

Free Entry of American Cattle.

To the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

SIR.—May I call your attention to the statement that the government are about granting a certain company the right to bring in American cattle for slaughter, and that the English Minister of Agriculture had consented to such cattle being allowed to be brought in without prejudicing Canadian cattle interests. We all know the value to Canadian breeders of the market in England. Our cattle are, I believe, at present the only ones that have that privilege, worth, as I have heard estimated in Chicago, fully \$15 per head. Now, sir, I ask, shall we throw away that privilege, or should we remain passive when by so doing we may allow the English Minister of Agriculture to schedule our ports, for I believe this is what it means? Mr. Chaplin is not a pronounced Free Trader, and he, as a very large land owner, whose interests are with the English farmers, with any show at all, would schedule our cattle. His only chance to do so is to have some such excuse as would be offered if American cattle were allowed in Canada, and a case of simple pleuro-pneumonia developed during one of our fall shipments. Once that order is passed in Council it would take a lot of High Commissioners to remove it. I can't think our Minister of Agriculture is well advised in the matter. It seems to me like selling our birthright for a mess of pottage. This company could certainly live without establishing abattoirs at Three Rivers. The railways could carry the dead meat as well as the cattle, and yet, for the benefit of the few, the great mass of Canadian farmers' interests are submerged. If our government intend admitting a few, I would advocate to remove all restrictions. By so doing we should gain a lot of credit and give great satisfaction to our friends on the other side of the line. But if we wish to retain our present status, keep all out. If the virus of disease can be communicated so far as has been proved, then by all means the passage of American cattle through our borders should be stopped. I would instance the case of the champion Ayrshire herd of the West on their return home from the Detroit Fair. They caught some contagious disease from a car of western beef cattle alongside of which they had home to die. The consequence was they went home to die. If this case occurred in Ohio, why could it not in Canada?

Now, sir, the farmers of Canada are looking to you to assist us in this matter, recognizing that in the past you have ever been their champion, and no influence can be greater than yours in assisting us to protect our flocks and herds from disease.

R. GIBSON, Delaware.

A Serious Matter.

DEAR SIR,—The article in your issue of to-day, under the above heading, is of interest to, and voices the opinion of, the cattle men of Canada, both the Ontario farmer and the Northwest rancher. We have facilities for supplying the abattoir company of Three Rivers with all the stock they require. In fact, unless they increase their capacity four-fold, Ontario alone can supply all they require. That phase of the question, the chances of our losing the English market, is not sufficiently considered by the Department of Agriculture. Allow me to further explain to your readers how it is to-day:—Denmark and Canada are the only countries that are allowed to send into Great Britain cattle for feeding purposes, i.e., our "stockers" (lean cattle) are sold to the British farmer, who feeds them on his farm and sells to the drover or butcher whenever the market is favorable. As stated in your article, cattle from every other country must be slaughtered "at the dock where they land" within 24 hours after arrival. Now, for a case confirming your statement that it is a "ruse" of American ranchers to get us shut out (scheduled) of the English market. Before the C. P. R. was completed to terminal points, the company, anxious to do all business possible, contracted to carry Montana cattle from Maple Creek, a station on their line in the Northwest, to Chicago. Every precaution was taken; the herds were driven in over an old trail, were not allowed to come in contact with Canadian cattle, skilled vets were employed, cars were whitewashed and not used for any other traffic. Well, what was the result? Certain Montana ranchers, hoping to have us "scheduled," called the attention of the English government to the practice, and "scheduled" we were; and although the shipping was stopped and cars and overalls fumigated, it took some hard work to get back to our old position.

About a year ago the Montana Live Stock Journal complained that, by the action of the Dominion Government, the dressed-beef trade of our Maritime Provinces was lost to them, and a corresponding gain to our ranchers. To grant the Three Rivers Abattoir Co. what they ask will turn the tables on us.

C. F. GALLAGHER.

The Monetary Times says:—Sir Charles Tupper is financially interested in the success of the Three Rivers Abattoir Company.

The Cattle Breeders' Association.

At the organization of this Association, at Brandon, on the 22nd of July, 1890, there was a membership of thirty. During the year it ran up to about fifty. At the annual meeting on the 22nd of last month, the new membership was forty-four, and the amount in the treasury sixty-five dollars. This is a good showing for the Society, and goes to prove that the movement of organization was in the right direction. During the one short year in which the Association has been in existence a number of efforts have been made in the direction of benefiting the breeders of the province and territories, and some have already borne fruit, while others are likely to in the near future. A circuit of fairs, has been arranged for along the Deloraine branch that will enable exhibitors or visitors to attend every fair along that line. It is to be hoped that the same course may be adopted on the various lines of railway in the country, as it aids materially in making the shows a success. The nomination of judges qualified to act at our exhibitions was also a move in the right direction, and has been appreciated by the agricultural societies generally. The appointment of judges that would adjudicate satisfactorily is always a perplexing matter to the boards, and to have the breeders come forward and name certain persons they consider fully qualified to perform this duty, and whom they are prepared to accept in that capacity, is certainly rendering their duties less onerous. Just what the committee, appointed to endeavor to secure better rates for transporting animals to and from local exhibitions, will be able to accomplish it is impossible at present to say, but it is more than probable that satisfactory arrangements can be made.

In the hurry of preparing the constitution and by-laws some matters were overlooked that demand attention and correction. Other things were, for the sake of getting through with the work in time, compromised between the members of the committee. Among the latter was the clause providing that none but members actually engaged in breeding cattle should hold office of any description. In the main this clause is all right, but there are many instances in which it would prove decidedly in the interests of the Association to have assistance from other sources. Under existing circumstances no delegate could be appointed who was not actually breeding cattle. No representative on any board could be appointed who was not a breeder, and last, but not least, the important office of secretary cannot be filled by any other than an actual breeder. Now, it is not likely that men of leisure, like the present secretary, will always be found able and willing to fill these positions. It has been claimed, on the other hand, it is not in the interests of the breeders to allow other members to hold office. It is certainly not advisable for the breeders to allow the control of the organization to pass out of their hands; but those who take sufficient interest to become members and pay their fees cannot be considered enemies to the cause, and, in fact, it might be argued that they were enthusiasts, from the fact it is purely interest in pure-bred stock that leads them to become members, while the breeders are members from expected financial advantages.

The Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association admits any person taking an interest in Shorthorn cattle on the same terms in every respect as a breeder. If these precautions are unnecessary in the case of that association, where matters of vital importance in connection with registration qualifications, which means thousands

of dollars to the members, are controlled by the association, why should they be necessary here where there is no such interest at stake?

Again, some of the best men who were members last year have stated that they should not again become members if these restrictions were not removed, as they would not belong to an association on terms of inequality with other members. There is little doubt, however, that Mr. Sharman's amendments will carry almost unanimously.

Timely Hints for September.

Grain.—Should you have been so unfortunate as to have some grain frozen so badly as to be doubtful of sale, cut it as green as possible and cure it for hay, even if you don't want it this year; when well-stacked it will keep till next year, when the wild hay may be short.

Try ploughing a very weedy field very shallow directly after harvest, harrow well, and leave it till spring. A great number of weeds will come up and be destroyed by the frosts of November, and you will have a far cleaner field than if you left it till October, and then ploughed deep in the usual way.

Don't be in a hurry to thresh; let the grain "cure" in the stack; get everything well ahead, and thresh in the bright, cool weather in October, and your stack will turn out better, and will be threshed quicker and cleaner.

Put a board roof on that granary, or if you can afford it, shingles. Ten dollars worth of boards may save you a hundred dollars in grain.

Poultry.—See that your poultry are moulting easily. A little linseed meal will help them to get over "dry moult". Kill off all hens over two years old; they won't pay for their keep through the winter; the same with late chicks.

Get your hen house fixed up now, and see that your poultry roost inside every night. Owls are generally very busy in September.

Stock.—On cold nights put in the milking cows. As the grass dries up, commence feeding white turnips or rape. Most cows go back more during this month than any other. Make the transition from grass to hay and roots gradual. If you turn your cows on the stubble land now, let it be in a "clean" field, or weed seeds will be carried all over your land, and "one year's seeding is seven years' weeding".

Pigs.—Push the pigs along by generous feeding to be ready to kill next month. Give them plenty of clean bedding and a dry pen.

Winnipeg Exhibition.—Every reader of the ADVOCATE should endeavor to be present at the coming exhibition, and also bring his wife, children and hired man. Its a poor, unobservant person who won't learn something from seeing such a collection of fine stock and produce. Compare your own stock, grain or other produce with the prize-winning exhibits and see if you can't find out why they are inferior; and then go home determined to improve. If you have anything that you consider particularly choice, exhibit it—even to the baby—and if it is really good you will have some reason to be proud of it; if it is only good in your own mind, the chances are you will have the conceit taken out of you most effectually. Buy a good animal of some pure breed, whether a bull, horse, pig, or even a duck, to improve your home stock. Compare the increased price of a good article with that you generally receive for your "ornery" things, and the time spent in going to and from the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition will not be thrown away.

INVICTA.