

Efficient Farming

NOTES ON EXPORT CATTLE SHIPMENTS.

During the past three years the Dominion Experimental Farms have been making experimental shipments of store and fat cattle and chilled beef to Great Britain.

In a shipment made in May, 1924, consisting of 140 head of store cattle of different ages and weights, from the Experimental Stations at Lethbridge, Alta., Scott and Rosthern, Sask., and Lennoxville, Que., some interesting facts are shown.

Total cost of shipment to Manchester, per steer:

From Lethbridge	\$42.00
From Scott	39.90
From Rosthern	42.13
From Lennoxville	28.95

Shrinkage in rail and ocean shipment:

- Fat or short keep (average 1,309 lbs.) from Lethbridge, Alta., shrunk 7.5 per cent.
- Steers not so well finished (average 1,253 lbs.) from the same farm, lost 6.2 the rate of 5.3 per cent.
- Cattle from Scott, Sask., shrunk 8.1 per cent.; in the case of yearlings (average 990 lbs.), and with two-year-olds (average 2,085 lbs.), 8.8 per cent.
- While 1,143 lb. Angus feeders from Rosthern lost 7.7 per cent., and 1,322 lb. butcher steers shrunk 9.0 per cent.

REDUCTIONS.

- It was apparent that care in rail shipping from the West had much to do with minimizing shrink. Overcrowding is responsible for heavy loss and cattle arrive at port of loading in a more or less exhausted, shrunken condition. Several hours rest is advisable at feeding points where the exercise and opportunity to relax is possibly more important than the feeding.
- Fat cattle lose more than those in a less forward condition.
- Clean shrinkage is comparatively light (under fair conditions as to weather and attendance).

WHICH PAYS BETTER—SALE IN CANADA OR EXPORT?

It is frequently stated that it pays just as well to sell in Canada as to export. In a general way this is true. It should be remembered, however, that for the classes of cattle required by Great Britain, the export trade has established or stabilized Canadian prices. In other words the British market has pulled up Canadian prices to the same level, costs of shipping considered. This has been proven in two shipments made by the Dominion Experimental Farms during this season. In a lot sent from Martintown Farms local prices were increased through the fact that steers were exported from the locality. In shipments from Saskatchewan and Alberta maximum appraised values at point of shipment, were, with the exception of one lot of yearlings, increased by from 2 to 32 cents per cwt. Quebec cattle of rather indifferent quality on export exacted equal prices received at the Farm for cattle of like quality. If the price of cattle in Canada is equal to net export prices, this benefit is directly due to the removal of the embargo.

BREED REDUCTIONS FROM THIS EXPERIMENT.

- Uniformity of groups is a most important factor in successful sale. The man who can breed or buy for export steers of uniform color gets the proverbial benefit of the buyers' first impressions. The low set, blocky type of steer which the feeder's eye.
- The British feeder likes best a bullock that is young enough and are enough to grow and fatten at the same time. The yearling or two-

year-old steer that has been wintered economically on home grown feeds and with cheap housing, and that is shipped off grass in the fall, is a good proposition for both buyer and seller. For the former he grows and fattens, for the latter he represents a sale of a strictly home produced article.

- The lighter spring shipped feeder steers may go forward from February to April, to finish off grass in the August and September. During April, May and June the "short keeps" or cattle forward in condition will find a market provided they will develop more than an 800-pound carcass when subject to a "short keep" following period. It must be remembered that the short keep, fat, or choice butcher steer, when exported, represents a heavier investment (greater feed cost) to the shipper and is frequently a riskier proposition. Shipping the feeder steer that has been developed largely on grass and home grown roughage with little concentrates, involves minimum risk on the part of the shipper and allows the British feeder to do the gambling.

- The time of shipment, therefore, has much to do with the weight and age of steer to ship. The young, lightweight steer, if well selected, is very popular, as indicated by this experiment. Unless prices are markedly advanced for the 900-pound steer, however, the economy of shipping him is doubtful. Speaking generally, the butcher or retail type of steer commands the highest price when fat. The British dealers like the handy weight butcher steer, just as in Canada. Shippers would do well, therefore, in selecting steers that would land in England weighing not greatly in excess of 1,250 pounds.

- Horned cattle are at a distinct disadvantage.
- Branding on the ribs is decidedly objectionable.
- Finally, it may once more be pointed out that Great Britain need not be considered as a profitable outlet for the common butcher steer, of which there is too great a percentage on our markets. Breeding herds of beef cattle in Canada cannot be allowed to deteriorate, if we are to cater to and make a name for ourselves on the British market.

Further particulars regarding these shipments may be obtained from the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

Fertilizing for Potatoes.

Two experiments out of three that are to be conducted with complete fertilizers for the potato crop at Nappan, N.S., Experimental Farm have shown a distinct value in potato production. The average yield from all plots receiving an application of fertilizer was 247.6 bushels, while the average of all unfertilized check plots was 197.5 bushels.

Second—That so far as the authorities at the Farm can judge from two years' results, a 3-3-6 mixture or 4-8-10 mixture under average conditions will give good results.

Third—That under average conditions the most economical quantity to use is from 1,000 to 1,200 pounds per acre.

This experiment is being continued this year. Another, which is in its second year, is with basic slag. The Superintendent, Mr. W. W. Baird, in his report for 1923, states that the average yield of grain from all of the slag plots was 55.48 bushels against 52.56 bushels from the check plots. More definite results are expected in the second and third year.

Where the clouds lift, showing blue sky after a long storm, there the wind will be on the morrow.



Who says apples? The doctors will be out of a job if the apple-eating habit takes hold of every gang of girls like it did this one.

What Makes a Home

BY BONABETH G. BRICKELL.

When I was a bride, with more dreams and hopes than could befall a person outside of a fairy tale, I read a perfectly written, soulless article, which told how farm women could make rural homes into homes. It dealt carefully with every modern convenience that was known to lighten women's labors.

The years have come and gone, and I have added as many of these conveniences as we have had profitable years—about two out of eight, I believe. But have I given up my idea of a "homey" home because I do not have all the things that writer would have me believe absolutely necessary? Indeed, no! I will try all the harder, in spite of the handicaps, I am helping to establish a real home, and I have decided that a house can be a home, though it lack many things, if there is an ever-present, home-making spirit.

Edgar Guest, in a recent article says: "It takes a heap of loving to make a house a home." Yes, if it is the right kind of loving. It need not be all joyful, but there must be the spirit of love, patience and sympathy.

A REAL PARTNERSHIP.

The woman on the farm has a chance to lead in the most wonderful family companionship there is. By the very nature of the farming business a wife must be a real partner, if the enterprise is to succeed. Her interest is usually more vital than is shown in a husband's business in a city office building many blocks away. With their mother and father acting as partners, the children catch the spirit, and the family is co-operating, not because of any teaching, but because of their very nature.

Co-operation also applies to play, and here again, parents must be wise and patient. If you plan to enrich home life by enjoying leisure times together, allow the children to share in deciding what is enjoyable. The changing years bring a change in taste.

THINGS THE CHILDREN LIKE.

Recently, at a small resort nearby, our children found nothing so interesting as the efforts of some boys and girls, with inflated inner tubes about their chests, trying to learn to swim. The performance did not appeal to grown folks, but I realized that twenty years ago, I would have found it quite an attraction, so we watched them for a long time.

Our talking-machine has helped to make many enjoyable evenings for us. The money which paid for it might have been used towards installing a water system, but we can help each other carry water, while I can sing "A Perfect Day" as does Alma Gluck, nor can my husband play "Soushen" as does Mischa Elman. Long cold winter evenings mean stying at home for rural folks, and music makes the evenings pleasanter. Even in buying records, the children should be considered, and if "Turkey in the Straw" delights them, there is no harm in owning this rollicking record.

Many parents object to paying children for their services, contending that they should learn to do their share, without being hired. But I am not so sure, for after all, we work for pay, or we soon quit work, and pay is usually money, which we exchange for pleasures or necessities. If children work regularly and more or less willingly (grown folks also run low on pep, once in a while) they can receive pay in proportion and be taught to share the burden of buying their needs. Thus the family makes and spends together, and if the workers catch the right spirit, a happy condition results.

A home should be attractive, and while it is primarily the mother's duty to make it so, each member of the family should help to keep it so. Although well kept, it should be livable. Far better an oak table, filled with children's books, magazines, papers and other well-chosen reading material, than a mahogany table, with a fancy scarf and two volumes of unfathomable poetry.

KEEPING FAMILY MATTERS AT HOME.

In a real home—it may be ever so

The Sunday School Lesson

AUGUST 31.

Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman, John 4: 4-42. Golden Text—God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth—John 4: 24.

ANALYSIS.

- I. LIVING WATER, 7-14.
- II. SPIRITUAL WORSHIP, 15-26.
- III. THE HARVEST OF THE WORLD, 31-35.

INTRODUCTION.—Not only did Christ insist on the necessity of a new life for the Jews, we saw in the case of Nicodemus, but he offered the same new life to others outside of the Jewish fold. He proclaimed the doctrine of one access to God for the Jew and for Samaritan. This is the theme of the conversation with the Samaritan woman, which took place at the ancient well of Jacob, near the town of Sychar.

It was near this spot, on the slopes of Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim, that the worship of Jehovah was first proclaimed in Palestine, at the entrance of Israel into the land. And therefore it is fitting that here Jesus should proclaim the dawn of the Christian era, in which God is to be worshipped, not by Jews only at Jerusalem, and not by Samaritans only on Mount Gerizim, but by all men, by all peoples, and in all lands, by a natural cult about the things uppermost in their minds. He that winneth souls is wise. He has need to be wise in discerning unnoted possibilities of good, wise in finding contact points with even indifferent or hostile people, and wise above all else in the conviction and practice of the truth that religion needs to be let out among the people. It is decadent in the East, cloistered, but warm and vital in the intimate and active relationships of home and street, farm and factory, shop and market, train and bunk-house and mind. But let the Christian deliberately dominate the conversation, leading it to those things every human soul yearns for and needs to know.

Widening the Circle. There is an Oriental legend of a fountain, each drop of which starts a similar fountain. Carrying a drop of this, the wayfarer could safely cross any barren plain. No matter how wide or dry the desert, he had but to claim the secret of unfailing springs. Where a drop fell there gushes a new fountain. The woman in the story "left her waterpot." Would that every missionary interview were similarly effective. She hastened to share with her people, not the water of Jacob's well for their thirsty souls, but the water of life for their thirsty souls. A revival followed, and the disciples were challenged to lift their eyes to see from the seed sowing of Jesus, in unpromising soil, "the harvest of the future grow."

Talk about the romance of missions. Can any fiction equal this tale of a dull-minded alien woman, without reputation or social standing, through whom "many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him." This was the first foreign mission, and its line has gone out to all the earth.

Why Sheep Dipping Pays.

Fall dipping for sheep is just as important as spring dipping, but owing to the fact that ticks are not as easily distinguishable late in the season as at the beginning the second operation is often neglected. In a leaflet just issued by the Dominion Live Stock Branch, of which Mr. A. A. MacMillan, Chief of the Sheep and Swine Division, is the author, the following reasons are given as to why it pays to dip:

1. Sheep that are free from ticks and lice grow more and better wool.
2. A clean flock requires less feed and is more easily kept in good condition.
3. The lamb crop is stronger, ewes milk better, and lambs grow more rapidly.
4. Parasites are a source of serious discomfort to sheep. The good shepherd is mindful of the comfort of his flock.

While the cost of dipping need not exceed three cents per head, from fifty cents to a dollar and a half may easily be saved. September and October are the best months for fall dipping. If the weather be cold, the flock should be housed for a day or two, to give the fleece a chance to dry out. Mr. MacMillan advises community dipping where possible, as thereby both cost and labor are lessened. Also the arrangement of annual or semi-annual dipping days, so that the treatment of all flocks in the district may be practically assured.

Main Causes of Calf Troubles.

Cold milk to-day—warm milk to-morrow.
Sour milk to-day—sweet milk to-morrow.
Dirty pens, flies, no protection from heat or sun.
Feeding too much or too little.
No drinking water supply.
Sour whey and sour skim milk from the factory.
Vermin.

It is a good practice to leave the calf with its dam for the first two or three days, even though it is planned to rear the calf by hand.
Autumn-born calves usually escape digestion troubles, due to cold weather being an aid in preventing the souring of food.
A grass lot adjoining the stable is very useful to calves over three months of age. Young calves thrive best in a clean, well ventilated, cool, dry stable.

If the horns are not desired, treat with caustic potash before the calf is more than ten days old.
The slop barrel—dirty, stinking and fly attracting—is still found on too many farms. Not only is it an eyesore but it is unhealthy for the hogs. The slop, all of which is never removed, sours and brews, especially in summer time, until it is almost as bad as bootleg whiskey. It loses its food value and becomes unfit for consumption. Slop should be fed fresh or not at all.

Our Own Painters.

Our farm being twelve miles out in the country by the shortest road, it was very difficult to get a painter to come out and paint our house and barns. The work had to be done, and we decided to do it ourselves. We got a good brand of prepared paint, some brushes, putty and putty-knife, and a good extension ladder, and went at it. We found that the paint needed a little thinning and bought several gallons of linseed-oil and turpentine for that purpose.

By starting right after harvesting, and working at it when other things did not crowd, we got it all done before cold weather set in. The buildings look real good, with their two coats of red and white, and we saved more than \$100 by acting as our own painters. Pastring is not hard work.—E. L. V.

Here are three good points for farmers to remember in considering horses and horse breeding.
Start with the best blood and conformation possible.
Keep horses straight in feet and legs and free from disease.
Provide plenty of water and good food.

Every problem is a hard one until you have its parts in order and be the best of them.

HOSPITALITY AS A BUSINESS ASSET

BY LOIE E. BRANDOM.

It is often said that the free, old-fashioned hospitality of our ancestors is on the decline. If this be true, there are, of course, many contributing causes, one of the greatest being the use of the automobile. In earlier days when business acquaintances or friends from another neighborhood came calling, the distance was great enough to necessitate their staying overnight or over the mid-day meal hour. Their horses, too, required a rest period before the return trip. The automobile has changed things in this respect, making shorter visits more convenient and also making it possible for mere business visitors to return to hotels, as the surrounding towns for their meals.

Then there is another reason for the dropping off of the old-fashioned hospitality. People of to-day do things with so much elaboration that it really makes a burden of what should be a pleasure. Help is very scarce, even for mothers who have grown daughters, for many of the daughters leave home to find occupation in the larger towns or cities. The mother, left alone, who can not see to the entertaining she would like to do, and in the way she would like to do it.

As a business asset, however, the "open house" was one of the greatest helps ever instituted. Business friends were warmly welcomed, the women folks entertained in a simple way, and both hosts and visitors enjoyed the warm, friendly and more cordial business relations that were created by this informal hospitality.

Many times a buyer who comes with the intention of buying one registered animal may, when he leaves, take several away with him. Why? For the reason that through the courteous welcome and open hospitality offered him by the farmer and his family, he has been enabled to take all the time he wants in looking over the herds. Overnight or over a meal he has had ample opportunity to think over the propositions that have been made him and because he has been treated generously and honestly as a guest he feels sure he is getting the same kind of a business deal.

Women's clubs often discuss the question, "How can I help my husband in a business way?" This is one of the biggest ways in which women can help. If we try to do things as our city friends do them and make our husband's business friends feel that they are truly welcome to share our simple but homelike preparations, we have done a great deal toward making his business transactions a success and supplying him with steady customers.

Early Pullets Best Layers.

The stock of poultry kept at the Lennoxville, Que., Experimental Station consists entirely of Barred Plymouth Rocks. Among the several experiments carried on as regards breeding, feeding, improvement in egg laying, etc., is one relating to the laying of early versus late hatched pullets. This test was started in 1919 and has been carried on every winter since, as a means of demonstrating the necessity of having pullets well matured before the cold weather sets in. Comparative tables of the results obtained are given in the report of the Superintendent of the Station (Mr. J. A. McClary) for 1923. These show that the average profit per bird over the cost of feed for the four winter months of four years from early hatched pullets (hatched during the first two weeks of April) was \$2.37 and from the late hatched pullets (hatched during the first two weeks of May) \$1.48. In almost each month more feed was required by the late hatched pullets than by the early. It is apparent from this experiment that pullets must be hatched early enough to become matured before cold weather sets in if the most profitable production is to be expected during the winter months, when eggs obtain the highest price.

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TRAINING OUR CHILDREN

WHICH KIND OF SPOTS DO YOU PREFER?

BY MAUDE FREEMAN OSBOURNE.

In reprimanding children, one should be very careful not to antagonize them, otherwise the harm done may be greater than the offence which called forth the reprimand.

Warren, in his eagerness to help Mother—for he really was a very warm-hearted little boy—had spilled paint on the floor of the new porch of their cabin in the woods. He had been commanded—yes, that is the right word—to keep Teddy, the dog, off the porch till the paint could dry.

Now it happened, just after that, that some friends called to take Warren, the little sister and their mother on a picnic. Mother, however, could not go, as she was expecting company. So the children went without her.

Warren was fascinated with the little paper forks with which they ate their lunch as he had never seen any before. He begged for one to take home to Mother. He even saved his piece of cake for her. Seeing this, his hostess gave him a piece of each kind of cake and one of each variety of sandwiches. These he wrapped in paper napkins.

When the party stopped once more at the cabin, Warren rushed in, and dumping the bundles in his mother's lap, he cried, "See, Mother, what I brought you!"

In his great joy at giving Mother a present, he did not notice that he had left the screen door ajar, and that Teddy, to see his little master, had slipped in.

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