

A very large percentage of hides are materially reduced in value on account of their being damaged through too heavy-handed fire-branding; in fact, certain firms have discontinued buying hides damaged by this means. The usual position of the firebrand being on the rump, back, or upper sides of the carcase, it necessarily follows that a too-long or too-heavy application of the iron on these parts results in the fibre necessary to a good leather being burnt through, or nearly so, in the most valuable part of the hide (the butt), as shown in Fig. 3.

*Treatment of Hides.*—Spread the hide out on an even surface and sprinkle over all parts some coarse curing-salt or crushed rock salt.

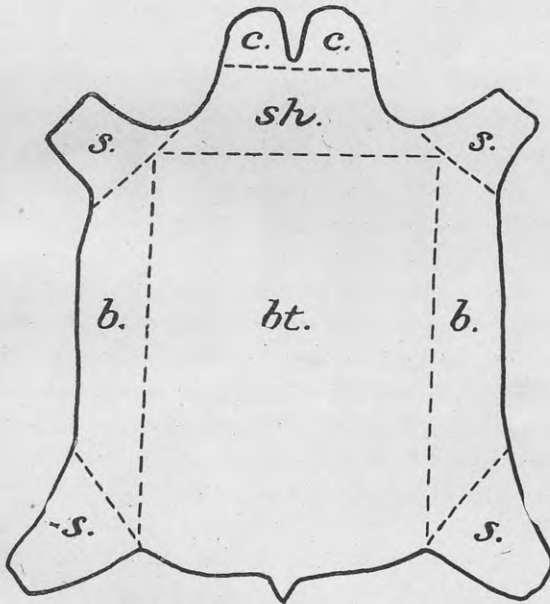


FIG. 3. A PROPERLY FLAYED OX-HIDE.

c.c., cheeks; sh., shoulder; s., shanks; b., belly; bt., butt.

After about forty-eight hours, or perhaps longer if required, sprinkle on more salt, and fold the hide into a neat bundle, hair outwards.

If the above directions are carefully followed and a little time spent on the operation, it will be found that the result will well recompense the farmer for the extra trouble taken.

The total value of corn-offals, oil-cakes, and other feeding-stuffs, and of artificial fertilizers, used in Great Britain in 1907 was £28,400,000. In the same year the total value of artificial manures manufactured was between £5,573,000 and £6,671,000. The feeding-stuffs manufactured in Britain represented a value of £16,321,000.