



PURE-BRED BEEF CATTLE FOR THE SOUTHEAST.

Messrs. Editors: Strange things have been happening in the cattle trade of America this summer, but the strangest thing of all is that the cattleman is so slow to learn that only by the use of first-class blocky bulls can top steer calves be bred. The Western markets have been flooded with cattle. Drouth has pinched the Texas ranchman and he has been obliged to get rid of his cattle. High prices for Western grazing lands sent other streams of cattle marketward. The small farmers have settled near the watering places of the North-western range and tied up the water supply so the free range stockmen in that direction have had to ship cattle. But through it all the cars of really top feeders on the Western markets have been bringing very high prices. The reason is plain to the man with his eyes open—it is simply this: Feeders of high-priced corn and hay have found by bitter experience that scrub feeders won't pay for the grain they consume while the best blocky steer of good breeding will pay out even at the very high price this sort command to-day because of the scarcity and their greater value as killers when finished. It would seem that the time is ripe to dispose of the scrub and grade bull once and forever.

Demonstrated Economy of Pure-Bred Bulls.

But will it be done? I doubt it. Men are so wedded to the idea that the cheapest thing that will get a cow with calf is the thing for them because the first cost is little or nothing. They can't or won't look ahead to the harvest time, and this in the face of the fact that the economy of good bulls at good prices has been proved in every state in which cattle are produced and is being proven more often recently since high-priced grain has become the rule. It is beginning to be recognized everywhere that when first-class calves are wanted, only registered bulls (or those eligible to record) should be used; but I want to go farther in this talk and say that not only must the bull be pure-bred, but his individuality must correspond with his breeding. Only last week I received a letter from a gentleman who wanted a pure-bred calf, but didn't want anything fancy, as he wanted him to breed steers from; didn't mind if he was peaked behind and a little leggy, and actually offered as much for a calf of this sort as the butchers would pay at this time.

When to Let Pedigree "Be Hanged."

Of course he didn't get the bull, as we make steers of that sort, and believe we are doing the country more good by furnishing a common sort of a steer than by contributing to the craze for cheap inferior bulls. We reasoned it out some years ago that a calf that was not of good enough quality to make a first-class steer was a mighty poor animal to breed from when first-class calves was what we were after. I say let pedigree "be hanged" if the individual animal back of the pedigree don't "fill the bill."

The wise ones will tell you that the poor individual, if of good parentage is a freak, and is liable to breed all right even if he isn't a good individual. This is a very good plea

to make when one wants to get rid of his culls, but it won't hold water. Just show me a breeder of pure-bred cattle, if you can, who is doing anything for his breed who is working on the principal of pedigree only. The thing isn't being done that way. All improved breeds of animals have been brought to their present state of excellence by the careful selection of individuals and pedigree is only a record of what individual animals have done, and is no proof of what will be accomplished by turning about and breeding down hill by the selection of sires of inferior individuality.

Get Your Pioneer Beef Cows of the Profitable Sort.

Of course there are fancy points the buyer of bulls to head pure-bred herds must look after that are immaterial in a steer-getter, but he wants the beef form—the broad head and back, the broad and long hind-quarter and short leg. I find altogether too many long-legged, thin-backed, peaked bulls over the country, and I am very anxious for our people of the Southeast—where the cattle industry is yet in its infancy—to start right so they will not have to undo too many mistakes, as this cost money and makes men disgusted with their business.

The beef cow is certainly coming to the Southeast, and it is up to us to see that the pioneers are of the profitable sort.

A. L. FRENCH.

R. F. D. 2, Byrdville, Va.

No Trust on Cottonseed This Year.

The price for cottonseed on this market is something unheard of. The Farmers' Association, at their recent meeting in Little Rock, Ark., and Jackson, Miss., set \$20 a ton as the minimum price. Thirty-five cents a bushel is nearer \$25 per ton than \$20. While this seems high, it is said to be no more than the actual worth of the seed to the mill. The fact that this price obtains on this market is due to the rivalry between the American Cotton Oil Company, which has a mill at Charlotte, and the Southern Cotton Oil Company, which owns the mill here, and also to the high price of oil. There's no trust on seed this year.—Monroe Journal.

What to Do With Surplus Milk.

A teacher was trying to impress on the young minds the various uses of milk. She wanted some bright genius to tell how the farmer fed the surplus milk to the pigs. Leading up to this, she asked this question: "Now, children, after the farmer has made all the butter and cheese he needs and uses what milk he wants for his family, what does he do with the milk that still remains?" One little hand waved frantically. The teacher smiled and said, "Well, James?"

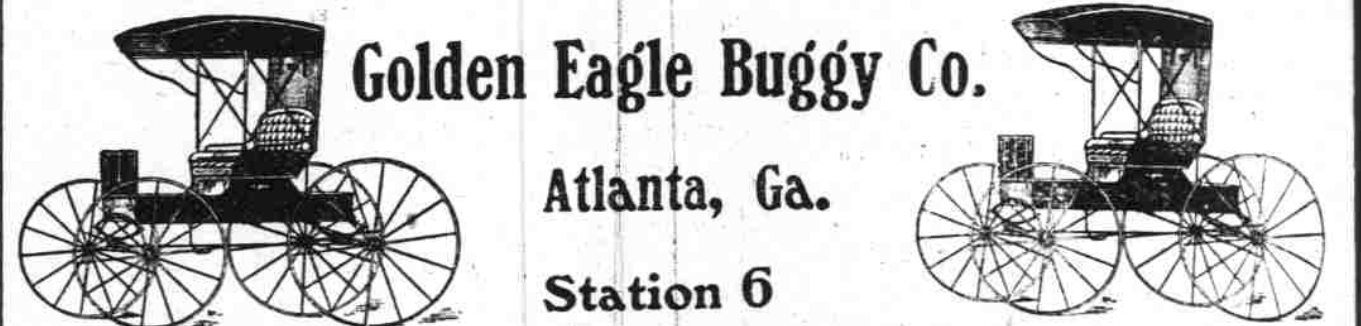
"He pours it back into the cow," piped James.—Woman's Home Companion.

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