

plants popularly known as "locoweeds," or "crazy weeds." These reports from widely separated regions agree closely as to the injurious and frequently fatal effect upon animals of eating these "loco weeds." The habit of eating these weeds seems to be formed because of the scarcity at certain seasons of nutritive grasses. All, or nearly all, of these plants have a bitter disagreeable taste, yet after the habit has once been formed, the animals reject the sweetest grasses. Among the symptoms first noticed are loss of flesh, general lassitude and impaired vision; later the animal's mind seems to be affected, and it becomes often vicious and unmanageable. The time required for these weeds to kill animals varies greatly, some dying within three or four days, others lingering a year or longer. The commissioner has recommended that a properly constituted commission be organized to visit the localities where the loss of animals has been greatest, inquire thoroughly into the matter, and gather specimens of the weeds for analysis. As these weeds may be found in Canada, the investigation should not be lost sight of by her farmers.

LOTUS.

**The Annual Agricultural Meetings.**

During the past month the election of officers has taken place. We attended one, perhaps the most important one in Ontario, that of East Middlesex; as this Society, in conjunction with the City of London, compose the Board of the Western Fair, which proves independent of other attractions outside of agriculture, has always proved itself to be the best purely agricultural exhibition in Canada, even surpassing in many respects the Provincial and Dominion Exhibitions. This we have previously supported, and no person has as yet disputed the fact, as we have never read a letter from any one or seen it refuted in any journal that has any agricultural standing. From political, personal or other causes the meeting was a packed one, as three times the usual number attended. Some persons were elected contrary to the wish of the regular attendants. Among those rejected were Messrs. G. Douglas, Hogg, Nicholson, F. Shore, &c., men that stand with unimpeachable names as agriculturists, business men, and as good workers for the Society, and men firm in the retention of the present Agricultural Grounds, which every one admits are the best in the Dominion. There are some persons that have used every possible means to get the grounds disposed of. It is thought that some of the new members are not so firm in this question as the rejected candidates, and there is great danger of an irrepressible injury being done by them to the agriculturists. There are some good men in the Board, but a dissatisfaction exists. Perhaps some other meetings may have been packed—it is difficult to prevent it—and such instances tend to discourage the real industrious, honest farmer. We think that an alteration in the mode of electing officers to look after our agricultural interest should be made, and farmers who pay a tax should have an opportunity of voting for any person that holds office and receives Government pay; also that the present mode can be greatly improved.

There arrived in London, Eng., a consignment of frozen meat from Australia in the Orient Steamship Company's mailboat Orient. A luncheon was held on board the vessel, and it is reported by those who partook of it that it might safely enter into competition with the newly-killed produce supplied in London markets. The beef and mutton killed in Australia were brought to the table in such a state that the guests could not tell that it had not come from Smithfield Market unless they had been previously made aware of the fact.

**Danger—Duty Neglected.**  
TO OUR LEGISLATORS.

It is our painful duty to again call the attention of the public to what we deem an injustice to our farmers, and to our best friends, the Europeans. We have personally been in Europe and are prepared to state that our friends in England are supplied with large quantities of meat under a disguise of name, which is deception or fraud. We have seen hogs suffering with hog cholera and foot and mouth disease, and we have known diseased animals to be slaughtered and sold for food. We have seen many car loads of hogs imported from the



States alive, killed in Canada, and these hogs have been dressed in the form of English or Irish bacon and shipped from Canada.

We have on previous occasions called attention to this. We informed some of the members of the Board of Agriculture of the facts. We took one of the members of the Board to a packing-house where this business is carried on, and he saw hundreds of these American hogs killed and ready for



packing, and is aware of the above facts, as are many members of that Board. One member of the Board at least had a lot of hogs diseased with hog cholera himself, and yet nothing has been done to prevent this dangerous—may we say dishonest system.

We have had these illustrations hurriedly made to attract more attention to this important subject. The first shows the hogs in transit from Chicago



to Toronto; second, slaughtering in Toronto; third, selling American meat in England. Americans have many dangerous and deadly diseases among their cattle and hogs, and foreigners know it. Canada has no dangerous or deadly contagious diseases, and we should let the world know it. We should prevent the introduction of diseases and take care that Americans do not palm off their inferior productions for Canadian, thus obtaining higher prices than they otherwise would do, and robbing Canadian farmers of the good name and prices they would otherwise obtain. Coun-

tenancing this dishonorable practice of selling goods under false representation should be discouraged, and the danger of spreading the disease, of which we have repeatedly spoken. We know our writings have had some effect already, but there are yet dangers; and even the existing law that has been enacted for preventative purposes is not as strictly enforced as the exigency of the case deserves, and which some of those who are receiving Government money are cognizant of, should cause a fair, just and impartial investigation by unbiased farmers, not picked men, or men who through fear or favor, shield an iniquity. Prevention is better than cure. We ask for preventative measures being fairly, justly and unfearedly administered, and would feel satisfied if we can be anyway instrumental in preventing the spread of contagious diseases among our stock.

In our last issue we showed to you that the American pork is being discarded from the tables of the most intelligent in their own country for fear of introducing the deadly Trichinosis into their families, which has already sent many to untimely graves both in America and in Germany. The latter nation now discards American pork. The best families in England will not use it if they know it, but as yet they are deceived. They believe Canada to be free from these diseases. But this will not be long so; truth will eventually ascend and be known.

Farmers, you may depend that unless more vigorous steps are taken, and a fair, searching investigation made, not by partisans who desire to shield friends or individuals, but by really independent, honorable and truthful men—men who will let their yea be yea, and nay, nay, without variations—we shall assuredly have our meat classed as a second or third class article. As it is at present, the Canadian farmers' grain-fed pork is unsurpassed by any in the British market, even English or Irish bacon, and these facts have been shown to the proper Canadian authorities years ago. The present or future generations shall not be able to refer to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE and say we have not done our duty to you.

We have sent frequent telegrams at our expense. We have interviewed members of Parliament, Senators and members of the Agricultural Board for years. They have done a little when compelled to from foreign pressure; but there is and has been a grave neglect on the part of some that should know better.

**Oleomargarine.**

In order to give the readers of the ADVOCATE some idea of what kind of material tallow butter is made of, we clip the following from a Montreal paper:—

The following is a copy of postal card mailed from a large city in Western New York to a country slaughter-house:—"Sir,—If you will save your slaughter and kidney bullocks' fat, clean and sweet, and pack same day as you ship it, and drop card, I will pay five cents per lb for it and pay freight. Salt barrels will answer, and as it is for tallow butter making, must be free from sweetbread. It should be hung up to cool quick in the air before being put in barrels, and not cool off in the barrel. This is a new outlet for fat at an advanced rate, while the usual outlet is declining." Upon this an American Exchange remarks:—"The significance of the card is that the large manufacturing of tallow butter adjacent to the slaughter houses of New York and Brooklyn have found that the metropolitan supply of tallow is not enough to meet their needs, and so they are reaching out after the refuse from the country butchers. This is only what might have been expected, when the enormous mass of tallow butter produced is in mind, but it is nevertheless startling to be brought face to face with the fact. The thought that the fat from the thousands of country slaughter-houses, most of them reeking in filth and filled with an atmosphere of intolerable stench, should