

and, according to the price of steers last fall, such were worth in the vicinity of \$40. Another phase of this calf question is the necessity of our farmers making more manure. We have no hesitation in saying that to this will they have to look for their future prosperity. Tersely, it may be put in this way: No stock, no manure; no manure, no crops. The objection made by farmers to raising calves is that dairying and the former cannot be carried on simultaneously, and that, in order to obtain profits from the one, you must sacrifice the other; but this is a fallacy. In the large dairying counties of England, hundreds of calves are raised on skim milk and oatmeal, by farmers who make a specialty of this branch, and, hence, there should be no anomaly between calf-raising and cheese-making in this country. If any farmer in a central dairying point last spring had made a specialty of raising calves, he could have made handsome returns. From the present scarcity of stock it is evident this calf-killing is having a serious and detrimental effect on the prosperity of our farmers and the country at large; and it is to be hoped that for the coming season the demand for more stock will be promptly met by saving the calves. Steers are fully as valuable as heifers, and we safely assert that, in the Dominion of Canada, if, only for one year, the female offspring are saved, we should add to the wealth of the country a hundred fold. We should, according to the accounts that reach us, especially this year, try and rear as many calves as possible, for, through some unknown cause, a large majority of cows are farrow; if this be the case, we have no hesitation in saying that store cattle next fall will be dearer than ever. It need hardly be urged that whilst our farmers are breeding and raising calves, that attention should be paid to good breeding, and however scarce stock is, it don't pay to raise scrubs. By the intelligent breeding and rearing of calves for the future, Canadian farmers may expect a handsome return for their outlay. The increased export trade with the mother country will fully bear out this, and should fully convince our farmers that the rearing of calves is profitable. At a fair calculation, there are 200,000 calves recklessly and unprofitably slaughtered every year in Ontario, which could be raised, and which would tend to increase the general wealth of the country and the prosperity of the farmers at large.

#### Corn Culture.

It has always been a matter of surprise to us that corn has not been more generally cultivated by our farmers, when it is considered that, according to U. S. statistics, only one State in the Union exceeds Ontario in the average yield to the acre, and only two are equal to it in 1881. For a number of years now, this cereal has only been grown as a casual crop in small patches, probably for green corn, or enough to feed a few fowls, as it has been generally understood by the average farmer that corn was too much trouble, and it was not a paying crop. With this idea, no improved methods of cultivation were looked after, and a corn crop worked by hand on a piece of poor, dirty land has nothing promising about it. When farmers begin to understand maize culture better in Ontario, they can till ten acres with as much ease as they can do one now. For productiveness and value as feeding material, corn has no equal; indeed, on this side of the Atlantic, for cattle and hogs, it is looked upon as our standard cereal, and there is no other which can take its place, either for its grain or its value as forage, dried or prepared as ensilage. It is surprising, when land is in good tilth and clean, how easily a corn crop is managed; and it is of little use attempting to raise a profit-

able corn crop unless it is. Where farmers have failed in Ontario is not knowing and understanding the nature of soil best adapted to corn culture and the preparation of the land. To expect a paying crop off a poor soil, or soil too heavy and wet, is out of the question. There is no land that requires more thorough culture than a corn field, and there is no cereal that makes such a large return for the labor. In the vicinity of London we saw a field two years ago that yielded 80 bushels of shelled corn to the acre. Of course this was an exceptional crop, but it goes to show what we referred to in the report—that Ontario is one of the best corn raising countries on the continent. The average price of corn may not be expected to fall far below from 60c. to 70c. a bushel, as it will be always a standard feed; and taking one year after another, it is one of the safest and surest crops we have. Well cured corn stalks are inestimable either dry or as ensilage, and when both the grain and straw are taken into consideration, there is no other grain crop that can equal it in profit. Another phase of this corn question, and why its more general growth should be encouraged, is the immense profit derived from sweet corn for canning purposes. As this new industry develops there will be a keen demand for this class of corn, and remunerative prices will be paid. In different parts of the U. S. the factories buy the corn standing in the field, and pay from \$85 to \$150 per acre, according to the crop. Thus the farmer realizes this per acre besides having the straw for fodder. We see no reason why in central places through Canada these canning factories cannot be established, as such would be doubly profitable; first, as a source of wealth to our farmers, and again as affording profitable employment to a large number of hands. Several parts of Ontario are especially adapted to corn—say the counties of Essex and Kent.

Whether it be for a general crop or for canning, we say to our farmers, Grow more corn.

#### Cattle Disease in Scotland.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The great question among our Scotch farmers at the present time is the prevalence of foot and mouth disease, the introduction of which into the country last month (February) has led to much inconvenience and loss among cattle traders. The distemper has been clearly traced to the introduction of diseased Irish store cattle, which were exposed for sale in an Edinburgh cattle market. It is not quite clear how it came that they were not seized before landing at Glasgow, but once into the country the disease has spread with alarming rapidity near all the great cattle centres,—Edinburgh, Perth, Forfar, and Aberdeen. Its appearance has caused great dismay among breeders of pure stock, but as yet none of our pedigreed herds have been attacked. Owners of this description of stock will however suffer considerably in their purse on account of the disease.

The great joint sales of pure-bred Shorthorn and Polled bulls at Aberdeen, Perth and other places, have, as a result of the stringent restrictions enforced by the local authorities of the different counties as regards the removal of cattle from one place to another, had to be abandoned this spring. Sales are still permitted at the farms where the cattle are bred, or at any place where they have been for fourteen days and where no disease exists; but cattle can not in the meantime be moved out of the county in which the sales take place. This precludes farmers from a distance attending these sales, and the competition being reduced, cattle breeders must suffer considerable loss. Every effort has been made to check the further spread of

the disease, which as yet is mainly confined to the Edinburgh district, where it was first discovered, and the counties of Perth, Forfar, Aberdeen, Banff and Moray, and as the distemper is of a mild type—there being a total absence of deaths among the cattle attacked—the authorities are sanguine that it will soon be clean stamped out of the country. Cattle are not allowed to be moved out of one county to another, except for slaughter, and in every case a declaration has to be signed by the owner that they are free from disease and have not been in contact with any diseased animals, before the inspectors will grant a license for their removal.

The traffic in lean cattle is virtually prohibited, and it is expected that this season prices for store cattle will rule very high, the ordinary supplies having been stopped.

Pleurisy-pneumonia has also, I regret to say, broken out with great virulence in two counties in the north of Scotland, and several herds which have been attacked have been killed by order of the authorities, the owners receiving compensation, to a certain extent, from the counties. These outbreaks of disease could not have occurred at a more unfortunate time for breeders, as they were hoping for good sales for their bulls and surplus stock, that in some measure would have made up for past losses. There is no doubt, had the country been free from this insidious distemper, that the sales of this spring would have seen a great rise in prices, especially as regards Shorthorn bulls, which have for several years been decreased considerably in value. About thirty of these were sold last week, and realized an average of over £35. This shows a great rise in value as compared with the last few years.

Altogether the prospects of farmers and breeders have been clouded in consequence of the lamentable spread of foot and mouth disease. They are waiting anxiously for the new land bill promised by Mr. Gladstone's Government, which they expect will give them some measure of relief, in that they will be paid for unexhausted and permanent improvements which they leave on their farms at the end of the lease. How these unexhausted improvements—in regard particularly to manures—are to be valued, has never yet, so far as I have seen, been satisfactorily settled. There are many disadvantages under which farmers in this country labor which could be dealt with in a thorough-going land bill, the removal of which would do much to stimulate agriculture. The bill, as far as is possible, should put the two contracting parties on an equal footing.

Farm work is well advanced, the winter having been favorable. Sowing (cereals) has just commenced, but will not be general for about three weeks.

Aberdeen, March 4, 1883.

#### Beautifying School Grounds.

In rural districts the old log school-house has given away to the more imposing brick and frame structures, and the unsightly snake fence to graceful picket and board fences. According to the school law, also, accommodation is required for ample play grounds. By a little attention on the part of school corporations to ornamentation and tree planting, a great good could be accomplished in training our young to a love of the beautiful, and also making their play grounds so attractive that instead of going to school being a hardship to our young tyros, it would become a pleasure. Besides the cultivation of this taste, important lessons in botany could be derived from the study of trees, shrubs and flowers.

Why then should not our school yards be made more attractive than they are at present? It