

English Letter—No. 38.

Liverpool, June 2nd.

There was great excitement, and no little consternation here, on the announcement being made that Messrs. Bell & Sons, of this city, and of London and Glasgow, the agents of the well-known firm of Messrs. Eastman & Co., the dead meat exporters, of New York, had decided, for the present at least, to discontinue the business. At one time it was reported that this great enterprise was supported by the inexhaustible purse of the Vanderbilts, and it may be taken for granted that nothing but serious present losses and a gloomy outlook would have induced even a temporary cessation of a business so vast and complicated; for not only were Messrs. Bell & Co. doing nearly the whole of the wholesale American dead meat trade, but they had opened a number of retail stores in many of our large cities and towns, all of which must now of course be closed. I am not by any means sure that English and Irish farmers, and English butchers, will not regard this as a consummation to be devoutly thankful for, while our lovers of beef-steak and juicy mutton will pay the piper. It largely depends on the extent to which Canada is able to come to the rescue, and I am pleased to learn from reliable sources that the Dominion, even after providing for the heavy demands of the host of new Manitobian settlers, will be able to make a notable effort; and no doubt it will pay well; one firm alone are prepared to ship 13,000 head of cattle during the current month. The causes of the collapse in the dead meat trade are varied. First there are the improved trade and the large importation into the States, causing an enhanced home demand; next, the fact that the last two severe winters have had a serious effect on many of the western herds; the fact that at present prices it pays better to sell corn than to feed stock on it; and finally the high rates of freight. Canadian cattle being free from the provisions of the contagious diseases acts, and being allowed to enter this country alive, ought to reap a large benefit from this changed condition of things. Australian competition, especially in mutton, is not formidable at present, and in my humble judgment it will be a long time before it is. Prices of beef and mutton will probably rule very high here in consequence of the above stated condition of things.

Store cattle were never so dear in my memory; they are scarce at any money. Beef made from 8d to 9d here to-day, and great enquiry for stores to graze.

As I explained in a previous letter, the vast emigration of the current season has occasioned considerable difficulty in obtaining cattle space on any of the regular steamers bound for the Dominion; as this stream of emigrants still continues with unabated vigor, a number of shippers of pedigree stock have secured the whole space of the steamer "Oxenholme," for Quebec, and she left to-day with a cargo of pedigree stock, amounting in value to little, if any, less than £20,000. The different consignments presented a great variety. Probably the most important was a splendid lot of Herefords shipped by Mr. Grasett, the noted breeder, whose celebrated herd of over 100 head is so well known in Canada. I may mention that Mr. Grasett was a cousin of the late Dean Grasett, of Toronto. They are being shipped to Mr. C. C. Bridges, of Shanty Bay, Ontario, and include the celebrated heifer, "Miss Annie," which has taken prizes at the Royal and several other principal shows. Among the others are "Lady Mary," "Gweny 4th," "Clifton 4th," "Lizzie 2nd," "Vanity 11," "Clifton 8th," and other noted animals; forming the finest lot of Herefords ever sent across the Atlantic in one vessel, and I doubt

not that some of them will make their mark at your autumn shows.

Mr. Simon Beattie shipped by the same vessel 28 head of specially selected Galloway cattle, which are entirely different from the Galloways previously sent to the Dominion, and which, it is expected, will be admirably suited in their rough coats and hardy constitutions for the Rocky Mountain ranches. One cow in the lot, Mr. Beattie thinks, can hold her own with any Polled Angus yet seen in the Dominion. These animals go to Mr. Davey, of Wisconsin. The lot includes also the handsome bull "Maori Chief," a great prize winner. Mr. Beattie also shipped for Toronto 21 Shropshire Downs, 5 Cotswold ewes and 2 Oxford Down ewes and 2 rams, all from celebrated flocks.

The Earl of Latham has shipped about a score of very ordinary Shorthorn bulls. I do not see how they can result in profit, as I rather fancy that you have already enough and to spare of similar second and third-rate animals. The "Oxenholme" also took away fine drafts of Polled Aberdeens, Jerseys, Sussex, Ayrshires, and last and not least, a pair of Shetland cattle, about 36 inches high, for a celebrated lady breeder at Rougemont, near Montreal. W. Geary, of your town, has also made a very fine selection of Polled cattle and Herefords, and Shropshire and Lincoln sheep, some of which, if they are shown at your fall shows, will be found hard to beat.

Horses continue very high in price, and few are coming from your side of the Atlantic; Americans, owing to the increased home demand, have entirely stopped shipping, and I hear of several American orders being placed here for saddle horses. Your breeders will do well to watch these signs, for your horse trade is and must be of annually increasing importance.

Mr. H. H. Spencer, of Brooklyn, Ont., and Mr. J. Dryden, M. P. P., of the same place, are in England, and Mr. Macrae is also here purchasing Galloways, and a number of others will be here in time for the Royal Agricultural Show, at Reading, on July 11th. The Canadian Government intend again having an exhibition there, and it will be a powerful argument to the minds of the Berkshire farmers as to what Canada can do.

The interest taken in the Dominion here is by no means waning. Mr. Kellas, representative of the "North British Agriculturist," was a passenger to Quebec by the Allan steamer "Polynesian," on Thursday last. He intends to write a series of articles for his journal on the States and Canada.

With the exception of a few late frosts, which have rather punished our fruit trees, the season here is marvellously promising; the grass crop will be immense and very early, and the grain is looking marvellously well.

Fast Walking Contests.

The leading agricultural societies of the country could not do a better thing for the horse-breeding interest of the United States than to offer large prizes for fast walking horses. Every experienced horseman knows that the walk is the most valuable of all gaits for a business horse, whether on the farm or on the road; and yet no other gait is so neglected. We have our masters in the trainer's art for trotting, pacing and running; we have our carefully-kept and often-published records of performances at these gaits; but the most practical, the most valuable of all—the walking gait—is ignored. The agricultural societies of our country can, if they choose, easily bring about a revolution in this respect, and we hope to see them move in it. Let walking matches be made a prominent feature at all the leading fairs this season. Let us have the records of all creditable performances kept and published as carefully as are the pacing, trotting and running records. Let liberal prizes be given for the fastest walking horse, mare or gelding, the gait to be a square walk—not a fox-trot—

and a few years will serve to bring about a wonderful improvement.

Who has not felt disgusted with the horse that will trot along at a good rate of speed, but when you come to a piece of road where the trot is out of the question, and the walk has to be resorted to, will only creep along at a snail's pace! A good walking horse will carry one along on the farm or on the road, even with a moderate load, at the rate of five miles an hour. The average horse will carry you at about one half that rate of speed! What a wonderful difference this makes in the amount of work that may be done in a day upon the farm!—[Breeder's Gazette.]

[We cordially commend the attention of the Directors of our Township shows to the above, and as their prize lists are not yet all made, give a good premium for walking matches. The object will be useful, and add to the attraction of the happy family gathering at these useful fairs. We hope that the judges at the several fairs will send to the ADVOCATE the record of the horses making the fastest walk for a full mile at each fair. The contests may properly be limited to double or single harness to four wheel.—ED.]

Patent Washing Machines and Hay Lifters.

Some time ago a man representing himself as A. L. Burk, agent for a patent washing machine, succeeded in swindling two Eramosa farmers out of \$282. He sold one of his so-called machines to them and received three joint notes of \$94 each, and was to forward the machine immediately. The notes are now due and the machine has not arrived. Burk tried to cash the notes in Guelph but did not succeed. He got them cashed, however, at Hay & Co.'s, Listowel, and as the notes are perfect in every respect the farmers will have to pay the shot. The Hay Lifter and Carrier Co., of Toronto, Ont., have been fleecing farmers in the county of Brant, and are now said to be near Newmarket. They give a farmer one machine free and agree to send him 10 machines freight paid. When sold to be paid for at the rate of \$20 each, otherwise to be returned. Two agreements purporting to be the same are signed, one of which, however, turns out to be a promissory note, is transferred to some bank or note shaver, and the farmer has to pay it.

Time and again the farmers have been warned against having any dealings with this sort of characters, unless they are perfectly satisfied that the parties represent some well known and reliable firm.

Our correspondents will do good service in exposing these swindlers, whether bitten or not, and in defending any suit to recover amounts illegally claimed.

There is a savings bank for the surplus dollars of farmers that will give a better interest than 3 per cent. It is INVESTMENT IN DRAIN TILE. Agriculturists who have tried it say that they can plant their corn earlier; it is not so liable to rot in the hill; drouth does much less injury; the crop is so far advanced before bugs and other insects appear that it resists their destructive ravages. The yield is twenty, forty, sometimes sixty per cent. greater.

Two correspondents of the Fruit Recorder report as follows on bagging grapes: "1. I sacked a few last season and they hung on vines until the 25th of October and were the largest and best flavored Concord grapes I ever tasted, and were the only grapes I had from 500 bearing vines, the rest all rotted. 2. Year before last I tied 40 or 50 bunches with pieces of newspaper; did splendid; one bunch overlooked till late, I found it and we decided it the sweetest we ever ate; was a Concord. This last season used small paper bags tied with twine where bunch joined the vine. Is quickly done; very little expense; grapes were crisp, sweet and melting."