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S. BEATTY, MANAGER.

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Advertisements of an objectionable or questionable character will not be received for insertion in this paper.

THE WESTERN CATTLE MARKET.

About four-fifths of the drovers and butchers of Toronto gathered on Tuesday at the Bull's Head Hotel for the purpose of discussing the proposal to remove the Western Cattle Market to another site. Ald. Frankland, than whom no one knows better the needs of the trade, occupied the chair and introduced the subject. The proposal has grown out of the fact that there are manifest defects in the present market, some growing out of the administration, others incidental to the location itself, while a third class arise from the fact of there being too little railway competition, and consequently restricted accommodation. Anything which will diminish the cost of handling cattle is of interest to the producer, and so when it is proposed to spend \$100,000 for the purpose of removing the cattle market, it is time to inquire on whom will fall the increased burden? and what will be gained by the expenditure? There can be little doubt that in the present—or even the prospective—state of the trade the raiser will have to shoulder the burden, directly or indirectly, and we are afraid that the advantages will not be commensurate with the outlay. There was a unanimity at the meeting certainly indicative of a community of interest, and there was a consensus of opinion that all the advantages to be gained by removal might be secured on the present site by the exercise of prudence and foresight. Perhaps the strongest argument which has been advanced for removal is the necessity for public abattoirs, but it was well pointed out that these may be had on the present site; while the acknowledged scarcity of covered pens may easily be remedied and sufficient accommodation made for years to come. The present market is about two miles from the centre of the city, and four from the east end, and it is proposed to spend \$100,000 in the removal to a place at least two miles further from a majority of those using the market. The objections to the proposal were

clearly put by the chairman, Mr. Joseph Ingham, Mr. A. W. Aikins, Mr. C. Flanagan, Mr. Honeyset, Mr. S. Burnett, and Mr. J. Cheeseman, and a resolution expressive of the views of the meeting was unanimously carried.

COMBINING AGAINST FARMERS.

Some time since we called attention to the fact that city retailers were reaping enormous profits in proportion to the amount of business they were doing. Any one passing through any of our cities must be impressed with the enormous number of small retail groceries and butchers' stalls found in every quarter. In order to exist at all on their very limited constituencies these small dealers are compelled to charge enormous profits, and these profits come out of the farmer and the consumer. The farmer receives less than he should receive, and the consumer pays more than he has any right to pay. For example, the quotations for choice dairy butter last week were 12c. to 13c., and these being dealers' prices, are presumably above those paid to farmers, and yet it is very difficult to buy decent table butter from the retailers for less than from 22c. to 24c. Cheese, in small lots, is quoted at from 9c. to 11½c., but the consumer must pay nearly double that figure for it. These are only samples of the outrageous profits charged by small dealers for handling farmers' produce, and these exorbitant charges continue from one year's end to another.

The question naturally arises, "Why do not the small dealers grow rich?" The answer is easily obtained, "There are so many retailers and the custom is so cut up that it takes these very large profits to keep the establishments afloat." But then comes the question, "Why does not competition put an end to extravagant prices which practically amount to robbery, so far as the consumer is concerned?" And this brings us to the very core of the whole difficulty. There are in every city unions or associations of one sort or another, and these combine to keep down the price to the farmer and raise it to the highest possible rate to the consumer. It is these societies or unions that keep up prices to consumers and keep afloat about double as many middlemen as it ought to take to do the business. The only way open to the farmers is to meet combination with combination. Let them leave these people severely alone, and make some arrangements of their own by which their produce will reach the consumer without affording more than a reasonable margin to the men who handle it.

IMMIGRATION TO THE NORTH-WEST.

It was to be expected that the troubles in the North-West would seriously check the tide of immigration, and in that expectation nobody has been disappointed. It is satisfactory to know, however, that the troubles are now nearly, or quite, at an end, and though there

has been a deplorable loss of life, the mortality attending them has not been nearly so serious as might have been expected when the character of the enemy with whom we had to deal is taken into consideration.

One feature of the whole affair must always be regarded with much satisfaction, and that is, that the rebel Half-breeds, and even the Indians, have not indulged in the atrocities which had been expected of them. With the exception of the Frog Lake massacre there has been little or nothing in the conduct of either Half-breeds or Indians that could be characterized as outside the usages of civilized warfare. Settlers coming into the country will in future have the satisfaction of knowing that the probability of their being massacred or caused to suffer anything more than temporary financial inconvenience in the case of another rising would be extremely remote. Pound-Maker has treated his prisoners quite as well as they could have expected had they fallen into the hands of a white enemy, while even Big Bear, well known to be an Indian of a very different stamp from Pound-Maker, has been guilty of no atrocities in this respect. But the security of intending settlers is not to be looked for at the hands of the Indians, though the possibility of any rising in the future is of the remotest kind, but owing to the present affair the Government will doubtless put a mounted force in the North-West such as will effectually prevent the possibility of any further trouble.

In the meantime, however, there is no doubt that many timid people will be disposed to leave the homes they have made for themselves in the North West for a very small consideration. Therefore, men who have the courage to face the difficulties and trials attendant on frontier life under the present circumstances of the North West will in all probability reap a rich harvest in the near future.

DOES BREEDING INJURE FORM AND ACTION?

A correspondent writes as follows:—"I have a promising young mare, just three years old, well developed, fifteen hands three inches high, come of the best trotting stock. Kindly say in your next issue if you would advise breeding her now, and if it would interfere with her trotting propensities hereafter."

It is the general custom not to breed promising fillies so long as they are eligible for turf education. Why this is so it might be difficult to determine. In the case of a young trotter one hardly cares to have her education neglected long enough to afford her time to raise a foal. It is of course just possible that at three years old a filly is not so far developed as to warrant her owner in subjecting her still immature anatomical conformation to such a severe strain as that incident to foaling. It is also possible, and even probable, that the reason why the custom of permitting "coming trotters" to drop foals at four years of age does not prevail is that the owners do not feel like having the animal out of