

English Letter, No. 14.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Liverpool, May 1.

This has been a great day in Liverpool. Every driver of a horse, or even a "moke," used for draught purposes, regards May Day as his particular festival, and dressed in his best, and with his animal decked with all the braveries that his purse will afford, he parades the streets in procession with his fellows, to the admiration of all beholders, who are not a few. The Corporation, who own a magnificent stud; the railway companies, the leading brewers and other large firms give considerable encouragement to their employes in the matter of these May Day displays: and they have really become a high festival. The day was gloriously fine, and the turn-out even more than ordinarily good. The horses were in grand condition; and it is safe to say that both in numbers and quality for heavy draught purposes they were far and away the best show in the world. It is well within the mark to say that the horses seen in to-day's procession represented a value of a million dollars.

I see it announced that about 3,000 Austrian horses are to be sold by auction at the Barbican Repository in London during the next few weeks. As I think I have before remarked, all the advantage these animals have over the Canadians is a point or two of breeding; so far as soundness goes I think Canadian horses have the advantage.

It will interest some of your readers to know that Mr. Clare Sewell Read, one of the Agricultural Commissioners who went out with Mr. Pell last fall to report on Canada and the States, is one of the victims at the late election. He sat for South Norfolk as a Conservative tenant farmer, but is defeated by Mr. Gordon, the Liberal candidate, though, singularly enough, by only one vote. Mr. Pell retains his seat for South Leicestershire, though he has to make himself happy with a Liberal colleague instead of as heretofore, a Conservative one. But *quantum suffi*.

You will, I am sure, even at the risk of some little disadvantage to your own trade, be glad to learn that the prospects of the British farmers are better at this stage of the season than they have been for many years past. The season so far has been a perfect model, and the farmers are looking forward with renewed hope to a harvest which will to some extent recoup them for their heavy losses of the past few years. The fine dry weather which has prevailed through March and April has also been most beneficial in checking disease in sheep, and for lambing and calving. Altogether the times here are very hopeful, and the only thing more to be desired is that, as the depression of the last four or five years was pretty general the world over, the return of prosperity will be equally so, and that the Dominion will have its full share. It must be borne in mind that the English people are consumers very much according to their earnings, and when times are good and wages high the English operative must and will be well fed; and as it is impossible that home production, even in the most abundant years, can more than half meet the demand, there will still be a splendid market here for those who will take the pains to send a really good thing. I am very pleased to note that, judging by some late consignments, Canada can produce and send to us cattle quite as good as any we have at home. £45 per head for a whole consignment was recently obtained for Canadian heaves, and this is a price to be proud of. Australia seems inclined to try her powers as a competitor with you and the States in providing fresh meat for the British market. I do not think, however, that you have any serious cause for alarm. Your land

is as cheap and at least as good; your climate as favorable for beef producing; you are much nearer your market; and the cost of freight, insurance and the like will always heavily handicap the Australian colonies.

Emigration from Europe is now in full swing, and compared with the last few years, the increase is very great. A large proportion of those now passing through Liverpool are Swedes and Norwegians. The German emigrants just now are very few. A good number of English and Irish are also leaving.

The Report of the Veterinary Department of the Privy Council, just issued, gives some interesting statistics respecting the trans-atlantic cattle trade, which I make no excuse for quoting:

"From Canada there were landed in 1879 at the ports of Bristol, Glasgow, Liverpool, and London, 157 cargoes of animals, consisting of 25,185 cattle, 73,913 sheep, 3663 swine, of which 154 cattle, 1623 sheep, and 249 swine were thrown overboard during the voyage; 21 cattle, 226 sheep, and 3 swine were landed dead; and 4 cattle and 61 sheep had to be slaughtered at the place of landing owing to injuries received in transit. From the United States there were landed in 1879 at the ports of Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow, Grimsby, Hartlepool, Hull, Leith, Liverpool, London, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, South Shields, and Southampton, 535 cargoes of animals, consisting of 76,117 cattle, 119,350 sheep, and 15,180 swine, of which 3140 cattle, 5915 sheep, and 2943 swine were thrown overboard on the voyage; 221 cattle, 386 sheep, and 392 swine were landed dead; and 93 cattle, 167 sheep, and 130 swine were so much injured that it was necessary to slaughter them at the place of landing. Thus it appears that 14,024 animals were thrown overboard, 1249 were landed dead, and 455 were so much injured or exhausted that they were killed at the place of landing, making a total number of 15,728 animals which were either lost on the passage or so much injured that it was necessary to slaughter them immediately on landing.

"Notwithstanding the increased restrictions on importation, the number of foreign animals imported was larger in 1879 than in the previous year, the total from all countries out of the United Kingdom being 1,241,847, as against 1,200,323 in 1878. From European countries we received 143,187 cattle, 750,469 sheep, 32,591 swine; from Canada, 25,185 cattle, 73,913 sheep, 3663 swine; from the United States of America, 76,117 cattle, 119,350 sheep, 15,180 swine; from the Channel Islands, 2151 cattle only; from the other countries, 12 cattle, 22 sheep, 7 swine. From Ireland we received 641,370 cattle, 673,371 sheep, 429,663 swine. The total from all sources was 2,986,251 animals in 1879, against 3,043,090 in 1878.

"There were landed in Great Britain during 1879 from places out of the United Kingdom, exclusive of the Channel Islands, 2671 cargoes of animals, consisting of 244,501 cattle, 973,754 sheep, 51,441 swine. In 122 cargoes the inspectors detected diseases among the animals on landing in this country. The diseased cargoes came from the following countries:—Belgium, 46 cargoes, of which 6 cargoes, consisting of 3141 sheep, contained 8 sheep affected with foot-and-mouth disease, and 68 sheep affected with sheep-scab. France 27 cargoes, of which 2 cargoes, consisting of 25 cattle, 30 swine, contained 1 cattle affected with pleuro-pneumonia, and 20 swine affected with foot-and-mouth disease. Germany, 496 cargoes, of which 21 cargoes, consisting of 312 cattle, 28,277 sheep, contained 29 sheep affected with foot-and-mouth disease, and 496 sheep affected with sheep-scab. The Netherlands, 659 cargoes, of which 21 cargoes, consisting of 1830 cattle, 11,076 sheep, 1079 swine, contained 9 cattle affected with pleuro-pneumonia; 1 head of cattle, 7 sheep, and 64 swine affected with foot-and-mouth disease; and 83 sheep affected with sheep-scab. Canada, 157 cargoes, of which three cargoes consisting of 339 cattle, 1746 sheep, 180 swine, contained 13 sheep affected with sheep-scab. The United States of America, 535 cargoes, of which 69 cargoes, consisting of 13,301 cattle, 8553 sheep, contained 137 cattle affected with pleuro-pneumonia, 33 sheep affected with foot-and-mouth disease, and 37 sheep affected with sheep-scab."

These figures show that the number of cases of pleuro-pneumonia detected in the cattle from the United States far exceeded those from the contin-

ent of Europe, and amply justified the measures taken here. Canada, on the contrary, occupies a most favorable position, being debited only with thirteen sheep suffering from sheep-scab. It would seem, also, that Canadian shippers manage things better than their neighbors, for while the losses amongst Canadian cattle in 1879 were less than one per cent., and amongst Canadian sheep barely two per cent., the losses amongst United States cattle were four and a half per cent., and amongst their sheep over five per cent. Another instructive fact to be gathered from the above is that last year Canada supplied to this country only one in 35 of the cattle, one in 22 of the sheep, and only one in 130 of the pigs imported into England.

Value of Rocky Lands.

In considering the natural resources of the Dominion and the best means of developing her agricultural resources, the great difference between the geological formation and the soil of the several parts must not be overlooked. The Algoma and Muskoka Districts demand a system of agriculture very unlike that suited to the western part of the peninsula. The vast region of rocky land, heavily timbered and diversified by lakes and rivers, is not without its value as a farming country, though it will not have the extensive wheat fields of our western counties. We have had considerable experience in farming stony land, as well as fertile wheat soils, and we know that rocky land, if properly cultivated, is sure to pay well for the labor. Good crops of oats, barley, clover, potatoes and other roots may be calculated on, and they of good quality. An item from the N. Y. Tribune on the "Best uses for rocky lands," is well worth the consideration of settlers in the rocky lands of such districts as Muskoka:

"Thousands, if not millions of acres of land, since the settlement of our Eastern States began, have been cleared of their valuable forests and put under cultivation, which are so rocky and stony as to have never paid back in their crops anything like the value of the labor bestowed upon them; and much less afforded the slightest profit to their owners. Such lands should not be ploughed, but as soon as cleared, if not wanted to be grown over again with wood, they ought to be put into grass and then stocked with sheep, young cattle of the smaller breeds, ponies and goats, whichever pay best for their pasturage. The short grass which grows up among rock and stones on a dry soil is usually extra nutritious, and endures a drouth better than on open soil, as the stones and rocks retain a greater amount of moisture around them during hot clear days than lands which are free of these. Where sheep are not liable to be injured by dogs, they would be most profitable animals to stock stony land, particularly if of a superior muton breed like the South and other Downs, as we have a large and well paying English market now open for all such.

"Next to sheep handsome ponies would probably pay best. These should be of different breeds. Such are not only the most desirable for children and young ladies riding and driving, but are also suitable for various kinds of work, in which they can be more advantageously employed than larger horses. Any observant traveller in Great Britain will notice this. They are profitably bred and reared there in great numbers on what would otherwise be almost waste lands, from the extreme south of England to the most northern islands of Scotland."

In such a country a judicious system of forestry would be very serviceable—the preserving of tracts of the native forests, and where they have been cut down, planting the trees most suitable to the climate and soil. They would, beside the benefit in respect of the climate, be sure after some few years of paying a good profit.

Alsike gives smaller crops than red clover, but of better quality. It is especially recommended for soils liable to heaving by frost and affords to the bees excellent pasture ground.