

present methods are continued, this district may expect to secure an enviable reputation for heavy draft horses, and incidentally increase by a handsome amount the value of their horse stock. The example is deserving of emulation. This branch of farming is enjoying a substantial stimulus and little effort should be required to induce others to engage in so profitable and interesting a line of work.

STOCK

Altering Ruptured Pigs.

This is a question that often engages the attention of the pig breeder and if performed when young, when on the sow is the best time, usually turns out alright. The get of some boars seem particularly prone to this trouble and it is, judging from our experience, well to consider this weakness, in a sense, an hereditary one. The operation of emasculation, in any of the domesticated animals needs to be attended with scrupulous cleanliness, and if possible the pigs operated should be put out on grass or in a clean pen. The farmer should be provided with a surgical (curved) needle, the ordinary straight one may be made to answer, but is more awkward to handle, and some clean thread, and a basin containing some antiseptic solution, carbolic or coal tar dip. Have some one hold the pig back on the ground, the attendant straddling the pig, sitting on him lightly. The operator then works the testicle up close to the anus, nearer to the tail than when the pig is standing, then make a short deep cut into the testicle, and squeeze it out by the aid of finger and thumb through the opening, remove as if a normal testicle and if afraid of the intestines coming out make a couple of separate stitches and tie.

A Good Provider.

Now is the season when provision must be made in some form or another for the stock during the coming winter. To be plain, the stockman needs to figure up now, what quantity of feed will be needed to carry his stock over winter and do them well. Rape and corn, millet and oats for green feed are now the only fodder crops that may be sown to eke out the visible supply, and the time for planting such is just about ended. The newcomer, especially the Old Country man will find it 'good policy' to put up more feed than he really thinks is necessary, grain or fodder to spare during the spring months before grass is good, are valuable commodities. The careful farmer is he, who believes in providing a good reserve, coarse fod-

ders and grains for his cattle and other live stock. Short commons at the end of winter does inestimable damage to live stock—so provide amply for winter, it costs nothing to keep, the only insurance necessary being sound stacks and good fire guards.

He is the most successful feeder who maintains his pigs on a cheap, bulky, easily digested ration, rich in bone and muscle forming elements, until they reach a weight of from one hundred and thirty to one hundred and fifty pounds, then finishes on a stronger ration until they are in "prime" conditions but not too fat, and weigh from one hundred and eighty to two hundred and twenty pounds.

The farmers are beginning to ask each other, "Have you ordered your twine yet?"

Hogs Likely to be Good Property.

From a slight inspection of the markets and of the prophecies of others on such matters it would appear that hogs will continue to be good property this season. Prices are now quite satisfactory to the pig breeder who understands the economical production of the same, but will, even yet, be too low for the man who is not up on pig feeding and breeding. One of the prevailing weaknesses of pig feeders is that they do not get the hogs grown early enough during the feeding period. For a man to market hogs eight months old at a weight below one hundred and seventy pounds shows that there is something lacking, enough at any rate to knock out the chance of a profit.

The following hints from Bulletin 11 on rearing and soiling pigs will aid those who carefully study the matter, to produce bacon hogs more economically:

"Care is necessary at weaning time to get the pigs safely over this rearing period in their career and well started without any serious set-back. Many breeders sacrifice the profit from a batch of pigs because of lack of skill or care in weaning. Sanders Spencer, speaking on this point, says: 'There are more pigs lost or irretrievably ruined when they are first weaned than at any other time in their existence.' It is undoubtedly true that many pigs receive a check at this time from which they never recover. A stunted animal of any kind is always unprofitable, and this is doubly true of a pig. With him especially, life is too short to recover losses due to mistakes that might have been avoided.

Among the errors into which one is most liable to fall at this time, is that of feeding a strong grain ration, to compensate for the loss of the mother's milk. The pigs, if well managed, should be eating so freely at the trough as nearly to wean themselves, and no change should be made in the ration, unless it be to add a little skim milk. Even this had better be done some time before the removal of the sow. The loss of the dam's milk, small though it may have become in quantity, is change enough at one time.

Another mistake is that of overfeeding. Before removal of the sow, just as much food should be given as she and the litter will clean up at each feeding; when the sow is taken away, the feeder, either from mistaken kindness to the pigs, or from a failure pro-

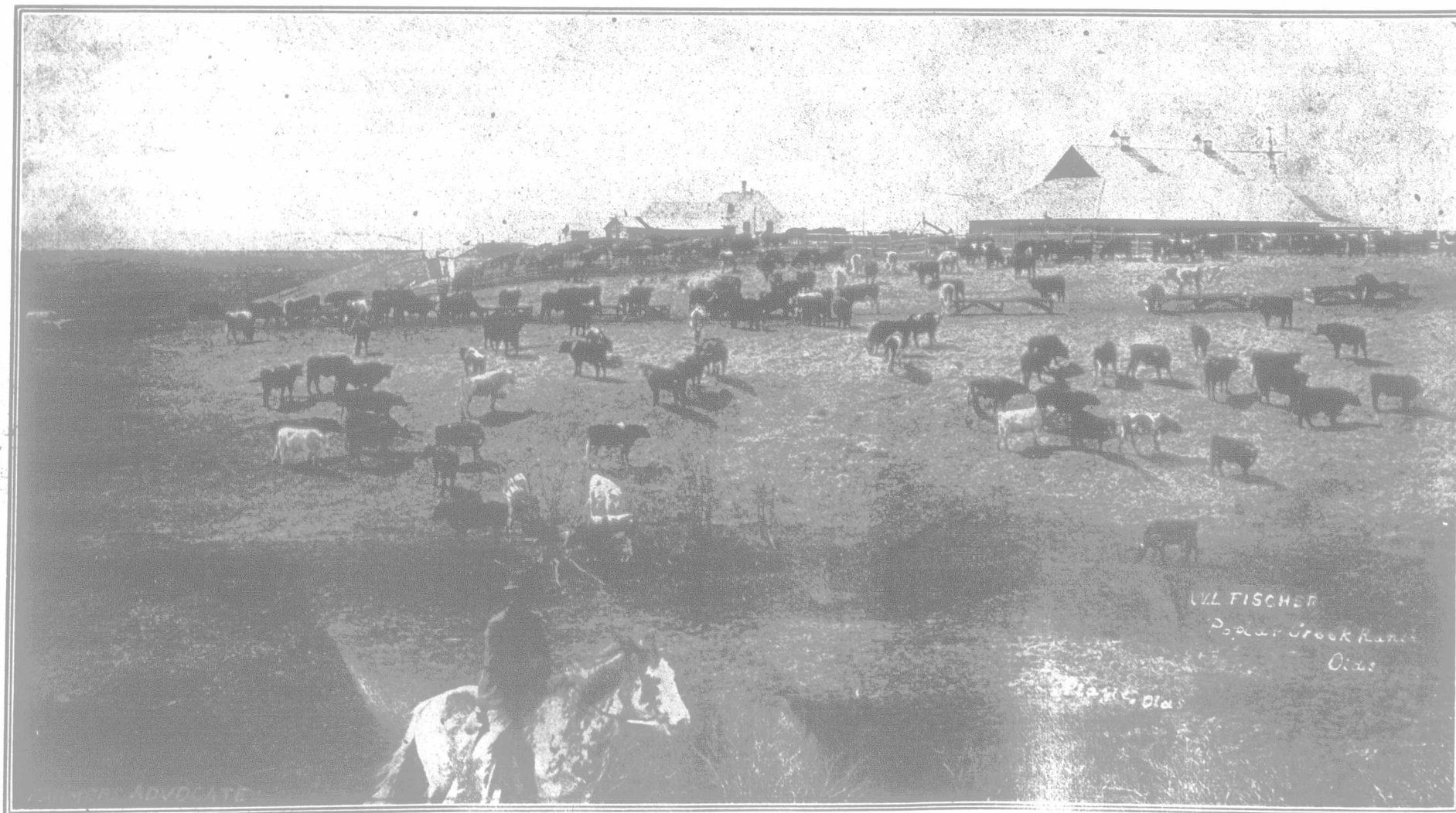
perly to estimate their requirements, may overfeed to such an extent that food often lies in the trough from one feeding to another. This is a mistake for two reasons; the weanlings, missing their dam, are tempted to overtax their digestive systems; and the portion of the food remaining in the trough is apt to become foul as a result of fermentation and other causes. In either case digestive troubles will inevitably follow; and these, if not fatal to the pig, are disastrous to the owner's chance of profit. While the other extreme also must be avoided, it is better for a while at least to err a little on the side of underfeeding than to overfeed. Ideal conditions would be to feed at frequent regular intervals as much as they will eat up clean in a few minutes after feeding. It is not often possible to make our practice conform wholly to the ideal, but the nearer we can approach to it the better will be our success.

A mixture of middlings and chopped oats, supplemented with a little skim milk, constitutes an excellent ration for weanling pigs. It is rich in ash and protein for the nourishment of the growing bones and muscles, thus enabling the pig to build up framework rather than to lay on fat. It not only furnishes the right kind of nourishment for a growing pig, but supplies it in a palatable and easily digested form. For pigs under twelve weeks, the oat chop should be passed over a coarse screen, to remove most of the hulls. If this be done, it may be well to add as much bran in bulk as was removed of oat hulls. The bran is more palatable and more easily digested than the oat hulls, and it lightens up the ration, preventing the meal from lying in too close and solid a mass in the stomach. The addition of the middlings used, and it devolves upon each individual feeder to exercise his personal judgment in the matter. The nature of the material sold as middlings by different mills varies from coarse, dark colored flour to finely ground bran. The feed stuff the writer has in mind, when speaking of middlings, would consist of about an even mixture of these two materials.

Roots or some other kind of green food, either in the form of pasture or a soiling crop cut and fed in the pen, should be gradually introduced until they constitute about one-half of the ration, by the time the pig is three months old. Many practical feeders are firm in the belief that, in summer, pigs can be most cheaply raised on pasture supplemented with a light grain ration. There is much to be said in favor of the practice, especially since the labor question has become so acute. The hogs, having unrestricted access to earth and taking plenty of exercise, are vigorous and healthy; there is never any trouble with paralysis or with pigs going "off their feed"; and with good fences a large herd can be carried in this way with a minimum of attention, interfering little or not at all with the ordinary operations of the farm.

SOILING SEEMS TO PAY BETTER THAN PASTURING.

Experiments conducted by Prof. Day at Guelph in 1901 and again in 1902 to test the relative economy of pasturing and soiling pigs seem to indicate that cheaper gains are obtained by soiling. In 1901, Prof. Day conducted an experiment in which 34 pigs were fed. Eighteen of these pigs were fed in pens with access to an outside yard, and sixteen were turned into a pasture of ordinary tares until August 6 when



POPULAR CREEK RANCH.
Property of W. S. Fischer, Olds, Alta.