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the Farmer and
, of October 10.
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has reached Mann Chuk. Question—Is not this disease rather too near our borders? Formerly some said there was no danger of it in the east or north, but only in southern and western States. American pork and American lard are being imported into Canada; American hogs are passing through Canada daily. We do not know if they are still slaughtered here and shipped as Canadian or Irish bacon, or Westphalia hams; they were when we last visited some of the packing houses. Should we not take immediate steps to guard more effectually the health of men? The health of our stock should be regarded more than party, monetary or railroad influences. If we maintain the health of our stock, it is a great step toward maintaining the health of men. Man will not consume meat that is pregnant with death, if he can procure wholesome food. It requires no additional taxation, no loss to any farmer, and only a little precaution. Should we not take every possible means to maintain the healthy reputation that our stock now has, and prevent it from being classed as foreign meat? It is our impression that Canadian meat will command nearly double the price that American meat will, if we take active steps to maintain the healthy state of our stock. Perhaps the Jews had greater and sounder reasons for discarding the hog than we are aware of. A healthy hog or a healthy man we do not object to, but who would approach a man with a pestilential disease? The dead hog has imparted death to man previously. We have had warnings. Canada should have and hold a reputation of having the healthiest cattle in the world. Is this not a reputation worth striving for? Would not our farmers command much higher prices for their stock, their meat, butter, cheese and poultry, than they now command. The greatest pedigree that our stockmen could have would be, "It is Canadian." The best brand our butter and cheese packages could carry would be, "Canada." It would carry the golden ring of purity to all lands. We trust that every one of our exchanges and readers who may see the necessity and propriety of these remarks, may lend their aid to advance these views. Prevention is better than cure. There are complaints of the lack of confidence in railroads, in some monetary institutions, and many business men. Let us prevent a shock of public confidence in the health of our stock, or the purity of meat, lard, butter or cheese produced in Canada.]

There are 95 species of forest trees in Canada, of which Ontario embraces 65. Only three of our Canadian species, namely, the chesnut, the yew, and the white birch, are identical with those in Europe.

Mr. E. C. Tisdall, in a paper read before the Dairy Conference, Gloucester, Eng., makes some very striking remarks with reference to the condition of breeding cattle. He maintains that stock used for breeding should be kept in a fair growing condition, a higher state acting prejudicially to the generative and the milk-secreting organs. He holds that disorders are liable to take place when the proportion of fat exceeds one-twentieth of the whole body. He lays particular stress on the evil practice of over-feeding for the purpose of competing for prizes at shows.

Special Contributors.

A Chatty Letter from the States.

[FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.]

Exhibitions of cattle at all of the State and district fairs in the West have been greatly curtailed, if not entirely wanting this fall. The cause of the empty cattle stalls was the commotion raised a month or so ago about the outbreak of contagious pleuro-pneumonia, which has not yet subsided. At St. Louis, where there is always a splendid display of bovine beauty and usefulness, there was not a single animal of the cow kind. At the Indiana fair the much abused Jerseys were the only ones scheduled, but the awards of premiums in the general cattle competition were as good as stolen by animals that would have stood little or no show if the owners of some of the best herds had not been afraid to let them go to the exhibition on account of the scare about diseases.

It may be possible that this same trouble, which does not seem in a very fair way to be adjusted before that time, will interfere somewhat with the success of the November fat stock shows at Chicago and Kansas City. Doubtless there will be a diminished attendance of breeding cattle. This cannot rightfully be regarded as a loss when it is remembered that they are shows for fat stock and not general fairs. A good many sales of importance are advertised to come off, however, and there will certainly be a considerable display of choice breeding cattle on that account. It is sincerely to be hoped that the sales will not be failures, but they are very likely to be, for the reason that the rumpus being created by the veterinary place-hunters has already caused a depreciation of at least twenty per cent. in the value of nearly all breeds of fine cattle. It is not among the improbabilities that the bidding will be so spiritless that a few buyers will get some big bargains, and the cattle will be withdrawn, as numbers have been since the present excitement commenced.

There is no doubt that the United States are sadly deficient in competent veterinary inspection, but the people are scorching between two fires. A large number of ignorant and unprincipled quacks and professional rascals are trying to have a great number of offices created and secure large congressional appropriations, while a great many of the leading cattlemen of the country, in their earnest zeal to have ample protection brought about, are making the strongest kind of support for these very unprincipled fellows.

What will be the upshot of the present difficulties of the cattlemen is not now possible to tell. November 13 14 there will be a convention of cattlemen in Chicago, at which it is thought the matter will be discussed from the veterinarians' standpoint, while in St. Louis, during the week of November 17, there will be another national convention at which it is thought there will be considerable opposition to the so-called "cow-doctors." Meanwhile the herds of the country are unprotected by thoroughly competent men, and all fine stock values are depreciating on account of the reports, whether false or true, being made by the government officials.

Truly the breeders of Jersey cattle must re-

alize the force of the old saying, that "every dog has his day." A very few months ago what breed of cattle was enjoying such a boom as the Jerseys? Now there is no breed of cattle under such a ban, and it is all on account of the fact that the reports of contagious disease were limited to that breed. It is rather hard on those who have bought cattle of that breed for speculative purposes, but so far as the general public is concerned, there may be some compensation in the present trouble. Booms do not benefit the majority, and no one can say that the beautiful and profitable little Jerseys were not having rather more than their share of big prices.

It is ridiculous how our agricultural exhibitions are being converted into horse-racing and general sporting meetings. What do we have fairs for if not to have the agricultural resources of our various farming communities brought out as the principal features? It is not appropriate for fair managers to attempt to rival fourth of July celebrations, pyrotechnically, or the great travelling circuses. Experience proves that more people, though it must be admitted a different class, are attracted by a horse race, a sham battle, fireworks or a bull-fight, than to an exhibition of solid, substantial agricultural possibilities; but are county, district and State fairs to be run for the money they will net the grasping, catch-penny managers? We say, No. Fair associations must not be controlled by the horse-jockey element if the best results are to be looked for and realized.

It may seem too conservative, but the writer is of opinion that to abolish all trotting exhibitions and substitute walking contests for farm horses would strike more directly at the root of the present evil than any other plan that could be adopted. The general farmer should not attempt to compete with those who devote their whole time, money and attention to producing or trying to produce the fastest flyers. Heavy draft horses and good ordinary farm horses should be taught to walk faster before the plow and the grain wagon. If for no other reason, the feature of jockey racing at fairs should be abolished because of the degrading, demoralizing influences and surroundings which it always insures.

How shamefully the common cow is abused just because she is a common cow.

Pope says:

"Honor and shame from no condition rise;
Act well your part, there all the honor lies."

If our common farm animals were fed and cared for, and culled and selected every year as carefully as are the expensive animals of high pedigree, our scrub stock would soon cease to be scrub stock. This is an age of experiments. Let some progressive, inquiring young farmer take a common heifer valued at \$30, and a high pedigreed, \$300 blue blood of the same age, and for just one year subject them both to the same kind of treatment, and then note results and compare profits on the two investments.

The corn crop throughout the West is immense. The farmers in some sections began feeding new corn to hogs as early as the middle of August, and there are now a good many hogs almost ready to come forward, that were fattened on the new crop.

Vast numbers of far western range cattle are this year being put into distilleries to fatten on