

FARM AND FIELD.

EXPERIMENTS IN FEEDING.

The superintendent of the Model Farm at Guelph gives below the results of some experiments made there in cattle feeding:—

1. A steady frosty winter is better than an open one in feeding cattle.

2. An average two or three-year-old steer will eat its own weight of different material in two weeks.

3. Two or three-year-old cattle will add one-third of a pound more per day to their weight upon prepared hay and roots than upon the same materials unprepared.

4. It is thirty per cent. more profitable to premature, and dispose of, fattening cattle at two years old than to keep them up to three years.

5. There is no loss in feeding a cattle beast well upon a variety of materials for the sake of manure alone.

6. Farm-yard manure from well-fed cattle three years old is worth an average of \$2.30 per ton.

7. A three-year-old cattle beast, well fed, will make at least one ton of manure every month of winter.

8. No cattle beast whatever will pay for the direct increase to its weight from the consumption of any kind or quantity of food.

9. On an average it costs twelve cents for every additional pound of flesh added to the weight of a two or three-year-old fattening steer.

10. In Canada, the market value of store cattle can be increased thirty-six per cent. during six months of finishing by good feeding.

11. In order to secure a safe profit, no store cattle beast well done to can be sold at less than four and a half cents per pound, live weight.

12. In the fattening of wethers to finish as shearlings, the Cotswold and Leicester grades can be made up to 200 pounds, the Oxford Down to 180 pounds, and the Southdown (grades) 170 pounds each, live weight.

13. A cow wintered upon two tons and a half of hay will produce not far from five tons of manure, provided that she be well littered, and none of the excrements be wasted.

FARMING AS A BUSINESS.

Farming certainly has its reverses and drawbacks, but amid them all the farmer may take hope that after all he is secure. Farming is the safest of labour. The soil does not go into bankruptcy, and always pays its owner according to his efforts made to improve and fructify it. Nor does the farm embezzle anything. As a debtor it can be trusted, as a clerk it can be relied upon. This is more than many business men can say. The soil always pays something, and if the laws of nature are not violated by the owner, the farmer will not try to put into operation the absurd notion of science, falsely so-called. The farm does not stop before the work is done, although its owner sometimes does.

As a business, then, farming is safe; it can be depended upon. It will give the farmer a good living for himself and family, and something over for money. No one living can fare

better than the farmer. He has the choice of everything that is made, and a boundless variety to suit all seasons and all whims of appetite. True, he must work, but it is work that has, or may have, many and frequent intervals of rest and recreations. There is drudgery, but it is not ceaseless; there is a heavy and exacting labour, but it is admirably distributed throughout the season, coming a little at a time as need be. and the rewards of farming—good farming, at least—are certainly fair, frequently almost princely. The farmer need not continue a poor man. Farming does pay.

FARMING IN THE MOON.

"I tell ye, it's nonsense," said Farmer Ben,
"This farming by books and rules,
And sendin' the boys to learn that stuff
At the agricultural schools;
Rotation of crops and analysis!
Talk that to a young baboon;
But yer needn't be tellin' yer science to me,
For I believe in the moon!"

"If ye plant yer crop in the growin' moon,
And put up the line for crows,
Ye'll find it will bear, and yer wheat will too,
If it's decent land where it grows.
But potatoes, now, are a different thing—
They want to grow down, that is plain;
And don't you see, you must plant for that,
When the moon is on the wane?"

"So in plantin' and hoein', and h'avin' time,
It is well to have an eye
On the hang o' the moon—ye know ye can tell
A wet moon from a dry.
And, as to hayin', you wise ones now
Are cuttin' your grass too soon;
If you want it to spend, just wait till it's ripe,
And mow in full of the moon."

"And when all the harvest work is done,
And the butcherin' time comes round—
Though your hogs may be lookin' the very best,
And as fat as hogs are found,
You will find your pork will shrivel and shrink
When it comes on the table at noon—
All fried to rags—if it wasn't killed
At the right time of the moon."

"With the farmers' meetin's and Granges now,
Folks can talk till all is blue;
But don't you be swollerin' all you hear,
For there ain't more'n half on't true.
They are tryin' to make me change my plans,
But I tell 'em I'm no such coon;
I shall keep right on in the safe old way,
And work my farm by the moon."

—Selected.

MISTAKES OF FATHERS.

One great reason why boys leave the farm is because of their fathers. We have heard plenty of boys say: "If it wasn't for mother I'd run away." The mothers in the homes are what make the homes—what keep the families together. What poet ever thought of writing: "What is home without a father?" But the sentiment, "What is home without a mother?" finds an echo in every heart. Widows innumerable have reared families of children to lives of virtue and usefulness, while a man, left with motherless children to care for, usually remarries as soon as possible, and thus transfers the care of his children off his own shoulders to those of their step-mother.

As a rule, boys leave home because they cannot get along with their fathers. They almost universally love their mothers; but the feeling they have for their fathers is more like fear. They obey their fathers more quickly, because they know they must; but they don't always love or even respect them. If boys want money or favours of any kind, instead of "bearding the lion" themselves, they coax mother to "ask father if I may." So the mothers go on acting as peace-makers

—middle-men without profit—entreating the sons to love and obey the fathers, and begging the fathers to be more lenient and kind to the sons, until the latter arrive at that time which comes to all boys—that age of verdant conceit, when even their mothers cannot reason with them, when they will not submit to being treated like children any longer—and they leave the farm, very often without the knowledge or consent of their parents.

Yet farmers have wondered, and will continue to wonder, to the end of time, why their boys don't stay and work on the farm, and so inherit the land they till. They cannot see that it is their own selfishness that makes home unendurable to their sons.

The farmer's boy runs away from home, goes to town, and becomes an apprentice to some tradesman; and so at the age of seventeen gets board and one dollar per week as wages, and is learning a trade; while the farmer hires some other lad for fifteen dollars per month to fill his place. It is plain to see who is the gainer by the change. The son clothes himself better on the one dollar a week than he used to be clothed at home, and at least thinks he has better treatment. If farmers would only sit down and "count the cost," and treat their sons with more consideration, count up the money they save them, and let them have something for their own, something that they personally would be responsible for, the mothers would be happier and the boys would stay at home.

FARM GATES.

Have no more gates on the farm than are necessary, but remember that is better to use gates than to open and shut fence "gaps." It never pays to make a poor gate. The frame should be constructed of hard and lasting wood, with the slats of light but durable material. This gate needs thorough bracing with strips of wood, or better, rods of iron, which run from the bottom of the latch and to the top of the hinge-end. A gate thus braced cannot sag, as it is impossible for it to get out of the rectangular form. When finished, a gate should be painted. The farm gate should be wide enough to permit the passage of loads of hay and grain, field rollers and harvesters. A most important point is a large, durable, and well-set post, upon which the gate is to be hung. The hinge-post should not be less than eight inches square, and set at least three and one-half feet deep. The earth needs to be rammed firmly around the post. A first-class gate is expensive at the outset, but needs very little attention afterwards for several years.

ONE of the great mistakes which the farmers of the past have made has been the keeping of farm animals in a dark barn. Many careful experiments show that light is necessary for health and the good condition of animals.

As early as the time of Alexander II. of Scotland, a man who let weeds go to seed on a farm was declared to be the king's enemy. In Denmark, farmers are compelled to destroy all weeds on their premises. In France, a man may prosecute his neighbour for damages, who permits weeds to go to seed which may endanger neighbouring lands.