

The trans-Atlantic Cattle Trade is assuming gigantic proportions. During the week ending 17th Feb., 1,200,000lb. of beef arrived at Liverpool from New York, the Guyon steamer "Wyoming" carrying 257,600lb. and 400 sheep. The increase is not only rapid, but steady, and the farmers and landowners of England are putting their houses in order. We, in Halifax, are as slow as the English farmers, and do not yet see that bullocks are grateful fellows. In England they are "discussing" the question: If carcasses can be taken from Canada to London, why may they not be taken from the English grazing districts to the English centres of population, instead of planting droves? But why discuss? why not do it? So, if a new York firm is expending \$150,000 in buildings for slaughtering and forwarding to England, why do we have to write about it? Why doesn't a Halifax firm do the same at the Winter Port of the Dominion? With the whole region of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and railways through Quebec and Ontario, the supplies are magnificent, and the English market is insatiable. If the Ontarians wish to establish here the "slaughter" market of the Dominion, by all means let us have it. Let the Halifax Cattle Transportation, Meat Preserving and Englishmen Feeding Company be established at once.

At a recent meeting called for the purpose of promoting the Irish Cattle Show of 1877, Lord Clonbrock offered some remarks that will apply very well to our own condition in this Province:— This show will be generally beneficial, and it is what we are all desirous of. I can bear my direct testimony of now over half a century to the importance of such meetings. The projected one will tend to improve the stock of the Province generally, and of this county particularly, and I think we all know and feel that such is sadly required. We shall be the most benefitted, and consequently should be the most interested. It is the crossing of good stock with ours that will improve those of the Province, and this show will leave many behind, and promote that object.

A two year old steer, (owned by Noah Anthony, of Stanley, Douglas), who had been out pasturing all summer in the meadows lying between the Kennetcook and Walton Rivers, became stubborn on his way home, and refused to move. Next morning he could not be found. This was in December. He came home through the snow on 17th January with frozen ears, "a picture of distress," having been without food all the time, a wiser if not a better steer. This information is from the *Morning Herald*.

We are always glad to receive statements of facts in reference to the production of milk, butter and cheese by different breeds of cows, for it is only by the aid of such information that our farmers can arrive at definite results as to the comparative merits of different varieties of dairy stock. The following will be read with interest:—

Halifax, Feb. 8th., 1877.

DEAR SIR,—I am quite sure, it will be interesting to yourself and others, to know that the pains taken to improve the breed of cattle for the butcher and dairy, are producing good results in the butter class. A cow of mine, "Juno," (from "Comet," a Jersey imported by Mr. Duffus from the United States), five years and six months old, calved at Christmas last, and in thirty-nine days from the time we commenced saving her milk she made sixty-three pounds of butter.

At this season I think this may be considered very satisfactory. That she will improve on this I am quite certain, for she had, owing to circumstances, been milking steadily for three years up to six weeks of her calving.

Very truly yours,
HENRY LAWSON.

THE Ontario Estimates for Agriculture this year are as follows:—

Electoral Division Societies, (Agricultural and Horticultural), 81 at \$700.....	\$56,700 00
do 1 at \$550.....	550 00
do 6 at \$350.....	2,100 00
do Outlying districts.....	350 00
Fruit Growers' Association.....	1,000 00
Entomological Society.....	750 00
Dairymen's Association.....	2,000 00
Agricultural Association.....	10,000 00
Poultry Associations.....	600 00
For sundry services in connection with Agriculture and Arts—such as investigations of disease in animals and crops, and of ravages of insects, and for agricultural instruction, dairy products, and other charges not otherwise provided for.....	2,000 00
	<hr/> \$76,050 00

In addition to the above there are appropriations under the heads Civil Government and Public Institutions, viz:

Department of Agriculture.....	\$ 1,200 00
School of Agriculture.....	17,360 00
For Building for do.....	16,800 00
	<hr/> \$35,360 00

We have thus a sum total of \$111,410 for Encouragement of Agriculture this year in Ontario, in addition to which we find a provision of \$5,630 for a School of Practical Science; \$24,000 to Mechanics' Institutes; \$500 to promote Scientific Researches, and \$500 for a building; \$1,350 for Literary Institutions; and for Education \$557,465; Colonization Roads, \$77,300.

COL. STEWART'S thorough-bred Berkshire sow, which he purchased at the Exhibition last fall, had a litter of seven fine pigs a few weeks ago, which found ready purchasers at \$6 each.—*Amherst Gazette*.

A YEAR ago we announced the successful introduction by Mr. Andrew MacKinlay, Jr., of Sunnyside, of a new and remarkable kind of Duck—the PEKIN—which bears the same relation to ordinary ducks that the Braham and Cochin fowls do to the small poultry. Our readers will no doubt be glad to read the story of the finding and bringing over of Pekin Ducks to America, as given by Mr. George S. Anthony, Westerly, R. I., (in *The Poetry World*, for July, 1874):—

"Mr. McGrath, of the firm of Fogg & Co., engaged in the Japan and China trade, in one of his excursions in China, first saw them in the city of Pekin, and, from their large size, thought them a small breed of geese. He succeeded in purchasing a number of eggs, and brought them to Shanghai; placing them under hens, he in due time obtained fifteen ducklings, sufficiently mature to ship, in charge of Mr. James C. Palmer, who was about returning to America. He offered Mr. P. one half of the birds that he should bring to port alive, and the latter, accepting the offer, took charge of them. Six ducks and three drakes survived the voyage of 124 days, and were landed in New York, to be sent to Mr. McGrath's family (who never received them, as they were killed and eaten in the city). Mr. P. taking the three remaining ducks and drake, returned to his home at Wequetequee, in Stonington, Conn. They soon recovered from the effects of their long voyage, and commenced laying in the latter part of March, continuing to lay until the last of July. They are very prolific, the three ducks laying about three hundred and twenty-five eggs.

"The ducks are white, with a yellowish tinge to the under part of the feathers, their wings are a little less than medium length, as compared with other varieties, making as little effort to fly as the large Asiatic fowls, and they can be as easily kept in enclosures. Their beaks are yellow, their necks long, their legs short and red. When the eggs are hatched under hens, the ducklings come out of the shell much stronger, if the eggs are damped every day (after the first fifteen days), in water a little above blood heat, and replaced under the hen.

"The ducks are very large, and uniform in size, weighing at four months old about twelve pounds to the pair. They appear to be very hardy, not minding severe weather. Water to drink seems to be all they require to bring them to perfect development.

"I was more successful in rearing them with only a shallow dish filled to the depth of one inch with water, than those who had the advantages of pond and running stream."

Drakes and eggs of this breed may be obtained at Sunnyside or Lucyfield Farm, For prices see advertising columns.