

THE MEAT THAT BRINGS THE MONEY.

If there were no other practical value in such an institution as the Guelph Winter Fair than the inculcation of correct ideas as to the actual requirements of the live stock trade in respect to the size, shape and other attributes of butchers' and export cattle, its worth to the whole community would be sufficiently demonstrated. It has been found impossible to eradicate from the consumer's mind certain well-defined preferences as to the ratio, for example, of the respective quantities of fat and lean present in his family joint. Many farmers and ranchers would appear to have had the idea that fat meat was what was wanted, and that, if the average citizen demurred when asked to take an extra proportion of this ingredient, he might easily be educated up to a point where he would accept it without a murmur. But easier than this is the education of the animals themselves, aided by the farmer, to take on flesh—lean and fat—in certain well defined and desirable percentages. As an assistance in showing live stock breeders in all parts of the Dominion what points should be aimed at in order to attain success in both the Canadian and the British markets, the utility of awarding prizes for the most desirable exhibits can hardly be exaggerated, especially when accompanied, as this was at Guelph last week, by short lectures by experts, as to exactly why such exhibits were deemed worthy of honor.

Among other points, it has been shown that many people have an erroneous idea as to the value, in butchers' beef cattle, of the large rump. There should rather be a good loin and ribs, as these bring more money in all markets than the round (rump). Roughly speaking the selling value of respective cuts may be stated as follows: Loin, 9c.; rib, 6½c.; round, 6c.; chuck, 5c.; brisket, 3½c.; shank, 2½c.; flank, 2c., per pound. The loin should be well covered and firm, mellow but not soft. The fat should be even and firm. The all important points are the loin and ribs, and the feeder's chief care should be to develop these. He should abandon the idea, so often entertained, that what is wanted is a fat carcass. This is all very well in an animal intended for a Christmas show; but the market of to-day calls for lean meat with a certain, not large, amount of firm fat. The British market prefers a good fleshy medium steer of between 1,200 and 1,400 pounds.

In mutton, the most valuable portion in the British market is the leg, though in the United States this position is held by the loin. Consequently efforts should be made to feed sheep in accordance with these requirements. The rib cuts need to be strong, well-developed, broad and thick, while in the cheaper parts, of course, the growth should be as small as possible. A great amount of fat in the fore quarters is not wanted, while the internal part of a quarter should be fleshy all over. The average prices of the respective parts of a sheep may be stated as follows: rib, 10½c.; loin, 8½c.; leg, 7½c.; chuck, 2½c.; breast, shank and shoulder, 2c., and neck, 1c.

The fat stock show at Guelph is not new; it has been an annual event for thirty-five or forty years. But the gathering of last week at that city was not exceeded by even that of 1900 in importance and interest. The attendance, we are told, exceeded 20,000, and the educational value to the farmer of object lessons in butchering and dairying, the future worth to the farmer's wife and son of economic scientific advice offered on such an occasion cannot easily be reckoned. The friendly concern of the Ottawa Government in the matter was shown by the presence of one of the Dominion Ministers, and the devotion of a day to the fair by the Governor-General may be taken to mean not only that he likes to see good stock, but that he is willing to throw his influence in the direction of the more scientific education of the farmer, and thus help to stimulate in the most advantageous way our export trade in dead meat.

CANADIAN PRODUCTS IN BRITAIN.

Mr. Andrew Gunn, of the well-known Toronto provision firm, has just returned from an extended trip to the Old Country, and, as he is a man of keen observation, his ideas of the state of the dairy and provision market there will be received with interest. Trade, he says, in their special export line of eggs has been lately in a very healthy condition, and the market has shown marked strength. As a consequence, early purchasers are showing good profits. Canadian eggs are arriving in liberal quantities, and it is pleasing to learn that their quality is giving good satisfaction. No doubt it is to this cause that the good prices have been due. There has been a good trade in Canadian butter during the season. A number of Bristol importers are of the opinion, however, that the quality of this article shipped this season was not, on the whole, so fine as that of last year's goods. It is difficult to account for this state of things, but Mr. Gunn heard so many complaints on the subject that he feels satisfied there must be something in them. The succulent pastures may have been a partial cause. Canadian dairy butters are apparently becoming a

thing of the past, except at very low prices. They are being superseded by Siberian butter, which is more uniform in color and quality. The style of packages also is more suitable, it being put up in 112 lb. wooden casks similar to those used by the Danish creameries. Referring to cheese, up till a few weeks ago, dealers had a very bad experience, and but few could show any profit for the season's operations. Mr. Gunn's house does not handle cheese to any extent, but he looked into the subject a little, and came to the conclusion that the market had seen its lowest point, and that an improvement might be looked for for the balance of the season. Stocks, which apparently are quite light, are mostly in strong hands. Then again the high price of meats is inducing the average consumer to turn his attention more to cheese, which, at prevailing prices, is considered the cheapest article of food on the list. Speaking of hog products he says there have been some very serious losses to Canadian packers during the season. Indeed, we hear that one firm lost between \$20,000 and \$25,000 on the shipments of two weeks, prices having gone down suddenly. The losses to the Canadian trade as a whole must certainly have been quite considerable during the last few months.

SMALLPOX AFFECTING TRADE.

As showing the comparative indifference with which the average French-Canadian regards a visitation of the smallpox, which disease is now prevalent in a good many of the country districts in the Province of Quebec, we quote the following extract (translation) from a letter, written by a merchant who resides in a little village not 100 miles from the city of Montreal. It is under date December 6th inst:

"Business here is very quiet and has been for some time past, owing to an epidemic of smallpox which showed itself in September. There have been more than 200 cases since then, and there still are many, but we hope for some diminution of the outbreak, as the doctors are placarding the houses since last Sunday."

Think of it! The small-pox prevalent since September, and the doctors only began last Sunday placarding the houses infected. What kind of health laws or what sort of observance of them does this imply? In Ontario, a householder who discovers a case of small-pox in his house is bound under penalty of \$20 fine to notify the health officer within twenty-four hours. Some would consider the sort of calm fatalism which breathes through this letter characteristic of the simple-minded French-Canadian. It shows a mixture of faith and ignorance. He believes that the familiar disease, which he calls picotte, is a visitation from God. He does not understand or believe in the practice of vaccination. And he hopes that le Bon Dieu will at least save the lives of his children, even though their faces should be pitted.

One naturally asks what the health authorities are doing to allow the disease to get such headway in this district, between two and three months being allowed to lapse before placarding of houses was resorted to. The law provides that notice shall be given within twenty-four hours, under penalty of \$40 fine, but this law seems practically a dead letter in so far as many country districts are concerned. So lax have the local authorities been that in another place where there have been over 300 cases less than twenty miles from the one above described, the Provincial health authorities have had to send their own officials to the spot to enforce necessary precautions.

BANK OF OTTAWA.

Unusual earnings have marked the career of the Bank of Ottawa during its latest year. In this particular, at any rate, the showing made justifies the claim of the president that it is the best of many good showings the bank has made since its establishment. Net profits of \$319,515, equal to more than 16 per cent. on average capital, enabled the payment of 9 per cent. dividend, the application of \$21,000 in reduction of bank premises account, the addition of a round \$100,000 to rest account, and the carrying forward of a larger balance than last year at the credit of profit and loss account. The report does not claim any further credit for this handsome result than to attribute it to the fact that the bank has known how to share in the prosperity which the country has enjoyed during the last twelve months. Increases in deposits amounted to \$700,000, and in loans to a still larger amount. As to circulation, it was already so near the limit that much increase could not be made.

In the case of this bank, as well as others, the inability to enlarge circulation during periods of especial commercial activity has caused inconvenience. And this gives point to the remark made in our last Financial Review, that the time has come to consider means of enlarging bank circulation beyond the limit now set by the Banking Act. The proposal made by Mr. Magee in the premises is that either they