



A GOOD FEEDER.

Photographed at the Toronto market by a "Farmer's Advocate" representative, on September 4th, 1902.

Steers for Winter Feeding.

A TORONTO STOCK-YARDS STUDY.

Owing to the high prices which good cattle of all classes have been bringing during the last few months, and the strong demand for fattened stock which is likely to exist for some time to come, it is more than probable that many farmers who have not heretofore fed to any extent will this winter fill their stables and undertake to finish a few animals for the trade. To those who have been feeding cattle for years we can offer few suggestions regarding the selection of stock, for no teacher in this art can compare with "Fame Experience"; but to beginners, or others whose training has been limited, we wish to draw attention to certain points upon which the success of the venture depends. First and foremost, it must be borne in mind that the chief aim in all feeding is preparation for the block and that the animal which is being fed is merely a machine with which to convert the fodder into more marketable products. The person who imagines it will pay to feed any type of animal is laboring under a delusion and will surely come to grief after his first attempt.

The variation in the ability of animals to utilize food products is well known to experienced feeders. Some increase more rapidly in weight than others upon the same feed allowance. Then, again, certain types possess the faculty of placing the fat not upon the highest-priced cuts, but upon the internal organs where it is of comparatively little value. Hence, such cattle, even when the fattening process is complete, lack that finished appearance for which buyers are willing to pay. Representatives of the dairy breeds—Holsteins, Jerseys, and Guernseys—are always more or less open to this charge, and although many of them will give quite as rapid gains as beef-bred stock, yet the selling price cannot be so high, for the reasons given. We would therefore advise those who are about to select a bunch for profitable feeding to steer clear of animals showing signs of dairy blood. The accompanying photo-engravings, showing desirable and undesirable feeding type, were taken at the Western Stock-yards, Toronto, by a member of the "Farmer's Advocate" staff, on Sept. 4th, and are fairly representative of the offerings on that day. The difference in general appearance will be seen at once. In the one we have that low-set, rectangular conformation so much sought by home and foreign butchers; in the other a long-legged, narrow type certain to slaughter with a high percentage of offal. The former shows a broad, level back and well-arched rib, giving plenty of surface for laying on flesh where it will be valuable. The large barrel, too, denotes strong digestive capacity, without which no steer can become a profitable feeder. Good depth, breadth and fullness of chest are noticeable, indicating strong respiratory organs and giving assurance of good health. His broad, smooth rump, and deep, full twist and flank are all points of superior excellence. It will also be noticed that the neck is short and thick and blending nicely with the shoulder. Several good judges assert that the head is a condensed reflection of the rest of the form, and in this case there is a splendid example. In shape, it is short and broad; the eyes stand out prominently; the nostrils are full and the mouth is large; while a quiet, satisfied expression is clearly visible. These peculiarities must never be forgotten in making a selection, as they are invariably associated with rapid flesh-forming.

It is almost unnecessary to discuss the weakness as portrayed in No. 2. Unfortunately, too many of this class are bred in Canada. Large numbers, as has been stated, are descended from dairy stock, yet very often this also represents a type bred on some farm where the owner has half

an ambition to produce beef steers, but does not appreciate the value of good blood and consequently mates his cows with some fifty-cent bull when a pedigree animal might have been had by doubling the sum. To those who have been so short-sighted or unfortunate as to breed stock of this kind, we would say sell them at once to someone who does not read the "Farmer's Advocate," rather than depend upon obtaining a profitable margin after a winter's feeding. This steer is in every particular just the opposite to what should be looked for in a good feeder, or to that shown in No. 1. The face is slim; neck long and thin; withers pointed; chest lacking in depth; back narrow; ribs flat; loin thin; quarters light; and the legs long.

Another class that should be avoided when making up a bunch for feeding is the animal which has been stunted. Of all the specimens from which a choice might be made, this would likely prove the most unsatisfactory. In form this steer may be all that could be desired, but a digestive tract deranged during calving forever unfits him for the most rapid fattening. In like manner, too, exposure to extreme climatic conditions may have so caused a diversion of nature's functions that readjustment is unpracticable, and hence the food consumed will not be assimilated to the best advantage. Such stock also are sure to lack in quality. This is a feature which may be seen in the best cattle by moderately fine bone, mellow skin, a thick coat of fine silky hair, and an absence of coarseness of body. It is invariably associated with rapid and economical fattening, and its reward at the finish is the highest market price.

No steer in thin flesh should be discarded, provided he is possessed of the commendable characters mentioned. An organization of the right kind, when supplied with the proper fat and flesh forming materials, will soon overcome that deficiency.

It will thus be seen that the skill of the purchaser is an important factor in determining whether a profit is to be obtained or not. To know in theory the characteristics of a good animal is in itself a mark of ability, but to be able to make use thereof in actual selection is a mark of superior knowledge. It takes no end of training to fit a man to become expert in this work, but the greater the proficiency of the selector the higher will be the profits realized.

Mr. Norman Sherk, Welland County, Ont., who has only been a reader of the "Farmer's Advocate" for a short time, writes that he has already found that he cannot do without it.

Pigs in the Rape Field.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—In your issue of August 15th was a complaint from Wallace's Farmer re blistering of hogs when pasturing on rape. In my experience, I believe this is entirely due to the effect of the hot sun—nothing more or less than sunburn, and not in any way due to any poisonous substance on the plant. I have seen black hogs affected in the same way, but it is not so noticeable on account of their color. The pigs while pasturing are exposed to the sun more or less, and their condition from the succulent food may also render them more susceptible.

Ordinarily, no treatment is required, but in severe cases a little oil or vaseline may be used.

R. R. ELLIOTT,
N. Y. State.

The National Veterinary Association.

The above Association of British veterinarians held a two days' session in London, at the rooms of the Society of Arts Adelphi, the last days of July, and discussed glanders, the causes of pneumonia (inflammation of the lungs), and the use of vaccines in canine distemper.

The first subject will be of interest to Manitobans, both to the professional and layman, as the essayist laid down clearly what he considered the best methods of stamping out a malignant and loathsome disease, which, unfortunately, is not at all rare in the metropolis of the world.

Attention was drawn to the fact that following an outbreak of influenza, there was an increase (recrudescence) in the number of cases of glanders. It was stated that glanders does not spread in the stable by germs floating in the air of the stable, but was more reasonably accounted for by contagion being carried by means of pails, nosebags and mangers, and by the shifting of infective cases (?) from one part of the stud to another.

The term "infective cases" should be noted, as the essayist claimed that all reactors to mallein were not infective, but might become so at any time. Dr. Hunting considers that case of glanders classed occult as non-infective, but considers it dangerous, because the disease may develop and permit the escape of active glander germs. Great stress was laid upon the necessity for being suspicious of all nasal discharges.

The spread of this disease (glanders) is largely due to coming in contact with infected horses, which do not at first show the clinical signs, but later on give evidence of having the disease. On this point, the frequent statements of the P.V.S. of Manitoba back up what Dr. Hunting, probably the greatest authority in England, says. Dr. Hunting also made the statement, with which all up-to-date members of the profession will agree, viz., that only a mallein test of all new purchases can protect buyers against the purchase of a latent case. Dr. Hunting was quite decided that a glandered horse showing symptoms, nasal discharge, etc., was dangerous to other horses in the same pasture or grazing over the same ground.

The essayist cited the experiments of Schutz and Nocard, which show that clinical symptoms appear in six or eight days after ingestion (swallowing) of pure cultures (growths) of the glanders germs. Dr. Hunting is of the opinion that infection is most frequently by the digestive system, although the settlement of such a controverted point is of comparatively little value in the extirpation and control of the disease. He mentioned the following symptoms of glanders, which are often overlooked, viz., a hacking cough when driven at a fast pace, a fastidious appetite, continuous loss of weight, and excessive staling (making water) in the stable. Affected horses often show intermittent rises of temperature; horses showing a rectal temperature varying from 101.5° to 103° were held to be suspicious cases before mallein was introduced. Mallein is considered by Dr. Hunting as almost perfect as a diagnostic, showing, according to his statement, 98 per cent. of the cases of glanders. The reason advanced why some practitioners don't get good results is because they overlook the local swelling at the point of injection, which symptom he considers in itself almost sufficient on which to condemn an animal. Mallein should not be injected when the temperature is over 102, because the result will be a fall of temperature. Dr. Hunting, while giving several significant occurrences from the continued use of mallein in cases of glanders, when asked if this treatment would cure glanders, answered, "I don't know." His remarks on the



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