

and a greater certainty as to the character of the climate.

The question will naturally arise, how is it so many farms can be purchased in this district, if the conditions of success are as great as they are represented to be? I think a satisfactory answer may be given, at any rate it shall be a correct reply. The work of improvement, which has been carried out by the emigrants of fifteen or twenty years back, has accustomed them to pioneer life, and having accomplished one task, they have less hesitation in seeking fresh opportunities for improving land especially if they have any particular inducement for doing so. In many of these cases the sons have grown up on the original farm, and the time has come for settling them in business upon farms of their own. Settlers of this class would seldom think of again attacking forest land, as they had done in the days of their youth, but they generally prefer the much easier work of the prairie. The consequence is that as they sell their farms they migrate to the North-West, and settle themselves and their sons upon farms in that district. To these hardy and experienced pioneers such a change does not involve any hardships, whilst their successors prosper on the farms which had been reclaimed for their use. The progress made in their original work of reclamation is even now illustrated by some very unattractive sketches, representing the farms on forest land as they are said to have appeared at the end of 5, 15, and 30 years. In these days, however, we look for quicker returns, and recent experience in Canada shows that it is attainable. Whatever may be the inducements which other portions of Canada hold out and they are certainly great—this district has already attained a manufacturing and industrial power, and possesses such wealth producing capabilities, that her future prosperity is practically assured.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

(Conducted by Dr McEachran, F. R. V. C.)

THE CATTLE TRADE OF CANADA; ITS FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

Recent events in connection with the question of the meat supply of Great Britain, and other European countries, from the North American and Australian Continents, are worthy of the attention of our readers. It is well known that notwithstanding the fact of Australia and the United States being both on the scheduled list of countries from whence importation of animals is permitted for slaughter only, an immense and profitable trade has been developed, in both live stock and dead meats; and, owing to our northern and colder climate, while our grasses are luxuriant and nutritious, we cannot produce the feed stuffs which grow abundantly in both the United States and Australia: therefore, in a competition with either country in dead meats we are at a decided disadvantage. What then is the course open for our Canadian farmers to pursue?

The following statement made a few days ago by Mr. F. Lingham, and subsequently endorsed by Sir Alexander Galt, C. M. G., we think clearly indicates our course.—He says: "When in England a few weeks ago, I was informed by Lord Dalhousie that the Canadian cattle were very highly thought of by the Scotch farmers, and he instanced some of his own tenants who had bought Canadian cattle for stockers: they gave £20 a piece for them, fed them eight weeks, and sold them for £30. His Lordship was convinced that there will be an immense demand this year for them."

Messrs. Lingham and Kennedy sent Canadian cattle by S.S. "Surrey" to London. They were bought mostly by Scotch farmers to take north to feed; but owing to quarantine regulations, they were unable to bring them home, and they were sold in London for £2 7s. 6d. less for beef than these men

were paying to carry them north to feed. Mr. Lingham was informed by them that they never knew stock take on flesh so rapidly as good grade Canadians.

He was of the opinion that the three or four weeks of housing and feeding in transit prepared them for feeding, so that when they reach the home farms, they are in the very condition to utilize the nutritious feeding stuffs with which they are liberally and judiciously fed. In view therefore of the above facts, and owing to the fact that our stock are entirely free from contagious disease, and that, in consequence, this is almost the only country from whence live animals can be imported, our course is clearly to increase the annual production of cattle and sheep to the utmost capacity of the farms, and instead of going to the expense of feeding them for beef, let them be exported as store cattle to be fed in Britain.

It is the opinion of many that this is the trade which will be done altogether in the Provinces in the near future. Now, if we accept this surmise as correct, the duty of our farmers is clear: they must improve their stock by using thorough-bred bulls, and certainly there can be no excuse for not doing so, with such herds as those of Senator Cochrane, Mr. George Whitfield, R. H. Pope, Dawes & Co., Andrew Allan, and others in Quebec; the Bow Park Herd, Geary Brothers, Gibson, Attil, Beatty, Stone, and others in Ontario, to obtain bulls from the very best blood which is obtainable in or out of England of Short Horn, Polled-Angus, Hereford, and Galloway blood, the surplus of which are at present sent annually to Chicago and Kansas City for sale. Let our own farmers invest in these valuable young bulls, let Agricultural Societies, instead of giving their money in insignificant but multitudinous prizes at exhibitions, the beneficial effects of which are open to question, and certainly not demonstrable, buy pure-bred bulls for the use of their members, and we are convinced they will accomplish their mission—the advancement and improvement of Agriculture—far more certainly than by any other means. Complaints are often made of the scrub quality of too many of our exported beasts; certainly many of them are not a credit to us, and yet it costs just as much to feed one of these as it does to feed a good one: perhaps more.

We also believe that our cattle trade, with the exception of those fed at distilleries, will be confined to stockers, (1) and, if our suggestion is carried out, the time is not far distant when thousands of our heifers will be exported for breeding purposes, at paying prices. These remarks are applicable only to the older Provinces of Canada, but we look forward to the development of a very large trade in beef with the Eastern towns and cities in Canada, and perhaps England also, from the grazing belt at the foot-hills of the Rocky Mountains.

THE FUTURE OF THE BEEF TRADE IN THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.—Many of our readers may not be aware that Canadians have one of the richest pasture lands to be found anywhere, in the district of Alberta, in the North-West Territories. It commences at the boundary line, the Territory of Montana in the United States forming its southern limit. It extends north about six hundred miles, and from the base of the mountains, say, about fifty or sixty miles; in some places further.

The soil is one of the richest black moulds conceivable, it is abundantly watered by rivers of considerable magnitude, and innumerable smaller streams and springs abound everywhere. The vegetation is therefore luxuriant, nearly the whole extent is covered by what is commonly called bunch-grass, which grows from three to fifteen inches in height, and covers the soil like a thick mat. On many of the ranges, hay

(1) By *stockers* is meant lean beasts for fattening. In England, &c., they always fetch a higher price, proportionally, than fat beasts.