

for a series of years they may roughly reflect the position of affairs. But allowing that there is shortage of pigs in America, it does not follow that this state will long continue, as the prolificacy of the porcine race makes it possible for a deficiency to be speedily made good.

It is possible also to see a connection between the scarcity of pigs and the high price of feeding stuffs. It is conceivable that the United States farmers, if they have curtailed their pig-breeding operations, have found it more advantageous to sell their maize and other corn for export to this country.

The cost of production is as important a question as the selling price and it should be borne in mind by those who are disposed to look upon the present increase in prices as representing so much clear gain. It is believed that the only means of imparting stability to pig breeding is to establish local factories for curing bacon and hams, as past experiences have shown that the open markets are not to be trusted, owing to the sudden variations in the volume of imports or other conditions, over which the producers have no control and cannot foresee.

### Live Stock Shipments

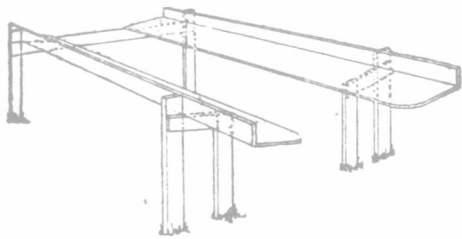
The statement of shipments of live stock and wool from the Medicine Hat district prepared by Inspector J. H.G. Bray shows the receipts to have aggregated the vast sum of \$1,308,167 for the past season. Shipments from the different points in the district were as follows:

From Medicine Hat — 2544 horses, 699 cattle, 50 sheep.  
From Suffield — 848 cattle.  
From Coleridge — 332 horses, 7204 cattle.  
From Woodpecker — 108 cattle.  
From Grassy Lake — 13 horses, 1952 cattle, 660 sheep.  
From Irvine — 970 horses, 297 cattle, 2630 sheep, 100,998 lbs. wool.  
From Walsh — 337 horses, 2401 cattle, 2630 sheep, 89,300 lbs. wool.  
Totals — 4997 horses, 14,014 cattle, 10,844 sheep, 190,298 lbs. wool.  
In 1908 the totals were — 3023 horses, 14,430 cattle, 12,235 sheep, 123,300 lbs. wool, which shows an increase in horse shipments for 1909 over 1908 of 1974, and a decrease of 416 head in cattle and 1391 head of sheep.  
An approximate value has been placed on the total output as appended: Horses \$624,625, cattle, \$630,630, sheep \$35,785, wool \$17,126

### Suitable Service Stall

Some time ago a subscriber inquired if we could publish instructions for the building of a breeding stall, or stocks, to be used in breeding heifers when a heavy sire is in service. We reproduce in this issue a description and sketch of a device for the purpose, which was recently published in the Jersey Bulletin, and which appears to be practicable and inexpensive. The specifications are as follows:

In building a stall, one should select a level space, set two posts 36 inches apart; to the posts spike a piece of 6-inch plank, the top edge of which should be about 28 inches above the ground. Four feet six inches back of these posts, set four more — two on either side, as shown in drawing. The short or inside posts should be about 16 inches high. Spike a piece of 2 x 4 from the top of the short post to the longer post by its side — slanting the 2 x 4 a little toward the



THE WARNER SERVICE STALL.

inside of space where cow is to stand. The space between the short posts should be 30 inches. Place a 9-inch plank flatways, the front end resting on the stringer nailed across the front posts, the back end resting on the 2 x 4 that is nailed on the hind posts. This plank should project over the hind post about six inches, also about three inches over the top of the posts toward the inside. Nail fast. Then place an 8-inch plank lengthwise, set upon edge inside of the long posts, and nail to same. This is to prevent

the bulls' feet from slipping off the outside edge of the plank which his front feet rest on when serving. The space where the cow stands should be 18 inches wide at the front end, and 24 inches at the back end, opposite the hind posts.

We always use this stall when breeding a cow. Its value will become more apparent when using a heavy bull on a small cow or heifer. When we were breeding Holsteins we often used a bull weighing 2,400 pounds to a yearling heifer, without the slightest injury to either.

I neglected to mention that, should a cow after being placed in the stall, stand too high for the bull, a little dirt can be taken out where her hind feet stand, or, if too low, fill in.

### Marketing Live Stock

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In my article of January 5 I mentioned various ways by which the present troubles in getting live-stock to market and sold at reasonable prices might be ameliorated. Perhaps if the suggestions were granted in full it would render unnecessary, at least for a time, the further more expensive and more permanent remedy, which I now have in mind. There is an old saying that "Providence helps those who help themselves," and the present progress of the farmers' company, which is having such a great success in handling the grain crop, may be at-



BOSOM FRIENDS

tributed to the fact that all other remedies proving futile, they had recourse to the time-honored method of doing for themselves what nobody else would do for them. "Tis money makes the mare to go," and money will be required to make the scheme I am about to propose go; but when one looks at the great spread between the value of stock leaving the farm, and the finished article, as offered to the people for purchase as food, it seems as if there must be sufficient latitude to make a suitable profit, even though in competition with an entrenched monopoly, which surely is no greater than the grain growers had to contend with.

It seems to me a joint stock company, subscribed by the farmers (who produce the raw material without which other monopolists would be powerless), who would be directly interested in making their own company a success, would be a permanency, if once on its feet and going. I am aware that dressed meat is a perishable article; but conditions are changing, and it is not so perishable now under modern conditions as it was 30 years ago, when ice boxes and refrigerators were the exception rather than the rule, which they now are. I see that cattle begin to shrink once they leave the farm, and the shorter the distance the less the shrinkage, so I would say: "Farmers, build your own abattoir at some suitable point, and enter into the business of manufacturing your own raw material in an up-to-date manner, such as the present day requires. You could then have your own sorters, who would grade the cattle coming in by train loads or car lots, sell or ship as most desirable at the time, and place for immediate slaughter all others, which would shrink no more when placed in the cold storage. A booking system could be devised, by which each shipper could be credited with the number of pounds of each grade, alive or dead, a suitable installment paid at once, and balance on deal being concluded

and sales made. In Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, or any other port salesmen are as willing to handle your stock as any other, and by consigning to your own company you could certainly feed and rest them before offering for sale. I do not know what the freight on dressed beef would be from Winnipeg to England, but I can easily imagine that four or five dressed beasts could be stalled in the space occupied by one, and its feed space alive. Allowing that a company could provide its own abattoirs and immediate cold storage, what would be needed, for part of the year, would be refrigerator cars to some common storage point at St. John or elsewhere, where we should impress upon the Dominion Government the necessity of such accommodation being provided; and I think we should be justified in asking for this latter at once, as the trend of things in this Western country is making such a storage more necessary every year. If the Western Canadian farmer is to keep up in the race for supremacy with the nations of the world it will have to come soon at any rate. Pork-packing, chilled beef and dairy produce all demand a protective storage of this kind before the export of such products can reach its ultimate dimensions.

The writer was over in Britain four years ago, and found in nearly every large town retail shops, where frozen and chilled beef and mutton of the best quality were being sold by white-coated, white-aproned servants of Argentina Meat Company. Everything was as clean as possible, and presented a good appearance; quarters of beef, shipped in cotton cloth, kept cool till wanted and often presenting a better appearance than home-killed Irish or English. Sent over in this way our butchers' cattle, i. e., heifers and good cows, would command a sale. As for retailing, a large beast is not wanted in the manufacturing towns. In fact, a good heifer of 1,000 pounds alive is about as valuable as any. Whatever may be done, I see a possibility of a great saving in shrinkage in some of our stock by taking the matter in hand ourselves. But it requires to be done on a large scale, and with considerable of a backing in cash and patrons. At present we are getting cornered and the knowledge that we are not being fairly treated militates very much against any enterprise in cattle raising and feeding. I am sorry that the grain growers in convention did not appoint a committee to enquire specially into the possibility of establishing such a trade. Recommendations to this and that, do not seem to accomplish much, and like the lark in the old story, when we do it ourselves, things will begin to move.

Man.

FRANK SIMPSON.

### Suggestions on Doing Chores

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

How chores may be most conveniently done has no doubt occupied the minds of many progressive farmers. Still throughout the West this important question has received far too little consideration. Much time, strength and good nature is annually wasted about our stables, and any suggestions that can help to stop this waste of energy and force should be welcome.

As I understand the question it is very comprehensive. It includes the methods of building and other things for which the farmer himself is responsible; and it also includes the way in which the man who does the chores goes about it. Let us first consider the building and implements.

A stable should be built either under a barn, or else with a roomy loft above it. Feeding racks should lead from the hay loft to the mangers, and these should be so constructed that the hay will feed down easily. This is a simple matter, if all the hay and straw that is to be fed is first cut rather fine.

Some object to the work of cutting the feed. I think I can show that it will be a help, if the cutting be done in the only right way, viz., by steam, horse or gasoline power. Hand power should never be used. It is far too expensive for all the good it does. But by means of a small engine, a large amount of feed can be cut up and blown into the loft in a day. A blower should be used to move away the cut hay and straw. Once cut, hay can be packed in a smaller space; it feeds down in the feed racks more readily; the stock eat it with greater relish; it is less likely to be rooted out of the manger and thrown about the floor by restless animals; the coarser parts, being mixed with the finer, are all eaten; it is more evenly spread in the stalls for bedding.