

officer gives them any examination except as above stated.

The report of the Veterinary Dept. of the Privy Council Office of Great Britain, states that a cargo of swine, consisting of 567 animals, arrived in the steamship Viking at Victoria Docks from Canada on November 14; 42 of them were found to be affected with swine fever (known here as hog cholera). On December 13 a cargo of swine from Montreal, Canada, arrived at Glasgow, Scotland, and among them were a number of cases of swine fever. Altogether there have been landed during the year 1,044 animals affected with swine fever. Of these, 974 came from the United States, and 70 from Canada.

A Bill has been introduced into the Congress of the United States to prevent the exportation of diseased cattle and the spread of infectious or contagious diseases among domestic animals. Should the Bill become a law, it will prohibit, under heavy penalties, any railroad company, steamship, vessel, or any person, from carrying or driving cattle infected with pleuro-pneumonia from one State to another, or from shipping or carrying them to any foreign country. Congress has also appropriated \$10,000 for the purpose of erecting a building in the Agricultural Grounds for the display of all agricultural implements that may be presented to the Department of Agriculture for exhibition. The building will be completed within a year, and will enable all manufacturers of agricultural implements in all parts of the world to place on exhibition specimens of such machines and implements as are used in agriculture. Canada will, no doubt, avail herself of the opportunity to exhibit her best machines, and farmers from all over this land by a pilgrimage to this Department may see the rude, wooden plow of China, the bungling implements of Egypt and India, side by side with the artistic gang-plows, reapers, mowers and self-binders, and all the wonderful improvements of America and Europe.

The reports from a large number of farmers throughout the United States to the Department of Agriculture, on the several varieties of potatoes cultivated during the past year, are uniformly in favor of the "Beauty of Hebron." From Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, and many other States, reports are received from which we extract the following:—"Beauty of Hebron ripened 22 days before the Early Rose. Quite an acquisition." "Matured in 13 weeks; quality unsurpassed." "Fine, large tubers; much better than Early Rose." "Undoubtedly superior to anything I ever saw in this county." "Valuable acquisition; two weeks earlier than Early Rose." "A good keeper; very prolific; a valuable addition to our potato list." The Commissioner of Agriculture says that the testimony is so uniform concerning the merits of the "Beauty of Hebron," that it leaves no doubt that it will supersede the Early Rose, as the latter took the place of the Early Goodrich and other early varieties cultivated fifteen or twenty years ago.

A short time ago, Genl. LeDuc, the Commissioner, received a small lot of the wild potatoes of Chiloe, which he has distributed for cultivation in the United States next season. These potatoes were furnished by the Governor of the Island of Chiloe, in Southern Chili, to the National Agricultural Society of the latter country, and by them sent to this country at the request of an American gentleman long resident there. His letter to Genl. LeDuc, concerning these wild potatoes from the Island of Chiloe, is full of interest. He states that the original potato introduced in Europe, from which stock we have grown the potatoes in

United States, was taken from the Island of Chiloe by Sir Francis Drake in 1585. In the south of Chili, and especially in Chiloe, the potato still grows wild. As a potato loses its special variety in from 12 to 15 years, being replaced by new varieties from the seeds of the potato ball, the present varieties grown in this country (U. S.) and Europe must be at least twenty generations removed from the original stock introduced from the Island of Chiloe in 1585. Naturally changes must have taken place, some for better, some for the worse. Growing under the excitement of manures, in this country and in Europe, in soils of great diversity and at widely different temperatures, it may be that the varieties now in general use are susceptible of fungus diseases, and to the ravages of insects, from which the original stock were exempt. If I am rightly informed, he says the potato in Chili and Chiloe are quite exempt from fungus diseases, which I suspect may have originated from the use of manure; for I have noticed that the wheat of Chili is perfectly free from smut, and that these rich soils are irrigated and not manured.

LOTUS.

#### The Western Ontario Dairymen's Association.

The annual meeting was held in February, according to notice previously given in this journal. The attendance was not as large as usual. The interest evinced by the ladies years ago was very great; they went for information, but their interest has so abated that only two were seen there at the close of the meeting, and never so few attended before. Many really good men who formerly attended have from various causes absented themselves. One great reason of this declining interest in the Association has been the partiality shown to persons of particular political tendencies, and when such opinions begin to prevail, the great good that should arise from these meetings is apt to be greatly diminished. Political agriculture is dangerous to the interest of the farmers and to the nation.

Previous to the strong political feeling introduced and the public money expended, the Dairymen's Association was progressing famously, and the foundations of all the after improvements were then laid.

For the past two years the principal interest of this association has been the great discussion between the eminent dairy orators, Hon. X. A. Willard and Prof. L. B. Arnold. The former gentleman is an excellent orator, has read a great deal about dairying, and is well posted. He undoubtedly is the champion dairy orator of America. He is shrewd, searching, and has an excellent faculty of appropriating ideas.

Prof. L. B. Arnold has a much different way; he is not the polished orator that Mr. Willard is. He has given the dairy his study, and applied chemical tests (with practical use in the dairy) to a greater extent than any other person in America, and from close observation, tests, trials, scientific and chemical researches combined with actual practice, he has found that cheese can be made of better quality without allowing acid to be strongly developed before the cheese is pressed, than by the old process of developing a strong acidity.

This acid or no acid, or sweet or sour process, has engaged the attention of all our leading dairymen, and the battle has been strong and ably contested. Many of our Canadian authorities had taken a strong stand against Prof. Arnold.

The results of this meeting have completely established the fact that Prof. Arnold's information has done an incalculable amount of good to the dairymen of this Dominion by showing them

the way to make the best cheese. The old plan of making a strong acid or sour curd may yet be the safest for those who have dirty utensils, hogs and filth about their premises; they can by this acid process make cheese that may sell as well to the ignorant who are not aware what a really first-class cheese is, but by the sweet process a cheese of finer flavor, better quality and a more digestible article is produced, and one which when once used in a family would be sought for again.

The Hon. Harris Lewis, of Frankford, N. Y., gave a very useful and practical address and much useful information about various subjects pertaining to the cow, the dairy and the farm. He strongly commended pure air, cleanliness, kindness and clean and nutritious food for the cow. He advised those who intended to try silos to begin in a very small way, and strongly urged on Canadian dairymen to keep the skimmer of all milk made into cheese in Canada. He condemned in strong terms the oleomargarine and the use of lard or other foul fats as a substitute for butter or for adding to cheese made in creameries from skim milk, and trusted that Canadians would not follow the dangerous pattern set by Americans of introducing Trichinosis in the form of butter and cheese; in fact, he admitted that Canadian dairy produce was superior and safer to use than that produced in the States, and hoped that Canadian dairymen would guard their interest and prevent the spurious articles from being made or sold under any guise. He considered the introduction of the skimmer in the cheese business in Canada would be found as injurious to the dairymen of Canada as the introduction of his Satanic majesty was to the human race when he entered the Garden of Eden.

The Hon. X. A. Willard, of Little Falls, N. Y., delivered an extremely long address about a new patent lactometer that he wished to introduce. It was a great advertising dodge, and if it does not prove of more value than his patent milker, his time was wasted. He also gave a long essay on the chemical extraction of various essences. Well, if the President or audience profited by that, we failed to see the utility; dairymen failed to see it also. But he gave many good hints, the most important of which was in regard to the patent law. He showed many instances where dairymen and farmers were fairly robbed by the existing law; for instance, many dairymen had purchased improved implements at a great expense, believing them to be all right, but to their astonishment other parties have come along claiming large sums or threatening law suits, and the dairymen were in danger of losing their implements. He instanced that thousands of miles of patent fences had been erected in the States, the farmer having paid the agents; then a law suit arises about the infringement of some previous patent, and the farmers have to give what these fellows like to ask or pull down the fence, or risk a law suit. He also showed the great carelessness of allowing any person who pays the fees to get out patents without due regard to previous patents. It is right that ingenuity and application should be rewarded; it is also right that our farmers should be protected better than they are from the deceptive patent right men.

OUR LEGISLATURES SHOULD AT THE PRESENT  
SESSION

Protect the farmers from the deceptive traps that are laid to injure them through patent frauds.

Prof. T. T. Roberts, of Cornell University, treated the meeting with an address similar to one that had been reported in the American press some weeks previous; but he added a great tirade