

FARM

of the person engaged in the removal should be free of cuts and wounds, and should be well smeared with carbolized oil or clean unsalted lard, and on the job being finished, a thorough washing should be given in some antiseptic solution. If the membranes have been retained a day or so, it will be found of benefit to irrigate the genital passages of the cow with some solution made up from one of the coal-tar products, and by so doing remove any small pieces or disintegrated portions that may be left to poison the system and induce a feverish condition. We have known some careless and inhuman persons leave cows unattended for a week or more, causing suffering to the animal, as well as tending to induce a very dangerous state of things for the person, professional or otherwise, called in to remove the decaying mass. The annals of veterinary medicine are unfortunately not free from records of veterinarians losing a member (hand or arm) or their lives from blood poisoning through what can only be termed criminal negligence on the part of clients, owners of cows. Delays in such matters are dangerous both to the animal and the person seeking to relieve it.

Colorado and Alberta Steer Feeding.

In the early spring Denver, Colorado, has a fat stock show to which are drawn cattle from a country very much resembling our own Alberta, except that it is more advanced in agricultural practices. At the Denver show this year the champion car-load lot of steers were two-year-old Shorthorn grades; at Calgary they were four-year-olds at least. The Colorado lot were taken off the range in March, 1906, and were at once put on feed, starting slowly with cut alfalfa, corn chop and cottonseed meal fed in troughs. This was gradually increased until they were taking eighteen pounds of corn chop, two pounds of oil meal and ten pounds of cut alfalfa, with whatever long alfalfa they chose to eat per head per day. At the time of putting them up they weighed 800 pounds and by July 1st they had gained about 300 pounds. They were then turned into a pasture for two months and their grain ration gradually reduced to eight pounds of corn chop and twelve of cottonseed meal. On September 3rd the real feeding for the show began and the grain allowance was worked up to twenty-two pounds of corn chop, two pounds of oilcake and eight pounds of cut alfalfa per day, with alfalfa hay or green fodder corn at noons. There was always plenty of salt with sulphur before them and good well water, and about six weeks before the show a little stock food was given to keep up their interest in life. At the time of the show, in March, they weighed on the average 1,444 pounds and sold for \$8.50 per cwt. live weight, which the feeder considered quite a good price and made money on the operation.

We publish the account here, and also an account of how Mr. Tees, an Alberta feeder raised and fed a car-load lot for the recent Calgary show and sale. Feeding in Alberta of course is not so far advanced as in the States, but by an arrangement with the abattoirs in Calgary Mr. Tees got as much for his cattle as the Colorado feeder. However, the Alberta steers were apparently four-year-olds, although Mr. Tees does not say definitely.

From the two cases of the Alberta and Colorado feeders, the lesson to be learned is that the aim in Western Canada should be to first raise low, thick steers, and then bring them to market at a much earlier age than has been the general rule. Alfalfa will help a lot to this end and Alberta oats and barley can easily take the place of American corn until we get a variety of corn that is adapted to Alberta's climate.

How an Alberta Car-load were Bred and Fed.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Regarding my cattle at Calgary show. I will give you a short outline of how they were bred and handled. They were bred from grade Galloway cows and purebred bulls. Those in the bunch that had white faces were from a white-faced bull, Hereford, purebred. They ran with their mothers till weaning time, October, and when weaned were turned on my stubble fields and bush land for the winter. From then on till last fall they practically lived on the open range on wild grass.

I commenced grain feeding Dec. 1st, whole oats, and from March 1st till show date fed chop oats. These cattle never were in a shed or barn; I feed in small dry yard always. I have never stall-

fed a car of cattle, so you will see that Dr. Rutherford's remarks meet my approval. My favorite plan for feeding cattle is to have self-feed bins, cattle to have these bins open to them at all times—what we term on full grain feed. But I must say that up to the present time in Alberta the prices for grain-fed cattle would not encourage the feeder to feed so much grain.

Finally, I would say that there are a few things necessary to be a successful feeder financially. First, have the best quality steers, *without horns*, rather dehorned, or breed the horns off. I find the Galloways suit me fine; second, feed plenty of the best quality feed you can find. Third, be sure and have a bunch of hogs in the same yard with the cattle; and last, but very important, with the least possible expense, with the largest profit for this reason, I find the self-feed bin in the open yard very satisfactory.

Alta.

W. E. TEES.

Have Even Started to Adulterate Screenings.

The following quotation from a market report published at Chicago shows that even the screenings business is not free from crooked work.

"When Mexican yearlings, averaging 85 pounds, sell, in the wool, at \$7.60 in Chicago, the feeder would seem to be making all kinds of money; consequently a statement that his account balanced on the wrong side of the ledger would not receive credence without proof. A feeder who finished a band of 10,000 of these yearlings at St. Paul cleaned up this week, getting \$7.60 for the last consignment, and it is a record price. The entire 10,000 head sold at a range of \$6.90 @ \$7.60 and the bulk above \$7.00, and yet his loss was \$4,500. This is naturally calculated to deter an amateur from tackling the game, but the stuff was bought high, costing \$3.85 per head on the range in New Mexico and the feed bill was prohibitive. As the victim expressed it he was "up among the robbers". He was taxed \$13 @ \$14 per ton for mill refuse which was wholly lacking in fattening quality, and consequently got small gains, necessitating a long feeding period to get a finish. Matters have come to a pass where it is dangerous to put sheep on feed around St. Paul even when screenings have been contracted, as the vendor can even the score by delivering straw joints and chaff instead of grain."

Natural Shelter the Best Stables.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

On page 416 of your March 20th issue I notice "P. E. C." has something to say in regard to wintering cattle, and I might have allowed same to pass had he not brought into his remarks an opinion as expressed by me through the medium of your paper last winter, re wintering steers out of doors that were being prepared for market. He admits that five years ago he could not tell one calf from another, and I very much fear that he is still not much more of a judge or the figures that the article referred to contained would have convinced him that these cattle were fat. Did P. E. C. ever see a bunch of cattle that would average 1,475 lbs., and yet be a heap of bones. The thing is absurd. As to confining cattle as closely as P. E. C. proposes to do, I think he will be disappointed with the results. I have nothing good to say of people allowing cattle to run at straw stacks all winter and lick snow, but I do contend that where cattle other than milch cows, can have their straw drawn into reasonably good shelter and an easily available supply of water is near, these cattle will be found in June to be far ahead of the closely confined ones. But, Mr. Editor, I do not want anyone to think that the right and only way to winter cattle is to feed on straw only. If cattle are to be where they ought to be when spring comes; that is, not simply alive or a little lighter than they were in the fall, but strong and fleshy, ready to make good use of the first bite of grass that comes, they must be fed a grain ration in proportion to what is expected of them. If they are to be run over for another year a smaller amount will do, but if they are expected to be ready for market that season it will be profitable to feed more and so have them ready for an earlier and better market.

Mount Pleasant,

WILLIAM GRAYSON,

Northwestern Man.

The warm Spring weather is proving to be about as severe on range cattle as the cold of winter. Cattle that have stood the cold but become weak do not seem to be able to stand the change which the warm weather works on their systems and succumb just as the chances of life look best.

Cultivating Growing Crops Kills Weeds.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

The practice of cultivating growing crops has been regularly recommended by me both in bulletins and on the platform, and many a farmer has benefited from judicious use of light harrow or weeder on the growing grain. This work answers two good purposes, that of checking weeds and preserving moisture. Of course, to get the best results the soil should be in a good state of tilth, as clods are apt to carry the harrows over without the small weeds being disturbed. The work should be done when the weather is bright and warm so that the delicate roots of the young weeds may be destroyed by exposure to the sun. For best results I would harrow before the grain shows above the ground and not again until it has attained to a height of two or three inches, when it is not so liable to injury from the harrow as at an earlier stage. Harrowing or cultivation with a very light drag or weeder might be repeated again at intervals as seems necessary until the grain becomes too far advanced.

Instances have come under my notice where an increase of ten to fifteen bushels of wheat per acre have resulted from this treatment of fields as shown by comparison with adjoining unharrowed fields.

In some cases no doubt injury has been done to crops by using a heavy harrow on a loose loamy soil, especially if spring plowed. Only drilled grain should be harrowed.

Crops have been delayed in growth by excessive harrowing, but if the field were a very weedy one I should be inclined to risk a little to make headway against the weeds. It must be remembered that harrowing weeds that are well rooted and tough is of no use, but they must be attacked when young and tender. Harrowing a crop is of no use to destroy *wild oats*, as they root as deeply as the grain we have sown and will stand as much.

If wheat for seed is plump and of full vitality I should not feel inclined to use more than one and a half bushels per acre, when intending to harrow the growing crop, but if shrunken or frosted I would sow heavier, as the plants from the weak seed could not stand so much rough treatment.

Some farmers prefer the light wooden frame drag to the weeder and on small farms the drag with lever to slope the teeth may be made serviceable.

T. N. WILLING,

Chief Inspector of Weeds in Saskatchewan.

Recommends Cultivation of Growing Crops.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Upon this subject exploited in these columns last week, of the handling or use of a harrow or weeder on a crop after it has come up, I would say that while I have not seen any such cultivation used in this country, I have advocated it very strongly before the farmers' institutes and agricultural societies and trust that we shall soon have such a method of treatment of the soil and crop, especially weedy soil. One of the great advantages of a light harrow or weeder, say Breed's weeder (which is the only one at the present time which I would recommend for use) is that it cuts very light and is movable, doing very little, if any harm to the crop, and conserves the moisture, which is one of the special benefits derived from proper care of crop after it has come over the ground. Keeping the soil loose on the surface prevents evaporation and thereby (as before stated) conserves the moisture, but such cultivation would have to be done very carefully at the proper time when the soil is dry enough to crumble into a mealy substance; not to ball or roll; also crops to be so treated would require to be sown deep, say with a disc seeder (which is the best in my mind for deep sowing) and giving a little extra seed to the crop so that in case any was destroyed by carelessness or otherwise, you would have yet sufficient. Also there is considerable advantage in plentiful sowing for weedy soil as the crop under such circumstances is more likely to smother or overgrow the weeds than a thin sown crop. There is no danger in harrowing wheat in this way with harrow or Breed's weeder, but in oats or barley, which are a more tender crop than wheat as a rule, there would have