

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, JULY 16, 1894.

TUBERCULOSIS.

A letter from a Southern Manitoba farmer, which appeared in a Winnipeg paper recently, charged the local government and the provincial veterinary inspector with carelessness in the matter of looking after diseases among stock. The writer made the very serious charge, that cattle from a herd which were afflicted with tuberculosis, had been sold and distributed throughout the country, notwithstanding the fact that the provincial veterinarian was aware of the facts. This is certainly a very serious accusation, and it should be either disproved or investigated. The Commercial has received other complaints regarding the official veterinary, all of which, however may be unjust to that individual; but this is, perhaps, the most serious charge yet made.

Tuberculosis is a disease which should be specially guarded against, as it is not only one which will spread from one animal to another, but it also afflicts the human race, and may be communicated through the milk of diseased cows. The importance of guarding against this disease is thoroughly appreciated in Great Britain and Europe, and in Eastern Canada special efforts have been made to guard against the disease. A pamphlet of over fifty pages, prepared by Dr. Bryce, secretary of the Ontario board of health, has recently been issued by the government of that province, treating upon tuberculosis in Ontario. The discovery of Prof. Koch that the disease is due to a microbe, has been a valuable one in combating the trouble. The more recent discovery by the same person, in 1891, of a means by which the presence of tuberculosis can be accurately detected, is proving a wonderful aid in preventing the spread of the disease among animals. It is now admitted generally by veterinarians that the test with tuberculin is a sure indication of the presence or absence of the disease. The substance has been tested so largely that its value cannot be doubted. In England, where tuberculin has been freely used, it has proved an accurate test in showing the presence of the disease. In Earl Spencer's herd of Jersey's every animal was shown by the test to be diseased. The whole herd was slaughtered, and the post mortem confirmed the diagnosis in every case. The great trouble with tuberculosis is the difficulty of detecting the disease in its early stages. It is a slow trouble, and may be present for even years before detected. Tuberculin comes to the rescue and makes it possible to ferret out and eradicate the trouble in its early stages.

In Ontario, the health association at its annual meeting last year, drew attention to the use of tuberculin in Europe, and advised a systematic application of the test in that province, particularly in all dairy herds, to prevent the spread of the disease in milk to children and others. During last year tuberculin was used on the herds at the Ontario govern-

ment farm at Guelph and also at the Ottawa experimental farm, with the result that a large number of animals showed symptoms of the disease. These were slaughtered, with the result that the post mortem proved the presence of the trouble.

Experiment has proved that tuberculosis is transmitted to calves, pigs, etc., as well as to man, through the use of milk from affected cows, and it has further been proved, by experiments with diseased meats, that it is transmitted through the consumption of such meat when not thoroughly cooked.

The widespread presence of tuberculosis, together with the fact that the disease is liable to be spread among other animals, and can be transmitted to man, through the use of the milk or flesh of diseased animals, indicate the great care which should be taken to prevent the spread of the malady. In European countries, since the discovery of a means of detecting the presence of the disease, strict measures are being taken to prevent transmission. Dairy cows in cities are particularly subject to the disease, from the fact that they are usually kept in large numbers together, and are confined in stables more continuously than ordinary farm animals. One diseased animal will affect the whole herd. The disease, which is the same as consumption, is not confined to the lungs alone, but affects various organs.

The dry climate of Manitoba should not be favorable to the spread of the disease; but the long winter confinement in ill ventilated and over crowded stables, which dairy cows and other animals are frequently subjected to in this country, is a feature which is anything but favorable for the health of the cattle, and affords every facility for the spread of tuberculosis. Now that a means has been discovered of speedily and surely detecting the presence of the disease, it seems almost criminal to neglect making use of so valuable an agent. All milk cows especially should be subject to inspection, for it is quite possible that the seeds of consumption are being spread among the people from this source to an extent we little dream of. If the disease has been known to the authorities to exist in southern Manitoba, without due precautions being taken to eradicate it, as has been alleged, it is a very serious matter. At any rate, an explanation is in order.

SUBURBAN LANDS.

Though immigration has fallen off considerably this year, a number of good settlers are coming in all the time, and occasional sales of farm lands are being made in different sections of the country. In the Winnipeg district several properties have been purchased by new settlers, who are locating near the city. Quite a number of those who are locating in the Winnipeg district are not new comers to Manitoba and the territories, as the greater number who have recently bought land near Winnipeg are farmers who have been in the country some years, and who are now moving in from more distant sections to locate near the city. Thus while the majority of new settlers are passing by Winnipeg to western and northwestern districts, some of the old settlers are moving

eastward to take land near Winnipeg. The principal inducement which the Winnipeg district offers to these settlers is nearness to market, and consequent saving in transportation. It is also evident to those who look into the future, that lands near Winnipeg must increase very materially in value. Winnipeg has grown steadily and even rapidly right along during the dull times. Whatever doubts there may have been a few years ago as to the future of the city as the commercial centre of the country, these doubts have now passed away. The future of the city is assured, and indeed there are few places on the continent that can claim any brighter prospects. Winnipeg must remain the metropolis of the prairie country of Western Canada. This means a steady growth for the future, as in the past, and it further means that lands within a reasonable distance of the city must in time become very valuable. At present good farming lands in the Winnipeg district can be purchased about as cheaply as in any of the other principal districts in the country. In fact lands adjacent to some of the provincial towns of Manitoba are held higher than lands near Winnipeg, notwithstanding the great commercial advantages of the latter, and the value which proximity to a large city gives. Shrewd ones are beginning to appreciate these facts, and this accounts no doubt in part for the movements of late of quite a number of farmers from other parts of the country to the Winnipeg district. Lands within reasonable distance of such a city as Winnipeg is sure to become in the future, are certain to be very valuable. The price at which lands are now held is simply a nominal valuation, and those who secure good farms at present prices will in a few years find that they have fallen into a valuable property.

WHEAT PRICES

The price of wheat at Chicago during June reached the lowest June record in recent years. No. 2 spring ranged during the month at 53½ to 63½c. The lowest price was recorded on the first day of the month, and from that date prices generally advanced, reaching 60 to 63½c on June 13. Prices were irregular for the balance of the month, and closed at 57 to 58½c. Compared with previous years, the range of cash No. 2 spring wheat at Chicago last month is as follows:—

Range during June, 1894....	\$.53½ to \$.63½.
" " " 1893....	.61½ to .69.
" " " 1892....	.78 to .87½.
" " " 1891....	.90½ to 1.92.
" " " 1890....	.84 to .93.
" " " 1889....	.75½ to .90.

This shows a much lower range this year than in any of the previous years with which a comparison is made. Chicago No. 2 spring is a good wheat, equal to about No. 1 northern in quality.

The range of prices during June of the present year breaks the record not only of recent years, but of all previous years. Until the last two years it was very unusual for wheat to sell under 70c per bushel at Chicago. In August of 1897, wheat sold in Chicago at 66½c. In October of 1888, wheat also touched 69½c.