

The American Cattle Commission.

The Secretary of the Treasury at Washington, U. S., has appointed Prof. James Law, of Ithaca, N. Y., James Sanders, of Chicago, and E. T. Thayer, of Massachusetts, a commission to be known as the "Treasury Cattle Commission." Their duties will be to investigate all cases of pleuro-pneumonia in meat cattle, especially along the dividing line between the United States and Canada, and along the line of transportation from all parts to ports from which cattle are exported, and to perform the duties prescribed by the Secretary with reference to disease, in order that cattle shipped from the United States to foreign ports may be known and certified to be free therefrom. Of the above Committee, Dr. Thayer has been ordered to Nova Scotia to investigate and report on an alleged cattle disease in that Province. No doubt the "Treasury Cattle Committee" have had the disease called Anthrax brought to their notice, to which the FARMER'S ADVOCATE called the attention of our Government in Jan'y and Aug., '80, and which disease on investigation proved of a local character, of no serious nature, not contagious, and arising solely from food and water. As our neighbors are desirous of creating a suspicion against our cattle, our Government should not relax the most stringent measures, and should exercise the greatest vigilance in all matters of quarantine and cattle in transit.

Some of the farmers in Pictou, Nova Scotia, have suffered very severe losses from Anthrax, or disordered blood in the cattle in that locality. Some hundreds of cattle have died, and the losses again this season are great to some poor families. Our Government has been trying to ascertain the cause and remedy of this disease, but whether the most economical and efficient plans have been adopted we are not about to discuss at the present time. In July, '80, we sent the Minister of Agriculture a box containing the mineral substances that are found on the ground, some of which are well known to contain or impart dangerous ingredients that may injure the blood. We also sent a bottle containing water impregnated with mineral substances.

The death of Seegmiller's sheep at Goderich was caused by Anthrax, or a species of blood-poisoning, as we are so informed by one of our best veterinary advisers. It is a most important matter that correct information is furnished on this subject, as some Americans, some Englishmen and some journalists are only too anxious to make it appear that Canadian meat is diseased, that diseases exist here, while the real facts are that Canadians have never had Pleuro-pneumonia on their farms. Hog Cholera and Foot and Mouth Disease have been introduced into the country, but such is the salubrity of our climate and healthiness of our atmosphere that these diseases, although they have been on more than one occasion introduced, have invariably died out without any aid whatever. The Anthrax, or blood poisoning, is from local causes and is not contagious.

If our Government would cause a thorough examination into the facts and truthfully show in their statistics the number of animals that have died and the number of farms on which the Foot and Mouth Disease and Hog Cholera existed, it would add much wealth to the country and enhance the real value of our meat and stock in foreign countries, as it is a grand thing to know that the diseases ceased to exist even after they had been introduced into our country. These important statistics should be gained and published at once, and some really independent and reliable parties should be empowered to obtain them.

Since writing the above, Dr. McEachran, the Government veterinary surgeon at Montreal, has again visited the county of Pictou, N. S., and both he and Dr. Thayer pronounce the cattle disease in that locality as neither contagious nor hereditary, arising from local causes, and they recommend that the Dominion Government appoint a veterinary surgeon and botanist to watch the disease.

English Letter, No. 29.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Liverpool, Aug. 1.

The great event of the past month has been, of course, the Royal Agricultural Show at Derby, and you will be pleased to hear that it proved one of the most successful the Royal Society has had, and will leave a handsome surplus to be added to its funds. I was there the whole week, and more perfect summer weather even you in Canada could not have. Not a drop of rain fell the whole week, and as, during the six days 130,000 people passed the pay gates, you may imagine what a busy scene it was. On the Friday the Prince of Wales added the crowning glory to the show by visiting it, and spending some hours in inspecting the animals. Coming to the numbers of the exhibits themselves, some of the departments, and especially horses, were disappointing; but this was accounted for in a great measure by the very considerable reduction in the number and amount of the prizes offered, consequent on the society's heavy losses at Kilburn and Carlisle. Some very fine agricultural stallions in the two year old class were shown, and there was also a fair show of Clydesdales, but the lighter classes contained very few first-rate animals.

The cattle were decidedly stronger, and quite up to the average; Shorthorns included some superb animals, and the judges were loud in their praises of the Jerseys; Herefords were a fair sample; Scotch breeds were not exhibited at this show. Sheep were both numerous and very good, and the Shropshire-downs were conspicuous, both for numbers and excellence. A committee of Shropshire breeders offered special prizes to the value of £80 in this class. Pigs were about an average.

There was a very large display of implements and machinery, but rather a dearth of meritorious new inventions. The great contest in combined reapers and binders continues. A great number of machines by the leading American, Canadian and English makers were shown, but the judges await a practical trial early this month, in the harvest field, before they make any award, even should they now meet with a machine to fill the ordinary field requirements of the farmer. Canadian exhibitors were few, and there was nothing especially noteworthy in what they had to show.

I except of course the stand of the Dominion Government, which was under the charge of Mr. John Dyke, assisted by Mr. Graham, of Carlisle, and which excited immense interest every day of show. Samples of the grain, grasses, woods, soils, and minerals of the various Provinces of the Dominion were shown in attractive forms, and these, with the assistance of photographs of scenery, sporting trophies, and literature in the shape of delegates' reports, emigrants' guides, &c., combined to make a very attractive and pleasing little exhibition. It was amusing to watch the sturdy, and if the truth must be told, somewhat prejudiced, mid-land farmers looking round at what Canada produces, and their exclamations of surprise and wonder that such an outlandish place, as many of them still regard it, could produce samples quite

as good as any of their old acres have ever yielded. The Prince of Wales, though sorely pressed for time during his visit to the show yard, managed to spare a few minutes to look in at the Canadian stand, to chat affably with Mr. Dyke, to express his great interest in the welfare of the Dominion, and his congratulations on the very interesting little exhibition which had been got together. The practical value of these exhibitions cannot be over estimated, and it is to be hoped that the Dominion Government will make arrangements for them annually, and upon an enlarged scale. A grander opportunity for making the resources of the Dominion known to the eligible classes, could not be desired.

Our wheat crop is likely to be a large and good one, and I hear similar reports from Russia, Hungary and other European countries. Low prices, therefore, are sure to prevail. Barley and oats are less favourably spoken of, especially the latter, and any of your farmers who should have good samples of oats should not lack a remunerative market. The hay crop was very thin in places, but the bulk of it has now been got in grand condition.

The Canadian horse and cattle trades are rather quiescent just now. I hear nothing of interest.

A large number of Canadians, and of those interested in Canadian trade, were at the Royal Show. Amongst others were Mr. Jackson; Mr. Spencer, of Dorset farm, Ontario; Mr. Simon Beattie and Mr. John Holderness, of Toronto, who were looking for likely stallions; but there was unfortunately a very limited selection. Mr. Beattie, I understand, offered as high as £750 for a three year old Clydesdale, without tempting the owner to a bargain. Messrs. Douglas & Hendrie were also in the field, with a larger contingent of American stallion purchasers than I have ever before noticed at these shows. Canadian buyers were also busy amongst the sheep, Mr. Spencer securing a Southdown ram, which had won several first prizes, and five shearing ewes of the same breed and holding equal honors, together with some aged ewes and ewe lambs. Also some thirty prime Shropshire-downs. On the whole, however, the Royal Show at Derby cannot be considered a favourable one for colonial buyers, and many of them have gone north to Glasgow, and to the Highland Society's show held at Sitrling, where no doubt they will find many things to their liking.

Mr. Dyke, the Dominion agent here, has just gone on a special commission to the continent; but as to its nature, I am quite in the dark.

"Apatite."

BY PROF. J. T. BELL, BELLEVILLE, ONT.

I have long viewed with sorrow and indignation the manner in which the mineral wealth of our country is being drained off to enrich the capitalists and increase the national wealth of our neighbors and rivals on the south side of the lakes. No sooner is a vein of gold, silver, copper, lead or iron ore discovered and developed within our borders than in steps an American company, or as it is now the fashion to call it, a syndicate, and for a pitiful consideration of a few hundred dollars, or perhaps a "royalty" of ten to twenty-five cents per ton, amounting in all to a mere fractional percentage of the actual value, the property passes for ever out of Canadian control, and the rich material, which once gone can never be replaced, is conveyed out of the country to feed the furnaces and the factories of the United States, and to be thence returned to us in a manufactured state, at such prices as the owners may be able to exact from our necessities.