

## Fred Walker of "Twelve Mile"

By SARA EMERALD NELSON,  
Manyberries, Alberta

**"A**N all-time Western Canada record for butcher beef was established at the Lethbridge and District Exhibition on June 29th, 1949, when the T. Eaton Co. Ltd. paid \$1,079.50 for an 850-lb. Hereford steer."

The above was front page news in the Lethbridge Herald and many read it and sighed, groaned or cheered, as the item touched them in some particular way. Likely no one interested in the cattle industry is in a better position to produce stories of a more contrasting nature than Fred W. Walker, well-known Scotch-Canadian, who has worked with cattle since 1893 when he arrived from the land of the heather and started working for his uncle, Alexander Middleton, who was managing a farm at Dunmore, Alberta.

### Led In First Bull in First Calgary Sale

One story, really "one for the books" when it comes to quoting the by-gone prices paid for cattle, is clearly imprinted in Fred Walker's memory. This story entails quite a number of "firsts" — for it was staged at the first annual bull sale ever to be held in Calgary. That was in the year 1901 and Fred Walker, then about 26 years of age, was sent to Calgary in charge of a carload of show cattle.

Small wonder that Fred remembers this trip so well, for to him fell the honor of leading the first Shorthorn in to the show ring. Think of that . . . Calgary's first bull sale and the first animal to be shown was a huge red named "Kreuger". Fred Walker still recalls even that, and of course he hasn't forgotten who bought the animal either: it was John Turner of Calgary. And the price? Well, this is where the groaning begins when you glance back at the news item of the champion calf that brought \$1.27 per pound in June, 1949. We're talking of 1901 and that was a different story. Big red "Kreuger" was knocked down for \$100!

Yes, indeed, old timers like Fred Walker can tell of many changes they have seen in the west in the past half century or more that they have been around these parts. They know all phases of farm and ranch life inside and out. They've seen good years and bad years and those that were "just so so". But if you listened to Fred Walker tell it, you'd get the notion that all the years since 1893 were good ones. All his acquaintances agree that pessimism and Walker just can't stay in the same room. His happy faculty of always seeing the bright side of life sticks to him as tenaciously as his Scottish "brrrr" sticks to his tongue.

### Worked for "76"

Of course he's seen hard work and plenty of it, but it was work he liked and



Fred Walker of "Twelve Mile".

that he could do well. He always had a great liking for both cattle and horses and his experience in handling them covered a wide range of endeavor. In the last decade of the century he worked under the late D. H. Andrews when he managed the Crane Lake farm owned by the Canada Land and Ranch Co.

There are still old timers who tell of serving on the crew employed at that time, for many men were needed to attend to all the purebred stock raised. The cattle were Shorthorns for the most part and Clydesdale and Hackney horses. It was during these years that the young Scotsman, Fred, acquired his liking for the Clyde breed, and later on, in the

years immediately following World War I he raised many fine Clydes of his own on his farm northwest of Medicine Hat.

In 1905 the Canada Land and Ranch Co. moved their horses to Dunmore, and Fred was hired as the foreman of this ranch. He worked in this capacity for five years, at which time the owners sold out their interests.

### Located for Self in 1911

Fred Walker had spent about 18 years in the Canadian west by this time and had proven himself an efficient, reliable workman to all his employers and associates. But he hankered to start out on his own, so in 1911 he bought land twelve miles from Medicine Hat and there he

## RIFLE SCABBARDS

Illustration shows a Patented bolt action Scabbard, which fits tight around the stock and allows the bolt, outside, to form a good fit. Made for either a scope or without. This type holds the rifle scope up to prevent damaging. Hanger straps made detachable. Very popular model for bolt action rifle.

Basket or checker stamp (as shown) ..... **\$16.00**

Plain type, no stamping ..... **\$12.50**

Flower stamped vary in price.

Other types of scabbards and holsters made to order.

When ordering please state:  
Make, type, model of rifle, and  
if scope used, state kind. If  
odd make of rifle, draw pattern  
out on paper.

**BRADLEY'S**  
LEATHER GOODS  
High River - Alberta



A Fully Qualified Gunsmith employed. Write or send rifles in for repair. Complete stock of riding gear, Stetson hats and Western clothing.

## ROMNELET RAMS

The Successful Rancher's Choice

Over 100 head of well-grown yearling Rams to choose from at Scandia.

R. E. Anderson, Scandia, Alta.  
Carl J. Anderson, Brooks, Alta.



has lived ever since. For the obvious reason that the Walker place was located twelve miles from the 'Hat, it was designated as "Twelve Mile" to all comers. Yes (to pardon a pun) "comers" became "stoppers" when they hit "Twelve Mile," for there was always a hearty welcome awaiting them. Fred Walker was a married man by this time, wedding the former Harriet Harper the same year he settled on his own land. There have been four children born of the marriage, Fred Jr., Jack, Margaret and Harriet. The two boys farm at Tilley and Medicine Hat; Margaret lives at home, and Harriet (Mrs. Joe Wells) is in the Manyberries district.

During those early-settlement years before the car and airplane cut distances to a minimum, many a weary traveller making the tiresome trek from the Red Deer river to Medicine Hat brightened as he approached the Fred Walker domicile. He knew Fred and Harriet would extend equal welcome to both the tired human and his horses, no matter who they were or where they were going.

During these same years Fred Walker made many a long cross-country trek himself, for in 1914, at the outbreak of World War I, he took charge of the livestock for J. J. Boyce, former bookkeeper for the C. L. & R. Co., who had settled on a ranch at Eagle Butte. Fred continued in this work all through the war years, and the trips he made between Twelve Mile and Eagle Butte were legion. With democrat and team or by sleigh, as the season demanded, Fred travelled to and fro. The accompanying photograph was taken in 1916 at a deserted shack on Boyce's lease while waiting for the two riders to bring in horses for branding.

#### "Stayed Put"

In the west, where so many men get "the itchy foot" and wander here and there, it is good to hear of a true homebody who can "stay put"; for Fred Walker is still living at the same old home place where he put down his roots 38 years ago. His interest in men, horses and cattle has never dimmed . . . he likes them all . . . and, depend upon it, they like him too. Looking and acting amazingly young for one who has celebrated his 75th birthday, he relishes meeting anyone who will stop to chin of the good old days when the west was a lot younger than it is now.

When we asked permission to run this story of this fine Scotch-Canadian in the pages of CANADIAN CATTLEMEN, there was a bright eager note in Fred's voice and a mischievous twinkle in his eye when he replied, "I'd be right proud of meself to be in the Cattlemen." The publishers of this magazine can come right back and say, "We are right proud to have the stories such as Fred Walker's in the Cattlemen . . . for it took men of his calibre to open up this west land of ours and head it in the right direction."

**Dr. J. GORDON ANDERSON**  
D.V.M.

**Dr. W. T. NAGGE, D.V.M.**

Veterinarians to the Members of the  
**WESTERN STOCK GROWERS' ASSOCIATION**

1016 - 9th AVE. WEST

Phones: Office, M3237  
Res., W4255 CALGARY, Alta.

## ROBECO MANURE SPREADERS

### AT SPECIAL LIQUIDATION PRICES

Forty-five only left of the well-known and proven 5-ton Capacity **ROBECO Manure Spreader** priced for quick sale. Send your enquiries direct to us at **Box 398, Calgary, Alberta, Canada**, or through your local implement dealer.

**Robinson Engineering & Development Co. Ltd.**  
(In Liquidation)

**1820 Ninth Avenue East**  
**Calgary, Alberta, Canada**

**P.O. Box 398**

**Phone E5479 or R3845**

In 1948 sale of cattle in Canada was 2,056,995 head valued at \$301,800,000 and of calves 840,921 calves valued at \$32,100,000. Ontario had the greatest value for production of cattle and calves at \$107,600,000; Alberta was next with \$82,900,000, Saskatchewan third with \$70,000,000 and Manitoba fourth with \$35,500,000. British Columbia had \$9,300,000.

The Mexican-United States Commission for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Mexico reports encouraging progress. Already more than 13 million cattle, sheep, goats and hogs in the over 200,000 square mile quarantine zone have been vaccinated at least once. The susceptible animals in over half of the territory have been vaccinated a second time, and the third round of vaccination is well under way, four months after the second treatment.

Experience and tests have shown that the vaccine provides immunity for about

four months. True, a number of animals vaccinated only once have come down with the disease, but so far not a single animal has developed foot-and-mouth after the second and third vaccination.

The Commission thinks this is a good sign that they may eventually succeed in wiping out the disease. Less opposition to the program has been experienced in the past few months.

The 1949 corn crop in the U.S. is likely to be 3.5 billion bushels which if realized will be only slightly below the record 3.65 billion bushel crop of last year. As the carryover at July 1 was 1,239 million bushels, problems of storage and price support for surpluses are likely to arise.

Mistress: "I am sorry you are leaving us, Jane. But, of course, if you are going to better yourself, I—"

Maid: "Oh no, madam. I am going to be married."

## RANCHERS and FARMERS

Have your animal slaughtered and cut up for your own use in a Government Inspected Plant. We are buyers of all classes of butcher cattle.

**Katchen Brothers**

**BEEF PACKERS AND EXPORTERS**

**STOCKYARDS**

**CALGARY, ALBERTA**