

heifer beef finds with the butcher. In fact, in some parts of England the heifer fattened at two years old is preferred to the steer.

This fattening of many thousands of heifers must tend to decrease the general stock of the country, which means a comparative scarcity of beef in the not distant future. And this is accentuated the more by the fact that both the breeding and the feeding grounds of the United States are being contracted year by year. In Texas, which has been the great breeding ground of that country for years, the area of pasture is being rapidly decreased by cotton and rice culture, and by wheat culture in the semi-humid regions. Then the settler is constantly encroaching upon the range country and breaking up the large cattle runs. These changes are gradually confining both the breeding and feeding grounds to smaller areas, and thus paving the way for the cattle scarcity already noted.

Live Stock and Land Fertility

A feature of live stock farming that cannot be too strongly emphasized at the present time is its power to increase and maintain the fertility of the land. Farmers in the older parts of Canada and in the newer portions also, should not overlook this fact.

When live stock values drop below what are looked upon as profitable figures, many a farmer decides to give up raising live stock and to engage in grain growing, or some other branch of farming that for the moment gives promise of larger profits. But this cannot be done except at the expense of soil fertility. Until our farmers are prepared to spend large sums annually on the purchase of commercial fertilizers they must retain live stock husbandry as the chief branch of their farming operations.

A glance over the country will convince anyone that this contention is correct. Go into any neighborhood in the older settled portions of the country and it will be found that the farmer who grows the most grain per acre makes live stock husbandry the chief feature of his farming operations. On the other hand, it will be found to be equally true that the farmer who gets the smallest yield per acre, unless he has virgin soil, is the fellow who does not believe live stock farming pays, and consequently only keeps a few "scrubs" around to eat up the scraps.

The same reasoning will hold true when applied to localities and districts. The county or province that makes live stock husbandry more or less a specialty is the one where the largest yield per acre of grain crop is produced. The exceptions, of course, are the newly settled districts of the West. But even here the settler cannot afford to ignore live stock, if he wishes to maintain the fertility of his land. Generally speaking one reason why Ontario has gone ahead of the other provinces east is because live stock husbandry has formed

an important part of the farming operations of the people.

Then take the case of Great Britain. No country in the world produces a higher average yield of grain per acre, though the farming lands have been producing crops for hundreds of years. These large yields can be traced to no other source than that of intensified live stock husbandry, which had its beginning over a century ago. The average yield per acre in Great Britain today is about twice that in Canada, and yet fifty years will cover the average time that the farms of this country have been under cultivation.

The farmer, therefore, cannot afford to ignore the claims of live stock. To do so is to ignore the only means he has at his command for maintaining and increasing the fertility of his farm. So whether it be keeping cows for milk production or cattle for beef making, or sheep or swine, the successful farmer of the present must make live stock husbandry a prominent feature in his farming operations. This being so, only the very best should be kept. It costs as much to keep a "scrub" as a well-bred animal, and while the manure from the "scrub" may be just as valuable

ent grades and styles of packing. The co-operative idea is, therefore, essential to securing the largest profit for the average fruit grower, and should be taken up in an energetic way by him.

Cramped Quarters

There is no denying the fact that the accommodation at Guelph for the Provincial Winter Fair is not what it should be for an institution of its magnitude. With the live stock exhibits in place and a big crowd to look at them, there is no room to spare. In fact everything is a jam. The lecture hall is also inadequate and very hard to get at. Taking it altogether the arrangements for both exhibitors and visitors could be greatly improved upon.

Improvement in these things can hardly be looked for until the agreement with the city of Guelph expires. When that time comes we can assure the management of the fair, and also the citizens of Guelph, that the stockmen of this country will demand something better for the accommodation of their great educational show. In the meantime something might be done by extending the second story over the whole of the main building. This would increase the accommodation for sheep and poultry, and make it possible, perhaps, to put some of the downstairs exhibits up above. Both visitors and exhibitors will appreciate any temporary increase in accommodation that can be made.

EDITORIAL NOTES

This issue will bear careful reading. The International at Chicago and the Winter Fair at Guelph are the events of the month in American agriculture. The reports of these in this number should be read with care.

We have under way negotiations for a new serial story for THE FARMING WORLD, and hope to be able to make a fuller announcement next issue.

The scarcity of water in several parts of the country is becoming a rather serious matter. Many farmers have difficulty in obtaining sufficient water for their stock, and unless relief comes soon may have to sell out.

There seems to be no let-up to the farm help problem. According to the Ontario crop report for November, farmers in not a few sections are asking that Chinamen be brought in to work on farms. Over a year ago this question was discussed in THE FARMING WORLD. While many were opposed to it, there were many who expressed themselves in favor of introducing Chinese farm help into Ontario. The experiment might be well worth trying.

Well Pleased

I have just looked over the last issue of THE FARMING WORLD and must congratulate you upon its contents.

W. W. HUBBARD, St. John, N.B.