

The Texas Cattle Disease.

THE alarm, amounting to panic, caused by the fatal disease introduced into horses, humans, and some of the Eastern stock yards, by Texas cattle, has in a measure subsided, not on account of the discovery of any exaggeration in the reported losses sustained, or the virulence of the complaint, but chiefly from the apparent facility with which the spread of the disease can be prevented. It would appear that Texas cattle alone are capable of communicating the disease, and that native cattle, though locally afflicted themselves, do not transmit the virus to others. It is believed also that only during certain limited periods of the year is there any danger from the disorder. If these statements are correct, it is probable that by regulating the periods at which Texas cattle may be introduced, by a system of inspection and quarantine, and by isolating the droves in transitu, the future ravages of this terrible scourge may be guarded against.

There is every reason to believe that hitherto we have ourselves escaped the pest. The Canadian Government and the Board of Agriculture have acted in the matter with praiseworthy promptitude. By an order in Council the transit of Western cattle through the Province has been interdicted. A special meeting of the Board of Agriculture was convened to take the subject into consideration, and the following resolution, among others, was passed: "That a Committee, consisting of the President of the Board of Agriculture, the President of the Association, Dr. Richmond and Mr. Stone, be appointed to examine into the cattle disease, and report it as early a day as possible; and that Professor Smith, of the Veterinary College, Toronto, be appointed to accompany them." The gentlemen named in the above resolution accordingly proceeded at once to Chicago, intending thence to visit other localities where the disease had been most prevalent and institute a thorough investigation. Up to the present date, Aug. 28th, they have not returned, though we have been waiting in the hope of being able to communicate their report in the present number of this journal. This must now be deferred till our next issue. By that time also the report of the Commissioner whom the Government has appointed to investigate the matter will no doubt be made public.

Since the above was in type the reputation from the Board of Agriculture have returned, and Mr. Smith informs us that it will yet be some days before they can complete their official report. In the meantime we may briefly state that they found the complaint on the decrease in Illinois, partly because in some places a large proportion of the native cattle had died—in Champaign County upwards of 4,000 have perished—and also in consequence of the restrictions now in force in regard to Texas cattle. Mr. Smith thinks the prevailing opinion that native cattle will not communicate the disease should be received with caution; that time and further experience are yet needed to determine this point, as well as much more respecting the precise nature of the disease. It has made its appearance in Kansas, also in St. Louis and Sullivan, in Missouri, and in Cincinnati. Under all the circumstances the Deputation are of opinion that it will not be wise to relax the interdict against the admission of Western cattle into Canada.

The Provincial Exhibition.

THE Provincial Exhibition at Hamilton this year promises, in the number of entries, to be fully equal to any of its predecessors. The condition of the crops is looked on as a circumstance favouring a good show, and the entries of grains, especially wheat, have been above the average. As the entries are not all made, and a large number of those sent in have yet to be recorded, no figures to show the aggregate in each class can be had, and it will be close on the Fair week before a correct estimate can be made.

The entries for live stock closed on the 25th ult., but as all have not yet been registered, we cannot give the exact figures. In the classes of horses,

cattle and sheep, there will be a large exhibition, the show of pigs will be below the average in number, while that of fowls will probably be very numerous. On the whole, there is every reason to expect a large and, we doubt not, a creditable and successful Exhibition.

Book Notice.

A GUIDE TO THE STUDY OF INSECTS AND A TREATISE ON THOSE INJURIOUS AND BENEFICIAL TO CROPS. For the use of Colleges, Farm Schools, and Agriculturists. By A. S. Packard, Jr. M. D. Salem: Press of the Essex Institute. Part II. July 1868. Price 50 cents.

The second part of this valuable work is now before us, and we desire again to cordially recommend it to the attention of our readers. The present portion of the work consists of sixty-eight pages, clearly printed on fine smooth paper, and illustrated by about fifteen wood-cuts, and two full-page plates carefully and accurately executed. It gives first the conclusion of the account of the strange and marvellous transformations of insects throughout their life, from the egg to the winged imago; then follows an outline of their geographical distribution, including a notice of variation of species produced by climate, soil and food, and the remarkable fecundity possessed by noxious insects accidentally introduced into this continent from Europe, of which the wheat-midge and currant-bush saw-fly are notable instances. A somewhat kindred subject, their geological distribution, is next taken up, and notices, accompanied by illustrations, are given of many singular fossil specimens that have been discovered in the coal measures of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and other northern districts. When the delicate and intricate structure of insects is considered, it is very wonderful to find how many specimens have been obtained from the solid rock. The diseases and deformities of insects, a branch of entomology that has been seldom investigated, are briefly noticed; then follows a most useful and valuable account of the best modes of collecting, preserving, and rearing insects, which we would strongly recommend to the attention of all insect collectors; a useful list of the most important works on entomology, and tables of the various modes in which insects have been classified by authors, complete the preliminary portion of the work. A systematic account of the various orders of insects is then begun,—the order Hymenoptera, which includes bees, wasps, ichneumons, saw-flies, etc., being first taken up, as holding the first and highest rank in the insect series. This part of the work well deserves the careful perusal of all interested in the habits and works of bees and their enemies, and therefore ought to be in the hands of every bee-keeper in the country. Of the whole work, judging from the two parts now issued, we may say that it furnishes to beginners in entomology a manual of direction superior to any that we have ever before met with while to the more advanced student it affords a convenient and useful book of reference.

PRIZE LISTS.—We have received, amongst other documents of a similar nature, the list of premiums for the forthcoming Agricultural Exhibition of the New York State Agricultural Society, and also that of the Michigan State Agricultural Society. The former of these, as already announced, will be held in Rochester, from the 29th September to the 2nd October inclusive; and the latter in Detroit, from September 15th to the 18th—the weeks preceding and following the Provincial Exhibition at Hamilton. The premium lists embrace all the usual departments, and are on a liberal scale. Additional prizes are also offered for the best crops of various kinds, and for the best essays and reports of experiments on certain specified subjects. The directors of the New York Society wish especial attention to be directed to their new regulation requiring that all entries of cattle, horses, sheep, swine, poultry, and machinery should be made at least two weeks before the fair.

SELLING CIDER MILLS. We direct attention to Mr. Sell's advertisement of Cider Mills, in the present issue. These well-made and thoroughly efficient presses have gained distinction wherever they have been exhibited, and have given entire satisfaction to those who have used them.

MUSKOKA SETTLER'S GUIDE.—We have received a small sheet bearing this title, and published by the Muskoka District Settlers' Association. We presume it is intended to follow up this first number by others from time to time, as matter accumulates and occasion requires. The present number is chiefly occupied with an account of the origin, objects, history and recent meeting of the Association. It contains the President's address, and a paper on the district of "Muskoka as a field for settlement," full of valuable and interesting details, given apparently in an honest and impartial spirit. We commend the example and efforts of the Association to disseminate trustworthy information concerning a region hitherto little known, and very sparsely settled, but offering by all accounts many inducements to the hardy and enterprising emigrant.

Agricultural Intelligence.

Show at Aberdeen of the Highland Society.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR, The forty-first exhibition of this venerable society, which may be regarded as the parent of all British agricultural societies, is just concluded. The good old "granite city" has been full to repletion, and everything appears to have been done that was practicable, both by the directors of the society and the citizens generally, to accommodate visitors and make the occasion what it has proved, a great success.

I may just state for the information of some of your readers that the "Highland Society" was first established by royal charter as far back as 1787, and that its sphere was confined to the more alpine districts of Scotland, as its name denotes. For many years previous a society had existed in Edinburgh for the improvement of land, consisting mainly of the great landholders; but it does not appear that this society attracted much public notice; yet it published its transactions and unquestionably led the way for the formation of the Highland Society. As, by degrees, it became apparent that the Society's operations should not, and in strict practice were not exclusively confined to the Highlands, an amended charter was obtained in 1834, and the name of the society thenceforward has been known as "The Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland." Under its enlarged charter the Society has not only sustained in a spirited and liberal manner a yearly show of stock and implements, but devoted periodically a large amount of funds to the preparation and publication, by way of premiums, of essays and reports on the theory and practice of husbandry in all its various applications. It was also, I believe, the first British Agricultural Society that engaged the services of a Professor of Chemistry; the late Professor Johnston had the first appointment, who was succeeded by the present accomplished chemist, Professor Anderson. The society also gives aid to local shows, and has of late encouraged the study of the science and practice of agriculture by awarding diplomas to young men, who undergo satisfactorily certain courses of examination. In this way the society has been able to obtain most valuable materials for publication, and the large number of volumes in its transactions shows the talent and liberality with which its proceedings have so long been conducted.

The only thing worth mentioning that I have heard of, disadvantageous to the present show, arose from some unfortunate misunderstanding between the exhibitors of Clydesdale horses and Argyleshire cattle