

not be tied up for sale, but, as the Hibernian might remark, had to be killed to save their lives. It was possibly an "off day" for the "rangers."

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Last year there were some 52,000 Canadian cattle handled at Deptford, and 12,675 sheep, and 145,000 U. S. cattle and 819 sheep. Just a word about sheep. This trade has fallen off greatly, and some of the small bunch we saw from Montreal were so inferior that they would hardly sell for the freight. There is room for great improve-

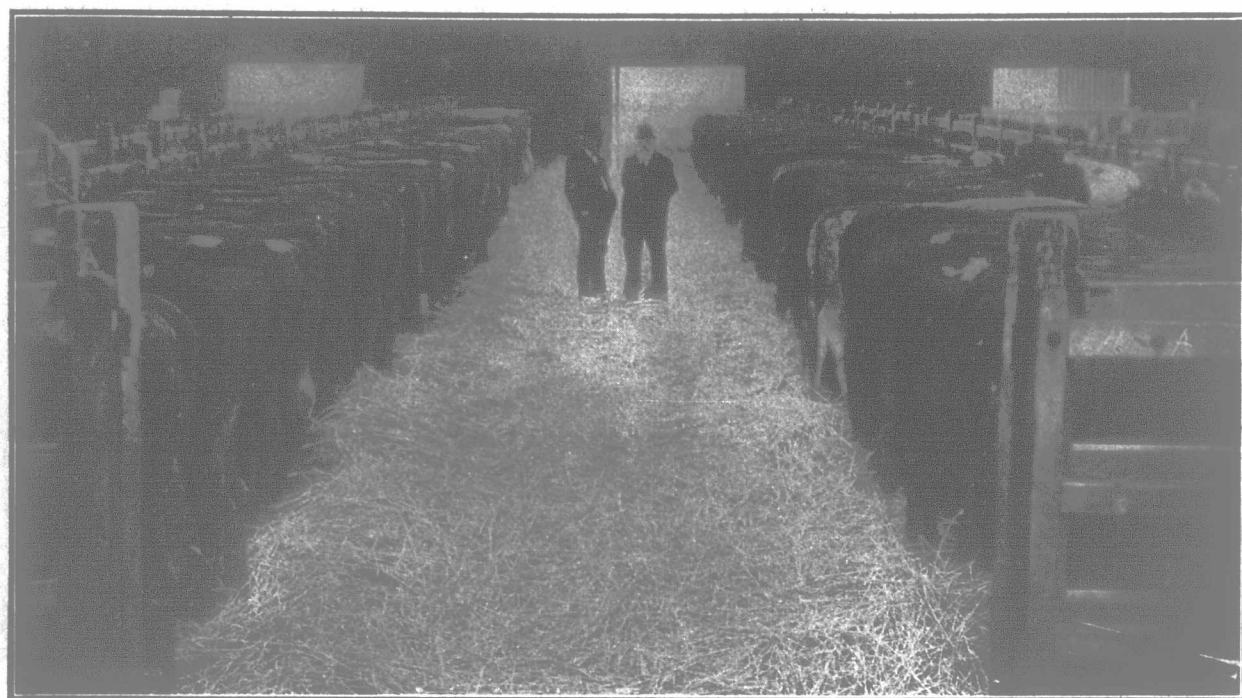
ment in the sheep business. There are very few disabled cattle. We saw none on the day in question, all being in good health and condition. Scores of ships, carrying from 700 to 900 head each, make the voyage without a loss. From April 29th to June 23rd of this year, 50,954 cattle were landed, and only 60 head had been thrown overboard. Twenty-four ships averaged a loss of only one each. They do not get off their feed on shipboard, and the voyage usually takes 12 to 14 days. The cattle, as a rule, are said to improve on the voyage. On landing, a staff of officers inspect them alive, and the corporation of London employs two meat inspectors to pass up on the carcasses.

Deptford market has covered lairs for 8,000 cattle and 20,000 sheep, and refrigeration space for 4,500 sides of beef every 24 hours. After the animal heat passes off in ordinary air, the meat goes into the cold-storage chambers, being afterwards sent to the great Smithfield market, where it is redistributed by the butchers who purchased the live cattle. There are three market days per week, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, and about 25 big buyers operate. Salesmen have the privilege of four or five different markets, if it is thought they can do better by holding. Price seems to be all a question of supply and demand. U. S. cattle were selling for about one-half a cent better than the best Canadians. It was claimed that the expense of handling cattle here has been reduced since the embargo went on, and that the efforts for removal have not appealed to the consumers, for the reason that they do not see that it would make meat any cheaper for them, as the

cost of transporting the cattle to the country, feeding and returning to market would be added.

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Mr. Geo. Thilcox, for thirty-five years the superintendent and moving spirit of this great market, has had an experience altogether of forty years in the trade, during which time nearly 17,000,000 sheep and cattle have passed under his charge. He is a model official, of the best British type, who keeps the institution running like clockwork, having about 130 men on his staff. May his shadow never grow less.



U. S. Cattle Tied Up for Sale, Deptford Foreign Cattle Market, July 27, 1906.

THE FARM.

Lessening Labor on Ontario Farms.

One sometimes hears, in comparisons of Western and Ontario agriculture, of the greater ease with which crops may be secured there than here, as for example, when a crop of wheat is successfully grown on the last year's stubble without the operation between of plowing. Without stopping now to discuss the practices—wise or otherwise—of our Western neighbors, I wish to suggest that, before conceding the advantages to be so strongly against us, we should stop and consider whether we are always doing our work in the most expeditious and economical ways, or whether we may not, in many particulars, be clinging to methods laborious and wasteful of time, and at the same time not conducive to the best results. One thing is true: we have made at least considerable progress in lightening farm work, especially by the adoption of implements and machinery, in the stead of the great amount of hand labor once necessary. It is also clear that we shall need to make still further advances in this direction, if we would cope with the attractions to prospective farmers, of the glowing reports of easily-gotten homes in the West. On every hand one sees remunerative dairying given up for the more precarious but freer business of feeding cattle; and farm after farm, once devoted to mixed or dairy

farming, on changing hands, is added to some neighboring farm and turned over to pasturage—a consequence, not of crop failures nor dull markets, but of a lack of men to do the work. It is futile to look for relief in a return of former conditions; nor would we wish to see their return. I venture the opinion that if the old-time supply of labor were to be restored to us, at the old-time rates of wages, not one-half of it would be employed. We are learning to get along very well without it, though it must be granted there is a danger of our doing so partly at the expense of thorough farming, and by neglecting permanent improvements.

I am not pessimistic regarding the future of the farmer in Ontario. The West may furnish homes for thousands who, in Ontario, under conditions prevailing, would never pay for the land they tilled. Nevertheless, if we will but study to apply our efforts to the best advantage, and economize what help we have, there is no reason why farm life in this Province should be a grievous and an endless drudgery. We have learned many ways of simplifying our work, and there is no doubt but most of us are still doing plenty of things which give no adequate returns.

By way of illustration, let us review the changes which the years have brought with them under the single head of plowing, and remember that a similar process has been affecting the various other phases of our work. Consider, too, how much these changes have been hastened by this much-lamented scarcity of help, which has compelled us to do what Experiment Stations and Farmers' Institutes, unaided, could not have persuaded us to do for years to come.

Twenty years ago the bare summer-fallow was an established feature on almost every farm. It is not yet so dead as it ought to be, but the great majority of farmers now would no more think of practicing it than they would of returning to hand-reaping. Everyone who remembers the repeated plowings bestowed upon the favored fallow field, can appreciate the saving of labor effected in the passing of the practice.

Aside from this, less frequent plowing is now found necessary than was once the rule. On a well-regulated farm it is seldom necessary to plow the land oftener than once in two or three years. The rotation followed here calls for twice in five years. All the sod (two fields each year) is turned down after the removal of its first crop. All the grain (two fields) is seeded down to be left for hay. The fifth field is devoted to corn and roots, and, instead of being plowed, is prepared for the following crop of spring grain by surface cultivation with the spring-tooth cultivator. This is practiced, and found entirely satisfactory, by some of the best of Ontario farmers. Our experience with the two methods, side by side, was that the greater labor of plowing was not rewarded by any greater yield of grain. Neither is there enough inconvenience from having the rubbish at the surface to induce us to plow; on the contrary, we prefer to keep the seeds of what weeds there are where we can germinate and destroy them by cultivation, instead of plowing them down, to cause annoyance at some future time.

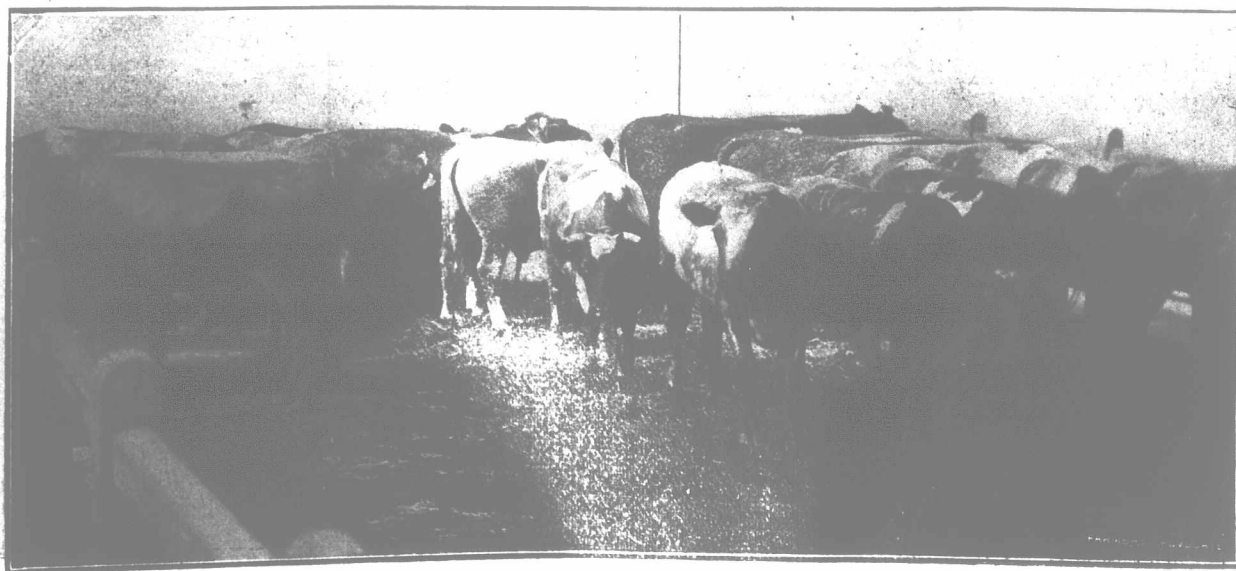
Shallow plowing, which was brought to the front some years ago through the work of Mr. Wm. Rennie, is also a noteworthy factor in lessening labor in plowing, for it stands to reason that it is lighter work to upset four inches of soil than double that depth. While comparatively few farmers have been willing to declare out and out for the system, the fact remains that the average furrow turned nowadays has become decidedly shallower than those of the past.

The advent of the two-furrow plow, with which one man, with three or four horses, does the work of two men and two teams, has also contributed vastly to the solution of the labor problem. Partly as a consequence of this, larger fields, giving longer furrows, are coming into favor. The ordinary two-hundred-acre farm, divided into assorted plots of ten acres and under, is an abomination, and, wherever practicable, should be laid out in fifteen or even twenty-acre fields.

The decadence in the art of skillful plowing and the loss of pride in work carefully done, which has apparently taken place, is deplored, and, to a great extent, justly so, by many. Still, plowing may be lacking in many of the points formerly emphasized and yet be carefully and thoroughly done, so that there is no reason for condemning present methods simply because they ignore "fancy" features in the effort to accomplish more work. Our grandfathers took a keen interest in their achievements with the plow; and, since it necessarily occupied so important a place in their tillage operations, let us give them all honor for it. We, on our part, should show as lively an interest in adapting ourselves to the demands of our time, and thus the hard-won acres of the sturdy pioneers will have fallen a heritage to worthy sons, and will assuredly continue to provide not alone an endurable, but a handsome living.

Waterloo Co., Ont.

H. GROH.



Bunch of Canadian Cattle, Morning After Landing at Deptford Foreign Cattle Market