

feed the same without loss. The conclusion, then, is irresistible, that inexperienced feeders handling such beasts cannot make it pay them.

But it is almost absolutely certain that it is just such beasts that are chosen for the experiment, for those of a suitable stamp are seldom found in a neighborhood where stock-feeding has not hitherto been practiced. The farmer, it may be, selects one of his own scrub steers, values him at what he would *ask* from the butcher, not what he would *get*; charges all the food fed at top market prices, not at what he would get for it in his barn; and then, unless there is a balance-sheet of direct profit he concludes that stall-feeding does not pay. The case we have supposed is just a sample of what has been enacted over and over again a thousand times, which is to be exceedingly regretted, as such experimenters are very apt to settle down self-satisfied with the experience of the past, and conclude that there is no money in stock-feeding; or in other words they are henceforth content to starve their farms by selling off the produce, and to allow the butcher to fatten on the gains accruing from the purchase of their three cent-per-pound cattle, purchased by the lump. Such experiments are peculiarly unfortunate. They dam the stream of progression in advanced farming in other ways. With the conclusion that stall-feeding does not pay comes the conviction that improved stock is not so essential, and hence a check is put upon advanced stock-feeding, improved farm-buildings for keeping the same, and advance in other ways.

(3). Some do not know *how to feed*. The mastery of this art is a splendid acquisition, but rarely found in a high degree of perfection amongst our Canadian bred yeomen, owing it may be to the unsettled restlessness of modern life in this western world, where the temptation is so strong to induce young men to change their calling from the numerous examples of others who have amassed money in a young land where the wave of general progress beats so high. To know just what to feed and what not to feed, how much to feed and when to stop, the grains which under present prices pay and do not pay, the harmonious blending of these to produce the best results at different stages of progression, the quiet that should be given, the amount of cleaning and currying that is just enough, the regularity that is requisite, are details which every successful feeder must master, and which must be made a careful study by him who is to be a success in the business. It is only reasonable to suppose that the man who has just commenced will not possess the knowledge in detail, and therefore he should not expect marked success at the outset. Our suggestion to those who have made but one or two attempts is to try again, for what some have succeeded in doing in the line of feeding may be accomplished by you.

(4). Others have not the requisite *accommodation*. It will not pay to stall feed stock where they are not kept comfortable. Where they suffer from too low a temperature they will not lay on flesh but at the expense of additional feed; where the feed has to be carried a long distance the labor bill is too high, and, where the work is carried on largely, is a serious item. Yet it should be remembered that where the farmer fattens but one or two animals, the labor bill is much larger proportionately than it would be where a number are fed.

(5). Still others do not know *how to sell*. The instances are but rare where stall feeding pays when the stock is sold by the lump. It does not pay to feed an animal when it has ceased to gain rapidly, or in other words when it is ripe, and the knowledge requisite to bring a beast to that stage about the probable market-

ing time is of much value. Locality, too, has something to do with prices. Where but two or three beasts are found in a neighborhood which hitherto provided none, dealers are naturally chary about going there, and the chances are that for the first two or three years the feeder will have to sell at a disadvantage, but this is a difficulty that all beginners have to contend with. The breeder feels it even more keenly, but due perseverance will bring its sure reward—success—and the homage of the class whom it is most desirable to reach.

(6). Others again look for profits in *wrong channels*. The profits at first to feeders are not usually in the form of cash direct, but in the form of accumulated investment, from which further and increasing profits are to be realized. A writer in the January number of the JOURNAL, on "Horse vs. cattle breeding," has put this feature of our argument most admirably when he says, "It is in the manure, in the consumption of stuff grown on the farm, in the sale to himself, that is to say, of home grown food at top market prices without the expense of taking it off the place, that the farmer's profit, whether he breeds horses or grade cattle, must be found." Thus it is at least for a time, until this accumulated power of production enables him to lay by a handsome dividend as a deposit with his banker.

Herein it is that the real bar is formed that stops the ship on her onward course—the absence of present direct cash gains. If these uniformly followed every attempt at fattening stock, our farmers would soon all become feeders. As it is, a large number of them will not engage in the work just because they have not capital to tide them on for a year or two, and second, a large proportion of those who have prefer present gains, which are certain, to future greater ones which they look upon as uncertain, or in other words they choose rather to take what the farm gives them at present and to run the chances of getting from it what it will give under a starvation process.

That stock feeding has already proved an incalculable blessing to the country cannot be denied. That men have enriched their farms in hundreds of instances and themselves as well, handing down a splendid legacy to those who shall live after them, cannot be gainsaid. What has been done by one can usually be done by another by the adoption of proper measures.

It is therefore more than prudent that those who have set down stall feeding as a non paying investment should re-examine their bearings, and ascertain what it was that was defective in past practice.

### The Terrific Evil.

A writer in a late number of the JOURNAL, in speaking of scrub bulls, says that one of these "is a 'terrific evil in his neighborhood.'" Those who have all along looked upon his lordship as deserving of the chief place at the straw stack in winter and on the common in summer will be startled at such a statement; but the readers of the JOURNAL will agree with us when we say that the adjective applied in describing the scourge is a mild one. That the language used is not too strong may be demonstrated without any trouble, as will appear below:

(1). Scrub bulls rob the farmers of a large proportion of their feed, in their perpetuating a race which are not only scrawny, but their very scrawniness necessitates a large amount of feed, as is always the case with quadrupeds that are unsightly.

(2). They disturb the peace of entire neighborhoods by the occasional raids they make on offending herds, committing depredations the ill effects of which are traceable for years after.

(3). They have occasioned the severing of long and tried friendships between neighbors, through their untimely visits, and have raised demands by way of compensation that have proved heartaches.

(4). They have formed barriers more effective than the Andes to the entrance of those who deal in superior butcher's meat, as cattle buyers for the old country trade never set foot in a scrub bull domain.

(5). When existing with a pure bred in the same region they present a standing temptation to farmers using a bull at from ten to fifty cents per service.

(6). They trouble the legislator, who finds it difficult to frame, and more difficult to enact, laws to restrain them.

(7). They are a sorrow to farmers' boys, who are tormented driving them to the pound in busy summer days.

(8). They are a great source of torment to the pound-keeper, who finds it difficult to build a wall which they will not scale or break down.

(9). They are a constant source of terror to milk-maids and to the young cow-boys of the farm, as being a privileged class, they roam at large.

(10). Their presence deprives the Province of millions which it would possess were pure-bred bulls substituted.

Without one redeeming characteristic to counter-balance these heavy charges, they are surely a "terrific evil." And we are only astonished that our yeomen have not all seen it long ago.

### Of a Scotch Letter.

A GOOD RECORD; A REPUDIATION; DEMAND FOR POLLED CATTLE.

The records of the Smithfield Club (London) have shown that for the joint purpose of providing beef and coming early to maturity, no race of cattle can beat the polled Aberdeen-Angus. A striking instance of their heefing quality has just been brought under my notice. In September, 1884, an English breeder, Major Dent, of Ainderby Hall, Northallerton, purchased at an Aberdeen sale the foundation of a herd of Black Polls. One of the animals he bought was Pride 11th of Greystone (Mr. Reid's), which at the time I noted as being "a useful, deep-ribbed heifer." Unfortunately failing to breed, last August she was put up to feed. At that time she scaled 80 stones. At Christmas she was sent to the local auction, when she scaled 100 stones live weight, took the third prize, and was sold to a butcher at £32. Killed, she dressed a remarkable carcass, and is described as one of the best fed beasts ever seen, with so little internal room that it was a surprise where the viscera had been packed, and with plenty of lean meat, very fine bone, and showing remarkably small offal throughout. Her dead weight was 62 stones, which is truly enough described as a remarkable result, considering that the animal had only been feeding between four or five months.

While speaking of polled cattle I wish to refer to an article which recently appeared in the *North British Agriculturist*, entitled "The Origin of the Tillyfour Herd—Polled Cattle and Pedigrees." There are certain statements in this communication which, with the importance they derive from the fact of being published in such a well-recognized agricultural organ, might be calculated to lower this popular breed in the eyes of foreigners like yourselves (if I should describe you as such), were they not promptly repudiated. The writer is a Mr. W. McCombie Smith, and he devotes the greater part of one article to an attempt to fix the exact time at which the famous herd of the late Mr. McCombie was started. Nothing need be said on this point, but when the writer proceeds with a needless amount of self-satisfaction to attack, on the