

LEAN CATTLE

BY CHARLES SLOAN REID

Lean cattle, ranged against the rim
Of sunset's cloud-smudged glow,
Sharp-hipped, with scrawniness of limb,
Knee-deep in drifted snow ;
Forlorn of eye, and shivering,
They stand in mute appeal
To Whom, or what, of God, or thing,
No longing may reveal.

Thin silhouettes of weird design,
Bespeaking patience dumb,
In shrunken jaw and brisket line,
Stand rigid, stark, and numb.
As night befalls the evening's wane,
And Man his rest may find,
Lean cattle, motionless, in vain
Await the tempered wind.

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