

2 lbs. of meal per day will produce in live weight an average gain of 200 lbs. in six months per steer. You will have steers just right to finish on grass for July market. If for spring, 30 lbs. ensilage, 15 lbs. roots, 4 to 6 lbs. meal per day, and a feed of uncut hay per day, say 4 lbs., should average 300 lbs. gain.

5.—When practicable, the best method is to mix all together except the hay; that I would feed uncut, 4 lbs. per day to each steer when fitting for spring market. If your feed room is frostproof, mix over night for morning feed, and morning for noon feed, etc.

6.—At two and a half years old, when I raise them on the farm. Every farmer should feed the steers grown on the farm, unless he is in the dairy industry. Cattle intended for winter feedings should be fed in October on the grass a few nubbins of corn each day for two weeks, then tie them or put them in boxes cool nights. In November feed two pounds of meal in stable and let them out each day. If this is attended to your cattle will never shrink; in fact, you will have them weigh 75 to 100 lbs. on the average more than if treated in the ordinary way. Allowing any class of cattle by neglect to shrink, as is generally the case with the majority of farmers, is one of the greatest leakages known to the cattle industry. Therefore, feed from the start a light ration, and you will be surprised the gain you will make in six months, and the quality of your cattle thus fed is or will be far better than those that are forced rapidly for a short time. The former have more flesh, the latter more fat or tallow. The former will ship better, the latter will shrink two pounds to one of the former.

8 and 9.—I would let cattle out for ten or fifteen minutes each day, providing they had water before them. Some are watered inside, some outside. A few minutes' exercise is essential. They should never be exposed to rough weather or allowed in a bleak place. If no warm spring water to hand, I certainly would advise taking the chill off cold ice water when practicable. Cattle have done well with me where they had not all the modern improvements and comforts. No man should defer feeding because he has not all the modern improvements. You can succeed if good judgment is displayed far better than many will with all modern appliances and not judgment. Success depends upon mastering all the little details: kindness, regularity, no excitement, the same feeder. Not getting your cattle chilled is a great factor in producing beef. Get your cattle plump each day, and you will succeed.

10.—Not much importance. If cattle are fed a balanced ration they will not heat; it is when they are not managed properly that they get so itchy.

I would add this: When steers are fed in loose boxes they must be dehorned, and should be dehorned in each case where a number are fed.

When I state 10, 15 or 30 lbs. ensilage, I mean ensilage made from mature corn—corn in glazed stage; meal, oats, and peas; oats and corn ground, or peas and corn reduced with bran and shorts.

C. M. SIMMONS.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

#### The Evidence of an Expert Cattle Feeder.

1.—No. We give our calves and yearlings all the freedom possible.

2.—We consider an hour or two quite enough for all purposes.

3.—Our rough fodder consists for the most part of rye hay cut when heading out, and for a second crop when the heads are well filled; we also sow a mixture of peas, oats and barley, to cut when three-parts ripe and to be fed as hay.

4.—This is an excellent fodder for young stock and no grain is needed until the fattening period begins.

5.—Our sheet anchor in the past has been roots, cut as for sheep, and shorts sprinkled on roots while being cut in the proportion of ten pounds of shorts to the bushel of cut roots. The morning meal is cut and mixed the night before, and will be slightly warm when fed next day, and the shorts will have absorbed all the outside sap and will be quite sweet and moist. The quantity fed night and morning will average thirty-five pounds each feed, and I have had the best results from this ration, notwithstanding its "onesidedness." The roots mentioned in ration are Swedish turnips, sugar beets, and parsnips.

6.—When turned three years old.

7.—Our ordinary ration for the latter part of the fattening period has been equal parts of oats, bran, buckwheat, and peas, the peas and buckwheat to be steeped five hours before being fed and the oats and bran mixed carefully. A full-grown steer will

get away with fourteen quarts of this mixture in two feeds, and we have found that they handle well and keep in good health on the above ration.

8.—We do, decidedly, and take all precautions against one getting loose, even for a few minutes.

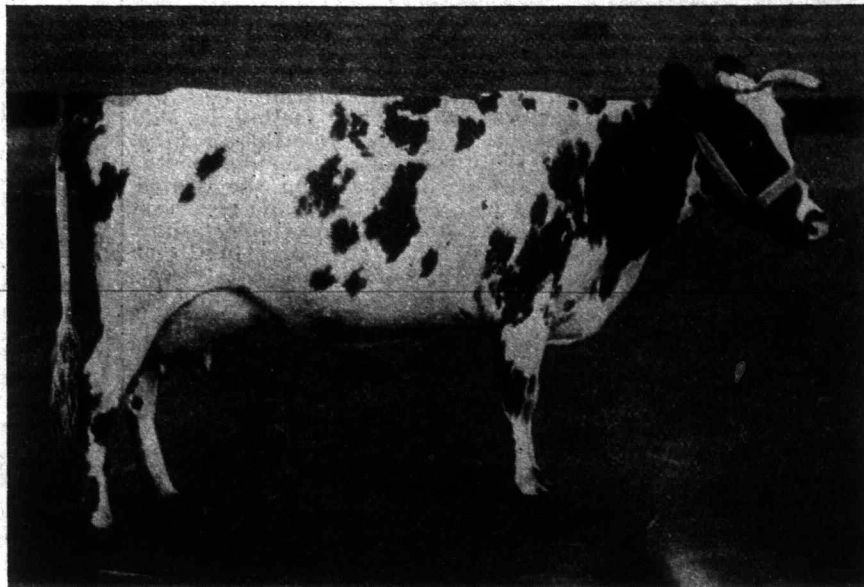
9.—Twice a day, by piping from tanks to boxes in front of animals.

10.—Not much, especially if the stable is cold. For instance, did I own a valuable Clydesdale stallion, trusting to my experience I should not, in this climate, curry him in winter. J. G. DAVIDSON.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

#### Grain for Growing Stock.

While I do not consider myself an authority on such matters, I have no objections to giving my experience for what it is worth. I will try to



THE SWEEPSTAKES AYRSHIRE, SILVA.

answer your questions in the order in which you have arranged them.

1.—I prefer to tie yearlings in the winter rather than to allow them to run loose in pens, for the simple reason that I think there is less labor entailed in that way than in the other, and if they are let out every day or nearly so, as I think all cattle should be, I think they will do equally as well.

2.—I would allow them to run an hour or two, or probably sometimes when the weather is fine a little longer, although I think a couple of hours' run will do them as much good as a longer time.

3.—My coarse fodder is principally straw and cornstalks. While I do feed some hay to store cattle when it is plentiful, yet I do not consider it

7.—I find that fattening cattle do well on a ration of cut straw, or straw and hay mixed, and about one gallon of meal (one-third peas and two-thirds oats) twice a day, with about a half bushel of roots once a day. About a quart of oil cake once a day, in addition to the above ration, will, if fed to the right class of stock, produce satisfactory results.

8.—No. I think they should be turned out at least twice a week. If they are let out for an hour every day I think they will be still better; that is, when the weather is not too stormy.

9.—I water at a creek, but would not recommend that as being the best plan. If cattle can be watered in the stable I think it is much better, especially in cold and stormy weather.

10.—Cattle that are continually housed I think are much better for being curried, but if they are let out every day or so I think currying is little more than a waste of time.

I fed my cattle last winter and am this winter feeding them corn run through the cutting box without husking, and I find that they do very well on that without any other grain. They get this night and morning—a good bushel basket full between two of them, with all the straw they want to eat in the meantime. Last winter they got turnips in addition to this and they did well, but turnips were a failure with us this season, and consequently they get none. I think, however, that a little bran mixed with the corn would be an improvement.

S. B. GORWILL.

Middlesex Co. (East).

[NOTE.—We invite and will gladly publish additional correspondence embodying the experience of practical men on the above questions. One reader can benefit another in this way and lose nothing himself, but rather gain. Does your experience confirm what these men state, or does it differ, and in what respect? Do you question any of their statements; or wherein do you prefer the plan you pursue? Let us hear from you.—EDITOR.]

#### A Sweepstakes Ayrshire.

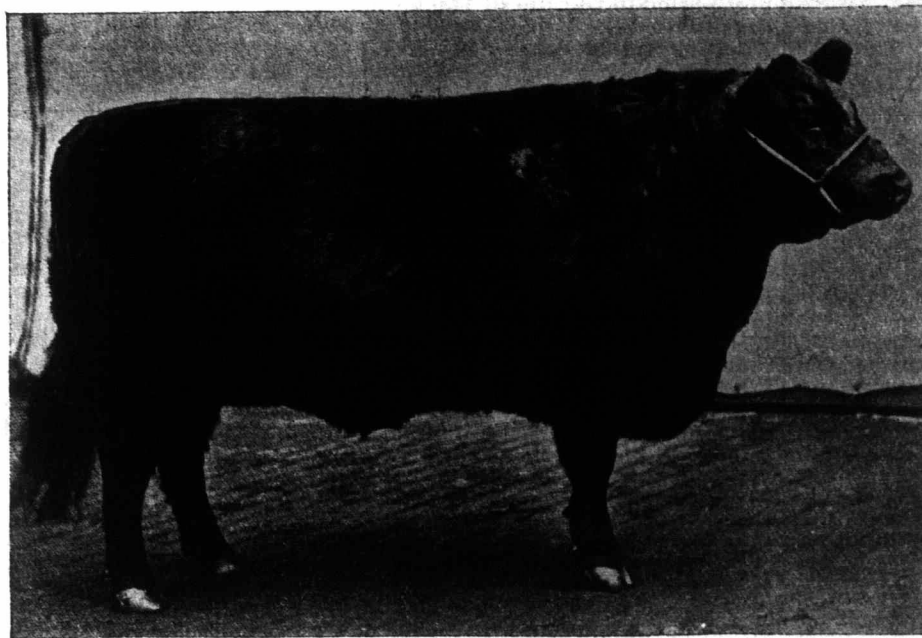
The Ayrshire cow, Silva—904—, herewith illustrated, brought honor to her owners, Messrs. R. Reid & Co., Hintonburg, Ontario, and their valuable herd at the last Ottawa Central Exhibition by winning first prize in the Ayrshire cow class and sweepstakes for best female of the breed. She was bred by J. J. Smith, Billings' Bridge, Ont.; sired by Cherry Prince 2nd—445—, and out of Lily 4th—900—, by Tri-Mountain—125—, tracing to imported Bonny Lass—12—. The herd to which she belongs contains a very fine four-months-old bull calf from her and by the present stock bull, Gold King 1387; also a grand two-year-old son, winner of first prize at Ottawa last fall as a yearling.

This excellent dairy cow is well situated in a herd of some sixty grade and pure-bred Ayrshires, whose business it is to furnish milk for the Ottawa city trade. With such a business in view, Messrs. Reid & Co. retain nothing in the herd that does not produce bountifully. It is well known that there are Ayrshires and Ayrshires, especially in their native home, which is causing considerable agitation between the breeders of the very fine type of cattle and the more vigorous sort, such as Silva proves herself to be. It will be remembered that in the grade dairy class at the Ottawa show this herd captured many of the good prizes, as well as a number in pure-bred Ayrshires.

#### Our Scottish Letter.

FAT STOCK SHOWS AND THE MEAT TRADE.

The chief topic of conversation in these days is the success of Scotch cattle at the great fat stock shows in England, and unless something unusual occurs in the near future a notable victory has been won, which is not likely to be eclipsed while the present generation lasts. The Aberdeen-Angus black polled breed has done many notable things in the past, and during the four years 1893-96 it has provided three champion animals at the great show of the Smithfield Club in London. These were Mr. Fletcher's Pride of the Highlands in 1893, Mr. Stephenson's Benton Bride in 1894, and now the Earl of Strathmore's Minx of Glamis (see illustration) in 1896. The winner in 1895 was Her Majesty the Queen's Shorthorn heifer, Frederica. The curious phenomenon of the champion fat animal of Great Britain for four years in succession being a heifer is naturally cause of remark, and we have not yet seen any explanation which altogether meets the case. Some have the feeling that it is too bad



ABERDEEN-ANGUS HEIFER, "MINX OF GLAMIS," CHAMPION OF THE SMITHFIELD AND BIRMINGHAM FAT STOCK SHOWS OF 1896; BRED AND OWNED BY THE EARL OF STRATHMORE.

economical to do so, at least until the latter end of the winter, for I think they will do equally as well without it.

4.—Yes; a little grain to keep them growing, for if a young animal stops growing it takes a long time to gain what it has lost, and I think it is very doubtful if it ever makes as good an animal as it would otherwise have done. I think oats or a mixture of oats and peas the best kind of grain to feed growing stock—about a quart twice a day.

5.—I usually feed roots alone, but mix the meal with cut cornstalks or straw, first putting the cut feed in the mangers and mixing the meal with it there.

6.—I sell my fat cattle at two years old. Have not had a three-year-old steer for several years.