

increased at an enormous rate, and it is against this rush of supplies from all parts of the world that English farmers have had to stand.

The prospect of British cattle breeders is well set forth in the following extract from the *Live Stock Journal* :

“The outlook for British cattle breeders is by no means bright, but it is well that we should know the worst and see whether some lessons that might profit us in future cannot be derived from a consideration of our present troubles. We are certainly not among those who are of opinion that stock raising in this country is in danger. There may be great changes in the future of British agriculture, but the breeding and rearing of the best description of live stock must continue to occupy a large amount of attention, and to afford a fair return for the capital invested. The causes of the existing depression are well known. The cattle breeder has not experienced the effects of the fall in prices so soon as the corn grower, but now they have also reached him, and have been aggravated by a most unfavourable grazing season and short root crop. The foreign demands for several pure breeds, notably the Herefords and Aberdeen Angus, imparted great activity to the trade in these varieties in 1885 and 1886. During the past year the foreign business has decreased, partly from the large imports in former seasons, which have temporarily overstocked the markets abroad, and, perhaps to an even greater extent from the diminished purchasing power of ranche owners. In 1887 prices for the two breeds we have named have reached a lower point than for a long time past, and although a few have been imported there can be no doubt that in 1887 there were a greater number of foreign commissions for Shorthorns than any other breed. The dairy breeds unassisted by an export demand, but relying more on the wealthy classes at home, have suffered less than others, and the year has witnessed several brisk sales of Guernseys and Jerseys. The prospect is not discouraging for these. It is expected that the Act that has been passed for regulating the traffic in butterine will give a stimulus to the production of the high class genuine article, and this no doubt will tend to enhance the value of butter cows. The immense import of butter and cheese prove that in this department there is hope for British cattle breeders and dairy farmers. The tendency is in the direction of relying on the production of articles which the least easily bear the cost and deterioration of a sea voyage, and among these dairy produce stands in the first rank.”

Several consignments of Canadian cattle have arrived at Bristol this year, and as usual have been entirely free from disease. They have mostly been consigned through to London, but those on sale at Avonmouth and Bristol markets have been beasts of very prime quality and have realized good prices.

Throughout this district there are annually held hundreds of fat stock shows, at each of which the few prime beasts on sale always find purchasers. During the month of December thousands of beasts could be disposed of at handsome figures by adopting the plan of sending a few only to each show. The sales individually small would aggregate a fine total. That good beasts during the year have commanded fair prices is shown by the fact that thousands of farmers have during this dreary season of depression been enabled to fulfil their obligations almost solely on account of the good prices which have been obtainable for well-bred horses, cattle, sheep and pigs.

The quantities of Canadian butter and cheese shipped to Bristol still continues to increase. The quality of the cheese has been exceptionally good and has been the means of displacing large quantities of inferior description. The same remark applies though in a less degree to butter. If the present quality of these articles be maintained it is safe to predict an almost unlimited demand for them will soon be created. I have sought for every information on the subject and have never found a single complaint urged against these Canadian products. For many years the United States cheese held the market here, but the Canadian article has from its exceptional value gradually supplanted the United States product. In 1885 the imports of all foreign cheeses fell off in Liverpool by 250,000 boxes, but the imports in Bristol from Montreal increased by 12,000 boxes, total for year 201,000 boxes, and the