

town than in country. Again, improvements in the art of agriculture by the invention and development of mechanical devices have lessened the labor of the husbandman, who can now sit at his ease and drive his horses and reaping machine along the ripened field, when but a few years ago he was obliged to swing the heavy "cradle," and watch with anxiety every passing cloud lest the weather should interrupt his comparatively tardy operations. Steam-ploughing is being extensively employed in England, and the day cannot be far distant when some labor-saving invention in this direction will be used in Canada. Let the harvest turn out as it may, the case is exceedingly rare when the farmer is obliged to purchase the chief articles of food for himself and family; this may be said to occur only when he miscalculates in prices and sells more than he ought at the end of the harvest. The great demand for Canadian cattle in Great Britain offers new advantages to the farming community, enabling them to renew worn out soils by running them into pasture. The occupation of the farmer is healthy and agreeable compared with that of other classes of the community, and village doctors in Canada require to be little versed beyond the branch of the healing art known as obstetrics. And this reminds us, whether it be owing to the climate or the increased comforts of living, the fact is indisputable, that the sons and daughters of Canadian settlers, especially in Ontario, appear to belong to an improved race, so stalwart and robust are they as compared with their progenitors. So marked is this in some parts of the country that each successive "son and heir" outgrows his elder brother in strength and stature, and this notwithstanding in many cases the too free use of the goods sold at the "wayside inn."

Yet these are the men who, having made money, and in possession of what their English, Irish and Scotch forefathers so coveted, are casting ambitious eyes at the country store, eager to risk what they have saved in a business of which they know nothing beyond the primary idea that it is merely buying at wholesale and selling at retail. We have been at some pains to discover the proportion of the 5,000 odd mercantile failures of the present year and the two preceding years of depression, and find that about one in every six were originally farmers of the class we have been describing. This is a sad record, and it conveys a still stronger warning when it is remembered that very few of those who left their farms to become merchants have ever

succeeded in even holding their own. They who succeed best in any business are generally those who begin at the foot of the ladder, and are obliged to assist in the most menial services till aptitude and experience enable them to move higher step by step; they are able to count the cost, and when occasionally they fail in business for themselves, it is not through ignorance or incapacity. There are within our knowledge a few men who, having left the plow for the yard measure, have been successful, but they belong to that rare class who succeed in whatever they undertake, and who by their example perpetrate much mischief in the incentive to the many who are less gifted.

CANADIAN LIVE STOCK TRADE.

In view of the wrong impression which obtains as to the causes of the failure of the large firm of live stock traders, Messrs. Samuels & Co., of New York, who during the last season exported from Canada to Great Britain immense quantities of fat cattle, we deem it necessary to say that their shipments from this country were a source of considerable profit to them. That profit during the summer last past has been variously estimated. By some it has been placed at about \$10 per head on their cattle, and by others aggregated at from \$12,000 to \$20,000. At the root of Messrs. Samuel's difficulties were, we are informed, extensive land speculations in New York and vicinity, entered into upwards of a year ago, the consequences of which could necessarily have been little else than failure. Upon the whole the Canadian gentlemen who have recently ventured upon the cattle enterprise have done more than fairly well, and in their interests and in that of those who may subsequently go into this branch of business we again affirm that it is a line of operation which, properly conducted, cannot fail to pay, and the more so since that, recently, the British authorities have relieved Canada from many of the disabilities under which other countries labor. Recent advices inform us that in Great Britain it was expected the importation of live cattle from America and Canada would cease after the 1st October, instant; albeit eminent exporters have recently complained of a falling off in the demand owing to the Canadian beefs having to be placed in competition with the British grass-fed cattle, which it is customary to throw upon the market in the autumn in immense quantities. These British cattle have necessarily the advantage over those imported, since that they come upon the market fresh from their pastures, while the Canadian animals, instead

of being allowed a few days to recover themselves, are, after waiting twelve hours in most inconvenient yards for inspection, hurried off to the markets.

It is worthy of remark that at their various agricultural shows the farmers of Great Britain are and have been advocating the almost, if not altogether, entire prohibition of cattle imports, not as they say in the interest of protection, as politically understood, but in that of this protection of the farmer from the inroads of pleura-pneumonia and the foot and mouth disease, maladies brought over from Russia and the adjoining countries, with whom, so long as free intercourse was permitted, cattle disease could only be stamped out at an immense cost. Mr. W. T. Carrington, an eminent midland counties shorthorn cattle breeder, recently said at the Staffordshire Agricultural Society's Annual Exhibition: "There was now no doubt that foot and mouth disease and pleura-pneumonia were propagated by contagion, and if but one case of either disease came over on a vessel, no amount of purification of that vessel could remove the contagion from it, tainting the succeeding cargoes, which, in their turn, tainted the trucks that conveyed them to market." This ought to be a hint to Canadians who at present have no cattle disease among them; albeit the Texan cattle fever appears to be making a northerly advance. To be forewarned, as the old saying has it, is to be forearmed. Moreover, the exceptionally good position, capable of improvement as it yet is, occupied by Canadian cattle in the estimation of the British authorities should induce our farmers, since that almost all other countries are under the ban of breed, to fatten additionally large quantities of live stock for shipment during the months of April, May, June, July and August, either in the body or in the carcass, the latter, moreover, being a method which has proved to be remarkably successful, especially during winter. The figures which we have given as to the profits of Messrs. Samuel are about in the ratio in which other exporters have profited. A few milch cows as well as store cattle from Canada have also met a favorable reception in England. About 5,000 Canadian sheep have during the season been profitably disposed of in England, and a test shipment of live hogs, made by J. McShane, Jr., showed that there was another field for remunerative speculation. The British horse market has been overdone by Canada, besides, too many "weeds" have been exhibited there, it appearing to have been the impression upon this side that almost any sort of an animal would meet with a purchaser. This fallacious