

A WESTERN FARMER IN ENGLAND.

The wrongs of a corn and cattle producer in one of the Western States of America, as told by his friend, a member of the St. Stephen's Club, are certainly very instructive, says the *London Standard*. This breeder, who is an old Estonian, recently visited the mother country with a view of inquiring into the state of the markets and the prices to be obtained for live cattle or dead meat, as he and other producers had for a long time been dissatisfied with the prices they were receiving. He found that the ways of the trade were as dark as those of Ah Sin, the heathen Chinese. In the first place, the American cattle breeder complains that, in the dead meat trade especially, there is a combination similar to the fish ring at Billingsgate Market, and that the dealers and "bummies" do pretty much as they like. This was proved by his own case. Being determined to watch the process of disposing of foreign meat all through, he had come over in the same ship as his consignment of beasts. Shortly before landing at Liverpool one beast was affected by disease, and a large number were at once slaughtered to improve, as he supposed, the sanitary condition of the rest. The meat having been carefully dressed was placed in the ice-house, but as soon as they reached Liverpool it was deemed prudent to sell the dead meat as soon as possible, on the plea that the refrigerators were out of order and might break down during the night. The dealers were sent for, and they appeared in considerable numbers, but none of them would offer more than twopenny per pound. The owner was helpless in the matter, so the meat had to be sold at that price, and was duly delivered. Now comes the most extraordinary part of the narrative. Being desirous of finding out the prices which the butchers were charging, the American breeder visited the shops in Liverpool and Manchester, and was amazed upon discovering that his own particular American meat was being offered to the public at prices ranging from seven pence to one shilling per pound. Purchasers were also assured that the meat was the best grass-fed English or Scotch. The price which the grower ought to have realized in the wholesale market should have been five pence half-penny or six pence. Such cases are, no doubt, very exasperating to the parties concerned; but it would be unjust to assume, without conclusive evidence, that they are the rule of the market or even of common occurrence. If the American dealer's stock had not been prejudiced by one of the beasts falling ill of disease he would have been all right. This, no doubt, gave the trade a lever, of which they were not slow to avail themselves. The writer advocates proper municipal markets in all the large towns, which would insure strict justice being done both to the producer and the consumer.

DEATH OF DANIEL DREW.

"So! Uncle Daniel's dead!" was the subdued remark which was heard in many places on the morning that the decease of the old Wall street and railway veteran was announced. The tone in which the remark was made showed that a kindly feeling was generally entertained towards Daniel Drew. Other Wall street and railway magnates have died without eliciting a spark of regret. "Uncle Daniel," as he was familiarly called, was well known to have had the characteristics of Wall street and railway operators, but there is a general impression that he also had a human heart and kindly impulses—which are not usually reckoned among the characteristics of Wall street and railway operators—and that, on the whole, he preferred to see virtue triumph over vice, and right over wrong. Hence the kindly feeling towards him.

His career was an eventful one. He was two years old when Washington died. He was uneducated, yet he had a rough common sense, and a shrewd arithmetical faculty that enabled him to figure out many a tough business problem. But he made the great mistake of staying in Wall street after his faculties had begun to decay, and fell a prey to younger and more active men. And so, although he at one time was worth many millions, the old man spent his last days in comparative obscurity and died in comparative poverty.—*N. Y. Ledger*.

THE LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE.

A correspondent of the *Manchester Examiner* says that it is a peculiar feature of the Oldham cotton trade that there are at the present moment three distinct regulations recognized with regard to the working hours in mills. "It may seem strange," he says, "that limited companies should be found running, in some cases, over sixty hours per week; but it is nevertheless a fact that whilst the short-time cry is being spread there are to be found mills which are not only prepared to curtail production, but even to augment it. It is this fact which compels many people to regard the cry about short time as a mere sound raised for the purpose of executing a manoeuvre meant to deceive the rest of Lancashire. There are wide divergencies of opinion amongst limited company people as to the advisability of working short time. There is the same amount of standing expenses in working 56 hours as in working 60, so that the more a concern produces the less the average cost of production must be. In a mill there are two sets of hands, the day workers and the piece workers. The day workers are in the carding room, where women are mostly employed. These cannot work beyond half-past five o'clock, but care is taken amongst the most enterprising companies to see that there is a full output from these day workers. The machinery is run at a terrific speed, and by straining every nerve a sufficiency of work is obtained in the preliminary stages of the operations to enable spinners to work overtime. Thus, without contravening the law, but by dexterous effort, companies are enabled to lessen the cost of production by 4d. per pound. This makes an immense difference at the quarter's end. And as the system of long time turns out well, limited companies are led to repeat the experiment regardless of the taunts of inconsistency thrown at them.

OXFORD'S DAIRY PROGRESS.

From the earliest time to the passage of the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise under Great Cheese Arch.

By JAMES MCINTYRE.

In early times was honor won
By Rennie, and by Farrington,
The one word on the dairy plan,
The next bro't Factory to the van,
On this point now 'tis certain these
Were the first pioneers of cheese.

A few years' since our Oxford farms
Were nearly rob'd of all their charms,
O'er crop'd the weary land grew poor,
And nearly barren as a moor,
But now with healthy rest and ease
Rejoices in its crops of cheese.

And since they justly tread the soil,
Are well rewarded for their toil,
The land enrich'd by goodly cows
Yields plenty now to fill their mows,
Both wheat and barley, oats and peas,
For this now let us thank the cheese.

Its price will rise, though now 'tis low,
And brooks of milk will onward flow.
Were it conducted in one stream
There would be floods of curds and cream,
Cows numerous as swarms of bees,
Are milk'd in Oxford to make cheese.

Some are strong advocates of soiling,
Cutting feed green, makes more toiling;
But cows give more abundant yield
Than when they roam all over field,
Feeding in shade, when no fies tease,
Producing finest grades of cheese.

To prove the wealth that here abounds,
One cheese weigh'd near eight thousand pounds.
We beheld it first at noon,
It seem'd as sky had dropt full moon,
It sail'd with triumph o'er the seas
'Twas hail'd with welcome Queen of Cheese.

The Dairyman find it does pay
To fatten pigs upon the whey,
Each side of river hath its work,
Devoted to the cure of pork;
For enterprises such as these
We are indebted to the cheese.

When the whole world held its cheese fair
None could with Oxford make compare,
Her dairymen they are renowned,
And are with highest honors crown'd,
They did Centennial trophies seize,
Jugersoll's great centre is of cheese.

And when in triumph they were borne,
The Princess and the Lord of Lorne,
While they saw much for to admire,
Most eagerly they did enquire,
The Governor and his Louise,
For a small slice of Casswell's cheese.

Soaring high upward in the skies
Castles like magic did arise,
Each decorated line of march
Beauteous buildings, tower and arch,
Noxon's and Ladies' both did please,
While all admired Kings and cheese.

FLIGHT OF CARRIER-PIGEONS.—Some interesting trials with carrier-pigeons have lately been made in Germany. They were undertaken in order to ascertain whether the pigeons, after being confined for some time at a point distant from their proper home, would still return to it when liberated. Accordingly 149 birds were carried from Aix-la-Chapelle to Metz, and imprisoned in the latter fortress. After a month's confinement, they were liberated, and, by the morning of the day following their release, 134 had returned to their cots in Aix-la-Chapelle, the bird which arrived first having flown from Metz to Aix-la-Chapelle, a distance of 112 miles, in four hours and thirty-eight minutes. At another trial, the weather was clear and fine, the wind fair, and the first of some birds liberated in Cologne reached Berlin at one o'clock in the afternoon, having consequently flown 300 miles in 54 hours.

THEORY OF THE MOUND FORMATIONS OF CALIFORNIA.—Dr. Barnes, of San Diego, Cal., ascribes the singular mound formations covering the dry soil of that region to the effect of wind and certain low-lying broad-branched plants with a large system of roots, chief among which is the *Rhus tinctoria*. These act as nuclei around which the winds collect dust, and the result is the hillocky appearance of the desert, which has puzzled many travelers.

Boss Martin, Robert Decker and Stewart Franklin, all three negroes, went into Robert Spriggs's eating house at No. 12 Grand street, New York. After taking supper and drinking freely they rose to go, and laughed at Spriggs when he asked for payment. A desperate struggle followed, until a couple of policemen appeared, and the negroes attempted flight. The contest was carried on till the three colored men were mastered.

New York Bank clerks are organizing a musical society, and no one has a better right to do so, for their range of notes exceeds that of any other body of persons outside of the Treasury Department.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of correspondents.]

To the Editor of THE SHAREHOLDER:

Will you please furnish your readers here with the transactions of the Q., M., & O. Railway for the twelve months ending 4th September last? Mr. C. A. Scott, Manager, has had the road now over a year, and I would like to know if his expectations have been realized. I have his report for the six months ending 28th February, and I want to complete the year.

Yours truly,
Quebec, October 2nd, 1879.

CURIOSITY.

[No doubt Mr. Scott will himself furnish all necessary information on this point in due time.—ED.]

FOREIGN NOTES.

BISMARCK has returned to Berlin. One of the German papers is making a strong appeal for his re-election to the Landtag.

Just before the adjournment of the French Chambers, a committee reported in favor of selling the crown jewels. One of the reasons given was that "it must lead any one to expect a monarchical restoration."

According to the terms of the recently concluded treaty Russia surrenders the northern part of Kuldja, including the Chinese military chaussee and the town of Old Kuldja, and she retains the south of the province, the boundary running along the river Tekes, an affluent of the Ili, and comprising the Thian Shan passes leading to Kashgar. China agrees to pay 5,000,000 roubles to Russia, of which 3,500,000 are to be devoted to the payment of compensation to Russian subjects in the ceded territory. The Western Mongolian frontier is at the same time altered, China ceding the upper course of the Irtysh and Lake Zaisan to Russia.

Is a report lately issued from the British Foreign Office estimates are given of revenue and expenditure in Cyprus for 1878-79. The revenue is set down at £170,000. Of this it is expected that £52,000 will be received from tithes on land, £22,000 will be derived from the tax on property, professions, and trades, and £15,145 from the Government salt monopoly. The future prospects of revenue from the salt source are not favorable, but the paper states that, even though that source should cease to exist, such an expansion of revenue may be confidently hoped for as will ensure a total income of more than £200,000 per year. The total expenditure is estimated at £52,000, leaving a surplus of £148,000.

Of the 108 lines which constitute the German railway union, 39 belong to the German Empire, 38 to Austro-Hungary, 4 to Belgium and 4 to Holland, while to Luxembourg, Russia and Roumania appertain 1 each. The German railway administrations have 208 votes, the Austro-Hungarian 103, the others 34. The German votes are apportioned between the private railways with 103, and the Prussian and other State railways, 105 voices. In the very probable event of the Prussian Government acquiring all the remaining railways in the country the proportion of these votes would, of course, be altered. The total length of railways represented in the Union is 55,245 kilometres (34,500 miles.)

Mr. John Eaton Cooke, who had divers talks with Thackeray when in this country, says that the great Englishman told him that he dictated to an amanuensis the whole of "Edmond" and of "Pendennis." He said also that he always began writing with a cigar in his mouth. He always wrote in the morning, as writing at night excited him so that he could not sleep. He said to Mr. Cooke that Becky Sharp made his fortune. "I married early," he added, "and wrote for bread; and 'Vanity Fair' was my first successful work. I like Becky in that book. Sometimes I think I have myself some of her tastes." He had apparently thoroughly made up his mind not to criticize his American entertainers. He said very emphatically to Mr. Cooke: "I shall not write anything upon America. My secretary may—he is quite capable. And as to abusing you, if I do, I'm—!" ending with exceeding strength. He expressed hearty admiration of Washington, declaring earnestly, when Mr. Cooke said something about the general's being hanged as a rebel if the British had caught him: "We had better have lost North America."

A correspondent writes to the *London Echo*:—"In proportion to our area, if land was as well distributed in England as it is in France, we should have some twelve millions of souls living upon our land, finding their labor and food upon it, as against twenty-two millions so situated in France. But instead of these twelve millions we have only about three millions, consequently we have some nine millions of our population driven off their natural feeding ground. What becomes of them? Well, the standing army of about a million of paupers, the festering masses in the back slums of our great cities, our struggling poor, our residuum—these are some of the consequences of our worship of the landed interest. The bulk of the dispossessed are, of necessity, driven into the manufacturing and mining industry in some of its many branches. If we had our twelve million of souls on the land (like France) we should have far fewer manufacturers and less stuff produced, and we should have twelve million customers, and fairly prosperous ones, at hand to take off what was produced, instead of the present rural laborer, too poor to consume, and the sprinkling of rich people, whose consumption is largely composed of luxuries."