

the same amount for every cow: the box will hold feed for thirty cows. Damp it well with water, and tread it down, in forty-eight hours it will ferment and be hot; then feed out. I use a barrow with two wheels that holds twenty bushels; the man draws it easily along, and with a bushel box divides it in a few minutes. If any cow wants more, give a little dry hay, and as much water as she will drink, three times daily. I, for some years, fed about sixty pounds Swedish turnips, five pounds meal, pea and oat, with fifteen pounds hay. Steers or dry cows would not take any water; the bulk is too much, and there is too much cold water in the turnips. This is about equal to thirty-nine pounds hay. There is one hundred pounds oil-cake wanted (it costs delivered three-quarters of a cent per pound), two pounds daily three or four weeks before calving, and two pounds daily a month after calving, when full food should be given, as described above, until cut grass is plenty.

I am satisfied with the method, having used it nearly four months. The rent for each cow, at ten per cent., is four dollars per annum. This may be high, but the convenience is all one can desire. The house is free from smell, well lighted, and has water and room for the roots and hay to feed the winter through. The cellars cost near twenty-five per cent. of the whole. There is a hay-cutter on the upper floor: the cut hay is let down through the floor into the large boxes; it just wants a steam-engine to crush 2,500 bushels of grain and cut 140 tons of hay, with straw for litter. If all litter were cut, the manure could be taken out and spread on the surface of the field, or ploughed in, as might be desired. My other cow-house holds thirty cows, but is not so convenient; but I hope to improve it soon.

JOHN ROBERTSON.

Bell's Corners.

### Live Stock at the Provincial Exhibition

To the Editor.

SIR,—With your permission I desire to call the attention of the members of the Council of the Provincial Agricultural Association to a few matters in connection with the annual exhibitions of the Association, which I think deserve their consideration. Probably no one will deny that the live stock department is one of the most important features, if not the most important, in connection with these exhibitions. Let our Provincial Fairs be stripped of the fine display of horses, cattle, sheep, and swine, which has made them so justly famous, and who will deny that their greatest attraction would be gone. It is safe to say that the interest taken in them would be small compared with what it is, and the attendance of visitors would be correspondingly reduced. Now, I think a little consideration will suffice to show that it is the worst used department in the whole exhibition. For the reception of the articles exhibited in the other departments a grand building is erected at an immense expense, where those articles are exhibited to great advantage,

and men are paid to take care of them, and all this without the first shilling of expense to the exhibitor; while for the live stock, which is infinitely more valuable and just as liable to suffer from exposure, temporary sheds are provided, which are often uncomfortable and inadequate; and if a box stall is required for a horse or a bull, an exorbitant rent fee is charged.

Besides these things, feed is only provided at extortionate prices, often for an inferior article, and parties are not allowed to sell feed on the ground at their own prices, because the Board has granted that special privilege to special parties, who are allowed to monopolize the business. How very different is this from the arrangements at the State Fairs of our neighbours, where an abundance of good hay is provided by the Association for the stock, without any charge; where stalls are free, and railway freights both to and from the fairs are also free. If this interest is so important, surely it ought to be encouraged. I write not in the interest of the leading breeders and exhibitors alone, for I know that they can afford to pay their own expenses, that by showing a large number of things they can secure enough prize money to pay the immediate expense of attending the fair, besides finding a good market for their stock; but I plead in the interest of the new beginners in this enterprise, and I hold that if greater encouragement were given there would be far more exhibitors, and, consequently, more interest manifested. According to the present arrangement, if a person living a considerable distance from the place where the fair is held desires to show a horse or a bull, he finds that if he is successful in winning a first prize, it will barely pay the expenses of transportation and feed, and if he fails to win a prize the whole expense is lost to him, and thus it is that many are deterred from competing. The expense of preparing stock for exhibition is considerable, and the railway charges for transportation are also heavy, to say nothing of the risk of their being injured or killed.

Why cannot the same arrangement be made with our railways that are made by the State Societies across the lines with their railways? Canadians who take stock to the State Fairs can travel by rail with their stock to almost any point and return, free of all charges. Surely the immense extra passenger traffic which these events bring to the railways is sufficient to pay for the carrying of articles to and from the exhibition, and allow a good margin for profit. When we consider that it is these that make up our fairs and draw the crowds, surely some liberal policy ought to be adopted to draw out our young farmers and breeders. I claim that in all fairness and reason stock ought to be carried to and from the fairs free, and that stalls and hay ought to be provided free. All, I believe, even if they do not claim as much as I do, will agree with me that ample and good accommodation, and food at a low rate, should be provided.

YOUNG FARMER.

### Raising Calves.

To the Editor.

SIR,—In your article under the above heading, which appears in your issue of the 4th inst., I agree with, the introductory portion, but must take exception to your directions for feeding and care when approaching maturity:—

1. In advising to give skimmed milk, and afterwards either that or sour milk mixed with meal.

2. In having them *come in* as cows in their third year.

When skimmed milk is given to a calf, it acts as a purgative, which at once sickens the animal, and causes it to refuse food for two days, and for a long time every dose of this unnatural food is followed with like results.

A continual drenching of the calf retards its growth at the outset, and an inferior animal is to be expected. The addition of the meal only increases the indigestibility of the mixture.

I have been for several years in the employ of noted stock raisers in Scotland, and their system was to allow the calves selected for raising to suck the mothers twice a day (they being separated the rest of the time). This was continued till they were six months old. After each removal of the calf, the cows were carefully examined to see that no milk was left, and if any, it was taken from them.

During the summer, the calves were placed in a field of growing grass or clover, and freely supplied with water. Nothing else was given.

When weaned, and during the cold weather, they should be provided with a warm stable, and regularly fed three times a day with good hay; every morning the rack to be cleaned before being supplied with fresh hay. About a pailful of dry provender to four calves to be given every twenty-four hours, or as an occasional substitute, two sheaves of oats.

During wet and stormy weather, they should be watered in the stable. It is not good policy to allow lambs to be with them as you advise, as calves often get into the habit of eating the wool of these, which would be obviated by separation. During the second winter it is still advisable to keep them separate from the older cattle, while they should be housed and liberally fed. By this method the growth is never checked nor retarded, and if it were followed we should not have so many scrubby specimens of cows in the country.

Again, you defeat your object to secure good cows by allowing them to go to the bull so early as to have them *come in* in their third year.

The growth is not completed till the third year, and it is mistaken policy to have them bear and give milk before their fourth year, or till they have arrived at maturity. This, with the skimmed milk course, is in my opinion the great cause of our inferior stock.