

The Farming World

And Canadian Farm and Home

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Bright Outlook for Prime Beef Cattle

We have had occasion recently, to refer to the outlook for the beef cattle trade. What we said on this subject in Sept. 1st issue, is well borne out by the *Breeders' Gazette*, in its last number. Prices at Chicago just now range from \$4.25 at the bottom to \$6.10 per cwt. for prime steer beef. On this point the *Gazette* says:

"For thick fat beefs competition is very keen and each week orders are unfilled. The buyers of such cattle are eager to get supplies and their best information is that not only is the visible supply short, but that such fat cattle as are in country yards, are for the most part in the hands of men who can neither be spared nor be 'shaken out,' and for these reasons it is not thought likely that there will, within the next few months, be anything like a glut of prime beef in any one of the important markets."

On Sept. 21st 41,903 head of cattle were received in Chicago, breaking all records, and still prime beefs sold at \$6.10. The bulk of the run were half fat cattle, which will have to compete with cattle from the ranges. The market outlook is bright, therefore, for prime fed stock but not for the medium kind, though the latter are selling as high now as they did a year ago. It is worth noting, that at this time last year the best beef sold at Chicago at \$8.50 per cwt., or \$2.40 in advance of the present time, and the poorer grades at from \$4 to \$4.50, or about the same as they are doing now.

In the United States the holdings of good fattening steers that will grade choice to fancy when sold are believed to be comparatively small. The supply of those that will grade "good" when finished is also small, while the supply of inferior sorts seems to be limitless. The *Gazette* advises all who have the feed in sight, to buy their feeders, when they are cheap. Good steers, shapely and well-bred, can be bought at Chicago for \$3.50 to \$3.90 per cwt. At these prices the American feeder is advised to get in his supply. At the opening of the new Pittsburg stock yards, a few days

ago, some prime steers sold at \$7.75 per cwt. This is taken as a harbinger of what prices for prime beef cattle will be about Christmas time. At any rate it looks as if prime beefs will not sell any lower than they are now doing for several months to come.

In Canada while the range of prices is not so wide, there is the same demand for, and scarcity of, really choice beef cattle. The medium and poorer grades are always with us. Feeders are not so high as a year ago, and it looks as if it would be good business to convert the large roughage and coarse grain products of this province, of which there is an abundance, into

ranges the year round from 50° to 80° many farmers have taken up dairy farming. Milk and fresh butter are produced for supplying the large cities which are located on this high ground. Butter sells retail in the cities at about 30c. per lb., or about \$4.00 in the currency of Guatemala. Holstein cattle have been introduced from the United States for building up the dairy herds, and are giving good satisfaction. Some attempt has been made to improve the native type of beef animal, but with little success. Very few sheep and pigs are kept, though of late years many farmers are going more into swine raising in conjunction with the dairy. Corn is the chief fodder crop, and because of the even temperature all the year round two and three crops a year can be grown.

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

A continued story—new, bright and interesting—will be one of the special features of *The Farming World* during the coming winter.

The publishers have secured the serial rights of a short novel entitled "*Hickory; a Tale of the Lakes,*" by Eric Bohn, a Canadian writer of much ability. It is a tale of Ontario and the Great Lakes, with interesting pictures of farm life as it was some fifty years ago. The heart of the story, however, centres in the three lakes—Superior, Huron and Erie—and has to do with some lively phases of the coasting trade. The story is one of fascinating interest and will, we are sure, prove popular with all our readers.

The opening chapters of this splendid serial will appear in *The Farming World* of November 1st, and instalments of the story will follow in each regular issue during the winter. Keep an open eye for this new feature. It will be worth looking for and can be had only in *The Farming World*.

choice beef. If undertaken, however, the cattle to be fed must be of the right sort, and must be fattened to a finish and not put upon the market when half fat.

From Central America

We had a pleasant call this week from Mr. S. Lazo Arriaga, Guatemala, Central America, one of the leading agriculturists of that country. The agriculture of Guatemala is of a tropical nature, coffee and cane sugar being the chief products. On the highlands in from the coast, where the temperature

would not be wise to go still farther north, right into the Peace River country. Edmonton is at the most southerly point of this country, from which the grain-growing area extends fully 300 miles farther north. An experimental or pioneer farm in the centre of the Peace River country, or, say, a couple of hundred miles north of Edmonton, could do good work in showing what crops would be most profitable for settlers to grow entering that new country. With the coming of the G.T.P.R. the Peace River country is bound to grow.

Edmonton wants an Experimental Farm

The people at Edmonton, N.W.T., are agitating for a branch Experimental Farm to be established at that point. The Dominion Government have a branch farm at Indian Head, which is intended to do duty for the Territories. The great distance between Indian Head and Edmonton, and the different climatic conditions which prevail, however, afford good ground for believing that an experimental farm would serve a good purpose in the far north country. Should the Government decide to establish one in that district, it might be well to consider whether it