

Who Shall Pay Loss from Diseased Animals.

On January 8th, 1912, there came into force on Toronto markets an impost upon the drovers, made by the abattoir companies, to which the drovers seriously objected. This was the levying of a tax of 20 cents per head on all cattle valued at upwards of 3½ cents per pound, and 50 cents per head on all those cattle selling for less than the said figure. This meant that the live-stock shippers of the Province of Ontario would have to pay the packers at least \$8.00 per carload of cattle delivered on the Toronto markets, to protect the packers against possible loss through disease not visible at the time of sale. The drovers took this as a bitter injustice, and, as a result, the run of cattle on the markets was light following the imposition. As the law is at present, all meats in packing establishments catering to interprovincial or export trade must be Government-inspected, but in the case of abattoirs catering exclusively to local or intra-provincial trade, no inspection is necessary. The result is that one family is eating Government-inspected meat, while their neighbors eat that which never came under the scrutiny of Government officials. The reason for the anomaly is that the several Provinces of Canada are held to have exclusive jurisdiction within their own limits as to matters of public health. The Meat Inspection Act is Dominion legislation. As yet, the Provinces have no such meat inspection legislation. Those packers who are subjected to inspection, while learning the losses of condemned carcasses, have, on the other hand, the benefit of the inspector's approved label, which gives them a marked advantage over the uninspected houses in their home market, as well as the privilege of competing for interprovincial trade. This might seem to be enough to reimburse them for losses from diseased carcasses, yet they wanted more, and it was the drovers to whom they looked for the rake-off. Taking eight dollars per car amounts to an enormous sum annually (about \$125,000, as stated by a well-known cattle-buyer), and, besides, the drovers claim in the neighborhood of \$20 to be their average profit on a carload of stock, so it is seen that practically half their net earnings would be wiped out.

To adjust matters, deputations waited on the packers, but to no avail, so a meeting of some two hundred or more prominent drovers met in the Temple Building, Toronto, on January 14th, to discuss ways and means.

The fact that Dr. J. G. Rutherford, Dominion Live-Stock Commissioner and Veterinary Director-General, and Hon. Jas. Duff, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, left press of work and were present, shows the importance of the meeting and its ultimate outcome to the public. As stated by one of the speakers, it is a question of vital importance to all. Someone must bear the loss. Who shall it be?

Dr. Rutherford, speaking to the assembly, pointed out that about 1492 cattle were rejected in Canada annually because of tuberculosis, which, he stated, was the real cause of the trouble. More inspected cattle are condemned on account of this than all other diseases together. Last year a deputation waited upon the Federal Government, asking that rejected animals be paid for by much the same system as hogs which are destroyed because of cholera. Dr. Rutherford showed that these were in no wise parallel cases, because in the one instance the Government destroys the animals on the premises, while in the other the animals are bought by abattoirs in good faith.

The question is clearly a business affair, as pointed out by Dr. Rutherford, and, while many drovers were in a fighting mood, he urged that they use tact and diplomacy in dealing with the packers, and make it not a fight, but a business transaction. From the face of the controversy, it looks as though the drovers, of all concerned, are least entitled to bear the loss. Dr. Rutherford believed that the producer should stand part of the loss, but stated that the packer and the public, which he defined as the Government, and the Government as the public, should, in his estimation, bear a part of it, as being the parties affected and interested.

Under the present system, where the establishments entering into the interprovincial trade are the only ones inspected, it is rather difficult to place the loss, or any fraction thereof, on the public. The Government, he said, were not, as far as he knew, able to do anything yet, and still, not promising anything, he advised the meeting to appoint a committee to confer with the packers, and, together with the Government, to

bring about a satisfactory solution. Stamping out tuberculosis would solve the problem, but this is a great task.

Hon. Jas. Duff thought, as the packers were protected, they should be in a position to bear the loss. He did not believe that farmers would sell, nor would drovers buy, cattle which they knew to be diseased. He believed that, under present conditions, the loss would eventually devolve upon the farmer, which is undoubtedly not right, and it is equally unjust for the drover to bear it. Buying in good faith, neither party to the deal knowing that the animal purchased is diseased, the last man holding the animal or carcass, as the case may be, at the time of inspection, which is the packer, should bear the loss, or the greatest share thereof.

W. F. McLean suggested that the loss be placed one-third on the packers, one-third on the Government, and one-third on the drovers and farmers, and, until settlement, the trade should revert to its former state.

A. W. Talbot, Beaverton; A. C. Dane, Brussels; J. M. Roach, Arthur; Dan Murphy, Mt. Forest; Samuel Hisey, secretary of the Live-stock Shippers' Association; J. R. Bates, president of the Association and chairman of the meeting, all expressed their disapproval of the action of the packers, believing that it was not within their jurisdiction to dictate such terms to them (the drovers).

The following resolution was adopted: "That the drovers are determined to stand together to resist the last impost of the packers, and that a committee be appointed to meet the packers, and report at 8.30 o'clock the same evening, and that the committee have full power to settle the trouble."

John Black, A. C. Dane, A. Y. Hall, S. Hisey, A. W. Talbot, H. B. Kennedy, Hon. Jas. Duff, E. Maybee, R. Bates, and Dr. J. G. Rutherford, as a committee, waited on the packers, and reported as follows: "All cattle sold to the abattoirs will be taxed a flat rate of 15 cents per head from January to July each year, and 20 cents per head from July to January, year after year, until such time as the Government takes up the matter."

This settlement met with the approval of all concerned.

If the drovers, in the end, were compelled to pay the loss, there is no doubt but that they would look to the producer or farmer for reimbursement, and buy at sufficient extra margin to cover this eight dollars per car. Eventually, the farmer would have to pay, or otherwise sell his cattle subject to inspection or the tuberculin test. It is tuberculosis again, and farmers and cattle feeders and breeders cannot be too careful in buy-

After the First Cross.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

By reading in your issue of January 4th Mr. MacKenzie's account of his most profitable mistake, I was amused, as well as reminded of one of the many mistakes I myself have made, which I will endeavor to relate as briefly as possible.

Some years ago, when starting on a farm for myself, my father gave me a few fairly good grade Leicester ewes. I had no thought of breeding up along any particular line, so concluded to purchase an Oxford ram to mate with my ewes (although against the advice of my seniors). I had seen the outcome of such crossing, and thought I was on the right track. In due time the lambs appeared—strong, healthy fellows, which grew like weeds. More convinced was I than ever that the younger generation, if growing weaker, was certainly growing wiser. When weaning time arrived, all were sold, with the exception of one fine pair of ewes—twins—which rushed right along. In due time they were bred and offspring arrived, but, to my surprise, were far from being anything to compare with their mothers, and at weaning time were not more than two-thirds of what the first cross were, and neither of those ewes ever raised a good lamb, although bred to different rams. One of them missed when about four years old, and got very fat, and I butchered her. She dressed 150 pounds, and I doubt if any of her offspring would dress half of that.

This was a breeding lesson which I never forgot, and have striven to breed along straight lines ever since in all classes of stock. It is an error which a great many farmers indulge in, and they do not get the experience until they pay for it as I did. Bought wit is the most valuable, if you do not have to pay too dear for it.

Grey Co., Ont.

JNO. R. PHILP.

Noticing the Little Things.

Success in the sheep business depends on the noticing of many little things. To this effect, Wallace's Farmer quotes Mr. Morris, the veteran feeder, of Kossuth Co, Iowa, who has topped the market with Christmas lambs for eighteen years: "A man, to succeed with sheep, must understand them, and, watching them constantly, be endeavoring to fill their needs. As illustrative of this point, he told about a German sheep-feeder whom he met fifteen or twenty years ago on the market. His

lambs were looking bad; their eyes were watering, and their noses, lips and tongues were sore. The German could not see what the cause of the trouble could be. Mr. Morris and he became friends, and the result was that Mr. Morris stopped off at his place. Going out in the sheepyard, he noticed a box of rock salt, and looking at it observed that there were shreds of flesh such as might have come from the sore lips and tongues. His conclusion was that, during the cold weather the lambs craved salt to such an extent that they licked the cold rock salt, even though it peeled their tongues and lips. The German feeder therefore decided never to use rock salt again. While Mr. Morris was telling us this,"



Tuttlebrook Sunflower (imp.).

Shire filly. First in two-year-old class, Ontario Winter Fair, Guelph, Ont. Exhibited by Porter Bros., Appleby, Ont. Sire Mangunsor Harold.

ing and breeding stock. Ventilation, light, and sanitary conditions of stabling are necessary. The importance of this disease is manifesting itself in divers manners, and it is a question involving the economies of the country, and not only our country, but others, as well. If we will permit the disease to exert and work its ravages in our herds, we will in the end be called upon to bear the loss. Stamp it out, and the sooner a war on it is commenced, the better.

adds our contemporary, "we wondered if the German's trouble was not a form of the foot-and-mouth disease, and if the rock salt were not simply an indirect cause, merely aiding by wounding the lips and tongues in spreading the disease from one lamb to another. Nevertheless, we are convinced that Mr. Morris' advice was good. At any rate, this feeder thought so, for he sent Mr. Morris a \$100 check by mail, which Mr. Morris, of course, refused."