

credit he really deserved. Others also, with very much show of argument, contend that we have been all along losing much of our advantages of open British market, by having to pay higher freight from Canadian shipping ports. This we admit is true, that through the cupidity of ship owners, together with the buying and selling in space that has been carried on, much of the profit has been ground down that otherwise should have been realized by the free access to inland British markets. Again, we are surprised to see that numbers are advocating the development of a dead meat trade, which would doubtless prove a repetition of the swindling operations witnessed across the line among our neighbors, where millions of dollars are annually being wrung from the cattle breeders of the United States by the Big Four engaged in this trade. This is just another instance that may be cited in which our own cattle breeding industry may be crippled, if any of those rights are conceded to Canadian capitalists that they have been long applying for. Every representative of the county constituencies should study well this question. The *ADVOCATE* will discuss it fully later on. However, the point at issue is the trade which we understand we are about to lose, and which we wish to improve rather than decrease. Our American friends spared neither talent nor expense in trying to obtain what we have just lost, and none know better than they how this industry has been crippled by the restrictions under which their cattle have been received. Our readers are all conversant with the fact that during the last electoral campaign the strongest plank in the platform of the Government protective policy was supposed to rest on this very branch of the cattle trade, the contention being frequently made that we owed this advantage to our state connection. Both parties are a unit on this question as it now stands, and on no occasion within our remembrance has so little political capital been sought, the one idea very properly prevailing with them how to regain what we have just lost. Just here we might say so burning a question is this considered, that, if this unjust restriction had come in force previous to or during the last Dominion elections, when our trade relations with Great Britain were being publicly discussed, the result of those elections would probably have been very different, as nothing within the last few decades has happened that has so cruelly cut the ties that connect Canada with the Mother Country. Canadians consider well before they act, but at this present juncture they are in no humor to be snubbed by the country to which they are so closely allied, and if Great Britain persists in holding aloof and hesitates in encouraging a closer connection, she will awake to the fact that she has lost what she can never regain—a colonial connection that will affect her whole future advancement.

#### At His Old Tricks.

We published last week, page 851, an exposure of attempted fraud in the matter of a so-called "Black Pepsin" method of increasing the yield of butter. Information has since reached us that the author of the scheme is one James A. Bain, of Ohio, who has been up to tricks of a similar kind heretofore—notably of a swindle in the spring of 1882, in which he signed himself as secretary of a bogus "North American Poultry Association," and offered valuable information about incubators which proved to be worthless. Our correspondent states that Bain has been in State Prison for offences of the kind, but this we do not know to be a fact. The "Black Pepsin" stuff was to be obtained, for so many stamps, of "The Concord Chemical Co.," New York, but it is found on inquiry that no such company exists in that city, and that the postmaster of New York has been requested to forward letters directed to the company to the same post office in Ohio which was Bain's location in 1882, on the excuse that a contemplated removal of the company from there to New York had been temporarily postponed. —[Country Gentleman.

#### The Provincial Fat Stock Show.

The Fat Stock Show to be held at Guelph, December 14th and 15th, under the auspices of the Agriculture and Arts Association, the Guelph Fat Stock Club, and the Sheep Breeders' and Swine Breeders' Associations, promises to be one of the most interesting events of the year to breeders and feeders, and should be full of lessons for the general farmer as well. For the first time in the history of this institution in Canada, the premiums offered are in some measure commensurate with the importance of the enterprise, something like ten thousand dollars being offered in the various classes. The prizes offered at the regular fall exhibitions have been so meagre in number and small in amount that the encouragement to feeders to prepare first-class specimens has been very scant, and the offerings at former Christmas shows for fat stock have been also very far from what they ought to have been to make it an object to give the necessary time and attention to the work of bringing out highly prepared animals. Let us hope we have entered upon a new era in the work of maintaining a first-class fat stock show, and that it may become a permanent institution, well furnished with the necessary means to hold out inducements to feeders to do their best to develop a high class of early maturing animals that will be a credit to them and to the country, as well as being important object lessons to the general farmer and the farmers' sons of the Dominion, proving the possibilities of bringing out the well-matured butcher's beast at an age which used to be considered only half way to the destination of all such flesh.

The fat stock show is, in many respects, the most important to the farmer of all the shows held. There are good reasons to doubt the wisdom and the profitableness of forcing young animals intended for breeding purposes into the high condition necessary to win at the ordinary exhibitions for breeding stock, but this objection does not apply to fat stock intended for the block, and it does seem that this is the proper sphere in which to test the capabilities of animals of the various breeds to attain great weights at an early age, and at the same time to maintain the smoothness, firmness and quality of flesh and lack of offal which should characterize the model butcher's beast and the profitable shipper.

It has always been a matter of surprise to us that with such scant encouragement such really good shows have been made in former years, and the lateness of the notice of the determination of the joint management to offer largely augmented premiums may possibly be the means of a less extensive exhibit than the prize list would seem to call for; but we may safely count on a good show as far as it goes, and the future will, no doubt, under such promising auspices bring out such a display as will be gratifying to all concerned. Canadian feeders have the necessary enterprise, skill and judgment, as well as the courage and pluck, to compete successfully with the continent, as they have more than once demonstrated at the American Fat Stock Show at Chicago, where, for the limited number that has been placed in competition, they have been eminently successful in winning highest honors, and with proper encouragement they are capable of doing yet better work than they have hitherto accomplished.

The people of Guelph have manifested a greater sense of appreciation of the importance of this institution than any other of the cities, and are deserving of generous commendation for the part they have taken in giving encouragement to the management to locate the show in the Royal City. We understand that the new skating rink recently opened in that city will be placed at the disposal of the directors, and that the accommodation will be immensely in advance of anything heretofore enjoyed.

The Board of Agriculture will meet at Guelph during the show, and the annual meetings of the Sheep Breeders' and Swine Breeders' Associations will be held the day previous to the opening of the show. We understand that there will also be a convention of delegates from the

various cattle breeders' associations held on the same date, with a view to organizing a national cattle breeders' association charged with the interests of that great industry.

When the objects and aims of the management are fully matured, we hope to find that the annual Christmas Fat Stock Show, and the annual meeting of the breeders' associations, will be regarded as the "round up" of the breeders and feeders of the Dominion in each successive year, and that it will prove to be one of the most interesting and profitable gatherings of stockmen and farmers we shall have. It comes at a season of comparative leisure for the farmer, when the outside work of the farm has been wound up and the stock has been placed in winter quarters, and the husbandman ought to feel entitled to a breathing spell—an opportunity to take notes of the year's work and to take counsel with his fellow-farmers. We hope to see a large gathering at Guelph, and the *ADVOCATE* will do its best to secure and distribute all the lessons available for the benefit of its large and important constituency.

#### Freeman's Potato Contest.

It is seldom that a more interesting task falls to the lot of the members of the staff of an agricultural journal than that which was intrusted to the editors of the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* deciding between the contestants for the handsome prizes offered by the Freeman Fertilizer Works, of Hamilton, Ont. As published in our advertising columns, the sums of \$50 and \$25, respectively, were offered for the best and second best yield from one acre of potatoes, the growth of 1892, obtained by the use of the special potato manure manufactured at their works.

One of the rules of the contest was that stable manure or any other fertilizing material was not allowed to be used, which appeared to have been overlooked by some of the parties who had entered for the trial.

The potato crop is one of the most profitable that can be grown on the farm, and when a suitable soil is found a good deal more money can be made than in growing any of the grain crops. The principal difficulties that present themselves are the labor required at digging time, and the manure that must be supplied from some source. The latter is always a perplexing problem when the crop is intended to be sold from the farm, for when barn-yard manure is systematically applied and the crop produced from it sold, there can be no more certain way of impoverishing the farm, unless some means of supplying the loss thus sustained is provided for.

Although the potato crop is not generally considered very exhaustive to the soil, still it requires a liberal application of manure in some form to obtain a good yield, and few farmers produce sufficient barn-yard manure for their general crops without applying it where no return is intended to be given to the farm.

If we can judge from the reports in this contest it will pay and pay most liberally to use largely of a special fertilizer to the potato crop, and, what is still better, the land will be left in a richer condition after the removal and sale of the potato crop than it was before the application of the fertilizer. If we take the greatest yield given in this contest, according to the computation of the most skillful analysts there is \$44.26 in value taken from this acre of soil in producing this crop of 315 bushels of potatoes; and again, calculating at the lowest estimate given by the government analyst of the value of elements left of the 1,200 pounds of Freeman's potato manure after producing this crop, we find there is still several dollars' value in these essentials remaining after producing this crop of potatoes more than it contained before the application of the fertilizer. It must also be remembered that after producing this crop the land is in far better mechanical condition than before, and should be quite equal in this respect to the most approved summer-fallowing.

Many of our best farmers are of the opinion that cattle feeding is the only practical plan of supplying the necessary fertilizing elements to the soil, but in order to add to the store of fer-