

Cost of Producing Beef.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

There have been two statements in your valuable paper about the cost of feeding cattle from one year old to four. Mr. Wing says it costs three cents per pound to raise an animal the first year, seven cents the second year, eleven cents the third year, and seventeen cents the fourth year. Prof. J. H. Grisdale says it costs two cents per pound for the first six months; for the second six months, five cents per pound; one to two years, eight cents per pound; and from two to three years, seventeen cents per pound. Now, I have been feeding steers from two years to four years old for over thirty years, and my experience is that three-year-old cattle can be fed at a cost of from seven to eight cents per pound, instead of seventeen cents per pound. Our experience is that a thousand-pound steer can be made to weigh thirteen hundred pounds with six months' feeding, at a cost of from \$20.00 to \$24.00. I might say I fed twenty of these steers last year; their average gain was 301 pounds each. To confirm what I have written, look up the report given by Mr. Simpson Rennie, in the Ontario Live-stock Associations' report of 1903, page 75. This is a statement by a man who has gained his knowledge by experience, not by college learning or book-farming.

Now, it is strange that the Government should have such men trying to teach the farmers of this Province what it costs to feed a three-year-old steer, when they seem to know nothing about what it costs themselves. I hope, Mr. Editor, we will have a good discussion on this subject, and that Prof. Grisdale will explain, through the "Farmer's Advocate," how it costs seventeen cents per pound to finish a three-year-old steer. York Co., Ont. JOHN KENNEDY.

[NOTE.—In all these calculations, a great deal depends on the valuation put upon the feed, and a good deal also upon the skill of the herdsman. We have every reason to believe Mr. Wing's and Prof. Grisdale's figures are based upon authentic experimentation, though it does not by any means follow that beef cannot be produced for less. The main point, however, is that the figures are probably relative. That is, if the estimated cost of producing a pound of gain on the older steers is too high, the cost per pound in the case of the young ones will be likewise excessive. In any case, the economy of good feeding and early maturity is unquestionable. In Mr. Rennie's calculations, as quoted in the Live-stock Association report referred to, the values (which, of course, are necessarily arbitrary) put upon roots and meal are quite low, the former figuring out to \$1.67 per ton. Whether they can be profitably produced for this, Mr. Rennie does not prove. All these feeding problems dovetail into the important one of crop production in such a way as to make it well-nigh impossible to separate them satisfactorily. Assumed valuation must, therefore, be placed upon feeds, and the intelligent farmer, understanding this fact, should not be in haste to dispute calculations on the cost of meat production. We have heard Duncan Anderson state that, in figuring the cost of feeding steers, he threw in the oat straw, as it was worth more in the manure pile than in the straw-mow. This does not strike us as being quite right, inasmuch as these by-products have value for feeding to other stock, and therefore should be rated at their actual worth for substituting hay or silage. It is easy enough to figure a handsome profit in feeding. To actually secure it without losing on the other end, viz., production of the feed, is another matter. The problem, though, is one well worth figuring upon, and we append Mr. Rennie's statement:

"In selecting a ration, we require one that will fatten an animal readily and give good profit. If an animal weighing about a thousand pounds is brought in, and is kept tied up and quiet, the following ration will be about right: 12 pounds clover hay, 30 pounds roots, 2 pounds peas, 1 pound barley, 2 pounds corn, 2 pounds oats, and 1 pound linseed meal. I find that a ration of eight pounds will do such a steer through the feeding period; but I do not give any meal for a little time after they are put in the stable. When they are on the full ration they get more than eight pounds per day.

"The main point to consider is the profit. Take an animal weighing 1,000 pounds, and costing \$35, or 3½c. per pound, which is low; the cost of feeding that animal for six months on the ration I have given will be \$24.52. In making this calculation I have valued the hay at \$5 per ton, the roots at 5 cents per bushel, the meal at 1 cent per pound. On this basis the cost will be 15½ cents per day, or \$24.52 in six months. I do not usually feed for quite six months, but if we can show a profit on feeding this animal for six months, we should be satisfied. The interest on the investment would be another dollar, so that you will have to get for your animal \$60.52 when finished. A reasonable gain for a 1,000-pound steer would be 300 pounds; we should expect that—in fact, I often get a good deal more; but an ordinary feeder on a fair ration should have a gain of 300 pounds. The animal would

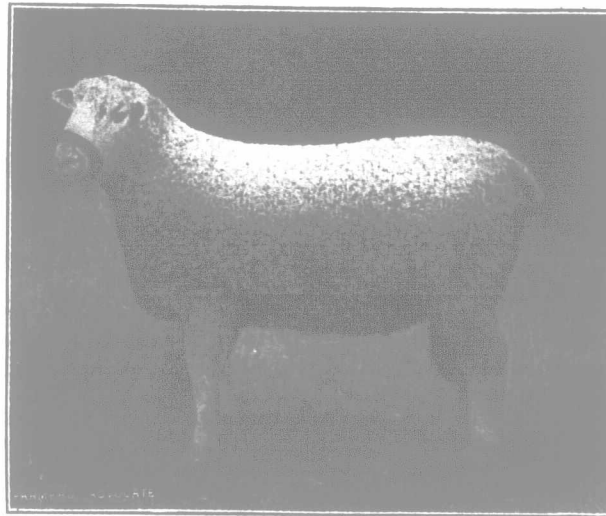
then weigh 1,300 pounds, and you should get \$1.50 more a hundred than you buy them in at, or instead of 3½ cents per pound, you should get 5 cents. At 5 cents per pound you would realize \$65, or a clear gain of \$4.48."

Q.—What would be the value of the manure?

Mr. Rennie.—"That is too often lost sight of. Many, unless they see a great deal of gain in dollars and cents, are not satisfied, and would rather take their grain to market. I have figured out the commercial value of the manure, provided it is properly saved. The value would be as follows: Clover hay, 12½ pounds per day, equal to 2,250 pounds for six months, \$8.04; turnips, 5,400 pounds, \$2.40; peas, 360 pounds, \$1.63; barley, 180 pounds, 42c.; corn, 360 pounds, 88c.; oats, 360 pounds, \$1.12; linseed meal, \$1.50. On this basis, the commercial value of the by-product, after feeding an animal for six months, would amount to \$16.35. I calculate, therefore, that a person feeding as I have outlined would make at least \$10.00 per head from the manure, and still allow an ample amount for labor."

Dartmoor Sheep.

The Dartmoor sheep of the present day are a large, long-woolled variety, rivalling in size the Cotswold, Lincoln or Romney Marsh breeds. They are the result of crossing the original Dartmoor sheep with Leicesters and Lincolns, and do not give the idea of a forest or mountain race. They must, indeed, be very different from the "wild Dartmoor sheep" or "ugly old Dartmoors" of



Dartmoor Shearling Ram.

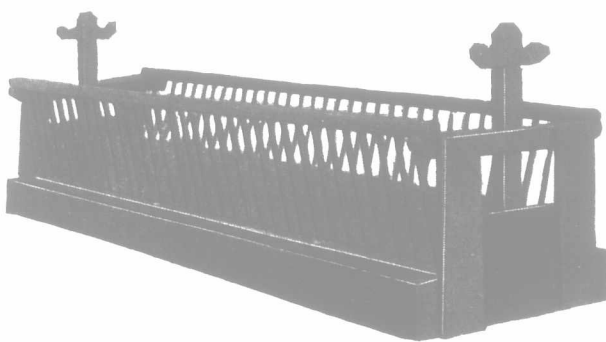
First prize, Royal Show, England, 1901.]

which Youatt wrote. Allowing for the influences of show-yard training, one can only now regard the Dartmoors, as seen at the leading English shows, as one of the heavy, long-woolled, hornless, white-faced races of sheep, with such an amount of the old nature as suffices to inure them to the severe winters of their native home, the highlands of Westmoreland. There were six entries of Dartmoors by three exhibitors, all from Devonshire, at the Royal Show at Park Royal, London, in 1904.

A Good Sheep Rack.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

In reply to your correspondent J. C., in January 26th issue, page 140 of the "Farmer's Advocate," re sheep rack, I herewith send you a photo of a rack I have been using for the last twenty-five years, and it is apparently as good to-day as when first made. It may not be the best rack in the world, but I like it the best of any I have ever seen, and I have seen a good many. I will give its dimensions: Length, 12 ft.; width, 3 ft. 6 in. (inside measure); height of sides, 10



Simeon Shaver's Sheep Rack.

in.; uprights at each end, 4 ft. long and 2½x4 in.; lower crosspieces on uprights, 3 ft. 6 in. by 2½x4 in.; upper crosspieces on uprights, 16 in. by 2½x4 in. The crosspieces should be bolted to uprights. The floor of rack should be down 3 in. below the top of the sides, and should be well supported and braced from below. The dividing boards in center of rack on top of floor should be 16 in. wide, and fitted so as to spread about 11 in.

at the bottom and to a point at the top. The upper and lower pieces of the rack proper are made of 3 in. square spruce, with the corners taken off. The rungs should be 4 ft. 4 in. long, and 4½ in. apart from center to center. The last rung at each end should be about 2 in. from end of lower pieces, and 4 or 5 in. on top pieces, which is to rest on the crosspieces attached to the uprights at ends of rack. There should be small notches or gauges on crosspieces next to the uprights to hold the rack when closed; also on ends, to hold open while feeding.

The photo shows the rack opened ready to receive the feed. When the rack is closed in the inside notches without feed in, it should just touch the floor. The upper crosspieces are to hang the racks on while being cleaned. The uprights and crosspieces should be made of good tough timber (mine is made of good ash). It is better to nail short pieces of boards up and down outside, as shown in cut, to support each end of long arms.

If you want to feed grain or roots in the racks hang the racks outside in outside notches, and the sheep cannot bother you.

With this rack there is no pushing the wool off the necks of the sheep reaching for the feed, and very little waste of feed, as the rack when closed leans in at the top, and there is a trough at the bottom to catch all leaves and fine stuff while the sheep are feeding.

Stormont Co., Ont.

SIMEON SHAVER.

Shorthorn Breeders in Manitoba Discuss Breed Problems.

The Shorthorn breeders of Manitoba met in Winnipeg during the week of the live-stock associations' meetings, at the call of E. R. James, director representing Shorthorns in the Cattle-breeders' Association, to discuss the subjects mentioned in his letter, which was published in the issue of February 22nd. There were present between fifty and sixty breeders of the reds, whites and roans, the following Shorthorn enthusiasts being noticed: J. G. Barron, Stephen Benson, R. C. Henders, Wm. Ryan, S. English, W. S. Lister, Walter James, Jno. Graham, Andrew Graham, A. Morrison, Jas. Yule, G. H. Greig, R. I. Crisp, Dr. J. G. Rutherford, Less Ferguson, A. Ayearst, Jno. Rankin, Jno. Gordon, Waldo Greenway, and many others, including many new beginners in the breeding of Shorthorns.

The discussions were animated, especially with reference to the apportionment of grants to shows by the Dominion Shorthorn directorate. Much light was thrown on the subject by President J. G. Barron of the Cattle-breeders' Association, who stated that he endeavored to get a share of the grant for Brandon Show, and that the election of members to the executive of the D. S. H. B. A. was cut and dried, and he and the other director from Manitoba had no voice in the election. Mr. Benson thought that if Brandon was to have a share of the grant, Neepawa and Killarney were equally entitled to such. Some of those present desired the formation of a Provincial Shorthorn Association, which the majority thought unnecessary at present in view of the resolution which was passed unanimously re nationalizing the records of Shorthorns as follows:

"Resolved that in the opinion of this meeting of Shorthorn breeders of Manitoba, it is absolutely essential to the future welfare of the interests of the breed in Canada that the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association should be nationalized, and that the head office be moved to Ottawa.

"And further, be it resolved that if the controlling body of that Association refuse to nationalize the Shorthorn records, that a meeting be convened at the earliest possible date, of representatives of Shorthorn breeders of the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, and Manitoba, with a view to organizing a national Shorthorn Herdbook, under the provisions of the Act governing live-stock records."

Another important resolution passed by the meeting was introduced by Dr. A. G. Hopkins, and seconded by A. Graham, of Pomeroy, and was as follows:

"Whereas it is yearly becoming increasingly evident that top bulls of the Shorthorn breed are getting harder to get; and

"Whereas the competition of such opulent buyers as the Argentine men and titled Englishmen still further limits the choice of high-class bulls in Great Britain by Canadians wishing to introduce fresh blood; and

"Whereas many of the best British Shorthorns to-day, including many prizewinners, both male and female, are ineligible under our herdbook restrictions to be used in Canadian herds; and

"Whereas all students of the laws of breeding of improved live stock are of one opinion, viz., that it is not wise to narrow the stream of improved blood;

"Therefore, be it resolved that we, the Shorthorn Breeders of Manitoba, respectfully suggest to and urge upon the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association that they remove the pres-