

From the United States.

[FROM OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT.]

March 20th, 1882.

The bill introduced at the present session of Congress, to permit grain bought in the U. S. by Canadian farmers in wagons, or other ordinary wood vehicles, to be ground in mills adjacent to Canadian territory, free of import duties, is not likely to pass before the second session next winter. It is referred to the committee on ways and means, and while they manifest no hostility to it, they are pressed by so many other measures that they will not report upon it till late in the session.

A letter has just been transmitted by the Secretary of State to the Speaker of the House of Rep's, from H. Cloete, a prominent colonist of the cape of Good Hope, Africa, on the subject of pleuro-pneumonia in cattle. The letter was forwarded through the U. S. legation, at Paris, with a note of introduction from Lord Granville, and Lord Lyons. H. Cloete, in his communication, states that he and his friends are proprietors of a mode of treating herds infected with pleuro-pneumonia with the following effect: When one or more animals show symptoms of pleuro-pneumonia the entire herd is put under treatment; within ten days all those infected, however slightly, are dead; those not infected, after being slightly indisposed for a few days, become entirely well, and are proof against the disease for at least seven years, the limit of time at present known from first test, but in all probability for their natural life. Cattle so treated, when well, can be sent to others not infected, and not communicate the disease. He alleges that calves nursed by mothers salted (as the term is) do not catch the disease, and are as a further precaution salted when weaned. The mode of treatment is as novel as effective, cheap and sure, and every farmer can be his own veterinary. He states that he is prepared to come to the United States if the government desires, and give proof of the efficacy of his mode of treatment, and that it will entirely stamp out pleuro-pneumonia in this country.

In a letter received from a personal friend in Paris, who is on intimate terms with H. Cloete I am informed that this remedy is not like that of M. Pasteur, by inoculation, but is a liquid and can be administered by any intelligent farmer; that H. Cloete has himself administered it to healthy animals, and turned them into an infected herd, and that they were taken out and never had any symptom of the disease.

If it will accomplish all he claims, it is certainly an important discovery, and I have no doubt provision will be made for bringing H. Cloete to this country to practically test the remedy.

One of the most interesting subjects treated of in the late National Convention of Agriculturists, and not yet reported upon by me, was the address of Prof. J. P. Roberts, of Cornell University, N. Y., on "The science of developing and perpetuating milk qualities." Among other things, he said that in the U. S. for the last two hundred years the almost invariable practice with all farmers producing milk, has been to select more or less of the calves from the best milking dams. In this way it was supposed that the best milking qualities of the herd could be perpetuated. Sometimes it occurs that the offspring proves as good, or even better than the dams, but in a large majority of cases they were inferior. The practice of selecting offspring of the best dams, with little or no thought or pains as to their qualities, either apparent or inherited from the sire, has been in practice for a long time, and yet our common cattle are neither a breed, a sub-breed, nor good grades, but are much inferior,

as a whole, to the European breeds, from which they sprang. Success, he says, in developing and perpetuating a milking breed, is not by simple selection on the dam's side, only, although it is a small factor. I don't mean to say that each individual animal of our common stock is a failure, but I do know that a majority of them fail to pay for their care and food, and give a fair profit. The farmers of the northern portion of the kingdom of the Netherlands, wanted just such animals as many of our own farmers want to day; a sizeable, fair beef animal, with uniform good milking qualities. They accomplished their object right well, long years since, while we with equally as good material for the last 50 years, and far better surroundings in many respects, have frittered away our time and energies; meanwhile we have imported at great expense and risk large numbers of valuable animals, yet in most cases, the common cow shows no improvement. One of the prominent causes of failure to develop and maintain improved animals has been the ignorance of the first and great law of breeding. The excessive flow of milk in the best cows, and the loss of vitality while bearing and sustaining their young, so injures their propency, that valuable acquired qualities fail to descend to the offspring, therefore the vitality and qualities, both inherited and acquired, of the sire, become of paramount importance. He ironically remarks that you cannot take a sire without blood, or even half a quarter blood, and modeled after a hat-rack, and expect fine qualities in a calf from the best milking dam.

Another cause of failure, he alleges, is lack of nourishing and succulent food at critical periods. Shelter and care are prominent factors, and without them, both to dam and calf, the simple selection and rearing of the most promising calves, even though their sires have super-excellent qualities, will never result in developing and perpetuating fine milking qualities.

Don't expect, he says, the best offspring by coupling yearlings. When the dam is matured she is in a condition to perpetuate her valuable qualities through her offspring with great certainty; the greatest flow of milk should not be sought for then, but protection of the offspring, food not too succulent, but abundant and nutritious, period of milking shortened to eight months, and after producing three or four calves under these conditions she should be fattened and sent to the block before she reaches her ninth year. Immature or superannuated animals cannot transmit the acquired qualities in full vigor and force. What is true of the dam as to maturity, vigor and health is equally true of the sire, and through him the greater element of improvement is found, and if rightfully used, his vigor and vitality are not endangered, but are preserved in full force long after the dam's.

An Age of Deception.

[FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.]

Every age has its evil tendencies in some direction, and we of this nineteenth century, who give the matter any thought, can scarcely help wondering if the present will not be historically recorded as a most deceptive age.

Almost every useful article is made the subject of counterfeit, and many which are the most useful are found to be the hardest to secure in an unadulterated state. In some cases the deception is less flagrant than in others. For instance, in the coloring of butter there may be nothing absolutely injurious, but it is deception nevertheless.

We order butter from the grocer, and, though the highest market price is paid, there is no cer-

tainty that we will not get oleomargarine, suine, butterine, or most anything but what is wanted. For honey and sugar we are liable to get glucose; and, in fact, a search through the entire list of such commodities will show that almost every article is adulterated or imitated by spurious articles, to an extent that would scarcely be deemed possible, without a pretty thorough investigation of the subject. The deceptions of the age are, in a large measure, due to the fact that consumers lack judgment, expecting goods of all kinds to be always perfection in outward appearances, regardless of season or circumstances. In the one matter of coloring butter, for instance, we see a striking example of this idea. Consumers expect the same creamy color to their butter in midwinter that only choice summer grass can impart to it naturally. They not only want it of the same perfect color under all circumstances, but of two firkins, side by side at this season of the year, one highly colored animal fat butter, and the other naturally pale, but the pure article, the former will command five to ten cents per lb. more in the Chicago market than the latter. Of course dairymen cannot afford to have their product discriminated against in that manner, and the only recourse is the use of coloring material, for every spurious article is richly colored. Coloring butter has become a very general custom of late years in nearly all the great dairy districts, and the numerous decoctions for the purpose which are in the market, enable dairymen to realize as much for their poor products as for their best. Makers of the compounds claim that they are entirely wholesome, being manufactured of vegetable material, but those are not wanting who believe them more or less injurious. It is a species of deception to use coloring, but if the people want unreasonable things there will always be somebody to supply their demands. The effect of this general and wholesale deception is to create unbounded suspicion on every hand, and yet little is being done to remedy the great and growing evil. People are free to proclaim against fraudulent practices, but they want their tables supplied with articles that are simply perfection in exterior appearance, and pay too little attention to the "true inwardness" of things. In a large measure the broadcast adulteration of the age is due to the ever increasing competition among producers, but, after all, the matter lies largely in the hands of the consumer. If he is not willing to pay the price of the most superior quality of any article, and yet desires to do what he may consider the next best thing—buy that which most closely resembles the finest in all respects save price—he is laying himself responsible for the evil.

With the exception of a few producers who have established reputations for handling nothing but of good quality, the man who makes the best imitation of first-class products receives the most for his trouble, and is, by far, more prosperous than he who conscientiously exposes for sale a genuine article, lacking, perhaps, the attractive appearance always given spurious products.

To look at these matters and content ourselves with laying the fault at the feet of current times, and wish that the honesty and straightforwardness of the "good old days long ago" might have been handed down to us, as many are wont to do, is the worst kind of idleness. The times are not responsible for the shortcomings of men, but we are too apt to waste precious opportunities in the living present by reverting to the forever past good old days of yore. Superficial extravagance, and a general desire to seem more than we are, tends to create a demand for imitations, and, whenever there is a demand, a supply will be forthcoming.