

AGRICULTURAL

SELECTING AND HANDLING CATTLE.

When the thoughtful farmer so divides his acres that his cattle will have the thinner, rougher portions over which to graze, and retains the richer fields for producing food for their winter keep, he has taken the initiative step in the successful management of his farm, writes A. O. Lockbridge, by such a division. "A very part of his will be put to the best use to which it is adapted, and he will be able to put it to a practical, useful use, the world's agricultural maxim, 'Soil nothing off the farm but fat stock.' This done, his care will be a selection of the kind of stock to be fattened. He will find beef cattle both pleasant and profitable to handle. It will pay him best to handle a superior grade of cattle, and a proper selection means a great deal to the fitter. Much importance therefore attaches to this point; and the thrifty farmer should make himself thoroughly acquainted with its minutest details. He should have a high standard of excellency in the selection of his herd, and adhere to it as rigidly as possible. He may not attain to his lofty ideal of a steer, in every instance, but his successful selection will be marked just in the degree in which he is firm, alert and critical. It costs less, proportionately, to fatten a good steer than an ill-made one, and it is easier, ultimately, to find a remunerative market for him. The farmer's standard, therefore, should be that kind of an animal whose parts where beef should grow are well developed. The frame of such a steer will surely indicate this. In selecting feeding cattle first look the herd over as a whole, and thus ascertain, as nearly as possible, that they range well together; that is, that all are about the same weight. Do not, however, select that will weigh one or two hundred pounds more than the general herd, such cattle will always be horses in the feed lot, and will get more than their share of the daily rations, and this, too, at the expense of weaker ones. Such boasting results in an inequality in the herd, which is plainly noticeable even at the end of the grazing season when it is being finished off for market. Riding judiciously among the cattle on horseback is a good way to judge their points, and when you see well-trimmed heads and sides, walk slowly through the herd, with an occasional nodding word, so as not to scare them, and thereby prevent your getting a good, satisfactory look at them. Cattle are very wary of strangers, and even so slight a thing as a little false step will sometimes send them scampering away. If you can't see the animal's head, it is likely to be all of look sharp, as his jaws to see whether he is free from big jaw. If there is a lump upon the jaw just at the point of it, or a line below the ear, reject him at once. In a majority of instances it will turn out to be a big jaw, for it is more scientifically known cancer jaw, and such steers are not worth the cost. No stand upon the side of the scale, the stock should be very straight, the hind legs well curved, the front legs straight and round. His head should be rather small for his carcass, with a broad, dished face, eyes well apart, clean muzzle, and a short, powerful jaw, so the animal can easily and thoroughly masticate his food. In this particular, as indeed in all others, regard the animal as a factory, for the greater the power of churning the raw material of which it is composed, the better the product will be. The animal should be a good fatter, as sometimes say, "There is too much daylight under him." Next view the animal from behind. He should have a full, round body, wide in the hind quarters, rump pointed well up, and on a line with the spine, and with a springing gait. The hind legs, too, should be strong, and one of the chief considerations in the classification of cattle is the first-class, beef-bearing animal. If the animal is well out from the hock, and slightly rising, as they project, they will always insure fine, juicy roasts of beef. Your herd should be formed from those breeds of cattle that are noted for their beef-bearing qualities; breeds that have been for a long period of time, with that one object in view. The Central Province has been, in certain districts, the most profitable, for your purposes. The superior breed in this class are the Shorthorns, the Herefords and the Polled-Angus cattle, ranking in the order named. The Shorthorns, or Durham steers, I think are the best, not only on account of their excellent feeding qualities, but also of their fancy, showy appearance when thoroughly finished up, by judicious handling. The Herefords are round, fat, and well made, on flesh rapidly and symmetrically. The Angus cattle are good, "mutton" after forage, hardy for cold winters, always weighing out better than their size would indicate, but are coarser in form than the Shorthorns or the Herefords. There are other breeds of cattle that can have some claim to beef-bearing qualities, but the above named are decidedly the best.

FERTILIZING TO A PURPOSE.

There are five things that are especially needed by the soil—humus, nitrogen, potash, and phosphoric acid, with water to permeate and dissolve them. Humus is the decomposed, decaying vegetable matter in the soil. It gives it that dark rich color, as we call it, it makes it light and porous, so that it will hold large quantities of water, just as the sponge does sand and dirt. It live the little, invisible friends, the myriads of protozoa, which help to hold the nitrogen that certain plants gather from the air, and make it available for the coming crops. Stable manure will make this humus, and so will crops that are ploughed under, such as the clover, cow-peas, and soy beans. And the nitrogen, which they at the time bring to the soil is much cheaper than bought at a big price in fertilizer. Nitrogen is far the most

expensive of the manures when it is bought. The merchant bases his price for mixed fertilizers more on the nitrogen they contain than on any other ingredient. Moreover, when it is in the structures of these plants it is in a much less dangerous condition, and is more easily assimilated by the soil, than in the form of mineral nitrates or animal refuse. These latter really do considerable harm if applied directly to tender seeds or rootlets, and should be well mixed with the soil at about the time the plants will need the nitrogen to stimulate their growth, for it is very volatile when turned into ammonia by union with water. Ammonium sulphate and potassium sulphate must also be applied properly. Many persons fail to get the good effects from them which they might reasonably expect. This is one point that should be thoroughly understood by farmers, fruit-growers, and gardeners. The corrective measure is to apply potash and phosphoric acid in the fall or winter, and let the weather melt the melted snows thoroughly dissolve these mineral manures and mix them with the soil.

WHEN SOILS REQUIRE LIME.

It is known that litmus paper becomes red when exposed to acids and blue when exposed to alkalies. Place some of the soil in a cup of water, having the contents of the consistency of thick paste, allow it to stand about fifteen minutes and then insert into the soil the end of a piece of blue litmus paper. After five minutes have elapsed withdraw the paper and rinse in clear water. If the paper has been reddened, then the soil is acid and lime may be applied. Much depends, however, from which portion of the field the sample soil is taken. A better plan which requires more time, however, is to grow a small plots of beet, using lime only in one plot. As this is very beneficial to beats the effect of the limed plot will be noticeable if the soil lacks lime. One point to observe is that lime must be fine and not applied in lumps, and it should be evenly distributed. While it is not necessary to work the lime in the harrow if it is applied in the rough land in the fall, yet it should be thoroughly mixed with the harrow if it is put on the land in the spring, as it may injure seed if the application is large. A lime spreader will be found serviceable in applying lime. In recommending the use of lime it is not inferred that it will serve as a fertilizer. It is a fertilizer to a certain extent, but not a complete one. The benefit from lime is mostly due to its chemical action on the soil.

CRIME ON THE DECREASE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF ONTARIO'S INSPECTOR OF PRISONS.

Facts and Figures which Show that Drunkenness is Becoming Less Common—Costs of Maintaining the Central Prison.

Some interesting facts are contained in the annual report of the Ontario Inspector of Prisons and Reformatory. The prison figures have gone into, it is stated that the majority of the falls in the province are poor, both from a financial point of view, and so far as the classification of the犯人 is concerned. The coming year will see some improvements in this respect.

During the past year there has been a desire to have the犯人 come to establish county houses. This is the department think is a step in the right direction, as it will relieve the jails from overcrowding.

Another thing that was plainly shown by the figures was that drunkenness was on the decrease. There had been 710 committals during the past twelve months, and that was a decrease of 191 from the previous year. In the last fifteen years there had been a noticeable falling off in inebriates. In 1882 there were 4,777 committals for drunkenness. This, the report says, shows the result of legislation and the work done by the temperance people in the jails.

598 COMMITTALS.

The number of committals to the Central Prison were 598, compared with 830 in custody on October 1st, makes the total number incarcerated during the year 978. This is two less than the previous twelve months. Only once in five years were the committals so few, while the average population was 3,000, the highest known to the date of this report. It is accounted for by the fact that during the history of the prison down to 1880, the average sentence had been six months and 22 days, while in 1887 the average was increased to nine months, showing that long sentences have a beneficial effect. The falling off of committals has been most marked, and the indications seem to point to a diminution of crime in the province. The number of vagrants this year is much below the previous years. The average for the past three years has been \$56,802.44, as against \$63,777.77 in '90. The net earnings of industries amounted to \$24,600.69, reducing the cost of maintenance to 22 cents per prisoner. The total net cost for the year were \$32,115.63.

In the Central there are a number of things that are inadequate. In the hospital there is no provision for the separation of the sexes. The school room was too small and inadequately equipped.

There has been a great falling off in the number committed to the Ontario Reformatory for Boys. There were only 37 commitments in the last twelve months, as compared with 65 the previous year. The average population has gone down from 209 in 1890 to 182, and the number in residence, 123, is the smallest on record.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS.

The report recommends that the inmates of the Mercer Reformatory be given more systematic employment. Last year, there were 93 committals, or six less than the year before. The average there were sent back to 22. Against 21 in 1887, 22 in 1888, and 23 in 1889. The total number of committals was 8,891, as against 9,000 in 1886, showing a decrease of 144. Of this number, 444 were committed for crimes against the person, while 178 were sent to jail for crimes against public morals and decency.

Natal has been enlarged by the addition of Zululand and Amatonga, and under letters patent issued by the Crown. That the Free State, Republic and the Orange Free State are not annexed is due to a little misapprehension made two years ago.

THE HOME.

HAVING COMPANY.

The letter read: "My dearest Sue. Next Thursday I will spend with you. I won't enjoy my visit, though, if any trouble begets. Oh, I'm so glad," cried Mrs. White. "For company is such delight."

"But looking round here in dismay, I must get ready right away." Armed with a dustpan and broom. She went to work in every room. She old and polished, cleaned, and scrubbed.

And scrubbed, scoured, washed and scrubbed.

Then in the kitchen she began.

While perspiration down her brow,

At pies and puddings, cakes and bread,

As Army men to be fed.

She tidied, and fretted, cooked and baked.

She hurried, worried, staved and ached.

When Thursday came, she nearly dead;

Just managed to crawl out of bed.

And Mrs. Company came, too;

They kissed, and bugged, like women do.

And then began tired Mrs. White,

To make excuses, never right.

"Oh, dear, my house," then waxed clean.

"Is most too dirty to be seen—

So about your eyes—you're looking stout—

Take off your things—I'm just worn out.

"You must excuse my cooking, too,

It isn't fit to offer you—

"Twas fit for kings—Too bad you come."

Just when I'm upside down at home."

And she was welcomed, and disengaged.

And spoiled the visit of her guest.

Who wished she hadn't come to be a tired woman's "company."

RECIPE FOR MAKING YEAST.

The following receipt for making

yeast was taken from the Western Rur-

al twenty-seven years ago, and has been used in the writer's family ever since.

Put a little warm water in a bowl

and crumb a yeast cake in it. When

it is well mixed, add a little warm wa-

ter, and stir in flour till it is a soft, thin

yeast dough.

Walnut Nougat—Blanch the skin off one pound weight of walnuts and chop it into small pieces. Take four

counces of best honey, place it in a tin

vessel, and that again in a saucer.

Ed tin pan, never in iron as it makes hot water. Boil this until the yeast cake colored, and pour over them one quart of boiling water and let them stand on the stove well covered for five minutes. Peel and slice six medium-sized potatoes. Strain the water and return the hop water to the dish in which they were boiled, add steeped, adding more water if necessary, and pour the potato water over the top of the sweetmeat. It must be allowed to cool before it is cut.

Chocolate Caramels—Take two cups

of cooking sugar, half a cup of milk,

one cup of cream, and a cupful of

coconut oil, and boil until very soft, being careful not to let them burn.

When done, set a colander over a one-gallon jar, and pour the potatoes and water into the jar, about two cups of water in the jar. Set the potatoes aside to cool and sift two cups of flour into the hop and potato water in the jar while it is hot.

Press the potatoes through a colander and add them in after the flour. Add a half cupful of sugar, a slightly rounded tablespoonful of flour, a slightly rounded tablespoonful of butter, and a tablespoonful of ginger. When the mixture in the jar is cool enough to allow of your finger being held in it, put in the bowl of light sponge, and set out in a warm place to rise. When light place it in the cellar and it will keep for three weeks, and when making yeast again use a cup of this yeast instead of a yeast cake. Use one cup of yeast for four loaves of bread.

LUNCHES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

It is better for a person who is to

study all day to have only a light lunch at noon, and more hearty food at night.

All that children need who are attending school are sandwiches, soup, salad and fruits. Some lemon jelly in the place of fruit, some boiled eggs, some bacon, some ham, some cheese, some custard, some jello, some rice, some variation, in the cooking, etc., the children carry their lunch, soup and salad will have to be omitted. The principal thing in preparing a lunch is to have it dainty and attractive.

The sandwiches should be made

different shapes and wrapped in paraffin paper. Butter the bread before it is cut from the loaf as it will retain the shape better. A nice lunch would consist of one ham sandwich, one lettuce sandwich, and an orange or one chicken sandwich, or celery sandwich, and an apple. Add more fruit, in preference to other food. There are a variety of sandwiches, so that the children need not have the same kind two days in a week. Whole wheat bread is the most nutritious. Sandwiches made by using dates are very nice. Cheese sandwiches, and egg sandwiches, may be made. Grate the cheese and spread thinly on the bread and season. Toasted cheese may be used, by slicing very thin before toasting. In using eggs, chop hard-boiled eggs very fine, with just a little speck of parsley, and add every little morsel of cheese, and mix with the yolks of the eggs.

Practically every male British subject who is of age has a role, and not by an insignificant minority, as in certain countries of which I speak are in one of our own British colonies, and within 12 days' journey of London in a country where British institutions prevail, where our judges are elected for life, and justice is firmly and impartially administered.

We are not likely to have to give up our Indian, and each of us is paid large sums even

on first-class security, in first-mo-

mentary cities.

Surely, it is worth remembering that

the investor is 12 per cent. per annum.

All these opportunities of which I speak

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