

Close Our Ports.

Farmers, read the following taken from the *Country Gentleman*, Jan 30:—

"I was living in Alabama, near Eufaula, when I first saw the disease now known as hog cholera, in the fall of 1860 or 1861. It broke out among my largest hogs, and only a few died. I then knew nothing of the disease, not even as 'hog cholera,' and it struck me at the time as a disease of the brain. We tried bleeding and other simple remedies for those first attacked, without any effect, so we stopped all remedies and let nature take its course. Several that were sick got well, and more than half the number I had at that time (over 100 head) escaped taking the disease. In 1866 I moved from Alabama and settled where I am now living, in Floyd county, Ga.; a country noted for its salubrity of climate, pure springs of water, and clear mountain streams, and a country famous for its grain crops, clover, grasses, and fruits, as well as cotton. I am thus particular in describing this country, as I am going to give my opinion on 'hog cholera,' from what I have seen and observed. I have seen a great deal of it since living in this section of Georgia.

"About every three years it seems to break out afresh among my hogs, and I can trace no cause from contagion. Sometimes I have it among my hogs, when my nearest neighbors living in sight do not have it among their hogs, and sometimes my neighbors have it when I am free from it; therefore, I do not believe it contagious. As for corn diet, I have tried that sufficiently, and have seen it fairly tested, with hogs that ate very little corn, and mostly subsisted by feeding on what they procured in the woods and turned-out fields. These are equally as liable to the cholera, and have it and die off, as those fed regular from the crib. A preventative or cure has not yet been discovered to my knowledge, and for the last two or three years when it has broken out among my hogs, I left them to their fate. Some get well, but most of them die. From the appearance of the disease so far as my observation goes, I have been long satisfied in my own mind, that there is no cholera about it. What it is, I am unable to discover, but so far as what I have seen of typhoid fever among the human family, I am inclined to the opinion that the disease termed 'hog cholera' partakes more of a typhoid type than that of cholera. I believe it is difficult for doctors to settle on the cause of typhoid fever, and so it seems to be with this scourge, that it is so fatal to hogs and poultry.

"I have come to the conclusion that the only safety is to ascertain what produces the disease, and then we may try and guard against it. There is no doubt of its being a disease that was unknown up to 1860, when it made its appearance, and ever since has been the great scourge in pork-growing. Our only hope is that men of science may discover the nature of the disease, and ascertain what produces it. Like typhoid fever, it is confined to no one locality, but it is a general disease throughout the United States. The so-called 'chicken cholera' is even more fatal than the hog cholera, and is believed by most persons to be contagious. It makes its appearance as does the hog cholera, missing one or two years, and then breaking out again. But how can it be considered contagious among poultry, when it breaks out on isolated farms, where the poultry has no intercourse with other poultry, and reappears after a lapse of time, as among hogs? There is a cause that produces the disease, but what that cause is, is to be ascertained. We find it equally as fatal in malarious climates as in salubrious ones, among the swamps as in the mountains—in a word, everywhere.—[J. H. Dent, Floyd County, Ga.]

In our last issue we called attention to the Rinderpest, or Pleuro-Pneumonia; which ever it may be, we don't want it. We neither want trichina in our pork, nor do we want this flesh eating grub spoken of in this issue; neither do we want the hog or chicken cholera.

Diseases do pass from animals to man. Are our descendants to be swept off the face of the earth by any of these dangerous and destructive pests that infest the United States? No! We must protect our stock, our families and our country, and the only safe way to do it is to close our ports against any of these dangerous disorders. Immediate action should be taken; no paltry side issues should be heeded. We are as yet free from these pests; keep us so. The farmers, we know, will support us in the request to close our ports against animals that are diseased.

A Call.

Mr. J. Waterous, sen., of the Waterous Manufacturing Co., Brantford, should be invited to Ottawa to give his views about opening trade with foreign nations. If his remarks were heard and acted upon they would tend more to benefit this Dominion than half what our M. P.'s will do all the time they are in Ottawa.

PROMPT ACTION.—As we go to press we notice that our Dominion Government has caused an investigation to be made as to American cattle diseases, which, we presume, will cause the closing of our ports to American cattle. Hogs should also be excluded. We trust that our farmers' interests may be placed as they should be above all others; if they are, we feel sure our ports will be closed against these threatening dangers.

A \$4,000 Libel Suit.

The way of the libeller is hard, as has been very forcibly shown in the important libel suit just concluded at the Assizes, brought by the Ontario Copper Lightning Rod Company of this city against one Simeon Hewitt, a Brantford lightning rod dealer. This suit was instituted in respect of a libel published by Hewitt in June last, in a Toronto paper called the *Saturday Night*, and also in some three or four thousand posters and hand-bills which were issued by him in May last.

The alleged libel consisted in the defendant, in the article and the posters and hand-bills referred to, charging the plaintiff's Company "with practicing an imposition on the public by selling their rod for 37½ cents per foot," and asking the public to beware of the plaintiff's agents as extortionists. The defendant endeavored at the trial to prove that the alleged libellous matter was true; but in this he failed, it having been shown that the prices charged by the plaintiffs for their rods left a very small margin for profits after deducting expenses.

The case occupied the greater part of three days, and great interest was taken in the result. The jury returned a verdict that the libel charged was false and malicious, and awarded the plaintiffs \$4,000 damages.

Much as the plaintiffs must be pleased with the substantial nature of the verdict, still more must they value the complete justification of their course of dealing with the public which it imports.

Mr. Oaler, Q. C., and Mr. Teetzel for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Robertson, Q. C., and Mr. Wilkes for the defendant.—[Hamilton Times.]

A Few Words Regarding a Successful Insurance Company.

To keep our readers posted at all times on matters affecting their interests is our duty. The other day we visited the office of the London Mutual Insurance Company, and had the pleasure of meeting a few of the Directors. We found that the business of the Company was progressing, and although the losses have been exceptionally numerous this year from "lightning,"—21 total losses, 32 damages and 19 claims for live stock killed by lightning in the fields,—that the aggregate would not foot up much higher, if as high, as last year—something about \$66,000. The manager states that the receipts of the Company have increased very considerably, and remarked, "We will show a tip-top report next year, one that we never approached before since I gave you your first policy 20 years ago."

We were one of the first policy-holders in the Company, and have had every reason to be satisfied. The Company have paid out nearly three-quarters of a million of dollars amongst the farmers of Canada, and the Directors are not the men to quibble or take advantage of any one. The London Mutual has been the only successful Farmers' Insurance Company in the Dominion, and this is owing in a great measure to their avoiding speculative insurance. This year the Company have had claims in 146 Townships in Ontario, which will show the extent of the Company's operations. Another thing we like about this old Company is that any member can inspect the books when he wishes, and the officials are ever ready to give information.

The annual meeting will be held on the third Wednesday in February.

Stock Breeding.

Messrs. D. A. Appleton & Co., New York, will accept our thanks for the above named book. It is a practical treatise on the application of the laws of development and heredity to the improvement and breeding of domestic animals. It is written by Manly Miles, late Professor of Agriculture in the Michigan Agricultural College. It is a work well deserving the attention of all stock breeders that wish to understand the real principles of stock breeding.

D. P. True, Leeds, Me., reports the loss of about fifty Northern Spy apple trees just coming into bearing, by heaping hay mulch quite high about the trunks, "causing the bark to rot at the base." Also that an orchard kept in grass and pastured by sheep is in much better condition and its fruit much more free of worms, than another of same size and same age on same kind of soil, ploughed and dressed three years and then seeded and mowed. In the latter "the trees now show signs of dying."

A single steamer delivered at London the week before Christmas, a valuable consignment of American poultry, comprising two hundred and three barrels of turkeys and nine cases of geese and ducks, nearly four thousand head in all. Canada has also been exporting poultry in large quantities, and we hope her exports will increase.

A number of American diseased cattle have been shipped to England in a Canadian vessel with Canadian stock. The disease infected the Canadian stock. England has now closed her ports against diseased animals. If we had closed our ports soon enough it would have redounded to our favor.

The Ontario Poultry Association will hold an Exhibition in Guelph on the 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th of February, 1879. Entries close on the 22nd of February.

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE.**Agricultural Education.**

SIR,—It is my opinion that the FARMERS' ADVOCATE has done more good for the farmers of Canada than the Ontario School of Agriculture has done or is likely to do. Why should we be taxed to educate the wealthy? If this school has done any good we should like to hear of it. Why do you not give us more information about it? If the Government really wished to give more agricultural education they might order a number of the FARMERS' ADVOCATE to be read in every school in the Dominion. There is much in it that might be read with pleasure and profit by all.

Wishing the ADVOCATE staff a "Happy New Year."
D. H., Strathroy, Ont.

SIR,—Can you direct me where I can get pure Black Spanish and Brown Leghorn eggs, as I wish to breed for exhibition?

J. M., Westville, N. S.

[If any poultry fanciers have such to dispose of they should insert card in this journal.]

Salt.

SIR,—I am well pleased with the ADVOCATE, and please send it on another year. I have seen a great deal about the use of salt lately in your paper. I have used it on turnips, barley and spring wheat, with good results. Do you think it would do to sow on fall wheat in the spring? I did not sow any last spring on account of the wet weather, but a neighbor sowed a field and left a space through the middle of the field, which could plainly be seen, particularly when heading out, about a week behind in heading. What amount should be sown to the acre?
J. C., Clinton.

[It will answer to sow salt on winter wheat in the spring. Sow about 15 lbs. to the acre; some sow more and some sow less.]

SIR,—I have foot rot in my sheep. Can you give me a cure in the ADVOCATE?
R. B., Hazel Grove

[Pare the hoofs off with a good knife, scrape the earth, &c., away, and wash with a strong vitriol wash.]