

owner of the stock is not allowed to make any use either of the milk product, or as beef, and consequently his affected stock are a total loss. This we think is unfair to the breeder, and that some legislation should be passed at the coming session of Parliament to remove the difficulty. If the law were so modified that animals which responded to the test, but were otherwise in good flesh, and apparently in good health, might be disposed of for beef purposes under proper inspection a large share of the present trouble would be overcome.

If the breeder were to blame for having tuberculosis in his herd the authorities would be perfectly justified in demanding that his herd be destroyed, if it were proven conclusively that the cattle were affected. But when the owner of the stock is quite innocent regarding the presence of the disease, it does seem unfair that he should go without some compensation for his loss. Laws are in force in regard to insects which injure fruit, etc., by which the owner of the trees destroyed is partially recompensed for his loss. Even the new law in regard to the destruction of the San Jose scale allows the owner of the orchard destroyed a compensation to the extent of one-fourth of the value of the trees destroyed. If it is right to recompense the owners of fruit trees destroyed in order to get rid of a pest, surely it is just that the stockman who suffers loss through the tuberculin test should receive some compensation.

Then again, it is open to question whether it is necessary to destroy all cattle which react to the tuberculin test. There are, no doubt, cases where an animal in ordinary good health will react to the test under certain conditions and not have a trace of tuberculosis. The person performing the test whether he be a veterinarian or not should be very sure of his ground when he gives orders that animals which react have the real thing.

In regard to veterinary inspection of herds supplying milk to the cities, we believe that it will not be many years before every large city in the Dominion will compel all those supplying milk for use by its citizens to have their herds submitted for veterinary inspection. Only recently the court decided that the law passed by the city of Winnipeg in regard to the inspection of the dairies supplying milk to the city was within its authority, and henceforth those supplying milk will have to submit to its regulations. Such a law may seem rather severe to many dairymen, but if they could visit some of the dairies near the outskirts of our large cities where cows are fed on brewers' grains and kindred feeds in the midst of surroundings that are anything but conducive to the health of the cows, they would consider that some kind of inspection, be it veterinary or otherwise, was absolutely necessary in order to ensure the good health of the citizens. Tuberculosis is now considered by the leading authorities to be more contagious than hereditary. Such being the case, an animal living in conditions that are not conducive to its good health is more likely to take the disease.

#### Our English Letter.

THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION *re* THE QUARANTINE REGULATIONS MEETS WITH FAVOR FROM THE BRITISH BREEDERS.

(By Our Regular Correspondent.)

LONDON, Eng., Jan. 15th, 1898.

Your weekly issue of December 14th, 1897, contained the most important announcement in respect to live stock interests that has been made for a considerable time, it being none other than the removal of one of the great preventives of free importation from here of our pedigree cattle. Of course such a course as is now adopted could not be other than satisfactory to our breeders. But it must be equally so to your own farmers. The reason for this is clearly given in the same issue of your paper in the very able address given on the Beef Cattle Trade by Mr. John I. Hobson. That paper was one of not only interest but importance. A Canadian talking to Canadians, and thus without doubt being fully desirous of doing his best to promote Canada's welfare. There is no gainsaying

the fact that, no matter from whence it comes, this country must year by year increase its imports. Those imports will, of course, be of differential qualities, but to the finest and best the higher price will go. Hence it is for your breeders to determine which class they will send as the best or second rate. To succeed in supplying the former we are distinctly told by Mr. Hobson that they need fresh blood to renovate their herds. This is only as it should be. We take your beef; you take our pedigree stock. A still more satisfactory feature in respect to this announcement is that it signifies not only a theoretical, but that a practical and direct interest is taken in respect to the farmers' wishes and desires by those whose duty it is to legislate for the benefit of all.

The Southdown Society of England have recently taken steps of grave import. In the first place, Mr. W. W. Chapman, of Fitzalan House, Arundel street, Strand, London, has failed, after six years' continuous service, to secure re-election as secretary by a majority of one vote only in a large meeting of twenty. The council, however, fully, we think, recompensed Mr. Chapman for his loss of the secretarial office by making him an honorary life member of the society, with a seat in the council. Such a compliment as this is one no Southdown man will for a moment aver is not justly due to Mr. Chapman for his hard work during the long period he has been in office, and he has our hearty congratulations on his appointment. As to whether the course adopted by the society in changing its chief executive officer is right, time alone will show, but we are certainly of the opinion that there is every likelihood of the net result being a loss to the society. The second point was the adoption, by unanimous vote of the council, of a report of a committee appointed to consider and, if desirable, define certain defects that should debar otherwise good sheep from becoming prize-winners. The five points that were unanimously agreed to were as follows: 1st, Horns, or any evidence thereof; 2nd, dark poll; 3rd, blue skin; 4th, speckled face, ears and legs; 5th, bad wool; and, in addition to this, the council unanimously resolved that this report, as well as certain resolutions bearing thereupon, should be sent to all selected persons who are on the society's judges' list. For any society to take such definite action as this is a matter of importance. The need of some such definite and fixed rule is, however, plainly apparent to all who have watched the English show-yard award for the past few years. For the sake of the breed, and for the benefit of its breeders, we sincerely hope and trust that the judges of the future will enforce the recommendation of the report.

#### Sanitation in Cheese Factories.

We make the following quotation from the report of Mr. T. B. Millar, travelling inspector for the Western Butter and Cheese Association, presented at the London convention last week. Mr. Millar has for the past seven years acted as inspector for the Western Association, and during that time has visited nearly every factory in Western Ontario and many of them a score of times, and consequently is well able to speak in regard to this matter.

"I am sorry to report that the sanitary condition of a great many factories is far from being what it should be. In fact some of them are so bad that it is really alarming; poor floors and no drainage whatever, and with pools of rotten whey under the factory enough to create a disease. In such cases the curds are exposed to the worst forms of bacterial life, and who can tell what the result may be? As far as I am aware there is little or nothing being done to better this unsatisfactory condition of things. I would urge upon the directors of this Association to do their utmost to have sanitary inspectors appointed for the coming season with power to close such factories till they are made right."

In FARMING a few weeks ago we discussed this question and we are glad to have our views backed up by so good an authority as Inspector Millar.

There can be no question about it that the sanitary condition of many of the factories that are now engaged in making cheese is not what it should be. Those looking after the welfare of our dairy interests have a big task before them in regard to this matter. What the Associations should do is to agitate that the Provincial Board of Health should take this matter up and see to it that no factories are allowed to operate unless the sanitary conditions are right. By making the inspectors officers of the board of health they could visit factories and compel them to be closed unless the laws regarding sanitary conditions were complied with.

The enforcement of good sanitary laws is necessary both for the public health and for keeping up the quality of our dairy products. As Mr. Millar points out, these unsanitary conditions such as bad drainage, bad floors, etc., must affect the flavor of the cheese in the process of manufacture, and therefore, for the benefit of the cheese industry, something should be done. There is nothing to prevent any factory from having good sanitary arrangements. Only a little expense would be required to keep the drainage and floors perfect, and the surroundings of the factories clean. The difficulty is that the cost of production is being cut down so low that factories, whether owned by private individuals or by the patrons themselves, are loth to spend any more than they can possibly help. This is "a penny wise and pound foolish" policy.

#### Our Experimental Farms Commended.

In a recent number of the *Nineteenth Century Magazine*, the famous Russian scientist, Prince Kropotkin, contributes an article on "Recent Science." A good share of the article is devoted to a consideration of the scientific value of the experimental farms and agricultural colleges of Canada, which the Prince visited last summer while here attending the British Association. The views of so distinguished a scientist will be of great interest to the farmers of Canada. He likens the work on an experimental farm to a laboratory in the open air where the questions are put directly to nature. The experimental work, he claims belongs to the realm of experimental science and is conducted on a truly scientific basis by a small staff.

The Prince points out that the chief aim of these experimental farms seems to be to find out which varieties of the different grains, etc., give the best yields under the varying conditions as found upon the different farms. While this is the main object, the development of new varieties especially suited to each separate region was apparently better understood than in Europe where it had been so long neglected. He believes that many of the poor crops of Europe are due to simply a want of change of seed.

He feels sure that the time was rapidly coming when the Manitoba farmer with his wonderfully productive soil will have to study the question of manuring the land.

Another phase of the work on the farms that seemed to please him was the attention given to forestry, and the efforts that are being made to develop suitable trees for the prairies. He also points out that experiments are being conducted in British Columbia in the mountain slopes to find out how high up these slopes can be used for growing fruit trees successfully.

He mentions the good work done at the creameries on the Dominion farms and at Guelph, and points out that we are much ahead of the European agricultural experimental stations in our facilities for placing before the general public the results of experiments.

#### CANADA'S FARMERS.

We present this week the photo of a well-known stockman, Mr. Richard Gibson, of Delaware. For a sketch of Mr. Gibson's life and work we would refer our readers to the issue for March, 1897, where a very full account is given. Mr. Gibson has rendered good service to the breeders of Canada, in fact of America, both as a successful breeder and as an expert judge, and we are pleased to present him as one of Canada's Farmers.