

The Commercial

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A SCANDALOUS WASTE.

It is stated that there is still quite a surplus of cattle in Manitoba, notwithstanding large shipments east, but that the most of the cattle are too thin for shipment. Really good fat cattle are not too plentiful. In fact many of the cattle shipped east lately could scarcely be called half fat, while indeed quite a number could be classed as stockers and feeders. In view of the plentiful grain crops, and particularly in view of the low price of all grains, it seems strange that half-fat animals should be shipped out of this part of the country. In fact it can be characterized in no other way than a scandalous waste, that such is the case. This custom of shipping unfinished animals from a country like Manitoba, is a monstrous sacrifice of property, and the custom cannot be condemned in any too vigorous fashion. We hear plenty of howling about ruinous freight rates upon grain, yet here is a means of disposing of grain far more profitably at home, which is neglected by many. Concentrated in the form of beef, pork, mutton, poultry, etc., the grain will bring almost double the price that it can be sold for to ship, yet thousands of thin animals are being sold by our farmers, and by the same men who are sacrificing their grain crops. Virtually they are losing a large portion of the price they could realize from their grain, and are paying double freight rates besides—freights on the grain and freights on the cattle, when it would only be necessary to pay freights on the latter.

We see by the eastern papers that Ontario farmers are buying up thin cattle in the Toronto market to feed. These are farmers who know their business. On account of the low price of grain there, they are going to feed it, and they will realize more by so doing. No doubt many of the thin cattle from Manitoba are being bought up for feeding by these eastern farmers, who evidently know a thing or two. Others are going into the hands of eastern distillers and professional feeders; in fact, car lots of cattle have been shipped direct to eastern feeders from Manitoba. This is a wanton sacrifice which The Commercial cannot find words strong enough to properly describe. If Ontario farmers and feeders can buy these Manitoba cattle and make a profit fattening them there, how much more profitable would it be for the Manitoba farmers to finish these cattle themselves? We will not try to answer the query in dollars and cents. It would certainly be more profitable to finish them here than in Ontario. The grain is cheaper here, and there is the saving of freights, before referred to.

No feed grain should be shipped out of Manitoba. The shipment of any such grain represents a loss of the difference between the price of the grain and the much greater price

which such grain would realize if marketed in the form of beef, pork, etc. Even in the case of good milling wheat, it would be more profitable to feed much of it than to sell at present prices. Of course we could not feed all our wheat at home, but if we could, it would be the most profitable way of disposing of it at present values.

The low price of wheat has induced many experienced feeders to experiment with wheat for feeding stock, and as a rule most satisfactory results have been obtained. Many of these experiments have been published from time to time in The Commercial during the past few years. Many times during recent years this journal has endeavored to call attention to the more profitable way of disposing of feed grains and low-grade wheat, by feeding at home, but still the waste goes on. Apparently there is a great deal of ignorance among Manitoba farmers as to the feeding value of grains.

One of the latest experiments with wheat we have seen reported, was made at the farm of the great Chicago packer, P. D. Armour. The wheat cost fifty-three cents per bushel, but fed to hogs it realized 95¢ per bushel.

Dr. Voelcker, of Woburn, England, who carried out a series of experiments, says that wheat fed whole is the cheapest grain for sheep at current prices in England, and is a very profitable feed. Wheat is proved to be a better food for horses and any growing animals than corn. Wheat excels in strength-giving and flesh-producing elements, while corn excels in the fattening elements. Of course, in feeding wheat, allowance must be made for its greater strength and weight in the same bulk, as compared with coarse grains. Some have not obtained satisfactory results from feeding wheat, particularly to horses, because they have over-fed, giving the same bulk as they would of oats, when the same bulk of wheat contains vastly more strength than the same bulk quantity of oats.

Prof. Brown, of the Ontario Agricultural College, fed low grade wheat, too poor for milling purposes, to steers, with very satisfactory results. Prof. Robertson, of the Dominion Experimental Farm, fed wheat of a low grade to hogs, with the result of a gain of 9 to 15 pounds of pork to the bushel of wheat. At the experimental farm in Oregon about the same result was obtained. Young hogs will gain up to 15 pounds, and heavy fattening hogs from 9 to 12 pounds per bushel of wheat. By going over the files of The Commercial we could reproduce many experiments in feeding wheat to hogs and cattle, showing a much greater profit than could be obtained from selling the grain.

Wheat can be fed to sheep whole, and also to horses when their teeth are good, but it is better to be ground for horses; for hogs it should be ground and soaked. Shorts may be mixed to advantage for hogs. Prof. W. A. Henry, of the Wisconsin state experimental farm says, "for growing animals I place wheat from 10 to 25 per cent above corn. For simply fattening hogs it will not likely go any further pound for pound, than

corn. A mixture of wheat will make more pork than corn alone." In England low grade flours are being used for feeding, with good results.

WOOL IN THE UNITED STATES

THE great decline in wool in the United States since the proposal to place wool on the freelist was first made, is shown by a diagram prepared by Justice, Bateman & Co., wool merchants, of Philadelphia. Under the McKinley law, which placed a very high tariff on wool, prices were of course high in the United States, the duty on Ohio fleece being 11¢ per pound. For the purpose of showing the decline in wool the standard grade of Ohio X N is taken. In March, 1893 this grade of wool was worth 30½ cents. This was before the threatened removal of the duty had affected values. The price began to fall as soon as the danger of free wool became apparent. In May, 1893, the first drop of 1½ cents was made. By July the price had declined to 25 cents and held there until November of last year. For the next four months the price stood at about 24¢, and was ½ cent lower again during the following three months. Then another drop was made in June of the present year to 21½ cents, and this price was held until August. Wool went on the free list on August 27, when prices dropped again to 19 cents, and on the first of the present month the quotation was 18½ cents. This shows a total decline of 39½ per cent during the transition from protection to free trade in wool. The grade is now about on a free wool basis, a somewhat similar grade in London being worth about 18 cents. The total average decline in wool in the United States since March 1, 1893, has been 37.08 per cent. The average decline since wools became free has been 7.24 per cent. The heaviest decline has been in fine territory wool, which has declined from 17 cents in March, 1893, to 10 cents in October, 1894, or a total shrinkage in value of 70 per cent.

WHERE TO SEEK FOR SETTLERS.

An article in the Buffalo Express, headed "Settlers coming Eastward," reports a "whole-sale emigration" of settlers from several sections of the western states. This exodus is attributed to the severe drought which has so long afflicted Western Kansas and Eastern Colorado. Advises from Plattsmouth, in the state of Nebraska, also speak of trains of wagons that are daily moving eastward. These emigrants, who but lately settled in that western land, are described as being thoroughly dejected. It is added that they are pulling up stakes, and wandering forth to the east without any definite object in view. All these caravans are expected to go east of the Mississippi, and there to winter before their owners fix on a future settlement. From Nebraska alone above 10,000 settlers are said to have turned their faces eastward since the failure of the crop became a certainty. Reports from Western Nebraska speak of deserted farms stretching away for miles. All these derelicts were once more or less thriving homesteads.