

English Letter, No. 4.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Liverpool, July 3rd.

The shipments of Canadian cattle have arrived here with remarkable safety of late. Out of two recent shipments comprising 717 head, only two deaths are reported; and even this small loss was to a certain extent made up by the births of two calves during the journey; and they were landed alive and well. There are a few milch cows coming forward, some of them realizing as much as £26 per head; but others being of an inferior common breed and quality, have barely, if at all, left a profit. I can but repeat a remark often made before—that it does not pay to ship anything but the best of its kind to this country. Canadian horses are arriving to a fair extent. Messrs. Spinks, of Ottawa, have landed 35 more omnibus horses in very good condition, and a portion of them which were sent to Dublin realized capital prices there.

It was stated that on the 6th of June a lot of Canadian cattle were detected at Derby with foot and mouth disease. It was, however, proved to the satisfaction of the Privy Council authorities that if the cattle in question had this disease they must have contracted it in some way since they were landed here, as the disease is unknown in the Dominion, as we hope it may long continue to be. I see, however, that a Mr. Coke, of Longford, Derbyshire, is agitating in the *Agricultural Gazette* this week and urging that these cattle must have contracted the disease in Canada. This is of course absurd; but the inquiries of Colonel Kingscote in the House of Commons, and letters such as this of Mr. Coke's, show us how vigilantly they are watching for an opportunity of placing our cattle in the same category with those from the United States. The lairage and slaughter-house accommodation at this port has of late been largely increased, but it would still be inadequate to any increased strain; and a block would mean a terribly heavy loss to somebody.

At length I am able to announce that the cold store established by Messrs. H. J. Stephenson & Co., Victoria Street, in this town, is in full operation, and that it is likely to prove a marked success. I visited it the other day, and the representative of Messrs. Hicks, Hargreaves & Co., of Boston, the patentees of the process, very kindly explained to me the whole system. As it is a curious lesson in natural science, your readers will, I am sure, tolerate a brief description. The agents employed are purely mechanical, chemicals being wholly dispensed with. By simply compressing air to from three to four atmospheres—that is, to from 30 to 45 lbs. above the ordinary atmospheric pressure, subjecting it in that state to thorough saturation by means of fine jets of cold water, and then allowing it to expand to its normal state, a degree of cold as great as that experienced in any of your Canadian winters—that is, up to 30 degrees below zero, can easily be produced on the hottest summer day. This method of producing cold is not strictly new, and the patentees do not claim any special merit for it; but, before being allowed to pass into the storage rooms, this intensely cold but heavily moisture-laden air is subjected to a process which causes it to throw down in the form of finely powdered snow, every particle of moisture that it contains, and the air then passes, absolutely pure and dry, into the store-rooms, where, without difficulty, a temperature of very little above freezing point is maintained. The thorough drying of the air is the special merit claimed for this invention; and it certainly has a most beneficial effect upon all matter liable to quick decay. The apparatus is very compact, con-

sisting of a contraction cylinder, water pump, expansion cylinder, and snow box, the latter being the great secret of the plan—the mystery box in which the air is deprived of all its frozen particles. Of course an engine to supply the motive power, conduit pipes for the distribution of the cold air, and a certain amount of packing with non-conducting materials, are also required. The cold store has so far been decidedly successful; and as its opening was witnessed by members and officials of the Dock Board, and other interested parties, a large extension of the system may be looked for. The boon to shopkeepers, who now must either sell quickly or lose heavily in hot weather, will be immense; and Messrs. H. J. Stephenson & Co. deserve every encouragement for their plucky venture.

A cold, late and ungenial spring has been succeeded here by an early summer of almost perpetual rains and high winds. The "hot summer" which the prophets predicted is now looked for almost with longing. The grass crop promises to be most abundant, and cutting has been in progress in the earlier localities for some weeks. More settled weather is now urgently needed for its safe in-gathering. Hot, bright weather is also much needed for the grain crops, and especially for the flowering of the wheat. Hitherto the farmers have had but slender encouragement from the weather, and the prospect of another inferior, if not altogether bad harvest, in face of the general agricultural depression here, is disheartening indeed.

The great event since my last letter is the holding of the Royal Agricultural Society's Show at Kilburn, London, which was opened on the 30th ult. by the Prince of Wales, and is probably by far the largest exhibition of the kind ever held. Your readers may form some idea of its proportions from the following figures. The area occupied by the Show is a hundred acres, the live stock alone taking up more than six miles of shedding, and machinery and implements more than four miles more. There were 815 entries of horses, 1,007 of cattle, 841 of sheep, and 211 of pigs, making a total of 2,874, which is more than double that of Liverpool in 1877. It is utterly impossible in the compass of a letter to give any detailed description of such a vast Show, but, as most likely to interest your readers, I will venture a few remarks on the horses and cattle.

The class of Shorthorn bulls, though large, was not an exceptionally good one, and great fault was found as to the judging. The Herefords, as is always the case at the Royal, were a grand show, but the Hereford breeders did not appear in such full force as might reasonably have been expected. This was accounted for by the fact that several noted show animals being entered, owners of second-rate animals were deterred from displaying them.

The sheep were a show in themselves. The display was really magnificent. Lord Walsingham, in the Southdown class, was only able to take second prize this year, and the Prince of Wales the third. The Shropshire Downs, which are stated by competent authorities here to be the best to cross with our Canadian breeds for the production of mutton for this market, were a grand class. These sheep were not admitted till 1860 to be of sufficient importance to entitle them to rank as a separate breed at the Royal Society's Show. Since then they have rapidly come forward in the public estimation, though there is still some contention as to the true characteristics of the Shropshire sheep. Mr. G. Graham was the most successful exhibitor. In Cotswolds, Mr. T. Brown took first prize in rams; Mr. R. Jacobs for shearing ewes; and Messrs. Gillett second and third in

both classes. Mr. R. Tweedie was first with Border Leicester, and Messrs. Buton and T. H. Hutchinson in the Leicesters; whilst Mr. H. Smith took all the leading prizes for Lincoln sheep.

The show of horses was remarkable both in number and character. The classes for English, Clydesdale and Suffolk animals were especially good. The hacks, roadsters, stallions and ponies were not up to the mark of previous exhibitions. The Percheron, Norman, and Anglo-Norman Agricultural horses were very interesting, and a useful type for light work. Their chief failing, in an English point of view, was that they were not deep enough in the chest, and lacking in weight for the collar, to draw the heavy loads placed on horse-flesh in this country.

Of the American and Canadian exhibits of butter, the *Mark Lane Express* says:

"American butters are a failure. Most of the samples are off in flavor, having lost it on the way; but there is something more than mere travel to account for this, and we hope to see the cause made clear."

Your journal, so far as Canada is concerned, has been actively engaged in making this cause, or these causes, clear, for some time; but I regret to have again to state that the agriculturists of Canada seem still to be blind to their own interests in this respect, for the Canadian butter now arriving is as bad as any that could be permitted to be placed under the name of butter. In contrast to this, the entries of butter from Northern Europe—from Sweden, Denmark, Jutland and Finland more particularly—were very numerous and very good. How long will such a report have to be sent to you? In the class for three cheeses above 40 lbs. weight each, colored or plain, Canadian or American, no award was given. The International Dairy, which was to have been one of the most interesting features of the show, was literally a sea of mud; very little could be seen, and the value of the show was almost entirely lost. In a small tent close to this show was exhibited a monster Canadian cheese, weighing three-quarters of a ton, manufactured by Mr. Morton, of Kingston, and exhibited by Mr. Webb, a provision merchant of Kensington, London. It was cut up by a new patent electrical machine for cutting cheese and retailed to visitors at 25 cents per packet of about a quarter of a pound. The flavor was excellent, and so proved a grand advertisement for our cheese interest.

The principal of the Canadian exhibits, which were lamentably few, at this Grand World's Show, and considering that nearly the whole of our export trade is, and will be, conducted with this country, was that of Mr. W. H. Pellow, the indefatigable European agent of the A. S. Whiting Manufacturing Company, of Oshawa, Canada, who had a remarkably fine show of hand forks, spades, rakes and other articles for field, forest and garden. *Bell's Messenger*, speaking of this exhibit, says: "As this is a new trade which has rapidly sprung into importance in our North American Colony, it is interesting to note that they are smartly rivalling, if not surpassing, some of the older makers in the United States." Messrs. Whiting's goods are admitted by everyone to be superior in point of finish to any goods of the same kind manufactured either in Europe or America, and in this respect strangely contrast with almost all kinds of manufactures exported from the Dominion which are usually conspicuous for their rough and untidy finish.

The weather throughout was most unfavorable and the ground was in a deplorable state. The visitors made their way as well as they could over planks and sleepers which had been placed over the slush into which the whole ground had been converted. Even the planks were often