

STOCK

Discussions on Live-Stock subjects welcomed.

Circuits for Local Fairs

A correspondent in the Miniota country raises the question of circuits for local fairs. For his own particular district he proposes that Miniota, Hamiota, Oak River, Rapid City, Minnedosa, Strathclair, Shoal Lake and Birtle. This he says, would make a two weeks' circuit, and the small breeders could get cars and take in the circuit. Discussion is invited upon this question, but it is probable it will not be definitely settled until it is tried. It was some such a plan as this that Principal Black tried to inaugurate when he was deputy minister of agriculture, and the difficulties in the way seemed almost unsurmountable. One great weakness of our fairs is that they are wholly social or athletic functions; there is very little business done at them. Originally, fairs were held to transact business, and the chance to buy or sell is still the chief reason why people exhibit, and therefore the reason why some fairs are successful while others fail.

or dairy breeds, yet I take it that you are endeavoring and really intend to drive home a lesson to would-be judges, viz., when estimating the value of a cow, give first place to the essentials.

Your preachment was needed, for if there is one thing more than another the females of the beef breeds need at present, it is on the part of judges, a careful summing up of their producing powers, or maternal possibilities. The present-day judges of the beef types and dual purpose breeds of cattle seem in the majority of cases to be possessed by a desire for meaty cows, meat being interpreted by them to mean fat, rather than flesh.

A cow to be profitable, nine cases out of ten, must be a heavy milker, able to give a good return for food consumed, before even the value of the calf she incidentally gives birth to, is considered. Purebreds may not be held quite as strictly to this standard, it would be better for them if they were. The cow that cannot feed her calf well cannot logically be considered a good breeder, or in the long run a profitable animal, despite possible wins in the showyard by such adventitious aids as excess fat; in fact, it is time our big shows amended their prize lists to read similar to the Old Country lists, "cows in milk" in purebred sections as others, and do away with—to borrow a term from the horseman,—"the yield cow" classes. Speaking broadly and from the stand point of economics, there is no legitimate place in the bovine world under domestic con-

The young men you refer to were after all bearing eloquent testimony to the defects of their teachers, inasmuch as those gentlemen had evidently failed to impress upon their pupils the values of essentials as compared with non-essentials; a defect in agricultural college teaching quite common a few years ago, but now disappearing, I am glad to say. In spite, however, of all the instruction in *judging on form*, no up-to-date farmer can afford to disregard the necessity for the keeping of records,—guess work as unprofitable in agriculture as in other occupations!

A. G. HOPKINS.

Public Land Should be Free to All

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In your issue of August 5th, Mr. Tiffany calls attention to some principles of common law, in connection with the Herd Law question, which he says have been overlooked by myself and also by the law-makers of Alberta.

So far as I can see, the only principle of law cited by Mr. Tiffany, is that a man has the right to do as he likes on his own land, provided he does not make a nuisance of it, or of himself. I won't answer for the law-makers, but I, myself, never overlooked such a self evident fact.

But to even this principle of law there are exceptions, one of which is the "line fence" enactment, which compels a man to erect half the fence between his land and that of his neighbors, and should he have a small holding and have neighbors on all four sides, he would be compelled to go to much larger expense to fence his crop, than is usual in this country, because, should his neighbors decide to fence, say, against pigs, he would have to do likewise.

But after all, does not the man who crops land, without fencing, in a district where mixed farming is, and has been for years, carried on, make a nuisance of himself? I say, yes, and so say all of us.

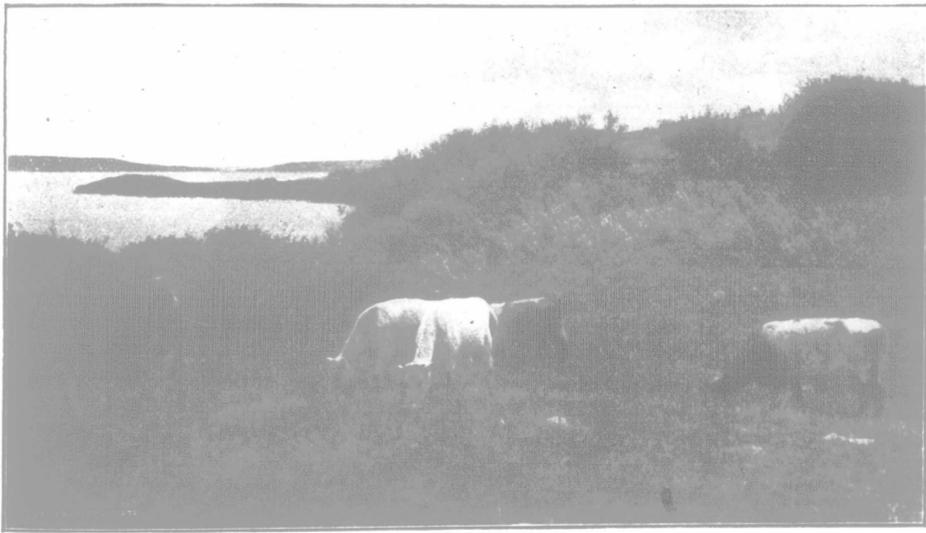
Mr. Tiffany goes wide of the mark, when he refers to land held by ownership or lease, by the stock man. The dispute is, as to whether stock are to be allowed to pasture on *unoccupied* land, to which the owners of the stock admit they have no legal right, except that granted to them, and *all others*, by "Custom".

Which same right, Mr. Tiffany (Philadelphia lawyer that he appears to be) will admit is a right hard to overthrow.

While we are talking of "ultra vires" laws, would it not be well to give the Herd Law ordinance a more than passing glance? The other day, I paid \$58.40 (under protest) costs and damages, for five head of horses; one item in the bill was \$25.00, for running the horses three miles to pound. The damage done was sworn to at \$10.00, by the owner of the crop—an independent witness swore that the damage done was not more than 50 cents. Yet, owing to the ambiguity of the reading of the ordinance, the magistrate to whom I complained, was unable to make a decision, and referred the matter to the attorney-general. Let any one read the ordinance over to compare it with the Manitoba ordinance, (which itself is far from perfect) and he will at once see its inferiority. Did anyone ever know our Herd Law ordinance to work smoothly? That is to say, in a mixed farming district. Does not the reading of the different clauses leave it open to a majority to almost persecute a minority? For this district, (30, 18, W1.) in ante-Herd law days, everything went smoothly. Since Herd Law came into force, there has not been a week's peace in the district. The new settlers spend most of their time attempting to become cow-boys, to the everlasting amusement of the owners of stock, (no wonder the poor fellows wanted that \$58.40, to judge by their own story, they worked hard for it.)

Mr. Tiffany puts up a good argument against fence law! But it is the argument of a lawyer, rather than that of a farmer—which is just my objections to the Pound ordinance in Saskatchewan, which reads like the production of a lawyer, and one who never lived in a Herd Law district, and whose head, at the time of drafting this ordinance, was badly swelled, as the result of having had too good a time the night before. I will close by saying, that just now we need not bother ourselves, as to whether "the powers that be" have the right (moral or legal) to do this or that. Let all interested persons work together to keep the right to run our stock on vacant land (never denying the other fellows the right to do the same). Write and talk fence law, in and out of season, until the department realizes that we are not merely a few "sore heads," and in Saskatchewan does something like what they are doing in Alberta. Then when Herd Law is a thing of the past, we won't any longer be laughed at by outsiders, as a people who, when they had the chance of free grazing, deliberately threw it away, through their seeming indifference.

G. H. BRADSHAW



THE SHORTHORN FOLLOWS THE SETTLER.—CATTLE IN THE QUILL LAKE DISTRICT SASK.

That Expensive Dipping

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I think I am as anxious as any one that only healthy cattle should be shipped out of Canada, and out of my own district, but I cannot see how this system of dipping is going to work out satisfactorily. In this district there are some ten to twelve thousand cattle on the open range but, if every one worked honestly and conscientiously, not more than 10 per cent. could be rounded up for dipping. Of this number the range riders reported two scabby cattle. Now what I object to is the expense of dipping so many cattle when only two have been found scabby. I estimate it will cost about \$12,000 in time and materials to dip the cattle in this district, and that is more than the business will stand. Besides, the chances are that several thousand head of dry cattle will be dipped to make up the number.

S. W. Sask.

H. J. BADGER.

From what Point of View should Cows be Judged?

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

One reads with interest the article second column, page 75, August 5, "Giving Reasons for Dairy Cattle Judging," and one is able to agree with the substance of that article, for all a few exceptions can reasonably be taken to some of the statements therein.

First, and in this we may be termed captious, the heading of your article is questioned: why not *milk cow judging*? Although you illustrate by reference to a class of cows of the dairy type

ditions for the "yield" cow. It therefore behooves us to give attention to the points to be looked for in a cow.

I think it will be admitted that the *two* outstanding (I am inclined to the idea that three should be the number) points are *constitution* and *digestive capacity*, rather than digestive capacity and udder development, the latter of itself in my opinion not ranking with the other two. I quite agree with you that, "a man does not need to judge of a cow's constitutional strength by "sizing up the cut of her nostrils", on the other hand, a safer and more accurate estimate of the cow's milking capabilities will be arrived at if considerable stress is placed upon the size of milk wells, and, as well, tortuosity and size of milk veins, than if the udder development is relied upon alone. That I am not singular in this opinion is borne out by the official score cards of leading dairy cattle associations. There is such a difference in udders both in shape and substance. As far as the shape is concerned a well balanced one, quarters equally developed, teats reasonable in size and impervious, are desirous conditions. With regard to the substance the meaty solid udder which appears nearly as large after the milk is withdrawn as before, is to be avoided, due to the fact that active glandular tissue is lacking, its place being taken by non-secreting tissues; on the other hand the udder that collapses like a dish rag, is undesirable. The milk veins and wells indicate the amount of blood supply of the gland, and therefore the activity of that organ. Care should be taken to note that all the quarters are sound, none harder than another, and the teats not stopped, or blind.