

in the inquiry, the result of which will be fully made known in the first number of the *Journal* for next year. The implements for which prizes will be given in the ensuing year, consist of fixed and portable steam engines, fixed and portable threshing machines, finishing machines, hand pressing machines, barley hummers, chaff cutters, mills, crushers, oil cake breakers, bone mills, turnip cutters, and field gates, and as a period of four years will have elapsed since the trial of some of those classes of implements, it is to be anticipated that many improvements will be exhibited. The country meeting next year will be held in the week commencing Monday, the 15th of July. Prizes to the amount of £2,925 are offered by the society for live stock, and £430 for implements, while £370 are added by the Suffolk Agricultural Society and the Local Committee. It is also proposed to offer £200 in prizes for poultry, the eastern counties having long been famous for their success in this department.

Mr H. S. Thompson, the President of the Society, in his address referred to the all engrossing subject of the cattle plague. He estimated that during little more than a year, the number of cattle that in Great Britain had fallen victims to this disease amounted to 209,332. The total pecuniary loss to the country could not, he thought, be less than three millions sterling. "It was mortifying to reflect," he observed, "that (humanly speaking) this vast loss might have been in a great measure prevented if we had not been too proud to profit by the experience of our own and other nations who had frequently to battle with this terrible scourge, and who had uniformly come to the conclusion, after repeated attempts at cure, that immediate isolation of the cattle exposed to contagion, and slaughter of all animals attacked by the rinderpest was the only mode of escaping heavy loss." He combated the notion that the disease had become less virulent in its character, considering it just as fatal as at the commencement. He counselled the authorities not to relax the stringent regulations which had been found necessary in dealing with the evil, till every trace of the disorder had disappeared from the land. Permanent regulations should further be made for the safe importation of foreign cattle, of which those intended for immediate consumption should be slaughtered at the ports of debarkation, if not at the place of export; and store cattle should be subject to efficient inspection and quarantine. Fresh meat had already become an article of daily importation, and a return from the Board of Trade showed that in the month of October, 3,428,000 lbs. of meat, the greater portion fresh mutton, had been imported into England. He next referred to the increasing scarcity of labour and the consequent rise in wages, and recommended certain measures that should give the labourer a greater interest in the land. The steady advances made in steam cultivation were noticed in glowing terms; and the yet undeveloped resources of the country and increasing foreign trade were pointed out. In regard to Ireland, it was aptly remarked: "If our acute but misguided fellow-countrymen in Ireland would abandon their Penian follies, and devote themselves heartily to the cultivation of green crops and the improvement of their pasture lands, they might appropriate a large portion of the vast sums that are now expended in bringing live stock from the most distant parts of Europe. Even now there are more cattle in Ireland than in England—3,493,000 against 3,307,000, and this number might with ease be very largely increased. Dairy produce too, which has for some years been very remunerative, need fear no competition from distant countries." A very remarkable result of the cattle plague had been the largely increased supply of country milk to the metropolis and other large towns. "There are now more than 220 stations sending milk to London, by passenger or special milk trains, from distances varying from 7 to 190 miles, for a charge varying from a minimum of 1d. to a maximum of 2d. a gallon for the whole distance. The total quantity thus carried during 1866, might be estimated at 7,000,000 gallons." It is to be hoped for the sake of our trans-Atlantic city cousins,

that this enormous influx of country milk into the metropolis will alter the quality of the commodity usually known as "London milk." Mr Thompson concluded his very able address by observing that "under the good providence of God, who has promised the return of seed time and harvest so long as the world endures, the present prospects of English agriculture are highly encouraging. By means of the increased facilities of transport, both by sea and land, we are continually obtaining access to whole nations of new customers, and so long as our foreign trade continues to increase, so long will the consumption of our home grown commodities be such as to provide a remunerative demand for all the beef and the beer, the milk, butter, and cheese, which the combined practice with science of our farmers may enable them to supply." The address embraced topics of great and general interest, and furnished wise suggestions to which we in Canada may profitably give heed.

New Vegetable Fibre.

WE have been favoured by Mr. Kirkwood, of Ottawa, with a specimen of a new fibre which he has been for some time engaged in investigating, and which he purposes sending among the contributions to the Paris Exhibition from this country. This vegetable fibre is quite a novelty, and, if it realizes the expectations of the discoverer, will be the basis of a new industry. It is a silky material of great beauty and fineness, obtained from the stems of the *asclepias Cornuti*, or common milk weed, or silk weed, as it is sometimes called, well known from its growth on our highways. Mr. Kirkwood believes the fibre to be well adapted to the manufacture of those articles in which silk is now employed. This plant is easily cultivated, and grows from three to four feet high. It is estimated that an average produce of 300 pounds per acre clear fibre could be easily obtained, which, it is believed, could be worth about 20 cents per pound, which would amount to sixty dollars an acre. This new fibre has not yet been tested by an application to manufactures, although it is Mr. Kirkwood's intention to have it done in England. Mr. Kirkwood has been placed under obligations to Professor Hincks, of University College, Toronto, who has aided him in his investigations regarding the quality of this interesting vegetable fibre. We shall be curious to hear the result of the experiment of its manufacture in England, and meanwhile we would recommend the enterprising discoverer to pursue his investigations.

Cattle Traffic Bill.

CONSIDERABLE attention is now being paid in England to the subject of the importation and transit of cattle, with a view to the prevention of the introduction and spread of rinder-pest, and other infectious disorders. An Act of Parliament, it is expected, will shortly be passed for the regulation of the cattle traffic, and in anticipation of such a measure, the Chamber of Agriculture have agreed to memorialize the Government on the subject—a step which has also been taken by many other agricultural associations in England. We in Canada shall do wisely to take a lesson from the history of the fearful scourge that has made such havoc among English herds, and be warned in time to make such regulations as may prevent the incursion of a similar plague into this country, or meet the exigencies of the case at the outset, if the evil should appear among us. We subjoin a report, which we extract from the *North British Agriculturist*, of the suggestions which the Chamber of Agriculture especially recommends. Some of these suggestions are well worthy the attention of our legislature, and all interested in the transit and traffic of cattle in this Province.—

"1. That the importation of foreign stock should be confined to certain ports specially licensed by

government, which ports should be provided with suitable markets, slaughter-houses, quarantine grounds, and officers. That all foreign fat stock should be forthwith slaughtered at such markets, and that all store stock should be subjected to twenty-eight days' quarantine before they are permitted to move inland.

"2. That should the rinderpest or sheep-pox be again imported or break out afresh, slaughtering and compensating powers similar to those of the Cattle Diseases Act of February last should at once be put in force, and the district proclaimed.

"3. That stringent regulations should be made with regard to the expeditious transit and watering of animals conveyed on railways, and that a thorough cleansing of all trucks, pens, and layers, and the proper space and ventilation of the holds of cattle-boats, should be enforced by Government inspection.

"6. That the wilful exposure of any animal suffering from such contagious diseases as rinderpest, pleuro-pneumonia, sheep from scab and glanders, upon any highway, boat, or railway, or in any market or fair, should be an offence punishable with fine or imprisonment.

"5th and 1st. That a more stringent inspection of all dead meat, especially that imported from countries known to be suffering from cattle plague, should be enforced by the Government."

CANADA POULTRY ASSOCIATION.—The usual meeting of the Canada Poultry Association will be held in Toronto during the coming week; due notice will be given of the time of meeting.

THE HONEY BEE.—We invite attention to a series of articles explaining the nature and habits of this insect, from the pen of Mr. J. H. Thomas of Brooklyn, the second of which appears in the Apiary department of our present issue.

Agricultural Intelligence.

Premium Farming in Knox County, Illinois.

THE following awards were made on field crops at the annual meeting of the Knox County Agricultural Society, as reported by the Secretary, Wm. Muir:

BEST 5 ACRES OF SPRING WHEAT.—A. N. Phelps, of Sparta. The amount raised on five acres and forty rods, as measured, was 142 bushels and 14 pounds. Premium, \$3.

BEST CROP OF OATS.—A. N. Phelps, Sparta. The amount of oats raised on five acres and forty rods was 441 bushels. Premium, \$3.

BEST CROP OF INDIAN CORN (1 ACRE).—A. N. Phelps, Sparta, 98 bushels, 27 pounds. John A. Wise, Orange, 96 bushels, 35 pounds. Mr. Phelps entitled to the premium, \$8.

BEST CROP OF INDIAN CORN (10 ACRES).—A. N. Phelps, average per acre 98 bushels, 27 pounds. Henry Seitz, Knox, average per acre 97 2-3 bushels. James McKissick, Salem, average per acre 84 bushels, 30 lbs. D. B. Huggins, Knox, average per acre 75 1/2 bushels. Mr. Phelps is entitled to the premium, which is Messrs. Parlin & Orendorf's cast steel Clipper Plough, and \$15.

BEST CROP OF INDIAN CORN (40 ACRES).—John A. Wise, Orange, an average per acre of 96 bushels, 35 pounds. The premium is \$20.—*Prairie Farmer*.

Smithfield Club Cattle Show.

It is needless to state that this annual exhibition of fat cattle and other stock in England brought together as usual a notable assemblage of splendid animals. The entries in the cattle classes were somewhat fewer than in former years, on account of the novel condition imposed by the exigencies of the rinderpest, that all cattle exhibited should be slaughtered within four days after the exhibition closed. Notwithstanding this rule, we are told, that among 192 cattle present, scarcely an inferior beast could be seen. In addition to the show of pure bred animals, some interesting and instructive examples of cross or mixed breeds were exhibited—some between the Shorthorn and Scotch, also between the Shorthorn and Ayrshire were highly successful.