

high prices prevailed, which made up for the low prices of the fall makes. In 1897, on the cheese sent forward for the time as stated above, the farmers realized \$14,195,000, against \$11,625,000 for the same period in 1896, and \$10,264,000 in 1895. According to this statement, the producers have increased their business over two and a half million dollars in one year, and three million four hundred thousand in two years. This is a very satisfactory showing. When the complete returns are in from the other points of shipment for 1897, it is probable that the total value of the cheese output will approach seventeen million dollars.

The butter exports have not made as successful a showing as the cheese exports. During July, August and September, the expansion in the volume of exports gave promise that in 1897 the foreign trade in butter would be double that of the previous one. But this desired result was not obtained, and the increase in the number of packages was only 62,000 odd packages. The conditions of this trade, however, are reported to be very satisfactory, showing a return of two and a half million dollars for the season, or an increase of \$656,000 to the butter producers' revenue over that of 1896. Since September, the butter market has not been a very brisk one, the depression in connection with it commencing about the same time as with the cheese. Notwithstanding this depression, the profits to the producer have been greater than in 1896. The average price for 1896, was \$12 per tub of seventy pounds, as compared with \$12.25 for 1897. A business of \$2,000,000 is quite large, but it is very small as compared with the \$25,000,000 which Great Britain imports annually, and of which Canada should have a larger share.

The live stock export season of 1897, which ended November 23, was one of the most successful since 1890, as regards the volume of business, but probably one of the worst, if not the worst, in the history of the trade for the shippers' pockets. It is estimated by most of the prominent shippers that the average loss during the season was fully \$6 per head, and that exporters have lost in round numbers in the neighborhood of \$750,000. The reasons for this are given as being chiefly the Engineers' strike, which lessened consumption; the Jubilee celebration, which induced an extra supply; and the inferior quality of the stock sent forward from September to the close of the season, which had a depressing effect upon values on the other side, and shippers were obliged to stand the consequence. The total number of cattle shipped was 119,188 head, of which 12,171 head were United States shipped through in bond. These figures show an increase of 18,828 head, as compared with last year. The average cost per head is placed at \$60, which makes the total value \$7,151,280. The season opened with prices higher for export cattle than the market abroad warranted, the ruling price for stall fed at points of shipment being 5c. to 5½ cents, or fully ½ cent. higher than was paid in 1896. A striking feature of the trade is the number of stockers which have gone to the States, which will have considerable effect upon prices for choice stock next season.

Sheep exporters have shared the misfortunes of the cattle shippers. In May prices in England opened at 12½c. for choice stock and advanced to 13c., but declined to 8c. in July, and for the balance of the season ranged from 10c. to 11c. The shipments showed a decrease of 19,417 as compared with 1896, or only 61,254 head.

The horse trade was one of the most profitable to shippers, though the number sent over was less than in 1896 by 37 head. These cost from \$60 to \$100 at country points, and sold at an average of £20 to £36 per head. Some sales of fancy driving horses were made in London at prices ranging from £80 to £150.

All the great cereals show handsome gains, the most notable being wheat, corn and oats. The export poultry trade has increased, and when the season is over will show marked advance. Apples show a large decrease, over 500,000 barrels as compared with 1896.

### Export Poultry Trade.

Canadian poultry is every year growing more in favor in Great Britain. The reports from the holiday trade this season have been very satisfactory and there is not the least doubt that if we only send over the right kind of fowls nicely dressed and put in packages suitable for the trade, the export trade for our poultry can be more than doubled in a very short time.

A lot of definite practical work is necessary, however, before we can accomplish any great results in this regard. In the first place our poultry raisers must have the right kind of poultry to begin with—a kind that will produce birds suitable for the English market. And then the poultryman must learn to fatten and prepare his poultry in the proper way. The trouble just now is, that there does not seem to be the right quality of stuff coming to market for the export trade. A Montreal dealer the other day stated that he had an order for from 20 to 50 tons of prime, fat turkeys, and he did not believe he could get 10 tons. This same dealer who has had large experience in the trade pointed out that there is big money in shipping poultry to England, not only during the holidays, but during February, March, April, May and June. These are the months when shipping poultry would pay best. The poultry could be put in cold storage as soon as the animal heat was out and would improve with age up to a certain limit.

What is required is good poultry for table use, and the farmer must be educated to select good birds for this purpose. Then the stock should be fed foods that will give the proper flavor, and the poultry should be dressed and fitted properly for the market. When this is provided we must give the English dealer to understand that we can supply him regularly with the kind of poultry he wants. With the poultry as with every other export trade we must be prepared to send over a regular supply, or all our efforts to build up a trade will be without avail. As a writer in the *Montreal Trade Bulletin* puts it, "This 'slapdash,' 'hit-or-miss' trade will not do."

Where are the farmers to get the kinds of fowls required, may be asked? This will not be difficult, as we believe that all the best breeds of poultry are kept by the poultrymen who make a business of it. There is, however, we think a tendency in many sections to breed entirely for show purposes and not as to suitability for the export trade. In fact, many of the poultry shows do not give as much attention to the market side of the question as to the fancy side in arranging the prize lists.

### Tuberculosis and Veterinary Inspection.

A BREEDER EXPRESSES HIS VIEWS — VETERINARY INSPECTION A FAD.

Editor FARMING:

SIR,—“Veterinary inspection in regard to tuberculosis in cattle is becoming a nuisance, and it is time that something was done in the interests of the stockmen. Half a dozen more level heads along with the prudence and foresight displayed by Mr. Dryden in this matter and we would hear the end of this veterinary fad. The cattle of Ontario are healthy, our people are healthy, our food is of the best, and if those cranks who want to work up a job for themselves and a nuisance for others would begin at the right end of this matter the human family is the party to begin on. This would be much better than attacking our defenceless cows, and it might rid us of some of the humbugs who keep working up a fad that is so ridiculous that the most ordinary cattleman in the country could put all their efforts to naught. No man milks a diseased cow any length of time. She will very soon, if sick, show symptoms of sickness, and the milk yield will at once decrease and she could not be made a profitable cow to any man. Tuberculosis is now the predominant ailment with cattle if we would believe the vets. I have known four cases in widely separated places where tuberculosis was pronounced as the trouble. The first was simply a disordered stomach, and the animal did not react after being tested. An-

other young animal ate the twine out of its bedding every chance it got and it had to be bedded with hay. It was pronounced tuberculosis and failed to react. Another whole herd, whose owner thought, by reading so much trash as is printed and published on this subject, that his whole herd were affected, had them all tested, and not one reacted. Another case, a bull calf acted a little queer; its owner took the advice of the most eminent of our vets. Tuberculosis again, but it was not, and the calf (eight months old) was weaned and became as well as a calf could be. The milk and feed did not agree with him. We could go on showing the ridiculous nature of the fad those folks are nursing so well. Any fairly good cattleman can see trouble in his herd soon enough after it is there without meeting or trying to meet what is not there. As to cattle going from the United States to Canada or *vice versa*, there is nothing to hinder any one of ordinary intellect from passing almost the worst sort of a case if inspection were not well done, and even with close inspection ordinary cases of tuberculosis can be easily put through the test without any reaction. We hope the agricultural papers will keep their columns free from nonsense regarding this utter humbug. Just think of it, last winter that Toronto health officer made out that some cow had given the people on the farm consumption, and it turned out that the consumptive person had been on the farm long before the cow came, and the chances are that the man gave it to the cow. Another case came to our notice when a herd was tested, only two of the herd reacted, and those were two good cows for milk and butter that the owner always kept for the family use. Like a sensible man, he never stopped using the milk, for he had been using it for ten years and had raised a family of eight as healthy people as are in Ontario, and those two cows had done most of it and are still doing it. If I get the liberty to inspect the cow whose milk I shall use I will undertake to drink and use for an indefinite time, or long enough to prove that it is ridiculous nonsense saying that one will get tuberculosis from a cow that will react under the test. A clear udder, clear of lumps of any kind, and free of hard gatherings above the udder, and no swellings in her knee joints, her eyes full and healthy looking, and that will eat her feed three times a day as she ought to do, will give no one tuberculosis whether she reacts or not.”

STOCKMAN.

### The Tuberculosis Scare.

As will be seen from the letter of "Stockman" in another column, veterinary inspection in regard to tuberculosis in cattle is exciting considerable interest among breeders. "Stockman" makes some pretty strong statements regarding the situation, and of such a character as would go to show that cattlemen have a serious grievance indeed. Though we do not believe, as he points out, that the system of veterinary inspection, as now practised, is operated for the purpose of giving our veterinarians something to do, yet, we do think, that as the laws now stand, our stockmen are being unfairly treated.

The chief difficulty seems to be with the law itself, and not with those who carry it into effect. As the law referring to contagious diseases now stands, the owner of a herd of cattle which reacts to the tuberculin test, though the Government may not order the cattle infected to be destroyed, is not allowed either to sell the milk from the infected cows, nor to dispose of the cattle for beef, under penalty of a fine of not less than \$200. In other words, he is forced to slaughter his own cattle, and lose their total value, even if they are apparently healthy and suitable for beef. This is unfair, and whether the Government order the diseased animals to be killed or not, the owner should be recompensed to some extent, if he is not responsible for their being diseased. If the Government ordered infected stock to be killed, the owner can claim compensation from the Government for his loss, but where stock are tested, and shown to be affected by tuberculosis, unless the Government order the stock to be killed they are not responsible, while the