

animals, except for the last two months. If cattle are kept as they ought to be that length of time is quite sufficient for fitting dairy cattle. I might also add that I never turn show calves out to pasture. Our calves are weaned from their dams at from one to three days old; fed on their mother's milk three times a day for one week, twice a day after that. We continue to feed new milk for three weeks, then make a gradual change to sweet skim; as we start to change we add a little oil meal, scalded, with enough water added to heat the milk to blood temperature; as the new milk is withdrawn the oil cake is increased in such proportions as to make a good substitute for the cream. Sweet hay is placed before them and often changed. Bran is put in a box when they can eat, but this also must be often changed. As soon as they learn to eat nicely only so much is given as will be eaten up clean. A little meal is added at three weeks old. One part peas, one part oats, and one part barley, the other part bran, forms a very good mixture for calves, given three times a day in such quantities as will be eaten up clean before the next meal. Never allow food in a manger over one meal, give less. Pulped roots should also be given, or ensilage, enough to keep the bowels nice and open. Feed enough milk and oil cake, scalded, twice a day so that they need no other drink except for the noon meal; give water as the calf grows older and the weather warm. At six months old all our calves are weaned, except our show calves. They are now carefully looked over, and the ones coming nearest to our ideal are fitted for the show; in this we use no forcing system. Our calves now eat well; the milk is continued till after the exhibitions. The meal ration is a little changed, a little more concentrated food added, but always feed half bran. They can eat as much as they like and it will never hurt them. Our object is not to get them fat, but in good condition, to keep them vigorous and growing, form lots of bone and muscle, and have a nice loose, mellow skin with soft hair. The age I consider most suitable for showing calves is from seven to nine months old.

Yearling heifers, if raised in the manner described, and kept well through the winter, require nothing but good pasture and plenty of water until the 1st of July or later if in good condition. We have repeatedly taken heifers out of pasture, with little or no fitting, and won honor prizes. When pasture is scant, four quarts meal, two parts peas, two parts oats, one part bran, and one part oil cake will soon put them in good shape, with fodder corn added (we also like fodder corn for the calves as soon as in season). The best age to show a yearling is about twenty months old, bred to be starting to spring at show time. Two-year-olds need careful attention; they should be in good condition before calving, which should be in the end of June; this will give them a grand chance to build up on the succulent pasture, and sufficient time after to get in nice shape for exhibition. When in milk they should be fed twice a day in such quantities as to keep up the flow of milk and the system. In older animals the object should be always the same as with young animals—to keep them in good, healthy condition, and if pasture becomes scarce, add other foods, to keep up the condition and the flow of milk. We don't want dairy animals (females) to enter the ring fat (it tells against them), but in nice condition, and in the pink of health; they must look thrifty. To strike a medium is about right. I have seen dairy cattle too thin for exhibition. Such animals should never be brought out; they are a disgrace to the breed and breeder. While we allow cows heavy in milk to be rather thin, it will not do with young stock. The public will judge the breed, not the conditions.

Males should be in good condition always; however, not too beefy. Feed to keep a good coat and rich, mellow skin. Give exercise, but not to excess; keep the feet in proper trim. Bulls will not thrive when their feet are sore, and they soon will become sore if care is not taken. They should be laid down, and trimmed from the bottom. Wash cattle with soap and water thoroughly, rinse well, and blanket, a day before going to exhibition. We never use a blanket before. If an animal's coat won't get in proper shape for the ring with a few days' blanketing there is something wrong and it should be left at home. However, grooming will always help to make them comfortable and improve their coats, and cattle that are stabled should be groomed regularly.

In conclusion, would say, make the right selection; show your cattle in a good, healthy condition; aim not to have them too fat;—while we allow it with males, it is never admissible with females. If a dairy animal has the proper treatment from calfhood, and the correct breeding, there is no reason why any animal intended for breeding purposes should be ruined by being fitted for exhibition. The aim and object should always be to secure early development, but not to impair their future usefulness.

Much as I admire the care and attention of the skillful breeder and feeder whose sole object is to promote growth and pile on flesh, and much as I admire the results of such labor, I question very much if it pays even with the beef breeds, while it surely will injure their future usefulness as breeders. The best bred and most valuable animal is often ruined as a breeder, while the milking qualities are surely injured and often destroyed. Dairy cattle must be judged on points. Any man that does not judge in that way has no business in the ring; he must have a thorough knowledge of what he is undertaking, and do it skillfully.

Growing Feed vs. Pasture for Sheep.

Prof. Thos. Shaw, of the Minnesota Experiment Station, believes that he has made the "find of his life," having succeeded this season in keeping sixteen sheep, by growing a series of crops, in better condition than he could two on the same land in pasture. The plot selected was a high prairie land with a gravel subsoil, and which had not been manured for four or five years.

He divided an acre into four equal parts, each part surrounded by a portable fence. Two of these plots were sown to rye last fall. In the spring, as soon as the rye was well out of the ground, the sheep, six full-grown ones and ten lambs, were turned onto it. As soon as they had eaten the rye well down they were turned into the next plot. While they were eating from this second quarter the first was growing up again from the roots which were left, and by the time the second plot was cleaned off the first one was ready to be eaten for the second time. This was repeated three times, and when the sheep were on the second plot for the last time the first plot was ploughed and sown with a mixture of corn and rape. A drill was used and the seed was planted very thick. After the sheep had eaten off the second plot for the third time they were put upon the third one, which had been planted with oats and peas, and the second plot was put into corn and rape. The sheep were unable to eat the third plot off in time to get to the fourth before the feed here was so far grown as to be too tough to be easily eaten, so about fifty other sheep had to be brought in to help them out. When the plot was finally eaten, the original sheep were turned onto the fourth plot, which had been sown to rape alone, as the ground was very dry. This piece has turned out the best of the lot. By the time that the sheep had obtained all the food possible on the fourth plot, the first was ready for them to eat again, and they were put upon it.

The corn and rape were well up, and made most excellent feed. As soon as it was eaten close, a small quantity of sorghum seed was added, and the plot harrowed. He expected this plot to be eaten off twice more this season.

The second quarter was handled in the same way. The third plot has been eaten twice, and has furnished pasture equivalent to that required for one sheep for 225 days. After the second eating it was sown with rape and sorghum and harrowed, and would be eaten off three times more. The fourth plot has been eaten off twice, and has furnished food for one sheep for 230 days. It has again been harrowed without reseeded, to be pastured off twice more this season.

The strong points of the system are these: First, the production of a very large amount of strictly first-class mutton; second, the complete removal of all kinds of noxious weeds from the upper section of the soil; third, the fact that the ground is left in a richer condition at the end of the season than it was at the beginning, for the reason that the sheep manure it thoroughly; fourth, the impaction of the spongy prairie soil, caused by the many feet constantly pressing it, which is very helpful to the growth of the succeeding crop; fifth, the land only needs to be stirred on the surface to prepare it for the crop to follow, no ploughing being necessary; sixth, and perhaps the most important, the good crops that are sure to be produced after land has been pastured in this way, due to the hardening of the ground, the manuring, and the absence of weeds.

This was an exceedingly favorable year for the experiments, but even in dry seasons he was convinced that better relative results will be obtained from this system than from any system of grain-growing. It might be a good plan to devote one-half of a farm to raising sheep in this way, and the other half to raising grain, alternating every year. "I may be called an enthusiast," he said to a reporter, "but I have perfect confidence in my plan, and think that I have proved that it is practicable. I am willing to take any farm, no matter how large, and put my ideas into operation upon it, and I am sure that I would meet with every success."

One Leak That May Be Stopped.

Losses are going on year after year upon farms that are considered by their owners to be well and economically managed. There is so little account taken of the loss from manure piles, and through stable floors, that very many do not consider it worth while trying to stop it. Remember that a loss right here means clean money out, just as much as does a mouse hole in the granary floor; but it is more silent and treacherous. A ton of urine from a horse is worth three times as much as a ton of solid manure, and the urine from cattle is worth twice as much as solid, ton for ton. What we would say is, put in a cement floor right after harvest, and stop this silent leak.

The Sled Corn Cutter.

HAND-CUTTING PREFERRED.

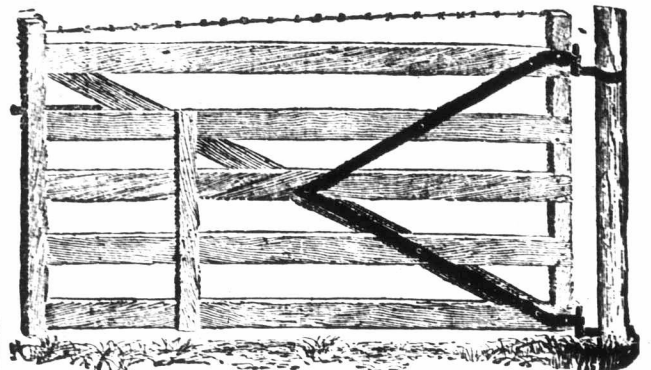
SIR.—In reply to your favor of the 13th, I beg to say that we did not use the sled corn cutter last year, neither do I intend to use it this season. I prefer cutting by hand and have the corn put in bunches. In the first place, the sled cutter makes a rough job, and besides, it takes two men, a horse and a boy to work it.

O. A. C. Guelph.

W. L. RENNIE, Farm Supt.

FARM.

Well-Braced Gate Hinge.



Among the many purposes to which old wagon tires may be applied, is the gate hinge illustrated above. An old tire, too much worn for further service, is cut in two at the middle, and one end of each piece is turned with an eye or socket to form half of a hinge. Then, four inches from the socket the bar is bent to an angle as shown in the engraving. The other ends of the two pieces are then welded together in the form of a V, the width of the open end being governed by that of the gate. The lower hinge is made in the usual manner, with an upright pin at one end, and a thread and nut at the other. The upper one may be made in the form of a band, which is driven over the gatepost, and fastened by nails driven through holes punched for the purpose in the band.—Leon Hay, in *Farm and Home*.

A Trip to Manitoba and the Northwest.

BY J. C. SNELL.

At the request of the *ADVOCATE*, I write some of my impressions received during my late trip to the West as judge of dairy cattle at the Winnipeg Industrial and the Territorial Exhibition at Regina. To one who has not seen the great Provinces and Territories to the west of us such a trip is truly a rich treat. The City of Winnipeg, to begin with, is a genuine surprise to the visitor who sees it for the first time. Here is a city of wonderful development, considering its short history since the general opening up of the Province as a farming country. Winnipeg is a progressive and energetic business centre, with an admirable social life, a fine educational equipment, homes as attractive and residential streets as handsome as can be found in any city in Canada. Her broad streets, substantial buildings, extensive parks and unlimited water supply, backed by an immense country of fertile farms, seem to mark this as the metropolitan city of the Dominion in the not far distant future.

It has been found expedient, on account of the rush of work on the farms after harvest, to hold the leading exhibitions in July, which is a month of comparative leisure to the farmers while waiting for the ripening of the grain.

The Winnipeg Industrial is admirably managed. The courteous and energetic secretary, Mr. Hueback, is a host in himself, and has the happy faculty of getting through an enormous amount of work while retaining a sunny temper, and giving a fair amount of attention to each of the many interests which claim his care. The exhibition of live stock, especially in horses, cattle and hogs, far surpassed our expectations of so young a country. Nearly all the well-known breeds were well-represented, and the animals were brought out in quite as fine condition as we are wont to see at the leading shows in Ontario, while the show of garden and field vegetables and roots, it is safe to say, was far superior to what we could make in Ontario in the month of July.

The Regina Exhibition was the first of a contemplated series, and the foundation has been laid broad and deep for a great show in the future—indeed, it was a great show to begin with. The grounds are large and well-arranged, the buildings tasteful and substantial; and though there was an absence of the systematic arrangement and management seen at the Winnipeg show, yet no doubt time and experience will remedy the defects of the first year. The show of stock was much more extensive here than at Winnipeg, and while the best were not better, perhaps not equal to the best at the Provincial show, yet there was more good stock here, and all in fine condition. To give an idea of the entry of stock it is only necessary to mention that Mr. Russell, who judged the beef breeds of cattle, including grades and range stock, assured us that he passed upon over four hundred and fifty head; and the dairy cattle must have numbered at least one hundred. The horses, brought in from the ranches of Assiniboia and Alberta, were a surprise to visitors from the East. These are largely the produce of the high-class stallions and mares introduced by the large ranching companies; and the training, or rather lack of training, received in a free life on the prairies, without stabling or handling, has developed a class of muscle and bone and feet which is the admiration of the connoisseur in horsemanship. The spectacle of such an exhibition of high-class breeding stock here, on the very ground which but a few years ago was the undisputed home of the Indian, the buffalo, and the broncho, is a commentary on the energy, enterprise and intelligence of the settlers