

bleating of sheep, or the complaining of swine in their respective enclosures is usually a tell-tale of neglect. To get the best results they must be fed at the same time every day, which can never be accomplished by a workman who is not prompt in his work.

He should be *humane* in his treatment of the dumb dependents he feeds. A stranger can tell a feeder who is rough and cruel in his treatment of stock by going the rounds with him but once, simply to see the stock. Where the feeder is kind there are unmistakable signs of welcome; where unkind, a nervous shrinking from his presence. When the milk maids speak of kicking cows, and the work hands of ill-tempered steers, the probabilities are all in favor of an improper use of milk stools and pitchforks in the past. The man who is harsh in his treatment of stock will never succeed well with them, no matter how much he feeds, nor how promptly.

He should *obey orders* to the letter. The man who will not do so will never become a finished feeder. When instructed to feed a certain quantity, and one-half more is added unknown to the master, an act of dishonesty has been committed. There is here a departure from moral rectitude, which will assuredly reap its reward—that is, dishonorable discharge, and a reputation tarnished. If the feeder remonstrate, and can show good reason, no wise employer but will let him have his way if such is in his power, otherwise the responsibility of unsatisfactory results is laid wholly upon the master. Where time has shown that the judgment of the feeder is equal to his task, he will find with increasing pay less frequent instructions of any kind.

He must be *reliable*. No man need turn his attention to this important work who is not absolutely trustworthy. One may chop cordwood in an indolent way without harm to any of the surrounding wood; apples left ungathered to-day may be picked up to-morrow, but a meal ungiven to-day cannot be eaten to-morrow. If *character* is required in any class of laborers it is in those who feed stock, nor should farmers be unwilling to pay for character and worth in any department of labor. The trustworthy man should be well paid for the character he brings with it, otherwise we put a premium on the lack of this.

The stock feeder must *love* his work, or he will not get on so well. When he finds an inner delight in watching the progress of his dumb dependents, in this he reaps a portion of his reward; but where the work is one of constraint, performed solely from a dollar and cent standpoint, or even from the higher ground of duty, he will not get on so well.

A strong argument, then, in favor of stock feeders is the continuity of the work. As there is no season during which stock does not require attention, there is no season when the services of the herdsman are not required. His labors, though somewhat confining, are not laborious like those of some others. Where he has proved his worth he will never want for employ, and where with fidelity he shows good judgment increasing wages carefully saved soon put him in the way of becoming a cattle owner. Will not some at least of the many thousands of whom and for whom we write, lay these things to heart and act accordingly? Look upon our words as those of an earnest friend and well-wisher.

CLUBBING RATES.—The JOURNAL will be sent in clubs of *five* for *four dollars*, remitted at one time, *until the end of 1885*. It will be sent in clubs of *ten* for *seven dollars and fifty cents*, remitted at one time, with an extra copy to the sender, *until the end of 1885*. The names may belong to different post offices.

The Fat Stock Show at Guelph—its Lessons and Imperfections.

Notwithstanding that this show was in many respects a splendid success, yet it was by no means perfect, and now that it is over it may not be unprofitable to dwell upon the wise lessons it has taught us, and to ponder its shortcomings with a view to having them remedied. The following are some of the lessons:

(1) That the greatest gains in cattle production led in the direction of early maturity. Of the four prize-winners in the yearling class the average daily gain was 2.16 pounds, the highest being 2.65 pounds per day in the case of the Messrs. Groff's wonderful sweepstakes steer Ranger, and the lowest, 1.73 pounds per day. In the two-year class the average daily gain was 1.93 pounds per day, the highest being 2.09 pounds per day, and the lowest 1.66 pounds, the steers in this class being an exceptionally fine lot. In the class of grade or cross-bred steers three and under four years, the average was 1.56, the highest daily gain, 1.70 pounds. In the class for pure-bred cows, three years and over, the average daily gain was .72 pounds, and in the class for grade cows, three years and over, the average daily gain was 1.16 pounds. From this it is clear that the greatest daily gains were produced in animals one and under two years. Had prizes been offered for animals one year and under, we doubt not but that even greater daily gains would have been shown. From this we conclude that more pounds of beef can be produced the first year than in any succeeding one, that more can be produced the second year than the third, and more the third than the fourth. It is also evident that the decrease in daily gain is rapid after the completion of the third year. Now unless the cost of keep is more in the case of the young animal than in that of the older one, it is evident that it must be more profitable to sell at an early age. We hold that the reverse is true, that a beast will cost more for his keep the third year than the second, but how much more we cannot tell. This but strengthens the argument in favor of turning off at an early age—that is, when the animals are pushed on properly from the first. But if the daily gain is greater during the first year, would it not be wiser to turn off at one year than later? We do not think so. We believe it costs more to produce a pound of beef the first year than the second, and less the second than the third. The first year the keep of the cow is to be reckoned from the time she ceased giving milk prior to the birth of the calf, and during the term of her suckling the calf, hence the greater profit will not arise by selling when one year old. If Prof. Brown would tell us the exact cost of the keep of a beef animal during each of the first four years of its life, he would confer a great boon upon the whole community. The exact age for turning off most profitably will be modified by the breed, thrift and development of the animal, and by the nature of the market which it is intended for; but, if possible, the limit of that age should be 30 months. The only valid plea for keeping a beef beast much beyond that age is that it may compete for a prize. If the Messrs. McQueen were to-day to slaughter their splendidly finished four-year steer Red Duke, which won the silver cup, with his daily gain of 1.38 pounds, it is very evident that the carcass of the Messrs. Groff's magnificent one-year old Ranger, with a daily gain of 2.65 pounds per day would yield much the greater profit if beef only were considered.

(2) The very small amount of the gate receipts at this show (under \$300), makes it clear that if we are to have a large attendance of visitors we must have a place that is in every respect comfortable in which to

hold the show. We have grave fears that the remembrance of the freezing endured by many this year will keep them at home another time; and worse than that, a number of their neighbors as well. Not that we have a word to say against the management, who did not go so far as it lay in their power: but people will not come to a fat cattle show in large numbers unless directly interested, if they are not to be made comfortable. The lesson here, then, is to have a building that shall be kept clean and warm, which certainly points in the direction of centralizing and locating permanently. Where can a more suitable centre for the stockmen be found than Guelph? Then why not permanently locate there? But where shall the means be secured to fit up the building? That is a grave question. Would not the same power that built the drill-shed assist in having it fitted up properly, and enlarged, if need be, if rightly approached, when the object is so worthy and so important?

(3) If the Aberdeen Angus men and the Hereford breeders are to bring their favorites into prominence in Canada, they must bring them out to the fat stock show. Prof. Brown, of the Experimental Farm, was the only exhibitor in either of these lines, although they were not allowed to compete. His exhibit reminds us that an Aberdeen Poll grade can make the splendid average daily gain of 1.87 pounds for 903 days, and that a Hereford grade during the first 780 days may be made to advance 2.09 pounds per day. What better than this could be desired? Why, then, do not the propagators of these cattle fit them and bring them out?

The imperfections of the show have already been touched upon. These point chiefly, however, in the direction of the prize-list, and therefore cannot be remedied until the Association becomes stronger. Yet it is well to keep them in mind.

(1) There is no prize offered for cost of production. This, as we have already said in other language, is a great matter; one which, if we consider its importance, cannot receive too much attention at the hands of our stockmen. We have said before that inattention to this subject is attended with the loss of hundreds of thousands to the country annually. We say it again, we hope soon to see a prize for this object.

(2) The weighing of the sheep and swine we look upon as quite important. This is a matter that requires attention. We know now very nearly the period when cattle cease to make the greatest gains, but we have not determined that period in the age of sheep or swine. If it is more profitable to turn off sheep at 10 months than at 20 months, and at 18 months than at 30 months, we should know that it is so. Whether swine should be slaughtered under one year or beyond that age should also be known. There is no method that we can think of that will more effectively direct the attention of breeders to this matter than the offering of prizes at the Fat Stock Show for cost of production in these lines as well. It is now pretty certain that the average cattleman is only doing in three years what he should do in two, and hence it is quite possible that those keeping sheep and swine are making as great a blunder, proportionately.

(3) If the show were permanently located and a suitable place fitted up, it would be wise to extend the limit of its duration. There is considerable trouble connected with the transit of the cattle for so short an exhibit. We shall hope that in coming days, when it may be found convenient for the representative stockmen of the Dominion in the different lines to convene at the time of the holding of the Fat Stock Show the term of continuance shall be prolonged. As it is, the time is long enough.