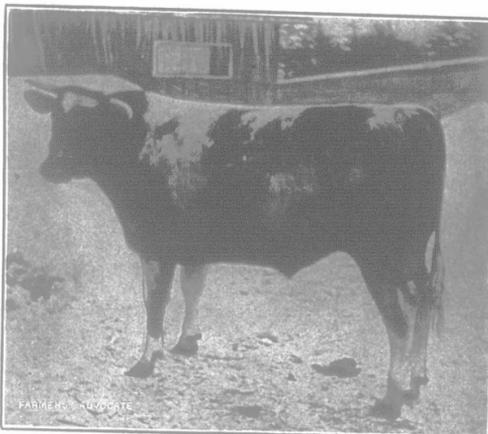


STOCK.

Conditions of Successful Cattle Feeding.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

The time is near at hand when stockmen will be thinking of putting the stock in the stables. I am going to give you my opinion on the best animals to put in for feeding. To my mind, there is no animal can surpass for all practical purposes, in the feeding line, the well-graded Short-horn. A large percentage of feeders buy the most of their cattle from farmers who raise stockers to sell. It is very important that all the animals one feeds be as near a uniform type as possible. I like a steer with a fair length of head



A Good Type of Feeding Steer.

from the horn to the nose, and broad and full between the eyes. I also like a steer that has a mild, full eye, and a good strong jaw, tapering off nicely toward the nose, and have a good-sized nostril. The neck should be a fair length, and strong on the top, which is an indication of a hardy animal. He should have a medium broad shoulder; a deep, full brisket, and a straight back, with the ribs well sprung from the backbone, with deep ribs. The quarters should be a good length, with a deep ham, and good width across the breech, with rounding pin-bones; that is, the pin-bones not too prominent. The legs should be straight, short and well muscled. The animal, when felt by the hand, should have a rich, mellow, loose skin, with a coat of silky hair. I am very partial to color, the roans being my favorites, and then the reds and greys. I would not turn a good white steer out of a bunch, but, to my mind, they are always better doers on grass than in the stable.

The next point is one where there is some reasonable ground for dispute. A large percentage of feeders like to put in steers two and one-half years old, weighing from eleven to twelve hundred pounds. To my mind, there is one point here that appeals very strongly to the thoughtful reader, and it is the kind of feed he has for wintering them. The 2½-year-olds do all right

on the choicest of feed, but steers one year older than the former on rougher feed. The 3½-year-olds should weigh in the neighborhood of eleven hundred and seventy-five to thirteen hundred pounds. I prefer the latter, and have had better results from that age than the younger ones.

I will give you a few practical points regarding the care of the animals. At this time of the year they should be in the stable at nights, and fed a little hay, unless they have plenty of grass and bush shelter; in the latter case, they will be able to stay out until the snow comes. When the animals are put in the stable first, they should be treated with a great deal of consideration. Too much kindness cannot be shown to them from the moment they enter the yard. No dog should be allowed to help to put them in the stable, as nothing I know of will excite animals quicker than a dog, and any tendency to excite them should be avoided, if possible. The person who is going to look after the stock should look after them from the time they are first put in the stable. He should spend a little extra time the first three or four days to show the animals in his treatment of them that he has nothing but kindness, along with good feed, to offer them, that he would not in any case try to wear out the toe of his boot or the end of a stick on them, or the end of his tongue, for that matter. All loud talk should be avoided in the stables. The thoughtful feeder should have feed prepared before the animals are put into the stable. Too many farmers neglect this part, and for the first week or ten days just throw into their mangers what is handiest. This is a great mistake. The greatest consideration should be given to the animals the first week in the food they get, as it is a great change to them; to come off the grass and be put on dry feed. I am a firm believer in feeding steers, either for fattening or running over for the grass, twice a day. I think they do just as well, if not better, than fed three times a day and it is easier on the feeder. The animals seem to eat with greater relish than when fed three times in the day. They should never get more than they will eat up cleanly, yet have plenty to satisfy them. The 3½-year-old steers will get along on rougher food better than the 2½-year-olds will. The latter may grow equally as well, but the former will fatten better. Hence, I think when the quality of feed is taken into consideration there is a little more profit in the three-year-olds. Sulphur should be given liberally the first three months, twice or three times a week, and if your stables are kept clean, with plenty of ventilation for fresh air, you will not be troubled by the animals getting lousy. The passages should be cleaned out every day. If they are running in a loose box, and not too crowded, once a week will do. Now, one of the most important points is the watering of cattle. The time has arrived when the cost of watering in the stable is so small that nearly everyone can have a windmill and tank, and have the stock watered inside. To my mind there is more economy of labor and greater chances of profit. It will cut off nearly one-third of the work, and the stock does a great deal better. Another, very important point is the price the stockers should cost. They should be bought at a price not exceeding four cents to four and one-half cents per pound. Another point which presents itself to me is whether it is most profitable to finish cattle in the

for green food, the colt should have a more or less regular supply of bran, linseed and roots. I prefer chopped to whole oats, and in my opinion, with rare exceptions, he should have all he will eat. There are rare cases, where the appetite exceeds the digestive powers, when the amount of grain given must be limited. The chop may be fed dry or damp. I prefer it scalded, by putting a feed in a pail, pouring boiling water on it, covering the pail and allowing it to stand for a few hours and cooling. Chop treated this way is highly relished by the colt, and gives good results. He may be fed this night and morning, and given a dry feed of either chop or whole oats, with a carrot or two at noon. In addition, he should be given a feed of bran, say a quart, with a handful of linseed meal, twice or three times weekly. This gives variety and relish, and with the carrots prevents constipation. He should be given all the hay he will eat three times daily, but should not be given more than he will eat in at most 1½ hours. With colts, as well as with grown horses, it is wasteful and harmful to have food before them all the time. He should have practically nothing between meals, and, of course, should be fed regularly. Under these conditions he has an appetite for each meal, will enjoy it, and receive its full benefit. As regards water, it, of course, should be of good quality, and if arrangements can be made by which there is a constant supply of which he can partake at will, it is better, but where this cannot be arranged he should be given all he will drink three times daily. His stall should be well supplied with bedding, and thoroughly cleaned out at least once weekly. When this is neglected, and the manure allowed to accumulate, it generates heat, which vitiates the air and has an injurious effect upon the feet. The feet should be carefully attended to; they should be examined and cleaned out regularly with a foot hook, and it will be noticed that the growth of horn exceeds the wear, the feet grow quickly, and soon attain an abnormal shape, unless regularly dressed. Neglect in this respect has a tendency to put undue weight on certain tendons and ligaments, which may be followed by more or less deformity, which may permanently impair his usefulness. The feet should be carefully watched and dressed down with a blacksmith's knife and rasp as required, at least every five or six weeks. The feet should thus be kept in as natural a shape as possible. This practice has a twofold advantage; it keeps the feet in proper shape, and at the same time the little animal becomes accustomed to be handled, and hence little trouble is experienced when he reaches the age to be shod. In fact, the foal should be handled a great deal at this age. If not already taught to lead by a halter, he should be taught now; he should also be taught to stand tied. In teaching him this, a halter that he cannot break should be used, and yet one that will not draw tight and injure him. Care should be taken to prevent him pulling on the halter if possible, but if he should pull he should not be able to break it, thereby possibly becoming a confirmed halter puller. In handling him in any way firmness and gentleness should be observed, and if possible a difference of opinion (if we may be allowed to use the word) between the colt and his master should be avoided, but if such should occur the latter should be in a position, by reason of strong appliances and his own skill, to gain the mastery.

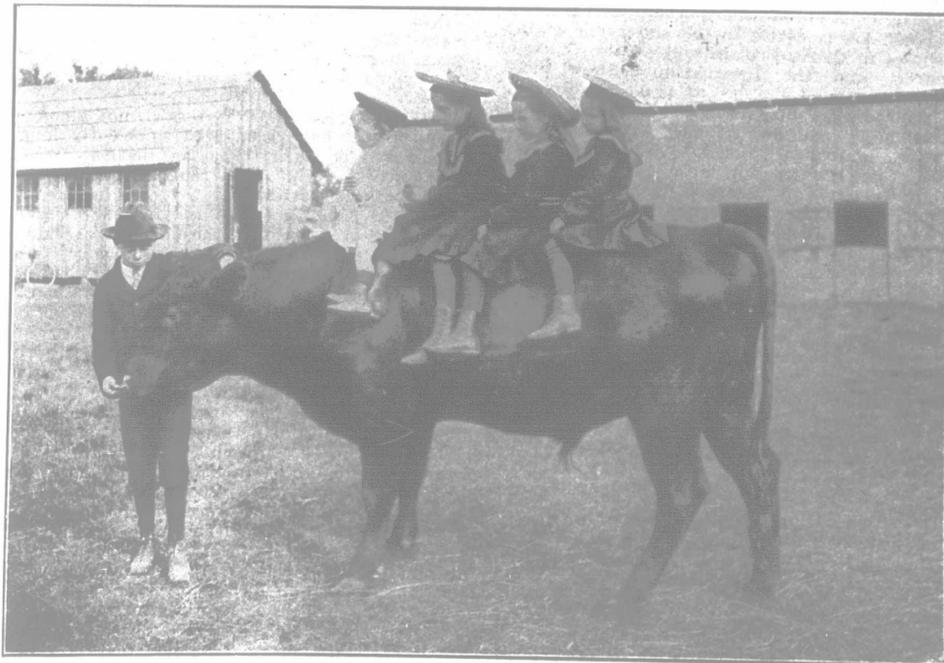
"WHIP."

Country People Should Ride.

At this time of year, anyone living near our larger towns can see, every Saturday afternoon, and probably at other times, residents of the city taking a horseback ride into the country, and certain it is that this is one of the most enjoyable pastimes one can indulge in. In the Old Country, one of the chief pleasures of farm life is that of riding, but in Canada the habit does not seem to grow upon the country people, and only the well-to-do in towns can afford it. Apart from the pleasure to be taken out of riding, there are many reasons why it should be practiced more extensively by those who breed and care for horses. It would tend to make better horsemen and horsewomen, to insure the further popularity of a saddle type of horses, give attractiveness and variety to country life, save vehicles, etc. That there is a demand for such outdoor recreation was evidenced by the wild rush a few years ago for bicycles, even by country people, but that fad did not suit the demand, and very soon we may expect to see the popular mind again searching for some new means of recreation, and why not riding? What might not the good effects have been if, instead of investing in wheels a few years ago, young people had developed a fad for horseback riding, and had provided a saddle or two on every farm. It is a pleasurable pastime that is due the youth of the farms by virtue of their positions in life, and everyone would be greatly pleased to see so healthful a recreation become more popular.

The "Farmer's Advocate" is a grand paper, and I could not possibly carry on my farm without it. I am a new beginner and find your valuable paper a great help to me. L. M. BEATON. Commercial Cross, P.E.I.

I think the "Farmer's Advocate" is the best farm journal of the day. GEORGE WICE. Thornton, Ont.



Solving the Transportation Problem.

A Red Polled Bull, owned by J. T. Maynard, Chillwack, B. C. Photo taken at Victoria Exhibition