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Canadian Stores and the British Feeder.

The well-known appetite of the Britisher for good beef and mutton causes a steady demand and remunerative prices for the product of the skill of the feeder. The question of obtaining raw material is one that is specially agitating the denizens of North Britain, noted as it is for "neeps," oats and good straw. The Scotch feeder is at the present time said to be paying through the nose for his stockers, mainly Irish cattle, and many North Countrymen are very anxious that the embargo on Canadian cattle be removed. The more zealous have interviewed the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Hanbury, with but little effect, which is not altogether to be wondered at by the rash statements made, in which direction even the Minister transgressed. The agitation has, however, little interest for Canadians beyond getting an acknowledgment from Mr. Hanbury of the freedom from disease of Canadian stock, which was made by that gentleman, who, however, went out of his way to include the U. S. in the clean bill of health, which shows he is ignorant regarding such things as Texas fever or hog cholera. The new direction taken by the Canadian stockman in the way of finishing his stock for the block, instead of leaving the cream of the profit to be made by his Scotch confrere, is due in measure to the embargo, which was not, therefore, an unmixed evil. One can readily see that there is fair profit in buying Canadian stockers in October for £15 (\$75) apiece and turning them off fat the following February at £23 12s. 6d. (\$116.50) apiece, the main diet being neeps, straw and a little cake. If the Canadian has any fault to find in the production of beef, mutton and pork, it will be in the comparative lack of competition for his finished product, and in that respect he envies the American feeder his markets at Chicago, Kansas City, and Omaha. The tenor of the bluebook is that unless the Scotch feeder gets Canadian stores he will become bankrupt. The live-stock business in the "tight little isle" has, however, a profit-sharer, or profit-taker, in the auctioneer, who sells the farmer his feeders and sells them for him again when finished, thus getting a profit at both ends; in fact, cases are known where the auctioneer finances the business and the farmer does the work, with the inevitable result! The bluebook, as a whole, is an excellent collection of arguments why Canadian stockmen should feed and finish their own store cattle, and is rendered somewhat amusing when it says, "Men of skill and judgment bought Irish stores among which fifty per cent. were piners!" "If this restrictive policy is to be carried out, the Canadians should be prevented coming over here and taking away our best cattle," which, while probably meant for irony, suggests, possibly unconsciously, a remedy for the rapid depletion of the Scotch herds, which is only a short remove from degeneration. Occasionally a prospective Canadian buyer is heard to say, "The herds have been picked over!"

Mr. Hanbury's reply was unmistakable, and from it the only inference is that the North Countrymen will sigh for Canadian store cattle in vain. Mr. Hanbury uttered a truism when he said that Canada was finding out that it paid to buy a great deal better to feed their cattle and sheep on hay and clover as fat stock," and quoting Mr. Hanbury as saying "the cattle were being fed in Canada on the profits of the feeder going there and the loss of the farmer in the U. S. It had been stated that a number of Canadian store cattle were fed in the U. S. One of the gratifying features of the bluebook is the unanimous opinion that the Cana-

dian cattle were the healthiest and soundest cattle that have passed through the Scotch feeders' hands. The moral for our Canadian stockmen is, therefore: "Use only the best bull's, with heavy fleshing, easy-keeping characteristics, that the resulting stocker may be one that it is possible to finish at a profit!"

Farm Siftings.

This year the weather has been quite favorable to the destruction of weeds, being sufficiently dry to wilt those which were torn up by tillage, and wet enough to cause many seeds in the soil to germinate. Even yet, fallows on which grow any biennials such as false tansy or winter annuals as stinkweed, shepherd's-purse, peppergrass, tumbling mustard or skunk grass will pay to be cultivated. Surface cultivation in the fall will prove the most effectual way of disposing of these pests. It is most essential to destroy early in the fall all the growth made by the Canadian thistle and such like deep-rooted perennials. This class of weeds store up food in their roots to carry them over winter when allowed to make even a little top growth in the fall. To ensure cutting them it may be necessary to use the gang plows.

With a big crop to take off, fall plowing is apt to be left too late. Late fall plowing is apt to leave the soil too loose. A firm seed-bed is essential to a successful wheat crop, and the more firmly the plowing can be done the better.

Slowly but surely the cultivated grasses are being introduced, and where once introduced they forever afterward form one of the staple crops. A load of good timothy, brome or rye grass hay is worth two of the wild swamp hay. Native hay meadows cannot be depended upon. Some seasons they are too dry, others too wet, and haying is often thrown into harvest; whereas the cultivated grasses, properly managed, are almost a sure crop and the haying is out of the way in good time for harvest.

Oats cut when the top grains of the heads are just turning make fine horse feed, and in many sections are the principal feed through the year. Oat straw cut when the grain is not fully ripe makes excellent roughage and is worth stacking carefully. On the saving of oat straw an Illinois exchange says:

"It will be found to be an exceedingly good practice to cut oats before they have become completely ripe. If cut just before the straw has turned yellow it will add materially to the feeding value of the straw and yet will affect the yield of grain but slightly. This seems to be due to the fact that grain will 'make' after the crop has been cut, although this process does not necessarily mean that the soluble digestible part of the nutriment in the straw are changed to indigestible and crude fiber, as would be the case if the crop were allowed to stand until completely ripe."

A great many farmers adopt the practice of cutting oats while the grain is in the early dough condition, in which case the crop is fed out during the winter without threshing. Indeed, it is considered that the greatest feeding value of an oat crop is obtained in this way. However, the average farmer finds it necessary to separate the grain from the straw, so that for this purpose it is well to allow the grain to approach ripeness. It must be remembered, however, that it is not necessary for a crop to ripen entirely to be well threshed out."

In many districts where the settlement is not very thick there will be great danger of prairie fires this fall especially as there is a most luxuriant growth of grass. Every precaution should be exercised to prevent the starting of fires, and

none should neglect making good fire-guards about buildings and property.

There is always danger of fire during threshing time. It is well to provide a few barrels of water and some pails in convenient places. An ounce of prevention is worth tons of afterthought.

The thresher has had many experiences, now from bad weather, bad roads and bad conditions. He should be a skillful operator by this time. It is now up to him to do a good job threshing out our big crop, and to do it right smartly.

Reader, have you observed that good beef cattle were selling lately on the Chicago market up to \$9 per cwt., live weight? It's worth thinking about. Why not have more of that class of animals to sell?

The sugar beet is now a factor in Canadian farming, and 1902 a red letter inaugural year. Here is the record in a nutshell: Four factories established in the Province of Ontario; approximate investment, \$2,250,000; beet area under successful cultivation, 20,000 acres; prospective yield, 12 tons per acre, from which 25,000 tons of sugar should be produced.

"Whip," in this issue of the "Farmer's Advocate," deals with a live and timely subject, viz., classification of horses at shows. The confusion of mind regarding types of horses to which he refers and which in a measure he aims to clear up, has been intensified by the almost infinite variety of classification to be found in various prize lists. As an ideal type of roadster to raise on the farm, our own fancy would be for a shade less of the greyhound conformation than "Alix," portrayed in "Whip's" excellent article.

So systematize and plan the work of the farm that there will be time for some wholesome recreation. If you value the lives and company of the wife and family, don't let it be one "ever-lasting grind." Don't run things all the time so that everybody has to roll into bed exhausted as soon as night falls. Intersperse a little music and other care-lightening diversion and have an outing now and then. You will be just as far ahead at the year's end. Don't be a slave.

The bachelor editor-in-chief of one of our exchanges has been taking his summer holidays on a prairie farm, and this is what he thinks about what he saw: "Somehow or other the girls of our farms have gathered all of the beauty of their ancestry, and improved upon it. For I say, not for the purpose of flattery, nor to win favor, but to speak the truth, that it is the loveliest type of womanhood the planet ever beheld." He will likely be taking another trip before long.

A multiplicity of newspapers, political and otherwise, cater for the patronage of the farmer. No occupation makes greater demands upon the capacity and intelligence of those purveyor than farming. Hence the need for a periodical devoted exclusively to its various departments. A high-class, practical paper is the farmer's best ally. To double the constituency of the "Farmer's Advocate" this season, we now offer to new subscribers all the issues, including the Christmas number, from now on, until the end of 1903 for \$1.00, or until the end of 1902 for 25 cents. If you will send it to a friend, or if you would be helped, or get him to subscribe, the Western farmer it has no equal.