

As in the case of the other experiments, labour has not been considered. Each reader must therefore estimate how much the labour of feeding the cattle less the value of their manure is greater than the labour of marketing the oats or barley, and reduce the selling price of the grain accordingly. This will vary according to location and circumstances. While many will not agree with him, it is the opinion of the author that when the using-up of the straw and the benefit of the manure are considered, the balance will be in the favour of the steers and these prices need not be reduced at all.

But even after making a liberal allowance for the cost of labour, the prices realized for grain during these five years are very much greater through feeding it to steers than could be obtained in the ordinary way. Even in 1910, when an extravagant method of feeding was tried with the outside steers, and the results were reported as disastrous, the prices obtained were 31 cents for oats and 43½ cents for barley, which is not bad to say the least. Then in 1911 when good fortune combined with good buying and selling gave a spread of over 3 cents a lb. between the buying and selling prices, the figures obtained for the grain fed were simply fabulous.

TYPE OF STEERS.

Though no special experiment has been carried on to compare the gains made by steers of different types, it has been apparent in all the tests that steers of approved beef conformation invariably made the best gains. The kind that is wanted is the low-set, blocky animal with thick, deep body and generally thrifty appearance. Steers such as this keep in better health, have better appetites, and make better use of their feed. The other kind are wasters and it is unwise to try to fatten a bunch of scrub or dairy-bred steers. Best results can be obtained only with steers of beef breeding whose conformation indicates feeding quality.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS.

We believe the results of these experiments justify us in recommending steer feeding to the farmers of Manitoba as a profitable line of farming. It offers a reasonable profit and a satisfactory way of disposing of farm products. It assists in the labour difficulty by providing remunerative labour in the winter, and enabling the farmer to offer year-round employment to a good man.

It enables the grain grower to return some of the lost fertility to his land in the form of manure. It provides for the profitable disposal of hay, alfalfa, corn or roots; crops that must be more largely grown before the Manitoban farmer is successful in coping with the growing evils of soil blowing and weeds.

At present, most of the cattle raised in Manitoba leave the farm in an unfinished condition. They are sold in the fall, when prices are likely to be the lowest, and are only feeders or at best fair butcher cattle. The cattle that could properly be called exporters are very few. Now there is a good demand in our cities for highly-finished beef. This demand is usually best in the spring before grass-fed stock begin to come in. These experiments and the experience of the few feeders there are, show that the farmers who sell off their thin or half-finished stuff in the fall, could do much better, provided the steers are of good beef type, by fattening them through the winter and turning them off when the market is at its best.

The most important conclusions from the experiments herein described may be briefly expressed as follows:—

1. Steer feeding may be profitably carried on in Manitoba.
2. Good results can be obtained with no other feeds than straw and grain.
3. The addition of succulent feed such as roots or ensilage improves a ration.