New Head for C.P.R. Demonstration Farms

G. H. HUTTON.

IN being able to secure the services of George H. Hutton, B.S.A., as Superintendent of its Agriculture and Animal Industry Branch, the Canadian Pacific Railway is to be congratulated in finding a worthy successor to Dr. J. G. Rutherford, who has been appointed to a seat on the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada. Dr. Rutherford, who has been a prominent figure in livestock circles all over the continent for many years, has been head of this branch for more than six years, during which period he earned the esteem of farmers, stockmen and others throughout the country, and many farmers in Western Canada owe a large measure of their success to the advice and assistance given by him. His successor, Mr. Hutton, has had considerable experience in Western Canada, and few men are better informed than he on the agricultural possibilities of Western Canada, and particularly of Alberta. Since 1906 he has been in charge of the Dominion Government's Experimental Station at Lacombe in Central Alberta, where his work, especially in connection with livestock, has been of the utmost value to farmers throughout the province and elsewhere in the Canadian West.

● Mr. Hutton has been connected with farming so long that he does not remember when he first began. He is a thoroughly practical farmer. During his boyhood days he did those tasks which usually fall to the lot of a boy brought up on the farm. Later he went to college where he obtained his B.S.A. degree, in 1900. After operating a farm of his own in Eastern Canada for about six years, he went West to take charge of the Government's Experimental Station, which he is now leaving to take up his appointment with the Canadian Pacific. He is known throughout Western Canada as one of the foremost agriculturists in the country, and his activities in connection with the live stock industry may be gathered from the fact that he is president, vice-president or past president of six different breeders associations, besides holding numerous directorships.

Few men have done more than he in promoting mixed farming methods among the farmers of Central Alberta. This he has done by showing the immense possibilities of the country and by proving in the practical manner how favorable the conditions are for the raising of live stock and dairying. Sent to Lacombe to operate the Government Experimental Farm there with a view to ascertaining and demonstrating the varieties of grains, grasses, fruits, and vegetables most suitable to local conditions, and the best methods to employ to secure most economical results, he soon saw that if there was a great and useful field in this work, there was also a very valuable one in the live stock industry in all its phases. He accordingly suggested to the Department of Agriculture that the work of the station should include experimentation with livestock in addition to grains and other crops, and succeeded in convincing the head of the department of the merits of this suggestion. From small beginnings, Mr. Hutton and his assistants have built up at Lacombe the largest flocks and herds of any experimental station in Canada, with the possible exception of the Central Farm at Ottawa.

The information gained as a result of the experiments conducted at Lacombe have been very valuable to farmers throughout Western Canada. Hog-raising, sheep-feeding, beef and milk production are all subjects that have had most careful attention. During the last three years more than three thousand hogs have been used on the farm in tests of various breeds to ascertain which were the most economical pork producers under local conditions. In a grading-up experiment with sheep now being conducted more than four hundred ewes are included. An excellent herd of Angus cattle has also been established, and the foundations laid for a first class herd of Holsteins. From the sale of live stock, the farm has a revenue running into many thousands of dollars annually.

● Mr. Hutton's work with the Canadian Pacific will be along lines similar to those along which he has previously been engaged. His new duties will include the supervision of the system of demonstration farms operated by this company, at which settlers in Western Canada may receive advice, based on the experience of many years as to the best farming methods to employ, thus giving the new settler a chance to avoid many of the mistakes likely to be made by farmers coming from a country where different conditions prevail. Probably no other private company land—railway or any other kind—in any country has spent so large a sum or taken so great an interest in getting the farmer started right as has the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the appointment of a man of Mr. Hutton's ability and experience to be the head of its Agriculture and Animal Industry Branch indicates that no change in this policy is contemplated.

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FALL STABLE CLEAN-UP

The Health and Comfort of Live Stock Demand It.

Need of Ventilation, Light and Cleanliness to Avoid Tuberculosis and Other Diseases—Use Whitewash, Whether Sprayed or Brush-handled, and Brighten Interior.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

THE observance of the laws of health, so vital to the well-being of man, is regarded even in this enlightened age, with considerable indifference in the treatment of animals upon whose good health that of man himself depends to a considerable degree. That animals are not more affected by disease, of some form or another, to a greater extent, is purely providential, for the sanitary conditions under which they are often reared is of the worst. Why this apathy concerning the state of the stables, in which frequently valuable animals are housed, is difficult to understand, since cattle, any more than man, cannot maintain their health and vigor for long in such unfavorable conditions; yet the stockman who keeps cattle for profit must know that to gain maximum returns for his investments and trouble, and to guard against loss from disease and death reasonable care and comfort and sanitary conditions are necessary.

The first considerations to this end are ventilation, light and cleanliness. These essential elements of sanitation should be attended to at least once every year. This may be most conveniently done during the early fall before the cattle are housed for the winter. Effective ventilation is required to carry away the foul air and maintain constant and adequate supply of fresh air. The window space should be ample so that every corner of the interior may be flooded with light and sunshine, the source of health and destroyer of germs. Dirt and filth make productive breeding places for insects and bacteria. Cleanliness gets rid of conditions which produce them and prevents the possibility of infection and contagion, reducing possible loss from disease to a minimum. That much-dreaded disease, tuberculosis, is in a measure the product of dark, dirty, ill-ventilated stables. It is caused by organism or germs gaining entrance into the animal's system with the food. It is not easy to detect, and usually when symptoms become evident it is too late to apply any remedy, hence the necessity of making every effort to secure and maintain sanitary conditions in the stable. Every fall, then, the stable should be systematically cleaned; cobwebs swept from wall and ceilings; accumulated dirt and debris cleared from manger, trough, window-sills and all recesses in walls; the fresh air intakes and foul air outlets put in order; fill all cracks and holes in floor and walls with cement; replace all broken glass in windows and clean them; disinfect the whole stable thoroughly with some good disinfectant, such as chloride of lime, crude carbolic acid, or zenoleum, which can be easily applied with a scrap pump or a watering can with a fine nozzle. Give particular attention to pens or stalls which have been occupied by stock suffering from contagious disease or have been used by animals during parturition.

Then prepare your whitewash and don't postpone it because you do not possess a barrel spraying outfit. The whitewash brush is an effective and efficient tool—use it. Small brushes are best and may take you a little longer time to do. There are many good whitewash recipes. President Grant used the following to whitewash the White House in Washington: Take a bushel of unslaked lime, slake with warm water, cover it during the process to retain the steam, strain the liquid through a fine sieve or strainer; add a peck of salt, the same previously well dissolved in warm water, add three pounds of ground rice boiled to a thin paste and stir in boiling hot, add one-half pound of glue which has been previously dissolved over a slow fire and add five gallons of hot water to the mixture; stir well and let it stand for a few days, covering it up to keep out dirt. It should be put on hot. One pint of the mixture, properly applied will cover a square yard. There is nothing can compare with it for outside or inside work and it retains its brilliancy for many years. Disinfectant may be added or coloring matter may be put in and made to any hue desired.—Prof. J. Evans, O. A. College, Guelph.

Live Stock Scarce In Europe.

France has 2,366,000 fewer cattle than in 1914; Italy, 996,000; Denmark, 345,000; Sweden, 599,000; Germany, 2,200,000; and Austria-Hungary, considerable. These figures alone show a decrease of 6,306,000 head of cattle and many countries which have suffered are not named.

The sheep decrease in France, Italy, Denmark, and Holland alone is over two and one-half millions, and in pigs there has been a wholesale decrease to the number of 24,952,000 in France, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Holland and Germany. Denmark, Canada's strongest competitor on the British bacon market is 1,873,000 short of a normal supply of pigs. Germany is 19,396,000 short of her 1914 hog population.

These figures should prove interesting to the Ontario live stock breeder. Reserves of food material in the world are very low. Stock with which to increase these reserves is not up to normal numerically. Indications are that a good demand must continue for the finished product of the farm.

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Feeding Laying Hens In Winter.

In order to lay well a hen requires a surplus of food above body maintenance. That is a hen must be in good flesh, not thin. A good laying hen is seldom very fat. The yolk of an egg contains considerable fat. The white is mostly muscle forming food and the shell largely lime. There must be a supply of these over and above what is required to daily maintain the body.

In summer a hen eats tender grass or green shoots, some whole grain, generally some ground grains, usually worms or insects, picks up some gravel or old plaster, and in doing so takes exercise. If she has to hunt all day for these, at times she does not lay very well because she is working hard getting something to eat.

We are feeding now, at the O. A. College a grain mixture of about the following: Seven parts of cracked corn, two parts of barley, two parts of good oats, one part buckwheat, and three parts of feed wheat. This is fed in deep litter night and morning, the hens going to bed with a full crop.

During cold weather it is advisable to feed a mixture of nearly half corn or buckwheat. A hen will do a little better on such feed. A mixture of two or three kinds of grain gives variety.

At noon, cooked waste house scraps, such as potatoes, cabbage or other vegetable trimming, together with the table scraps, make a good foundation for a wet mash. These scraps are best fed in a crumbly state. Dry them off with whatever chop you may have. A mixture of shorts, barley meal, and oat chop in equal parts, is very good. We use a dry mash which is fed in hoppers. This is in front of the birds at all times. We are using Government Standard Hog feed. We have used in previous years, very successfully, rolled or crushed oats.

These ground grains should contain fifteen to twenty per cent. of high grade tankage or beef scrap. Where milk is given as drink no meat scrap would be necessary.

Be sure to supply green and succulent feeds, such as waste cabbage, roots, clover leaves, or sprouted oats.

There is an art to feeding. When feeding the whole grain night and morning watch the birds scratch. If they are very active feed liberally; if somewhat indifferent ease off in the amount for a feed or so. Keep the litter clean and sweet.—Prof. W. R. Graham, O. A. College, Guelph.

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