

of the points which when lined down by due selection ought to make a perfect rider and driver.

Most justly does Mr. Douglas point out that it is unlikely that a first cross of a thoroughbred on the Shire or Clyde could produce a weight-carrier. It is indeed most unlikely. Here the difficulty arises. It is necessary to use the extreme cross, for we must have the bone and compact frame, but when we use this in the horse as in every other animal we can never rely on producing a certain result for several generations. Sometimes a good one, sometimes a cur—a good one with the form of a cur—a cur with the form of a good one.

If ever a really good breed of useful general purposes horses comes to the fore, I venture to predict it will be arrived at by judicious selection and re-breeding again and again after the first cross has been produced.

It is by this means certain traits have been established and fixed in other domestic animals. The sheep, the cow, the dog, even poultry, are examples of it, and it would appear unlikely, not to say impossible, that by merely breeding from one set of mares, either cart or thoroughbred or intermediate, or by any varying in the manner of extreme crosses, that good and reliable foals could as a rule be dropped. But by judicious selection for a few generations a race will be created, of the young of which the qualities could be predicted with nearly the same certainty with which one can prophecy that Southdown lambs will have dark faces.

I am, yours truly,

E. G. MUNTZ.

Toronto, May 5, 1885.

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

From our Special Correspondent.

LIVERPOOL, April 23rd.

The increasing supplies of live cattle from U. S. and Canadian ports during the past fortnight have very materially affected values at our Lairages, and quotations for best beef cattle range from 12½ to 13½c. per lb., or 11½ to 12½c. sinking offal, only choice sorts U. S. making extreme. Canadian cattle appeared in the open markets this week for the first time, and shared with home-bred stock about as slow a trade as ever was reported. At Wakefield 22 pens were filled with Dominion stock, many of which were really first-class, but the prices made hardly yield 12½c. all round. In the face of this exporters are not likely to crowd our markets for some weeks to come, although it is said a fair amount of space has been engaged on steamers to load on the opening of navigation from Quebec. The prospects, either in the event of war or an amicable settlement with Russia, do not offer meantime any encouragement, and shippers cannot exercise too much caution in buying for forward delivery.

FROZEN MEAT.

The increasing importance of the frozen meat trade is shown in a report just issued by the Medical Officer of Health for London. During 1884 it appears the quantities received at that port from all sources were 619,324 sheep and 115,377 quarters of beef. Most of these supplies arrived in "magnificent condition," but in some instances great deterioration had taken place during the voyage,

involving heavy loss to the importers. One ship, which arrived in August, had 2,279 quarters of beef destroyed out of a total freight of 2,289 quarters; but this proportion seems to have been altogether exceptional. On the whole, however, this important trade has now reached a reasonably safe condition, thanks to the knowledge, gained through repeated failures, of the best way of maintaining the requisite degree of temperature in the storage chambers on board ship. It is noticeable that while the imports from Russia and the United States show a tendency to fall off, those from Australia, New Zealand, and the River Plate are increasing prodigiously. During the first quarters of last year only 99,537 carcasses of sheep entered the port of London from these countries, but in the last quarter the number was 168,104.

STORE CATTLE.

Store markets are reported as somewhat lower, holders of lean cattle beginning to fear that with all the cry about western stores, there may possibly be some little modicum of wool (or beef). From a circular issued to the exporters of live cattle in Canada by a Scotch firm, I learn that the stockers bought-in last year have done very well with the farmers, and the opinion is hazarded that well-bred steers from the Dominion will have the best chance of meeting a paying demand. This is perhaps very true, but at the same time, in my opinion, it would pay Ontario and Quebec growers of cattle better still to fatten the stock with their own corn, and finish them off in good shape, so that the cattle could stand their ocean transit without losing very much condition. All last year the complaint of buyers on this side was that their Canadian cattle did not die well, and though a similar complaint was lodged against our U. S. rivals, yet the burden of the outcry was against the former. Stockers, as such, are no doubt worth more in Glasgow than anywhere else, seeing that port is a distributing centre for the neighboring grazing counties, but to send half-fatted animals to Liverpool or London is a big mistake. Bristol could possibly be made a mart for Canadian stores, but on the other hand buyers there would need to be educated up to them, their prejudices overcome, and their pockets made aware sensibly of a difference in favor of our trans-atlantic stores, as against the Irish article.

DAIRY STOCK.

Arrangements have been made by a Liverpool firm for handling young milch cows. Last year it will be remembered quite a number of dairy cattle were received here, and the result was so far satisfactory that shipments will begin as soon as the season will permit. At present writing dairy cattle of good sorts are worth from \$110 to \$125.

ARTICLES READILY MARKETABLE IN ENGLAND.

LIVERPOOL, 20th April, 1885.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN BREEDER.

In selecting a subject useful to your Canadian readers I don't know of anything more likely to benefit them than to point out in which way they may enrich themselves in bringing before the British public many things that probably would find a ready market here. In the first place, wonderfully little is known in Great Britain about the older settled portions of Canada, and although certainly much has been done by the Dominion Government and by the Pacific railroad to give all possible information regarding free grants and the low-priced prairie lands of Manitoba and the North-West, still but little is known of Ontario. Very

occasionally one sees in the columns of the *Field* an advertisement of some extensive property with excellent improvements, &c., but the size and price is in most instances greater than an already impoverished tenant farmer is in a position to take hold of. It is very doubtful if the transplanting of a man hitherto a tenant farmer in Great Britain to the extreme newness and hardships of Manitoba and the North-West is likely to be successful, indeed we know that in many cases much disappointment has been the result. The transition is altogether too sudden, and the people most likely to succeed in these new countries will I think be found to come from the sons of Ontario farmers and German and Mennonite emigrants.

The tenant farmers, difficulties from various reasons in this country may seem rather an old story to harp upon, but that they have great difficulties is no less true. Still, they have a strongly rooted dread of leaving bad for a possible worse, and as almost the only home prominently offered to them in Canada is remote, rough, and extremely primitive, they shrink from making the change. I feel confident if farms of moderate size such as could be bought at say \$60 per acre, which would enable a man with £1,500 to purchase and stock 100 acres and in the same way a man with £3,000 could buy a property of double the extent. To simply notify farmers here that they can purchase 100 acres of land in Ontario for £1,200 would be worse than useless, but if the advantages of a good comfortable brick house, good barn buildings for stock, good roads, schools, railroads, telegraphic communication were truthfully set forth, and all within ten days of England, then I am satisfied the idea of leaving home would lose many of its horrors. Owing to the weight of emigration going from the poorer class and taking up land in remote, unsettled districts the reports sent here are very often not calculated to give a favorable impression, and the large majority of young fellows leaving these shores for Canada still think their outfit by no means complete without at least one bowie knife and pistol. Of course their disgust is great at finding on arrival that cheese is about the only article they can use the former on.

With regard to what the Canadian farmer will most probably find the most ready market for in the near future, I am inclined to think nothing will bring a more ready sale than well-fed young cattle, commonly called stockers. The demand at present for such is quite sharp and sure to increase, as from various reasons the supply is by no means equal to the demand, and many cattle that have been shipped from Canada under the impression that they were beef have been bought up readily by farmers here for feeding purposes, and as such purchases have hitherto turned out well, Canadian cattle for feeding are in great favor.

With regard to beef, the prospect is not encouraging; owing to so many countries sending large supplies of dressed meat cattle on foot have but a slender chance. I note in your last issue the depressed state of the horse market and quite unusually low prices ruling in Montreal. Although the trade is undoubtedly dull here, still really good animals always sell, and where steamships are carrying cattle at about 30s. per head I have no hesitation in saying that if the same rate could be obtained for horses, or even 10s. per head more, a good profit could be made. Unfortunately, horsemen and cattlemen look upon profits in a different light. Cattlemen are well satisfied with a clear 10s. or 15s. per head, while horsemen expect as many pounds at least.

To-morrow is what is known here as Primrose