

Dairying.

Perth County, in Western Ontario, north branch of the high ground, has more than the center of one and to be found in almost a mile of the river flats of the river, in the quarries, in the center of the town, and in the hills. The winter fattening of the farmers' cows, from St. Mary's, a farmer who did not raise cattle every year, is a specialty of the town. In those days, the cattle were not uncommon, but have been driven into the hills, and the hills have changed now. The farmer's Advocate, who was informed of the cattle-buying, not more than the town, but the hills, picked up at a vanished. Practically, why? simple, "There is more money in the hills." Besides the Mary's cream, which makes the butter only, there are cheese factories accessible to the hills, which manufacture cheese from the middle of November, and make butter in the winter.

A few farmers, still stick to the production of beef for export, if prices hold as they promise to do, these will come out right this season. Among them Hazel White, has a stable of twenty cows. The most of these are loose in a roomy pen, but any division in the manure. Water can be had at will in the hills, and at one Mr. White, not quite satisfied with loose feeding, as he has that some of the more aggressive cows get more left with too much to have stalls bought in each year of age, and are doing well. He feeds as they will, cutting on this chop for each

roughage at noon. The intention is to sell these cattle in February.

Still another style of handling beef cattle was found at the farm of Thos. Woods, who at one time kept a considerable number of pure-bred Shorthorns. His fine herd of grade Shorthorn cows are scarcely distinguishable from pure-breds, so massive and fleshy and well-colored are they. For his own exclusive use he keeps a pedigree bull, the one in use at present being a strong, deep-fleshed roan, which at the age of two years and ten months weighs 1,800 pounds. Mr. Woods has hopes that this bull will almost equal in size a white bull that he previously owned, which when sold for beef, weighed 3,010 pounds. As will be surmised, Mr. Woods is a liberal feeder. He believes in meal and turnips, but has no use for silage. At present he has six calves, which are being suckled by three cows. The calves come at all seasons of the year, but some of them have to put up with skim milk for their rearing. There are usually a number of fine cattle being fattened in winter, but this season there were none. Mr. Woods having sold off his steers in the fall. He said he was offered \$5.25 per cwt. for them, and thought best to let them go. They were under three years of age, and averaged about 1,400 pounds each.

Such are some of the methods pursued in the production of beef by the survivors in a branch of farming which once was almost universally followed around St. Mary's, but which has been abandoned to such an extent that the district is now almost as exclusively devoted to dairying as it formerly was to the production of beef cattle.

The Profitable Type of Steer.

A feature of unusual interest in connection with the slaughter test at the O. A. C. Stock-judging Class, last month, was a comparison of the carcasses of two steers, first judged alive. One of these was a good smooth, white beast, 21 months old. Another, of the same age, was rather plain, low in the back, and heavy in the shoulders. There were three steers killed in all, but the most interesting comparison lay between the two mentioned. Contrary to expectations, the plain bullock dressed out the better carcass. Not only was he a little fatter and thicker, giving a percentage of 65, as compared with the other's 63 per cent., but he possessed a fine quality of lean meat, beautifully marbled.

While it would be most unwise to draw sweeping conclusions from the results of a single test of this kind, since the case was probably exceptional, still such instances are calculated to raise the question whether undue emphasis has not been placed upon what might be called the fine points of perfect beef type. The plain steer in this case, while apparently rather low in the back, showed no signs of that tendency when his carcass was hung up. Then, as to the matter of shoulders, as Mr. Gosling, of Kansas City, pointed out, the thick, rough-shouldered ones are often the steers with muscle underneath, whereas the very smooth animals sometimes exhibit a certain sparseness of fleshing. Of course, too much emphasis must not be placed upon such an inference, for we know very well that many fine-boned, egg-shaped, quality bullocks kill out the very finest carcasses, and command a distinct premium on the market.

The call is rather to inquire into the soundness of theories commonly held, and to examine whether in following the butcher's ideal of a smooth, fine, trim-bellied type, breeders of beef cattle may not have sacrificed feeding qualities, without securing a proportionate advantage in the quality and percentage of meat. The substantially good steer, with ample capacity for converting coarse farm products into beef, bred from a dam that has earned her own keep at the pail, is the most economical beast from the farmer's standpoint. Such stock is calculated to supply our tables with good roasts and steaks produced at a reasonable cost.

THE FARM.

Shed for Implements.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Seeing your request for those who have an implement shed to write and give particulars, I will do so. Our shed is 40 feet long, by 14½ feet wide, with back posts 6 feet and front posts 7½ feet high. The front is all open except a board under the eaves, and there is no floor. The back sill is six inches lower than the front one, so that any machine can be run in by hand. We back the most of machinery in, so that when we wish any one piece, the team is hitched right on to where it is. The building is divided into four sections, with a post at each section. About six thousand shingles were required for the roof. This implement house is located in one corner of the barnyard, and, after using it now for one season, I am fully convinced that the cost was saved the first year. We put only first-class material in the frame, though unplanned, second-class lumber was used for boarding, and the total cost, including work, was not over thirty-five or forty dollars. I feel satisfied that,

after anybody has a storage place for machinery, he will be more than satisfied with his investment. We store carts, wagons, mower, rake, potato-digger, manure spreader, potato-planter, horse hoe and sleds, and thus, as can be seen, the proportionate cost of each machine is very small. A person might have a barn or other building so situated that a lean-to might be more cheaply constructed than a separate building.

C. FRED FAWCETT.
Westmoreland Co., N. B.

Value of Different Kinds of Manure

The question as to the value of a ton of barnyard manure, is one which it is much easier to ask than to answer. While travelling over large sections of our great West, going upon the farms of men whom we consider wide-awake, and seeing them, day after day, and season after season,

and accommodation given, the kind and quality of litter used, the percentage of the liquid portion fixed and saved, the management of the manure during its accumulation, its after-treatment before it reaches the soil, the mode of application, the nature and condition of the soil to which it is applied, the character of the crops grown, etc.

In considering the value of farmyard manure, we must first understand that, although the structure of plants is composed of some ten or twelve different elements, all of which must be provided to bring the plant to perfect maturity, yet it has also been ascertained that, in practice, there are only about three of these substances we require to consider. These are nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash, and are the only elements of which our soils are likely to become impoverished; hence, in artificial fertilizers, they are the only elements which have a commercial value, and the value of manure is commonly estimated upon the basis of

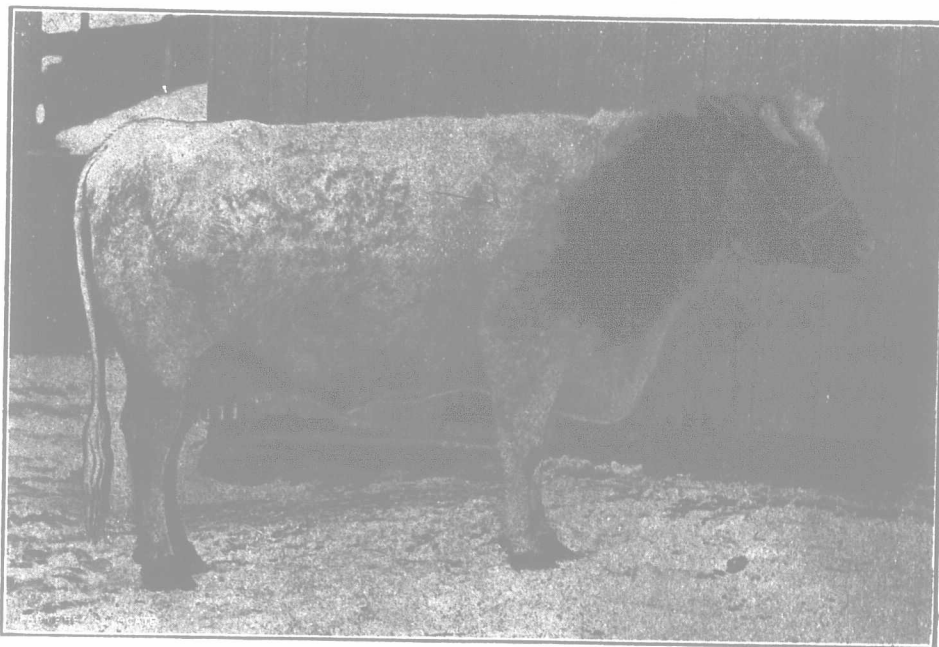
the commercial value of these three ingredients in the form of artificial fertilizers.

It must not be inferred, however, that the following figures will invariably represent the value that these manures will be to the farmer when applied to his field. No general estimate of this value can be made. So much depends on soil, season and circumstances, that it would be better, in speaking of these values, and of the manurial value of foods, to say that the valuable plant-food elements which these contain would cost a given sum, rather than that the manure would always prove itself to be worth that sum.

The composition of farmyard manure is very variable. It is composed of the solid and liquid excrements of our domestic animals, together with the straw used as bedding and for the purpose of soaking up and fastening the liquids, for which latter purpose it is very much better to be cut short, and a sufficient quantity should always be used to absorb all the liquid portion of the manure.

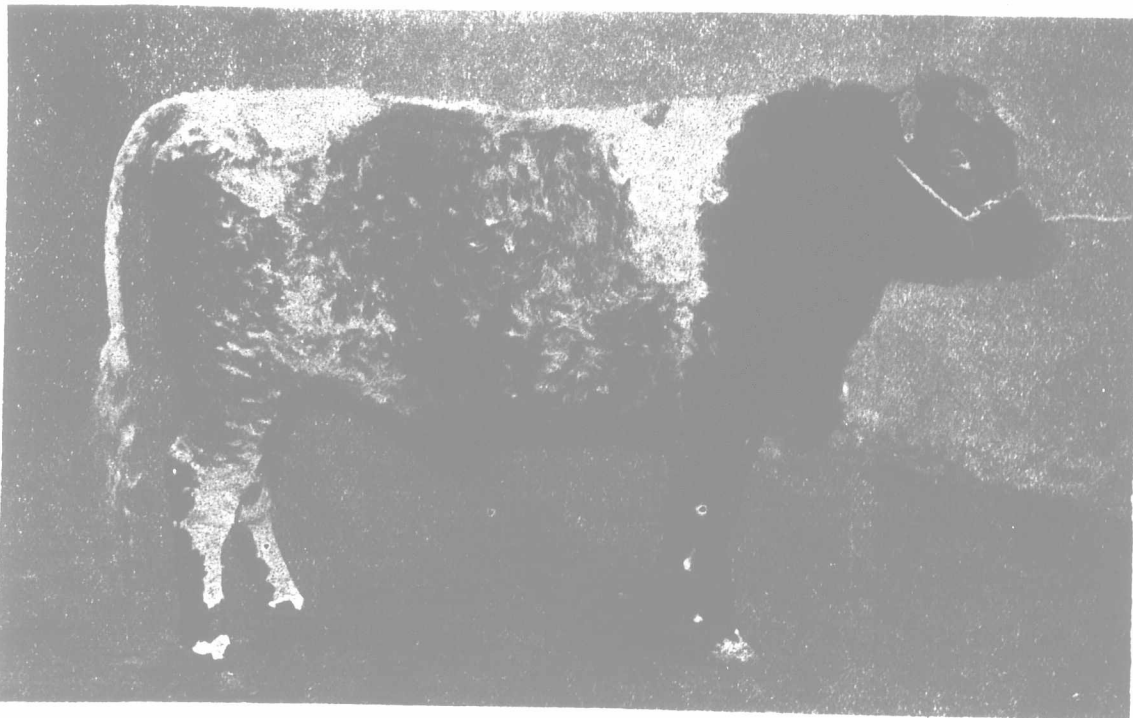
PERCENTAGE OF SOLID AND LIQUID EXCREMENT.

Any figures relating to the composition of animal excrements can be only approximate, because so many influences affect their composition that it is impossible to give exact percentages. The solid excrement contains the undigested portion of the food, while the liquids contain a large part of the worn-out material of the animal body and a part of the digested portion of the food. From this fact, it will be seen that the more indigestible the food given, the greater will be the proportion of its constituents, which will appear in the solid excrement, and the more digestible the food, the



Helen 21st (Imp.) =48704=.
Shorthorn cow, dam of the Toronto grand champion bull, 1909; the sire of the cow is Archer's Pride. She is owned by John McKenzie & Son, Columbus, Ont.

burning their straw, and dumping their stable manure over the hillside in some near-by deep ravine, where it is practically impossible to obtain it again, we are wont to exclaim, "Can it be that upon those virgin soils manure is worthless, and its presence a nuisance?" To the British tenant-farmer, conversant with the Agricultural Holdings Act, in which special provision is made for giving compensation to the outgoing tenant of a farm for unexhausted manures he has applied to the soil, such action would certainly be an eye-opener. But when, upon more searching investigation, we find men who have experimented upon those fertile lands, and found that manure, properly applied, will sometimes force their wheat crops to maturity from five to nine days earlier, and thus at times avert the dire disaster of a serious frost, we are led to realize that, after all, manure has a value, and its preservers are given their just reward. What that value is, depends upon many considerations, amongst which are: The species of animal producing it, the stage of its development (whether growing, milking, or fattening), the food



Two-year-old Shorthorn Steer.
Breed champion, Smithfield, 1909. Weight at 22 months 3 weeks, 1,458 lbs.