

### Pleuro-Pneumonia.

The annual report of the Privy Council Veterinary Department is noticed by the whole world. Every week the public press give the new outbreaks and number of infected animals in Great Britain.

The efforts of the British Government to stamp out Pleuro have been crowned with success, after nearly fifty years' constant battle, and they are now determined to insist on really effective measures being carried out by those countries desirous of sending cattle to English ports.

It must be remembered that the United States veterinary surgeons deny that cattle affected with contagious Pleuro are exported from their country; indeed, the manifesto issued by Mr. Rusk, the late chief, declared that they were entirely free from that disease. That was dated Sept. 26th, 1892. Then comes the following remarkable piece of buncombe: The seaboard and *frontier inspection*, and all necessary cattle quarantine, will be strictly enforced; and there being no possibility of the occurrence of contagious pleuro-pneumonia, "save by its introduction from foreign countries," the country may congratulate itself upon the removal of all apprehension for its cattle interest on the score of contagious pleuro-pneumonia. After this comes the challenge to veterinary surgeons in Great Britain.

The disease has not found entrance into the current of the beef cattle trade of this country, and there is good reason for believing that it never will.

This has been positively asserted and re-asserted, and yet the English veterinarians have openly disbelieved us, and, to prove that we are either incompetent or dishonest, have persisted in finding contagious pleuro-pneumonia among our export cattle landed on their shores, and stoutly maintained the correctness of their opinion against our assertion—vide "Mr. Rusk's report and proclamation."

The very week that this proclamation was issued there were six animals condemned at Deptford by Mr. Holman, M. R. C. V. S., for pleuro.

To show what enormous proportions the trade in dead meat and cattle is to America, during the week ending Dec. 24th, 1892, twelve steamers landed cattle and fresh meat at the port of Liverpool from American ports, 3,861 cattle—12,840 quarters of beef. When we come to consider the enormous quantity, nearly 4,000 head of live cattle, no wonder they are desirous of traducing the character of Canadian cattle to get their own landed for feeding purposes inland.

For many years Canada will have to export her stock, and the Scotch farmers will have them if they can, and we see no sort of blessing, disguised or otherwise, in the scheduling of Canadian stock by the English Government. The hypocritical reproduction of the quarantine order by the American Government is what we expected. They have been trying for years to get their cattle landed in Great Britain. They have maintained for some years three veterinarians at the principal ports, who do nothing else but inspect and report to their Government the number of cattle and condition on arrival, so that we can have no difficulty in finding the source of the late trouble.

There is only one good thing that will come of the quarantine: we shall be obliged to ship our cattle entirely through Canada and in Canadian ships. We can then point with pride, and say, as we have hitherto done, Canada is, and has been, free from all contagious diseases; more than this, we would not permit any arrivals to come into Canada, bonded or not.

We must not forget that the British Government have only these last few months been able to say, We have at last got rid of this disease, after fifty years' constant residence. And we should, on the other hand, be at least fair, and say we are convinced that you are mistaken; we do not know this disease, and the fact that it appeared in the Canadian stocker is inexplicable to us. It may, or may not be, a fact that the veterinary inspectors have made a mistake—at least they have erred on the side of caution; for if they had allowed the country to be again overrun with contagious pleuro-pneumonia, under the new name of broncho-pneumonia, or corn-stalk disease, why, they would themselves have had to bear the blame. It is all very well for those who are free from official responsibility to hurl charges of incompetence to those who are paid for doing their duty, and we do not blame them for being cautious or over-careful in performing that duty; nothing but condemnation or loss of position would have been their reward if they did not detect or even stop suspects.

In the recent case of the Canadian stocker, they were fully satisfied that the disease was contagious pleuro-pneumonia, and their testimony is not likely to be shaken by challenges, based by partisans, whose sole object is to traduce these cattle so that their own may be permitted to enter.

The evident fairness of the authorities is apparent. They say, We prevent the Americans landing cattle with broncho-pneumonia, and we must do the same with Canada. Probably no man in existence has had more existence with the disease than Prof. Brown. He has been the head of the department for over 30 years, and makes a practice of seeing every doubtful case, so that we are confident that if he has erred at all, it is on the side of prudence. We do not for one moment suppose he has condemned the animals without cause, and we can only say they must have contracted the disease outside the Dominion.

Now, what is the remedy? Can we prevent the interference of partisan inspectors? No, we cannot; but we can provide separate cattle lairs or sheds for their reception, shelter and isolation, and after

qualified authorized inspection, they can be distributed as heretofore. Our Dominion Government can issue a memorial and have it presented to the House of Commons, signed by all the cattle breeders, buyers, shippers and veterinarians of the country, stating, under oath, that they have never seen a single case of contagious pleuro-pneumonia or corn-stalk disease in Canada.

We contend that it must have originated on board the cars to Boston or New York, or else on board the cattle ships in transit. Those of us who know the wretched accommodation on board the tramp cattle ships, must be aware that there is no more likely place for the disease to originate afresh, lurk or remain dormant, until fresh subjects present themselves for inoculation. We speak whereof we know, and our experience on board these pest places is on record. The horrors of the cattle ships few men can paint, and no words can describe the filth, and no tongue tell of the brutality of the drovers to these dumb animals. Fortunately their condition has of late been improved to a great extent; still we believe that if the disease manifested in the animals in question could be traced, it would be found on board these steamers. We hail with pleasure this caution, if it compels our shippers to export their animals along the Canadian railways, through our own ports; we can then fall as the result of our own negligence only. The supineness of our government is lamentable; the English Government are not aware, or rather the agricultural press are not acquainted with the fact that Canada has always held quarantine against the U. S. cattle: they are under the impression that they have free entry without inspection, more especially settlers' stock, and they say we may have obtained the disease in that way. We do not advocate retaliation or tit for tat, still patience passes beyond virtue and becomes cowardice when the U. S. adds insult to injury, by the recent scheduling of cattle they know to be free from disease.

### A Paper on Horse Breeding and the Treatment of Brood Mares and Foals.

Read before the Brandon Farmers' Institute by T. M. Percival, Brandon.

The subject for our discussion to-day is one of such magnitude and importance, relating, as it does, to the noblest of animals relegated to the service of man, it is impossible in one short paper to give anything of a detailed account of their breeding or management; I will, however, endeavor, in as plain and concise a manner as possible, to touch upon some of what I consider the most important parts of the subject. It is only by a thorough discussion, and getting the experience of each other, we can obtain the best results.

First—Do not recognize luck in breeding. "Luck is a fool, pluck is a hero," is one of the grandest of many maxims voiced by sages, and with it as a central figure many edifices of success have been reared.

"Success," Matthews says, "always a coy maiden, is now, when crowds of wooers have made her saucy, harder than ever to win." And so it is in all enterprises, especially so in breeding of horses.

The haphazard system of mating in the past has left the majority of would-be horse breeders in this province with a large number of nondescript colts on their hands, which will be difficult to sell at a price to cover the cost of raising—in fact, in the present state of the horse market, difficult to sell at any price; whereas, a good animal of a fixed type will sell, even now, at a profit. However experienced and painstaking a breeder may be, he will, from some cause, have a few weeds. It is therefore of the utmost importance, in attempting to breed horses successfully, that we should, at the outset, know what type of horse we wish to raise, and never from any cause be led away from our ideal.

Second (and of paramount importance)—Never breed an unsound mare or use a sire that is unsound (by the term unsound, I mean any hereditary unsoundness); if you do, the chances are you have an unsound offspring.

Third—Use great care in the mating of your mares. There is now in this district a sufficient variety of stallions to suit any class of mares; there is therefore no excuse for a man using an unsuitable sire. Take particular notice of your mare—size, style and general formation, and then select a stallion to mate. Say, for instance, you have a mare between ten and twelve hundred, I would use a Hackney or Cleveland Bay, and the result would be a stylish driver or saddle horse for sale, or a good serviceable horse for the farm; if a filly, breed again on the same line and keep to it, in the end you will have a class of horses that you would not have to go away from home to sell. Again, suppose you have a 1300-lb. mare or upwards, breed to one of the heavy breeds, and keep to that line of breeding. There is no greater folly than extreme crosses. *Cross breeding is not satisfactory between heavy and light breeds of horses.* Now, for instance, say you have a team of mares about 1150 or 1200 lbs., clean boned and active; you want to breed them to something and would like to get something heavier, you breed them to a big Shire or Clyde, thinking by that means to get what is termed an agricultural team, with the result, in nine cases out of ten, you have a fair farm team, at the same time a team there is no market for if you want to sell them; whereas, if you had bred them to a coach horse,

Cleveland Bay or thoroughbred, you would have had a grand team for the farm or a carriage team that you would have had no difficulty in finding a market for. In giving these illustrations, I do not wish it to be understood that the weight of a mare is a safe criterion as to what sire to use. As I stated in the beginning, you must carefully study the general make-up of your mare, and then decide, but keep to the line. What we want is a horse to suit the people that can and will pay good prices for what they want. There is and will be a demand for heavy horses, carriage horses, high stepping drivers and saddle horses, and those who raise them of good quality and sound will have no trouble in selling them. We have a good class of mares, also stallions with which to mate them, and one of the finest climates in the world for stock. What is wanted is sound judgment in mating, a clearly defined ideal always in view, generous treatment and careful handling of our stock. Once fairly engaged in stock breeding, stick to it, bring your energies to bear upon it, and you will find it interesting and profitable.

In conclusion, I will just touch upon the treatment of the brood mare and colt. I will assume that the mare is due to foal early in the season, before she can be turned on the pasture. In the first place, for the health of the mare and also of the unborn foal, it is absolutely necessary that the mare should have daily exercise; steady work, if the trails are good, or an hour's run in the yard will do. Never back them when hitched up, or let them flounder about in the deep snow. One great cause of the loss of colts is driving on bad trails and walking in deep snow. So long as the trails are bad, and there is any danger of the mare breaking through, keep her off it, but when there is good, firm footing, steady work and careful handling are best. If you want your mare to bring forth a strong, healthy foal, you must give her plenty of out-door exercise in some form. As she nears the time of foaling, say two or three weeks before she is due, provide a roomy, loose box, well ventilated and light, free from draught, and lots of clean, dry wheat-straw for bedding. Turn your mare in loose and get her accustomed to being alone; also get her quiet and accustomed to your moving about and handling her; by so doing there will be less danger of exciting her, if she requires any assistance when foaling. Mares, as a rule, foal very quickly, and it is best not to interfere with them unless absolutely necessary, though they should be carefully watched, so that assistance can be given if required.

Carefully watch your colt for the first ten days, and see that its bowels act properly, as the first ten days are the most critical in a foal's existence. If you can get them over the first ten days, they usually require very little attention, if the mare is fed judiciously.

The mare should be fed some two or three weeks before she is due to foal and some time after soft food, such as boiled oats, bran, and linseed that has been boiled for 12 hours or longer, so as to loosen the system and provide a generous flow of milk. If from some cause the mare should not have sufficient milk, the best substitute is cow's milk, one-fourth water and a tablespoonful of honey to a pint of milk.

Costiveness, diarrhoea and inflammation are the principal ailments a young foal is subject to. The two first careful treatment will overcome; the last is, in most cases, fatal.

The following are well-tryed and the best remedies that have come under my notice:—Costiveness—Rectal injections of luke-warm water every half hour, or syrup of rhubarb with a few drops linseed oil; dose, tablespoonful. Nothing acts more powerfully than injections, and the advantage is they do no harm.

Diarrhoea should not be stopped suddenly; tablespoonful brandy with half a teaspoonful of tincture of gentian and two tablespoonfuls lime-water, in a cupful of linseed tea every three hours.

Inflammation—Apply blanket, thickly folded and rung out in very hot water, to belly; rub the legs well; give teaspoonful laudanum in 2 ounces of water. Repeat dose in two hours if necessary.

As an evidence that manure is of great benefit in potato culture, even in our rich prairie soil, the two following cases are quoted:—John Doharty, Pigeon Bluff, broke up a quarter of an acre, which had been for two years previous a cattle yard, and planted potatoes. It yielded 150 bushels (or at the rate of 600 bushels per acre) extra quality—about double the yield from ordinary soil alongside with equal treatment every way. George Gunn, Dugald, spread all his stable manure for two years, directly from the stable, on about a quarter of an acre, and last year got 108 bushels of marketable potatoes, besides a number of small ones that he fed to his pigs.

Some of the farmers down on the Plain are going quite extensively into beef cattle and hogs. Adam McKenzie, of Broodale, has 130 cattle, sixty of which he is stall feeding. He is also feeding 130 hogs, which will average 300 pounds each by March 1st. In this way Mr. McKenzie realizes about as much for his refuse wheat as can be secured on the market for No. 2 hard. His hog pen consists of two parts and is located on the bank of a creek. The part in which the hogs sleep is underground, warm and dry; the feeding apartment is on the surface and is reached by ascending an incline. The animals are fed chiefly on boiled and chopped grain. T. McBain, in the same neighborhood, is preparing 150 hogs for market.—*Neepawa Register.*