

If the recently-weaned colts are still running in the box stall and have not been haltered, do it at once. Did you ever notice how nervousness and timidity grow on a colt allowed to run loose alone in a box stall and not handled to any extent? The sooner a colt is tied and handled the better. As soon as thoroughly "halter broken" allow him the run of his box stall, but tie him for a few hours each day to keep him accustomed to it.

Where hay is scarce and good straw plentiful idle horses may be fed one or two feeds per day of straw. In fact some feed no hay, replacing it entirely with good, clean, bright oat straw and increasing slightly the grain ration. In many sections the straw was particularly clean and bright the past season. A saving may sometimes be effected by its use for roughage, but a little grain is necessary where straw forms the sole roughage.

### Catching a Wild Colt.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Sometimes it is necessary to catch a somewhat wild colt or older horse in a large box stall or small paddock. Very often a colt is foaled after the mare goes out to grass in the spring, and is consequently not handled very much until the time comes around to wean him in the fall or early winter, and even then he is often turned loose in a big stall and left perhaps until nearing spring, or sometimes until the following fall to be haltered. Of course, this is not the best practice, but still it is more or less common. So it is that a comparatively wild colt or young horse is frequently found on the farm, and it becomes necessary to catch him and get the halter on him and teach him to lead and stand tied.

The writer has had several experiences with this class of colt, and has found the following simple method practical, effective and harmless. If the colt is in a paddock or box stall, preferably the latter, take a fairly long rope and place a slip knot in one end and place a large loop in it. Spread this loop on the straw in the well-bedded stall, and stand back at the opposite side of the stall. The colt's curiosity will be aroused and he will move up to the loop, and after a little maneuvering will place one front foot unsuspiciously in the loop. Pull the rope and tighten the loop on the fetlock of the colt. Now open the door and drive the colt out into a well-bedded or deeply-manured barnyard. One man can hold him easily. He will jump and flounder for a time. Pull the leg gently but firmly out to the side from under the body. Let him jump and fight. He will soon tame down and stand while he is haltered. Leave the rope on the leg, and have an attendant take the halter shank and walk in front while the man with the rope walks behind. If the colt gets wild a gentle pull on the rope will soon quieten him, and in a short time he will lead quietly.

All this trouble might be saved if colts were handled enough when very young and taught to lead when small, but many of us are busy and do not get it done, and the foregoing is an easy, simple and effective means of partially repairing damage due to earlier neglect. I have handled a particularly wild colt rising two years of age in this manner, and several younger colts which otherwise might have given trouble in catching and holding after being caught. There does not seem any harm whatever result from the operation, and I can recommend it to others having wild colts to catch and "halter break."

Middlesex Co., Ont. YOUNG HORSEMAN.

### An Act to Help the Farmer.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In looking through your valuable paper I see that you are throwing open your columns to the stallion owners and breeders to discuss the "Stallion Enrolment Act." As I have been in the horse business some twenty years I will tell my brother horsemen and breeders what I think of it. Last winter I spent a day at the village where stallions were being inspected, and I saw horses getting their certificates that I would be ashamed to have in my stable as geldings. So far as I can see the Act is doing nothing to put out of business the useless horse, be he either a grade or a pedigree animal. The only men who will be benefited are a regiment of soft-handed gentry that will be able to extract \$100,000, a large sum of money, out of the pockets of the breeders of this province. For a certainty the stallion owners will saddle this burden on the breeders. It seems to me that this Act is an insult to the breeders of the province. Are they children just out of their swaddling clothes that they must be told by the veterinary profession what they shall breed their mares to? Men that have spent their whole lives in breeding, rearing and caring for horses I think should be able to look after their own interests. At the

present time I am the owner of a horse that won several championships at leading fairs in this province and that cost me away up in the four figures, and also a string of five registered mares some of them I believe good enough to get highest honors, but I shall get out of the game as soon as possible as I see that this is but the thin edge of the wedge in this business, for as soon as this Act is in operation someone will set up an agitation to have mares inspected. I think that it is about time that our governments gave the farmers a rest.

The President of the Tanners' Association is asking for legislation to prevent the farmers from killing or disposing of any female cattle under five or six years of age. It seems to me that these are the kind of men that are getting acts passed to help the poor farmer along.

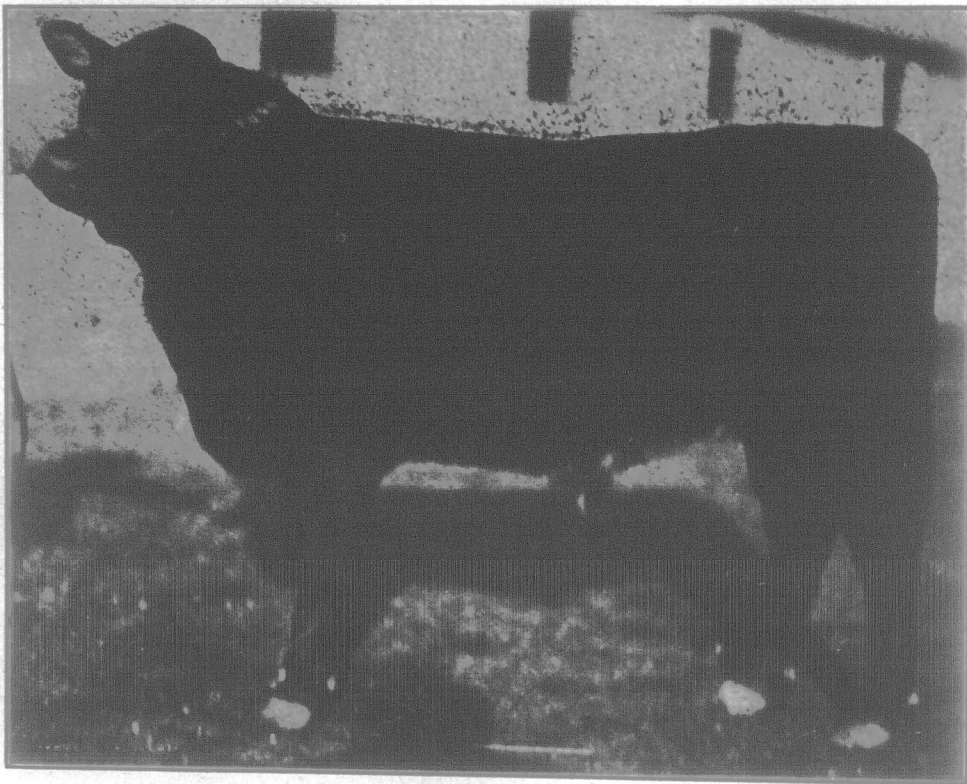
Elgin Co., Ont.

W. H. McALISTER.

## LIVE STOCK.

### In the Feed Lot and Finishing Stall.

This is the season of the year when the occupants of the feed lot or stall must be closely watched. Young growing stock will thrive or remain unthrifty according to their care and the attendant may say, "Well, they will pick up



Hector.

The winning butcher's steer at the Live-stock Show in Toronto, in November last. Exhibited by John Lowe, Elora, Ont.

when they go out on grass," but to the feeder of steers for the block no such consolation is forthcoming. It is now or never, and a delicate steer or one off feed spells loss at once.

Few people realize the extent of the steer-feeding industry, and the knowledge, experience and technique required to conduct it properly. It has been estimated that 85 per cent. of the cattle that reach the Chicago market are not raised by the people who fatten them. This is indicative of the system the world over where the stock is raised on grazing lands and finished in corn belts or fertile grain-growing districts. In Canada, however, the system is fast going into decay for the margin between finished cattle and stockers and feeders has constantly been growing narrower until the time is almost here when breeding cows must be kept in order to replenish the feed lot each year with finishing cattle. This system will tend towards earlier finish which has been proven most economical.

A stunted animal is by no means a money

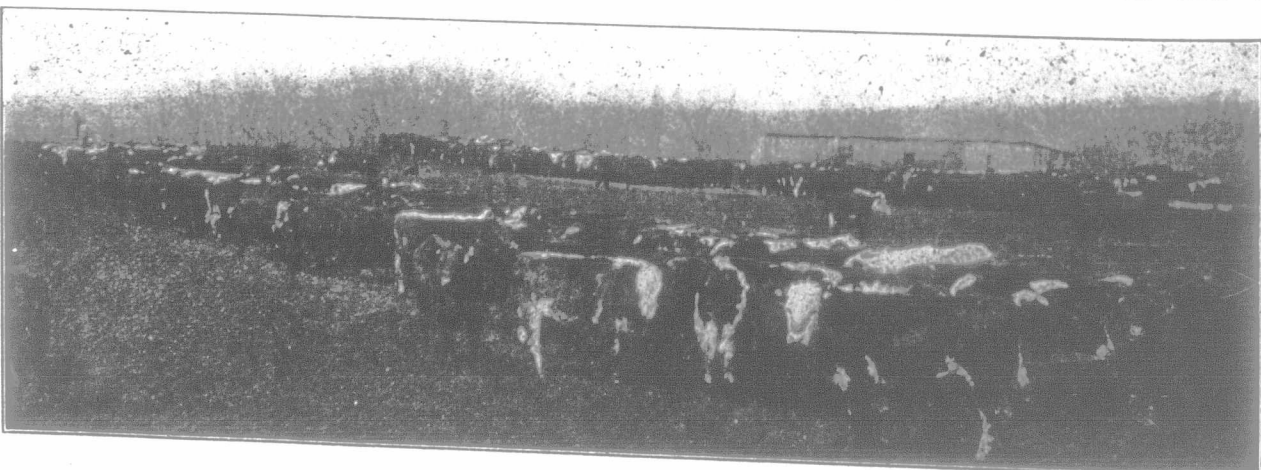
maker, for not only is he small in size but his whole digestive system is likewise stunted and he does not utilize the food consumed to as good advantage as a sappy, well-reared calf. Calves designed for beef production should be wintered on the best roughage available, including clover or alfalfa hay, corn ensilage, corn stover and roots. To this a couple of pounds of chop might be added with some bran and oil-cake meal. With this care, the young beefee should increase in weight daily from one to one and one-half pounds at least and many do even better. It is highly important that the young steer or heifer should gain steadily and increase in flesh and framework but not lay on too much fat. Two authorities claim that yearling steers will average a gain of 1.6 pounds daily on pasture for the six months of the grazing period.

When the steers come in for their final winter the feeder's skill is put to the test. He must get acquainted with his stock and they must get acquainted with him and learn to look for him at certain periods of the day. They should not be disappointed, for regularity in feeding is as necessary as punctuality in the business or manufacturing world. The process of fattening is simply storing up concentrated fuel energy against such time as the animal might need it and this takes the form of fat being deposited

among the fibres of the muscles and within the bones and body cavity of the animal. With a hearty appetite at first the animal lays on fat rapidly, but as time progresses the keen edge wears off and now more food must be consumed for every pound of gain. When the process goes further on the depositions become drier and contain a larger percentage of fat than in the earlier stages. When animals first go into the stalls and enjoy liberal feeding the internal organs of the body develop in order to meet the new demands. At this period too the deposits all over the animal contain more water and protein and explain why exceedingly satisfactory gains are sometimes made during the first month or six weeks of the feeding

period. Lawes and Gilbert, forty years ago, figured that on an average of the whole fattening period an ox would increase 100 pounds in live weight from the consumption of 250 pounds of oil cake, 600 pounds of clover hay and 3,500 pounds of swede turnips. The 1,000-pound steer will consume on the average about 125 pounds of dry food per week and from this will gain about 11.8 pounds. Dry food means the ordinary fodder from which the moisture has been evaporated. Red clover hay contains on the average 15.3 per cent. and oats 10.4 per cent. of moisture. Based on these calculations, one pound of beef on the mature steer may be produced from 11 pounds of dry fodder.

Where the feeding period is to be of five or six months duration, a month or six weeks at least should elapse before bringing the steers to full feed and in such cases a large amount of the best roughage should be fed, viz., clover and alfalfa hay. Mumford, an authority on cattle feeding, reports getting cattle to full feed by



Making Beef in an Outside Paddock.

How many steers in the lot?