

the outside; strong in the stifle, and with a good broad, clean hock.

Standing by the side of a horse, select an animal with a nicely-set leg, and with the hock broad, clean and hard. Looking at the front of a horse, you want a hock that is broad and clean, that is the kind of a hock that will wear and stand all kinds of heavy work, no matter whether you have to back with heavy loads or draw forward.

Another important thing is to know that you have a horse which is a good walker—a horse that will pick up his legs fair and square, and set them down fair and square, moving every joint; not a horse that will move his limbs with no knee or hock action. If these defects are in the sire, they are very likely to be in the colt. Many of you have noticed horses which, when they are walking away from you, will throw their feet out sideways, and others, when they are being led towards you, will step over. That is something we do not want; I prefer a horse that will pick his feet up straight and set them down straight. I would select a horse every time that stepped over, if I had to have one or the other, because you will find he will climb a hill better than a horse that keeps his legs too far away from his body.

IMPORTED HORSES AND BOYS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

There has been much discussion about licensing stallions. So far as the licensing is concerned it is all right, but will that make the stock any better, when licenses can be secured for scrub stallions? I know imported registered stallions that produce a lot of what I and others call little scrubs, and, again, I know of horses born and raised in Canada that get a lot of good big, sound, salable horses. I do not see the benefit of a horse being registered if he does not produce good stock. The same as to imported horses. Does it make a horse any better to come across the big pond?

I think the same way about men. I would not give one Canadian boy for half a dozen that come across the water. There were some three hundred who came to this district last spring, and not half a dozen in the whole bunch were worth their board. They are lying around town now looking for someone to take care of them.

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[Note.—The licensing proposition aims to cut out the inferior pure-bred, as well as the poor grade, and to debar all hereditarily unsound horses from being travelled. Believing that, as a general proposition, the pure-bred horse is more prepotent and a better stock-getter than the grade or mongrel, it is desired to encourage the use of pure-breds and registration in a reliable studbook as the only guarantee of pure breeding. Recognizing, however, that about one-third of the stallions in use in the Province of Ontario are unregistered, and that some of these horses are good stock-getters, it is proposed to license such for a period of three years, or longer, in a special class called Class 2. As for the immigrant youths, while "The Farmer's Advocate" is not in favor of any special effort to fill up our country with immigrants, yet, considering that all of us came originally from one or another European country, it behooves us to be as gracious as possible in passing judgment upon them, even though quite a few do fail to measure up to the standard of young Canadian manhood.—Editor.]

The last figures to hand show that we have 672,781 horses in the Province of Ontario, having a value of seventy-four million dollars. The amount reported as sold is \$7,419,000.

LIVE STOCK.

A CONVENIENT CATTLE-FEEDING RACK.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I am sending you a sketch of feed rack we have used for ten or twelve years with perfect satisfaction for convenience and durability. It is not very expensive, and will soon save the price of itself in feeding. I have been well pleased with "The Farmer's Advocate" during the past year, and wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Following are the specifications: A (2 pieces)—2 in. x 10 in. x 16 ft. long—runners. B (6 pieces)—1 in. x 12 in. x 14 ft. long—side and bottom boards for grain troughs. C (6 pieces)—2 in. x 4 in. x 3 ft. 8 in. long—cross pieces. E (2)—Iron ring in end cross pieces to draw by. D (8 pieces)—2 in. x 4 in. x 5 ft. long—upright pieces for frame. F (2 pieces)—2 in. x 4 in. x 14 ft. long—for plates on uprights. G (4 pieces)—1 in. x 12 in. x 3 ft. 8 in. long—for end boards. H (6 pieces)—1 in. x 6 in. x 4 ft. long—upright end boards. I (28 pieces)—1 in. x 6 in. x 5½ ft. long—for upright slats for hay manger.

The two center boards are stood in this shape A to nail the upright slats on and to form a trough.

Kent Co., Ont.

A. E. BROWN.

THE BEEF COMMISSION REPORT.

The commissioners appointed last spring to investigate and report to the Governments of Manitoba and Alberta upon all matters having to do with the purchase and sale, wholesale and retail, of cattle, sheep and hogs, in the two Provinces named, submitted on December 26th to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council of Alberta, their findings; also their recommendations for the improvement of the cattle and meat industry in that Province. The present report concerns itself with Alberta only. Later, a separate report will be made to the Manitoban Government.

The commissioners were Alex. Middleton, Coleridge, Alta., and Alex. Campbell, Argyle, Man., with H. A. Craig, Edmonton, secretary. Sitings were held in Alberta at Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Cardston, MacLeod, High River, Calgary, Gleichen, Innisfail, Red Deer, Wetaskiwin, Lacombe, Erskine, Edmonton, Vegreville and Vermilion; latterly in various centers in Manitoba. At practically every sitting, the whole farming and ranching community complained that the live-stock industry was not on a paying basis; that the ranchers and producers were not receiving sufficient remuneration for their labor and investment. It was to ascertain the cause of this general complaint, and to investigate the charges made by ranchers and small shippers, that the railway companies discriminated against them in freight rates, and that the wholesale buyers refused to handle their stock at any but ruinous prices, that the commission applied itself.

The findings indicate that the railways, particularly the C. P. R., favor in various ways, the large shipper in preference to the small producer forwarding his own stock. The charge that there is a discrimination in freight rates was not proven, but, by refusing or professing to be unable to furnish the small shipper with stock cars, by delaying his shipment in transit, and by giving to a certain large shipping concern unlimited control of the Winnipeg stock-yards, it is claimed the railway company practically compels the small shipper to sell his stock to the larger interests, which have, in a measure, monopolistic control of the whole live-stock industry. As a remedy for this condition of affairs, the commissioners recommend that the action of the railroads be brought to the attention of the Railway Commission, and that, for Alberta, a special live-stock commissioner be appointed, whose chief business would be to attend to the marketing of Alberta cattle.

THE COMBINE AMONG BUYERS.

The charge, repeatedly made by farmers and ranchers, that a combine existed among buyers, was probed to the bottom; at least as close to the bottom as the commissioners, with their limited powers, could reach. While a good deal of circumstantial evidence was given by producers that there was an agreement among cattle buyers in the allotting of districts for operation, that one could not trespass upon the territory of another, and hence that no real competition existed, no information was elicited to substantiate the charge. At least, those charged with implication gave an emphatic denial to the statement. There is a lack of competition in the cattle business of this country, and the reason given by the commissioners for this, aside from the alleged combine among buyers, is that the cattle-shipping business being an extensive one, only men familiar with existing conditions, men with facilities of their own for feeding and handling all along the line, and with agents in the Old Country thoroughly familiar with conditions there, can hope to manage the business with profit. As there are only one or two firms in this country equipped in this way for the business, it is not difficult to understand the lack of competition in the industry.

THE MUTTON TRADE.

With respect to the sheep trade, it might be said that in Alberta, for a number of years, the sheep industry has been on the decline. As a remedy, the commission advise the Government to undertake feeding experiments, in the hope of demonstrating to the farmers that there is profit in this branch quite as good as ranchers formerly

enjoyed, before grain-growing encroached on their ranges and drove the business out of existence. They recommend the introduction of close-woolled breeds, particularly Shropshires and Oxfords. As neither of these are to be found in numbers and quality at present in the West, the farmers are recommended to procure stock in Ontario, where both breeds may be procured now at reasonable prices.

THE PORK INDUSTRY.

In pork production, the most absolute dissatisfaction existed among producers. Prices at one end would be sufficiently high to encourage farmers to go extensively into the industry, but, about the time a large number were ready for market, prices dropped below the cost of production. For the past ten years this condition of affairs has repeated itself several times, until farmers, though anxious to engage in the business, cannot afford the venture on account of the uncertainty of the market. At the same time, hundreds of thousands of pounds of bacon are imported annually from the East and the United States. As a remedy, the commission suggests that the Government establish a packing plant somewhere between Calgary and Edmonton, and, if it be successful, assist in erecting others in various parts of the Province. A summary of the commission's recommendations is here given.

THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

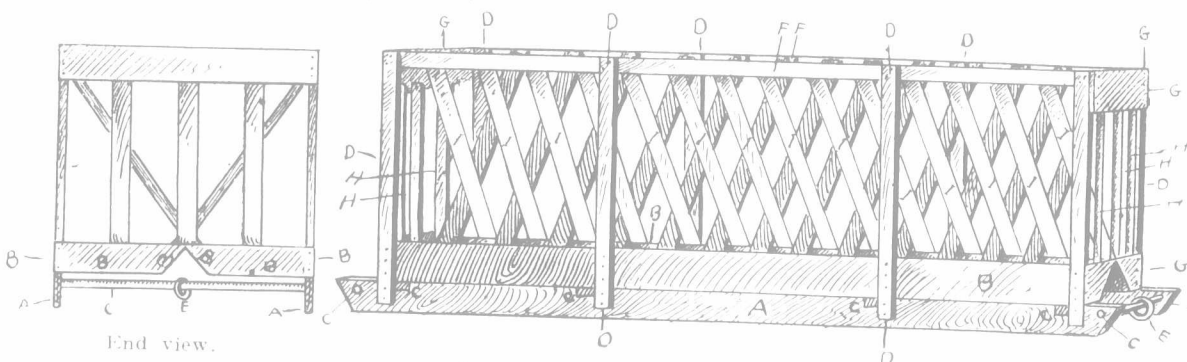
Sheep Industry.—That the Government undertake sheep-feeding experiments in connection with cattle-feeding experiments; that the Government bring in an importation of pure-bred sheep and distribute them in small lots throughout the Province.

Pork Industry.—That the Government assist in the erection of one pork-packing plant, to be located between Calgary and Edmonton, and that they take over the entire management of the concern.

Beef Industry.—That the Government establish three cattle-feeding experiment stations, distributing them properly throughout the Province, and conduct such experiments as will demonstrate the feasibility of the cattle-feeding business; that we do not deem it wise that the Government take any active steps in the matter of a canning plant until the two plants now in the course of erection are in operation and results therefrom determined; that we do not find any combine in restraint of trade in the retail butchers' trade; that legislation be enacted which will protect dumb animals from unnecessary cruelty in the slaughter-house, and that it be made compulsory for all animals to be shot in the head; that the Railway Commission be asked to compel the C. P. R. Company to run a weekly, scheduled stock train, this train to have the right of way after passenger trains; that its rate of speed be at least 20 miles an hour, not including the time cattle are unloaded for feeding; that it be made compulsory for the shipper to unload his cattle once every 42 hours, and, further, that it be made unlawful for any company to carry stock longer than 42 hours without seeing that it is unloaded; that all complaints against the C. P. R. be taken up with the Railway Commission, and, further, that copies of the excerpts from the evidence, which have been forwarded to the C. P. R. offices in Winnipeg, be forwarded to the Railway Commission, and that they be asked to remedy the several grievances which are therein set forth; that the time which cattle may be held in the Old Country before slaughtering be increased to one month.

LIVE-STOCK COMMISSIONER.

That the Government appoint a live-stock commissioner, whose chief business it would be to attend to the marketing of Alberta export cattle, and that he be paid a regular salary by the Government, and that the Government impose a uniform tax on all shippers, according to the number of animals shipped by the said commissioner; that the investigation into the chilled-meat trade has not been sufficient to warrant us making any recommendations, and that we respectfully ask your consideration upon the advisability of further investigation into this matter; that we have not found that there exists or has existed any combination in restraint of or affecting trade in



A Cattle-feeding Rack.

This rack will afford feeding room for 16 or 18 good-sized cattle, and may be drawn around wherever wanted.