ring, and get fifth or no place at all, and see what your steak costs you. If you (like Leask) get all firsts, and sell the steer at 9 cents, live weight, why you are right in it; and "The Farmer's Advocate" says look at this for an ideal. Dozens try for it—only one gets there. They don't often try it more than once. But, Mr. Editor, you—none of you—have a remedy for all of us common fellows by the thousand who stay at home and raise the steers that are exported by the steamer-load to Great Britain, and used for home consumption.

I see hundreds of steers coming to St. John yearly for Great Britain that are four years old, that will average 1,200 pounds, and scarcely one of them is brought up but by the skim-milk process. I have never yet seen a report by Experimental Farms or private individuals of the cost of raising steers in this way. While 100 steers are raised in this fashion to one by stuffing from birth, yet no one dares report on the cost. You ask me to tell you our experience. A few years ago, a man with half a dozen boys was complaining about how poor he was. I said, "Man, do you know that every boy is worth \$5,000 each?" "Why," he said, "I never thought of that; I am a rich man." Do you suppose he could tell how much each one cost him?

It is about as hard to tell the cost of a steer. If we farmers had to keep an account of all we take from the gardens and fields to feed our household, we would find out that our income was a pretty good one.

One thing we know, and all the dairymen in the universe won't change our opinion, and that is the general-purpose cow is a cow to be reckoned with. We know, also, that she is about as good at making butter as the best of the dairy breeds. We sell her butter weekly—and a lot of it—at 25 cents a pound, and cannot begin to supply the market. We sell her steers at 3½ to 4 years old at \$60 each. The whole feed was raised on the farm. We have enough to pay the taxes, boots for the children, and a portion for the preacher. We always have time to go to political meetings and sales, and have a little left for a rainy day. We would not exchange our general-purpose cow and farming generally for the best position that Canada can offer.

BLISS M. FAWCETT.
Westmoreland Co., N. B.

[Note.—Mr. Fawcett appears to be laboring under a misapprehension as to the advice given by this journal on stock-raising. Allowing calves to suck the cows is precisely what has been advised against, and Mr. Grisdale, we believe, agrees with us thoroughly in this. We never recommended commercial farmers to make a practice of feeding their calves as though intended for exhibition purposes. What we do advocate is keeping the calves pushing along from birth to block, with hides loose, betokening thrift; and the calves making an average daily gain for the whole period of not less than two pounds per day. This may be insured by a week's feeding on whole milk, tapering to skim milk fed in gradually reducing, and finally in very small quantities, continued as long as possible. After six months' time, a quart or two a day, diluted in water, will still do wonders in maintaining thrift and promoting gains. Use should also be made of flaxseed jelly, to take the place of the fat abstracted from the milk, and afterwards of oil cake, bran, corn and oats to substitute the skim milk. Bright clover, alfalfa or mixed hay, corn silage if available, or other roughage, may be used. The writer has raised dozens of Shorthorn grade calves in this way to attain a weight of 700 to 750 pounds at about 12 months of age, and was always well satisfied as to the profits. Somewhat similar results were reported by Mr. Grisdale in our last Christmas Number with stock of very ordinary breeding and quality. As Mr. McMillan says, if it pays to raise calves to the feeder stage, at two or two and a half years of age, it will be

much more profitable to feed them a little better and have them finished at that age if for export, or twelve to twenty months if for the local trade. —Editor.]

THE FARM.

A Tour of the West.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The people of the older Provinces are especially interested in the Northwest, having contributed of the best of their young men and women, who have gone out to build homes for themselves and their descendants, and help lay the foundation for the future greatness of the West. We should not overlook the fact, too, of so many good settlers and business men from the United States (this year estimated at 70,000) who have come to help us build a great Empire. The British Isles and foreign countries are contributing their quota, who find here in this country, freedom, and a land where they can easily secure homes for themselves and their posterity.

Those who have come here from foreign lands, send home, almost invariably, such favorable reports, that in many instances, in a few years, large settlements have been established. It is owing entirely to these fertile lands, the enormous crops that can be easily grown, and the fair and liberal assistance given by the Government, that these newcomers have been so pleased, and have induced their friends to come.

These new Provinces, besides furnishing homes for so many, have opened markets for Eastern manufacturers and fruit-growers, which will continue to increase, as the West fills up with its millions, as it is destined to do. Were I of a prophetic turn of mind, I would predict, in the not far distant future, these vast tracts of land will be thickly settled; and not, as we are accustomed to think, in the far West, but in the very heart of Canada. The West must necessarily, for many years, look to the older Provinces for a supply along many lines. This country has already been brought prominently before the world by its "Manitoba Hard." Its vast, almost unlimited possibilities for development can scarcely be realized.

My tour of this country was made leisurely, not simply by passing through in a railway carriage, and viewing the land, forming impressions which are often misleading. Through the courtesy of the secretaries of the various Boards of Trade and other officials, as well as the real-estate agents, farmers, who have now comfortable homes and become independent, as well as homesteaders, some of recent arrival, with whom we came in contact, have we been able to "spy out" the land. All these took an interest in showing us about, driving us out, in some instances, for many miles to settlements, and we are indebted to many for the true Western hospitality so liberally bestowed upon us.

I will endeavor to briefly give an account of our tour, and impressions formed of Western conditions generally.

On previous occasions I had made the trip to Winnipeg by C. P. R., which route traverses for many miles a country abounding with forests, most of which have been burned over from time to time, leaving the tall dead trees alone to tell the tale of havoc wrought by the fire. Then, too, the rocks along the north shore of the Great Lakes become, like the former, monotonous, and the traveller longs for other scenes. To break the monotony of the trip on this occasion, we made the journey from Sarnia to Port Arthur by boat, thus making a desirable change from the all-rail route.

A day or two can be very pleasantly spent at Port Arthur and Fort William, cities beautifully located, and headquarters for a large tourist trade. Here millions of bushels of wheat are stored.

Our journey from here to Winnipeg was over the Canadian Northern. Everyone spends at least a few days in this busy city. The growth of Winnipeg since my previous visit has been marvellous. It is reaching out in every direction, and it is undoubtedly destined to be a great commercial metropolis. Already, a project is afloat to make it a seaport. Then, much of the produce of these vast, fertile lands will find an outlet by Hudson's Bay to Great Britain, the best market in the world, and saving a haul of 1,000 miles, and 10 or 15 cents a bushel on wheat.

It is from Winnipeg on, however, that we—and, I presume, most of your readers—are specially interested. All have heard and read so much of the vast tracts of wheat that one longs to be in the midst and see for himself.

Our first stop-over west of Winnipeg was at Portage la Prairie, one of the oldest wheat-growing sections of Manitoba. Here wheat has been grown year after year, successively, for over thirty years, on the same lands. At the time of my visit the wheat was being harvested and threshed, and I not only saw the work done, but actually assisted in order to comply with the requirements of harvest excursionists. The wheat here, after