

# The Farming World

And Canadian Farm and Home

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## The "Why" in Agriculture

**S**O-CALLED higher or scientific agriculture plays a much more important part in the farming of today than it did 25 or even 10 years ago. The vice-awake, energetic farmer of the present wants not only to know how to do things, but why certain things should be done. It is not enough to tell him that he must cultivate his corn or root crop in order to get the best results, but he must be told that by frequent cultivation he not only gets rid of the weeds but also lessens evaporation and conserves the moisture in the soil for the present crop and for the crops of following years. Likewise, the mere statement that a proper system of clovering will help to build up his farm is not sufficient. He wants to know the reason why it will produce this result. He is thus broadening his horizon and reaching out for a deeper hold upon the things connected with his work and his calling.

It is this demand for knowledge of the "why" that is at the basis of the modern agricultural college. The majority of farmers, have, as it were, an inherent knowledge of how to do things, and many, because they have been able to apply this knowledge in the very best way, have been most successful in all their undertakings. But the successful farmer of today must go further and learn the "why" as well as the "how" of doing things. It is only by being thus equipped that he can hope to successfully cope with the various problems of modern agriculture, problems that confront the practical farmer as well as the student of the more scientific side of farming. And this knowledge of the "why" can only be got by education and training. Hence the demand for agricultural education and for such training as can be got at a well equipped agricultural college.

## Increase the Market for Beef Cattle

Once more we return to the farm help question. The continued scarcity of labor is inducing many farmers to engage in grazing and fitting cattle for beef. This, if carried on to a very large extent, will mean a greatly increased production of beef cattle in the near future. What about the market for this increase? Will it continue as brisk and active as it is today? That will, of course, depend upon the demand and the facilities at our command for disposing of the surplus cattle to the best advantage.

At the present time the Canadian beef producer is somewhat circumscribed as to outlets for his surplus

stock. After the local market is supplied, the only one open to him is to export the live animal, and have it slaughtered within ten days at the port of entry in Great Britain. Some base their hopes upon the removal of this embargo against Canadian cattle in the near future. Whatever grounds they may have that their hopes in this particular will soon be realized, makes little difference just here. The fact of the matter is the embargo has been on for several years, is still on, and is likely to continue on for several years to come, if we judge from present indications.

The important thing in our estimation and the one that would give confidence to the beef producer and enable the farmer, who contemplates, on account of the labor scarcity, grazing more land and producing more cattle, to do so, without any

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serious misgivings, would be the establishment of the dead meat trade. While it would not be a panacea for all the ills which the beef cattle raiser is heir to, it would certainly place him in a much better position and give the market a stability and continuity that it has not got at the present time.

The importance of the dressed meat trade to the consuming public has been shown during the past few days by the effects of the meat handlers' strike in Chicago. Immediately upon a strike being announced, cable reports stated that London, England, and other centres were afraid of a meat famine, which, if it means anything, means that the dressed meat industry of this continent is a very large factor in supplying the world's meat markets. It is time, therefore, that something were done to establish this industry in Canada. It would help widen the market for our beef

products and enable the cattle raiser to engage more extensively in the business and with the assurance that there would be a market for his product at reasonable prices.

## The Law of Auction Sales

A somewhat interesting auction sale case has recently been decided by the Division Court of Scotland, and which may have a far-reaching effect upon the conduct of such sales in future.

In September last at the Perth auction mart, Scotland, a bull was offered for sale and bid up to £44 2s. The owner refused to accept this offer and withdrew his animal. The bidder entered action against the owner and also the auctioneer to get possession of the bull, and for £30 damages. The plaintiff claimed that, as the catalogue of the sale stated that one particular herd was to be sold without reserve and that drafts from certain other herds were to be disposed of, he had bought the bull in question. The court decided against him with costs, basing their decision upon the law of Scotland as it now stands, that "a sale by auction is complete when the auctioneer announces its completion by the fall of the hammer, or in other customary manner; until such announcement is made, any bidder may retract his bid." This being so, the decision given was that the person who puts up the animal for sale has an equal right with the bidder to withdraw his offering. This was the ground of defendant's claim with which the court agreed.

The point in this of most interest to people on this side of the water is what is the status of the words "unreserved sale" in any sale catalogue, and we refer here, of course, to live stock sales? The effect of the decision given above is that the owner has a right to withdraw his animal, providing he does so before the auctioneer announces a sale, whether an "unreserved sale" has been mentioned in the catalogue or not. One of the judges, however, while agreeing with the other members of the court in the decision in point, stated that he was not clear as to the force of the words "without reserve" inserted in a catalogue or announced at the time of sale.

But be this as it may, there is no doubt that the words "without reserve" and "unreserved" are meaningless as used in many sale catalogues and announcements in this country, especially when after events are considered. The person offering live stock for sale at auction, owes it to himself and to the public to deal squarely with prospective purchasers.