

Mr. Stevens has not yet made a report of which the public and the press has been apprised, but we assume the proposition for equal freight rates is advanced with the intention of having him submit it to the government. And this is where it is important that "sound principles" should be observed. It is not an easy matter to get governmental assistance for farmers' propositions even when they are most reasonable and just, and it is because we know that to ask the government to equalize freight charges on the transportation of live hogs would not be just, we advised against it and pointed out why. The postal service is not an analogous case and because the principle prevails in connection with the creameries it is no reason why it should be carried farther. In spite of what we have said here and previously, the proposition will no doubt be placed before the government by Mr. Stevens in his capacity as commissioner and with the result we shall be satisfied, since we have discharged our obligations in the matter, which, by the way, are not to suggest market improvements so much as to counsel sound principle.

In a case of this kind it becomes necessary to repeat a point quite frequently. The insinuation has been made that the FARMER'S ADVOCATE has not made a suggestion as to the improvement of the markets, but we must insist that we have, both in our columns and in conversations with the railway commissioners, insisted that the freight rates on necessary commodities are too high. Herein lies the course for remedying the handicap of expensive transportation of live hogs in Alberta. Let the farmer's organizations prepare a comprehensive statement of the rates on hogs from different points and urge for a reduction in the same in the interests of equity, business, and the mutual advantage of producers, transportation companies and packers. This is the course outlined by the federal government for the remedying of such grievances as oppressive rates and so far as we are aware there is no better plan.

Raising Cattle for Beef

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

We see so much in the papers about the profit to be made in raising cattle for beef, that a little light on the other side would not be out of place. For who knows better than the actual producer himself how much it takes to have a profit coming his way. Hardly a paper you take up but there is something about the money to be made for the farmer who has a good herd of young prime steers to put on the market. Now we will just for a start, take a good three-year-old steer, and put him on the market at the present day and see where the profit is.

Only a few days ago we had one of those butchers who drive around in their top buggy, stop and enquire what we had in the way of good butchers' stuff. Well, of course, we had to say a few good three-year-old steers, just what he was looking for. When asked what he was paying we got in reply:—"Beef has taken a tumble, but seeing you have just what I want, I will be able to quote you 2½¢ live weight. Now these steers would weigh close to 1150 pounds, or a price per each steer of about \$25.90. Now let anyone figure out how much those cattle cost the farmer to raise, and see who has the profit. The farmer—the man who runs all the risk—does all the work, puts his hands into his pocket these days of expensive lumber and builds sheds to house them, etc., etc? Or the other man who runs them up to the slaughter house, and retails them out, to the consumers in the dressed state at an average of 10 cents per pound? I think you will find that the other man doubles his money and a little bit more. Some may enquire, why we do not put them up, stall feed them and hold them for a bigger price. Well, take the price of oats and barley for the last two years at say, 40 cents per bushel, then pay 7 cents per bag for having them crushed. Hire help to do the extra work in connection, and I feel sure that should you get another cent per pound for your beef, you will find that in the end you are out of pocket.

Now this state of things should not be, for what encouragement is this for a farmer to go into the beef raising business.

Right here in this district, a dozen years ago there were large herds of splendid cattle on almost every farm, and the farmers getting the value of their stock. What do you find to-day? Only a few dairy cows to supply the requirements of the farmer's family. There is no excuse that we have no range, for, in this part, our beloved

Manitoba is the Garden of Eden in so far as mixed farming is concerned. There is certainly something seriously wrong, for we can all remember the days when our calves, say, seven and eight months old were selling for \$12 and \$15 each in the fall. And a good profitable price was paid for what we had to offer in the beef line. The butchers got rich in those days, retailing at the same price as they do to-day. Now can anyone tell me where the profit goes to now? Not to the producer at any rate.

Something will have to be done soon, or beef, as far as the rancher and farmer are concerned, will be a thing of the past. For no one cares to work and labor, getting nothing in return, even the price of hides has fallen so low that it hardly pays to haul them to market. But ask for a pair of boots, and you will find that leather has advanced in price. Everything to fleece the poor producer. Surely we will soon be able to see a change, and be able to say truly—as it should be—live and let live.

Lansdown, Man.

A. PRODUCER.

Medicinal Treatment Useless in Contagious Abortion

Infectious abortion in cattle may be known by several different names, such as abortion, losing or slinking of calves, but the results are all the same. An absolutely healthy herd is sometimes endangered by what is called an accidental abortion. This form of abortion may become of an infectious nature, and expose and infect the whole herd. For this reason, it is very important to look after all such cases, and, in fact, any cow that does not appear to be up to standard in health and condition should be given special attention, as one diseased cow endangers the whole herd.

I daresay that there are innumerable experiments carried on constantly in trying to eradicate infectious abortion in cattle, and it may be wise to mention a few for the benefit of those who have not as yet gone to that expense. Possibly the one experiment that has had the widest attention, and has brought about the greatest loss to the owner, is the disposing of each cow as she aborts, getting rid of her, and thinking, by so doing, he is getting rid of the disease, at the same time replacing the cow disposed of by buying another in her place. But the disease is still in the herd. Positive experience goes to prove that the new cow will soon contract the disease, and will invariably abort at some stage of pregnancy, and in this manner the disease is perpetuated from time to time, the herd is being reduced in value, the profits are curtailed, and the vitality is lowered, and in course of time each animal is brought to a condition that is no better than the average canner.

Cows that abort invariably retain the after-birth. This is often allowed to remain until it sloughs away, not only ruining the cow as a profit producer, but rendering her a hot bed where the germs of the disease are propagated and multiplied.

Another experiment in trying to rid a herd of these diseases is the giving of medicine in feed or as a drench. Statistics show that a very small per cent. of herds are successfully treated by giving medicine per mouth, in feed or as a drench. This goes to prove more positively that the disease is due to a germ and should be treated as such. Infectious abortion is no respecter of breeds, and is not confined to any particular locality in America or Europe. I daresay that it is more prevalent in dairy districts, but exists everywhere, and treatment that is successful in this country is equally successful in Europe.

Wis. State, Veterinarian.

DR. D. ROBERTS.

A Shorthorn bull calf that might be beaten in one of our own show-rings recently sold to the Argentine for \$3,000. The Argentine sells its meat in the same market as we do, and is three times as far from it. The question arises, why one, bull is worth so much more there than in Canada? The experience of raising cattle down there is about the same as it is on our ranges, but they have a more elaborate system of packing and chilling. Besides, they raise a large number in a given district, and judging by the number and quality of bulls they buy, they must be making big improvements in quality.

FARM

Comment upon farming operations invited.

Backsetting—Deep or Shallow Plowing

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:—

I should be glad to have your advice on the following: I have a patch of breaking, about 15 acres, that I have not been able to get backset before freeze-up. If I backset it in the spring should I stir up too much new soil, or could I expect as good a crop as off land I have backset this fall?

The soil on my farm varies from a clay loam to a depth of twelve inches to black soil averaging perhaps five inches. How deep should I plow when summer fallowing? If I plow seven or eight inches would I stir up too much clay?

The farmers in this part plow their land much too shallow, a fair crop can be obtained in a wet year, but wait till a dry year comes and crops on shallow ploughing will not be worth cutting.

Lloydminster, Sask.

HARROW.

Do not hesitate to backset in the spring, but get it done as early as possible and keep the land harrowed close up to the plowing to keep it from drying out. We would not advise going deeper than from one to two inches below the breaking. The most of the prepared fertility for the crop is in that part of the soil that has been exposed to the weather and consequently this should not be buried very deeply for shallow rooted crops like grain.

But fertility is not the only point to consider in cultivating land. We have to try and keep the land in an easy working condition and of such a texture that it will hold plenty of moisture. For this reason one should try to get a deep soil, that is, the soil that is turned over at each plowing should be of a generous depth as this is the part of the land that holds most moisture and where the roots of plants feed. Most of us have noticed the difference between a deep soil and a shallow soil, especially as our enquirer says in a dry year. But it is an easy matter to make a mistake in preparing a deep soil. For instance it would not be wise to put the plow deep down into crude clay when the black soil on top is quite thin. Under such a condition it would be better to work down gradually, giving the weather a chance to pulverize the crude clay before fresh is brought up.

Another reason why the land should be plowed each year a little deeper is because much of the black muck on top which is made up of decaying vegetable matter, becomes completely rotted and reduced in bulk. Most farmers have probably noticed how black muck has completely vanished from a soil by cropping and where no manure has been added. It is also the case (and this is quite noticeable in the older parts of Manitoba) that when land has been plowed a few years at a uniform depth the furrow bottom becomes hard, so that in time we have a dry dust on top, very much depleted of fertility, a hard crust below and under that a strong subsoil that is not being used for crops at all. This is a condition that cannot fail to arise on clay lands, where deep-rooted crops like clover and roots are not grown, but of course, is not so noticeable in loamy soil although the evil effects of the shallow plowing is there just the same.

By these remarks our correspondent will understand that we recommend that he gradually works up more soil at each plowing (unless he is working to destroy weed seeds on the surface) until he has a mellow, easily worked bed about eight inches deep. A good time to get a little more depth is at the second plowing of a summer-fallow as the crude soil that comes up will be pulverized by the frost and fall and spring working.

Winter Wheat in Saskatchewan

Sons of my neighbors have been experimenting this year with winter wheat and have had good crops, (two cases I know of, each two acres in) and an excellent sample of wheat. I shall try some on new land this coming August, and shall be much interested in any information you may be able to publish in the ADVOCATE re Winter Wheat in Saskatchewan. Do you think it possible that it can be relied upon regularly?

Sask.

H. C. M.

During the past few weeks we have published letters from a number of farmers in Saskatchewan in which their experiences are given in the growing