

The Canadian Cattle Trade.

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In the last two numbers of the *L. Journal* we endeavored to point out to our readers the desirability of their paying more attention to breeding cattle fit for exportation, and suggested the propriety of using well bred Shorthorn bulls so as to produce size, quality, early maturity, and fattening properties, which are the essentials in raising cattle for beef. We also pointed out that both the necessity for, and the means of accomplishing it, are within their reach.

Since our last issue events have transpired which are likely to lead to a large demand for Canadian cattle, and which we are sure will more than emphasize our suggestions, and will convince our farmers that if they would hold their own as cattle breeders they must improve their stock, and from this time forward they must raise their calves and feed them for beef, instead of killing them for veal, and milking their cows at very unprofitable returns for food and labor.

Our Dominion Government, with praiseworthy watchfulness of the interests of the agriculturist, acting on the suggestion of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, commissioned the Principal of the Montreal Veterinary College to investigate the truthfulness of certain reports of contagious diseases prevailing in the United States.

On the 15th of January he left for Washington, District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland, where he found a very fatal disease known as Pleuro-pneumonia, or Lung Plague, was prevailing to a considerable extent in the above named places. He also made enquiries at Philadelphia, but failed to discover it there. At New York (Brooklyn), the whole of Long Island and New Jersey it is also prevalent.

These facts being communicated to the Canadian Government, within a few days an order was passed in Council prohibiting cattle from entering Canada from the United States for three months. Shortly after an order was passed in England that all cattle from the United States, from the 3rd of March next, would not be permitted to enter any port in Great Britain, but would be slaughtered at the port of entry within three days after their arrival. Canadian cattle being allowed to enter as hitherto. By instructions from the Government, Prof. McEachran also visited the following places in Canada, viz.: Sarnia, London, Woodstock, Hamilton, Toronto, Kingston and Ottawa, and being personally familiar with the health of the stock in the whole Province of Quebec, reported the entire absence of disease of a contagious nature in Ontario and Quebec, a fact which ensures open market for Canadian cattle in England.

Now it remains to be seen whether or not our farmers are in a position to supply the right sort of stock for the English markets. We fear that they are not.

Now that the Government are determined to guard well the health of our stock, to prevent by all means in their power the introduction of foreign contagious diseases, by a rigid system of quarantine and inspection, and the immediate checking of any spontaneous outbreak of disease among our herds by scientific investigations and immediate action, it but remains for our farmers to commence at once to breed such cattle as will meet the requirements of European markets.

In this connection I would inform our readers that they will strengthen the hands of the Minister of Agriculture in his earnest desire to protect their interests by preventing the introduction and spread of disease, by at once notifying the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa of the occurrence of any outbreak of disease of a contagious character.

The *Scientific American* says:

A GREAT MARKET FOR OUR CATTLE AND OTHER PRODUCTS.

Under rules lately adopted by the British Government, which went into effect on New Year's day, the United States will have the advantage over many other countries in landing cattle in the United Kingdom, as from Russia, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, Greece, Italy and Roumania live cattle cannot be landed, and from Germany, Holland, Belgium and France, cattle can only be

landed at six ports, under strict inspection, to be slaughtered within ten days of their arrival; but cattle from Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Spain, Portugal and the United States are exempt from compulsory slaughter or quarantine.

The immediate effect of these rules will be to confine the large supply of cattle required by England to a few purveyors, among which the United States is much the largest producer, as the severity of the regulations will practically prevent the nations in the second list from engaging actively in the live cattle trade, and those in the last list, with the exception of Canada, have comparatively few cattle to export.

More than 60 per cent. of the people of Great Britain are dependent on foreign food supplies, while her steadily growing population is increasing this dependence every year.

The numbers of live animals imported into the United Kingdom during the year 1877 were about 300,000 cattle, 1,000,000 sheep, from 40,000 to 50,000 swine, 30,524 horses, and the imports of last year are believed to largely exceed those numbers. Since the 1st of last May and up to the 1st of September there have been an average of 3,000 cattle a week shipped to Great Britain from Montreal, Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. This trade, however, is in its infancy as yet, and will, without doubt, grow immensely before long, when the best methods of shipping have been devised and the prejudices against American meat been overcome. With the immense quantity of cheap grazing lands we have, we can defy competition to other countries in raising cattle.

Returns of British grain imports from the various countries for a period of nine months ending Oct. 31, 1878, show:

Russia.....	7,432,443
Germany.....	4,112,184
France.....	11,061
Turkey, Wallachia and Moldavia.....	200,857
Egypt.....	193,194
United States (on Atlantic).....	20,903,997
United States (on Pacific).....	4,208,942
Chili.....	49,994
British India.....	1,577,342
Australia.....	1,309,559
British North America.....	1,968,245
Other countries.....	214,284

Total..... 42,182,102

From this it will be seen that the total quantity received from the United States was 25,112,939 cwt., or 59½ per cent. of the total importations.

The annual importation of food into Great Britain is about \$800,000,000 worth, of which a large proportion will be drawn from this country if we pay proper attention to the business. To make the most of this grand market every facility should be given to the shippers by cheapening freights, lessening the amount of handling or transferring from cars to vessels, or *vice versa*, and increasing our inland water transportation facilities, as the difference of a cent or two per bushel in the cost of freighting or handling grain may largely influence the trade in that article and make all the difference between a very profitable business and a losing one.

The above statistics, as in view of existing regulations, are of very great interest to our readers, and will serve to show the vast extent of the market which is thus thrown on us to supply. Surely we can, with a little exertion on our part, at least double the number of animals—horses, cattle, sheep and poultry—fit for exporting. Farmers, at once give this subject your serious consideration, and thus better yourselves and promote the commercial prosperity of the country.

PLEURO-PNEUMONIA.

As we find considerable interest manifested by the public in the disease, lung plague or pleuro-pneumonia, which is at present prevailing in the United States and raging in several places in England, we present our readers with a few facts regarding it, so as to enable them to comprehend the character of the plague, and to realize how important for their interests it is for them to do everything in their power to prevent its introduction to Canada.

It is perhaps the most insidious and certainly the most deceptive of all the cattle diseases. Once it gains a foothold in a country it would seem to be impossible to prevent it from spreading, and that in the most unsuspected ways. When we consider that about six weeks may elapse from the

date of infection till the development of the symptoms, during which time the animal may change hands repeatedly, and may be carried on steamboats or railways, which it infects, and renders all animals afterwards carried on the same cars or boats liable to contract the disease. The diseased cattle may be driven into public markets and there mixed with healthy ones, which become infected; and thus it goes—these conveying it to others, and so on till a whole country is infected. So very contagious is it that cattle have contracted the disease by merely being placed in a field where the diseased stock have been months before.

Of its fearfully fatal nature, and the great loss it occasions to any country so unfortunate as to have it introduced, the bitter experiences of France and Great Britain amply testify. The mortality is seldom less than 50 to 60 per cent. According to the statistics of the losses caused during seven consecutive years in 217 communes of the Department of the Nord, it would appear that the annual mortality in a bovine population of 280,000, was 11,200, or a total in nineteen years of 218,000 head, whose value is estimated at fifty-two million francs.

In Australia for 13 years about 1,404,097, worth about \$42,500,000.

For six years ending with 1860 considerably more than a million of cattle died from this disease in Great Britain, worth about \$60,000,000.

Enormous losses, it will thus be seen, this disease imposes on these countries; losses which we, as a young and comparatively poor country, could not expect to stand. Therefore let us be unremitting in our exertions to avert such a serious calamity. Let nothing come between us and our duty in regard to such a serious question. The disease is a subacute or chronic inflammation of the lungs and their coverings, of a very contagious nature, peculiar to the bovine species, as a rule occurring only once during the life of an animal. It is always attended by fever, a high temperature, quickened breathing, a short, painful, husky cough, the animal standing with the head protruded, elbows turned out, pulse quick and secretion of milk arrested. As it progresses the symptoms become aggravated, weakness increases, the expirations are painful and emitted with a mournful grunt and heaving at the flanks; she refuses all food, cough and breathing get worse, diarrhoea sets in and she dies in from one to ten weeks. After death the organs contained in the chest are in various stages of disease—the lungs, especially the left, are solid, heavy, adherent to the ribs, and when cut exhibit a characteristic mottled appearance and emit foul odors.

All parts of the body, but especially the serum from the lungs, the blood, secretions, excretions, hair, hoofs, horns, etc., are all capable of conveying the virus to other animals; manure, litter, bales of hay or straw, clothing or utensils, clothing of attendants, even dogs or other animals coming in contact with the diseased animals, may be the medium of conveying the disease to healthy ones.

PENETRATION OF ROOTS.—Mr. Foote, of Mass., has traced the tap root of a common red clover plant downward to the perpendicular depth of nearly five feet. The Hon. J. Stanton Gould followed out the roots of Indian corn to the depth of seven feet, and states that onions sometimes extend their roots downward to the depth of three feet; lucerne, fifteen feet. Hon. Geo. Geddes sent to the museum of the N. Y. State Society a clover plant that had a root four feet two inches in length. Louis Walkhoff traced the roots of a beet plant downward four feet, where they entered a drain pipe. Prof. Schubart found the roots of rye, beans and garden peas to extend about four feet downward; of winter wheat seven feet in a light subsoil, about forty days after planting. The roots of clover one year old were three and a half feet long; those of two years' old plants, four inches longer.

In making your arrangements for the coming season let there be room for improvement of the farm stock. This can now be accomplished at so little expense that we are often astonished that farmers—who are always on the alert—fail to perceive the advantages within their reach.