

STOCK

Discussions on Live-Stock subjects welcomed.

Larger Stock Yards Needed

The utter inadequacy of the present stock-yards at Winnipeg has been much in evidence during the past fortnight or so. It is customary at this season of the year for stock deliveries to be excessively heavy. Farmers and drovers clean up pretty well on the approach of winter and the stock is poured into Winnipeg for market. For the past month it has been a common sight to see carload after carload of live-stock standing for hours on the siding waiting an opportunity to unload into the stock pens. In some cases stock stood in the cars for eight or ten hours after arrival, to the loss and inconvenience of the shipper.

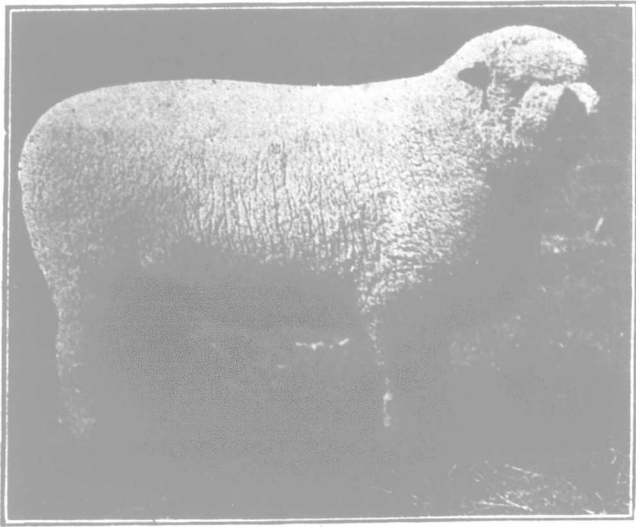
It is about time that something definite was done to relieve the congestion which occurs in the Winnipeg yards every time there is anything more than normal in the way of deliveries. This city is the outlet for almost the entire live-stock of the three prairie provinces, and yarding accommodation and the conveniences about the yards should be in proportion to the industry they serve. At present a few extra carloads of stock will choke them up for days at a time.

Cattle Prospects

The prospect and probability is that prices for beef cattle will rule fairly high during the coming winter and spring. This forecast is supported by the scarcity of good cattle in the country available for feeding, and the high prices at which butchers' cattle—that is, light or half-finished stock—are in demand, as compared with the figures exporters are bringing. Another reason for this belief is that, owing to the continued high prices of grain, fewer feeders than usual will have the courage or confidence to buy cattle and corn, or other grain and millfeeds at current or prospective prices, taking the chances of the future market letting them out safely or affording a reasonable profit on the transaction; and for this reason fewer good cattle will be on the market next spring, and the prices will probably be higher.

Still another reason for believing that Canadian cattle of a desirable class will be taken at good prices is that, owing to the high price of corn in the United States, our largest competitor in the British market, fewer cattle than formerly will be fed in that country this winter. This probability is supported by the flooding of the stock-yards at Chicago and other points with light, unfinished cattle and hogs at the present time, and the fact that comparatively few of these are being taken to the country for feeding purposes.

If these premises are deemed sound, the farmer who has on hand a good supply of hay and silage or roots would appear to be on tolerably safe ground in feeding beef cattle this winter, if he has or can secure suitable stock at a reasonable price, which should not be more than four cents a pound for smooth cattle weighing 1,100 to 1,200 pounds, and feeds them judiciously, which means feeding, for the first two months, principally such roughage as hay and straw, silage and roots, with a light ration of one to two pounds daily of meal to begin with, and gradually increasing the meal ration in the finishing period until the animals are on full feed.



AN ENGLISH SHROPSHIRE WINNER

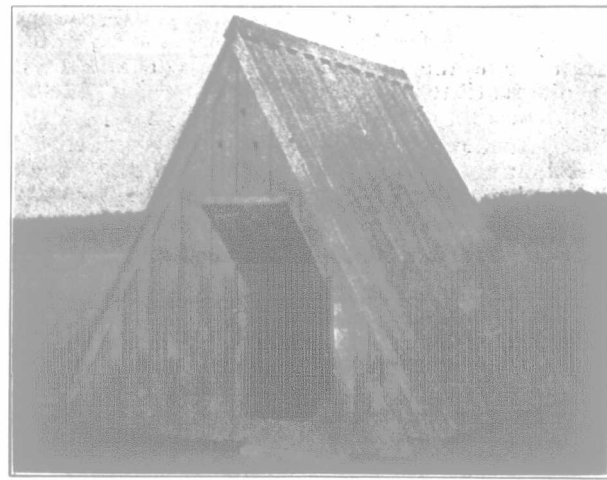
A Saskatchewan Farmer's Experience

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:—

There has been so much written in your journal during the past year on the subject of tuberculosis and its contagiousness and such a disagreement as to the method of contracting and transmitting it, that I feel it my duty to let the public know of my experience with it in the hope that it will be the means of saving someone from contracting this dreadful disease. I want to say at the outset that I am no scientist or expert on tuberculosis, but am a young farmer who homesteaded and farmed three years in central Saskatchewan, and while there contracted the disease from one of the oxen which I was using to break prairie with.

Being a farmer's son, my work from earliest childhood had kept me most of the time in the open air, as a result I always enjoyed good health, and no doubt had, up to the time of contracting the disease as good lungs, as any one could have. This, under ordinary circumstances and in a climate as dry and favorable to the destruction of tuberculosis as in Western Canada, would seem a strong guard against contracting the disease. It was under these favorable conditions, however, that I contracted tuberculosis and this was how it happened:

In the spring of 1904, I purchased three oxen. The first sign that anything was wrong was while engaged in breaking them to a plow and furrow. I noticed one of them, the largest and most robust looking of the lot was easily winded and tired. I thought little of it at the time, because they were only four years old and soft, unaccustomed to work. During the first and second seasons this ox worked along with the rest doing his share of the work, but tiring and winding upon much exertion and puffing considerably on hot days. The second winter he would not flesh up under the best of care and feed, and that spring started to work in rather poor con-



TYPE OF SUMMER HOG CUT IN USE AT THE MANITOBA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

dition, and towards August contracted a slight cough which was more irritating upon exercise. Then it was I began to investigate the trouble; my neighbors were called in for their opinions and all who saw the animal and knew of its symptoms, agreed it was nothing serious—probably only a slight cold. Before cold weather set in, his condition became so bad that I gave up working him, he lost flesh very rapidly under a liberal feed of bran twice a day, and plenty of good prairie hay, and by the first of January had become so weak he could hardly stand. Then I discovered it was tuberculosis and had him shot. Twenty months have passed since then and I am still a victim of the white plague which the doctors discovered in my system one month after I had discovered it in the ox. I am still fighting it as best I know how in Eastern Colorado, a place that seems best adapted for its cure because of its almost continual sunshine, even temperature and dry atmosphere. Right here let me emphasize this fact:—that the farmers of the Northwest as a class don't know what tuberculosis is, don't know what a terrible plague it is, both in man and beast, and don't realize how very, very contagious it is when one is in contact with it. They are careless and indifferent concerning it.

This indifference is due to the fact that they don't realize its dangers, not only to their healthy cattle, but to themselves and members of their families. The main reason for this is that in cattle as in man, the disease often does gain such headway and fasten such a hold upon them before one not accustomed to all its symptoms is aware that anything serious is the matter. The first indication of a condition other than normal in cattle should arouse suspicion and start an investigation. If your ox or dairy cow is short of wind, has a cough, no matter how slight, is hard to handle or hard to keep in condition, shows signs of losing flesh on good feed, if any one of these symptoms is present it should arouse suspicion and a veterinarian should be called and the tuberculin test given. If a reaction takes place destroy it at once and bury the carcass.

The tuberculosis congress recently held at Washington, D. C., to which eminent authorities from all over the world were present, accomplished nothing



A BRITISH PRIZE WINNER, 1908

in the way of furnishing a cure for this disease other than what has been known for 400 years; that is, fresh air at all times, sunshine and plenty of nourishing food. The significant fact brought out at the Congress was the discrediting of Koch, the eminent German scientist and discoverer of the tubercle bacilli, who had always held that bovine tuberculosis was seldom, if ever, transmissible to human beings. Sask. C. P. GREENMAN.

The Alberta Hog's Handicap

The organ of the Alberta Farmer's Association, quite naturally, retorts that the FARMER'S ADVOCATE criticizes adversely the proposition for equal freight rates without offering some better plan for "an improved and safer market for live hogs." The *Homestead* also claims that the farmers have a right to expect sympathy with, and approval of, the objects they are striving to attain, meaning equal freight rates, and in addition to pointing out unsoundness in principle we should suggest remedies.

On this hog raising proposition we know, and have known for some years that the man who produces hogs does so on a mighty small margin of profit, or, very often at a loss. There are two reasons for this, one is that it requires an expenditure of time and feed to make marketable hogs and the other is that there has not been a large, brisk market. On the matter of saving money in producing hogs, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE has been almost notoriously active in making suggestions and in publishing the experiences of successful hog raisers. But in the matter of providing better and safer markets we are free to admit our paucity of suggestion, contenting ourselves with pointing out from time to time that in order to have an improved and safe market we must have a large consuming public near the market and a large number of producers engaged in raising hogs, so that the proportionate cost of handling a dollar's worth of product could be made low and the by-products economically used.

Now these are conditions that seldom, if ever, prevail in a newly sparsely settled district. When people settle in a new country they assume the inconveniences of unorganized markets, and unfortunately it is generally the case that conditions are over-ripe for improvement before that improvement is provided. Such is the condition with regard to the Alberta hog business. The stage with improvement in the way of modern packing houses, well organized local buying and shipping facilities and a constant supply of marketable hogs is now past due. And we think we will be believed when we insist that these conditions are being secured, slowly of course—for the building up of the pork packing business to the extent which it will attain in Alberta is not the work of a day or a year, but of many years of gradual growth. Nothing would be more injurious to the industry than to launch packing house propositions here and there, rush arrangements to completion and then find that facilities for getting the product on the market were not satisfactory, or that farmers in the country from which the plant should draw its supplies would not undertake to raise hogs.

Realizing the importance of having well organized, "improved and safe" markets, the Alberta government appointed a commission some two years ago to make inquiries into the conditions existing in the live-stock and meat business. This commission after studying the situation did not recommend equal freight rates as it did to the bacon industry. Later Mr. Stevens was appointed as a permanent commissioner to study the live-hog and bacon industry, and that he would be in a position to advise the provincial government