

### Canada Cattle Trade Restrictions.

In Glasgow there was recently held a conference of the representatives of salesmen and shipping companies, with others interested in the cattle trade with Canada. The object of the conference was to consider what action should be taken in view of the recent restrictions which the Board of Agriculture have placed on the importation of cattle from Canada. Those present were unanimous in the opinion that the present restrictions were not only prejudicial to the cattle trade, but to the community in general. An executive committee was appointed to lay their views before the Government and the Board of Agriculture.

It appears that Mr. Secretary Rusk wishes to aim a parting blow at Canadian stock interests before making his debut. The infliction of ninety days' quarantine on Canadian cattle entering the United States, and the preventing them from being shipped in bond over United States railways is, indeed, a clincher. That he has proved subservient to the different breeders' associations and cliques does not require a very exalted perception. At the same time we must admit that the unjust restrictions enforced by Great Britain, along with their continued absurd accusations that our cattle are diseased, give the shadow of an excuse for this ridiculous ruling, and we presume this is another blessing in disguise which so many of our Canadian writers have fancied they recognized.

From the tone of a recent speech made by Mr. Chaplin, the British ex-President of the Board of Agriculture, he evidently is not satisfied with the arrangements of the Australian Government. This body have not only arranged to carry free to the seaboard by the government railways all dairy produce intended for export, but have also decided to pay a bounty for every pound shipped to Great Britain. Mr. Chaplin said, "This is a very grave and very important question, and one which he thought must come before parliament." The British agricultural press are advising Mr. Chaplin to bring the subject before parliament without delay. We are rather curious to know what excuse can be found for the enterprise of this colony.

In order to facilitate agricultural education, the Pennsylvania State College has instituted a Chatauqua course in agriculture. All agree that a more intimate knowledge of this science in all its branches is of great service to those who intend to aim at higher farming and can find the means to obtain it; but it is just here the trouble begins: Only a few can afford the time and expense necessary to put in three or more terms at an agricultural college. Again, agricultural pursuits are looked upon from such a practical standpoint, there is always a disposition on the part of a large number of the farming community to look upon these institutions as all well enough in theory, but decidedly lacking in teaching the work when reduced to practice. The fact is, that a college course was not ordained to complete an education, but is only what in farming is known as the preparation of the soil for the after reception of the seed, and thereby attain the highest results in the production of the crop. Thus a college or university course strengthens the mind, and gives it that receptive frame that gives it strength to think out better plans and better methods, which will be found of the greatest assistance in whatever vocation the student may intend to enter in after life. Thus where it is found impracticable to attend college, this Chatauqua system has a great advantage for those who are anxious to study the science of agriculture without leaving their duties at home, the object being to direct a course of reading which will cover those branches that are of most importance. Three groups of subjects are recommended, viz.: Agriculture (soils, crops and fertilizers); Animal Husbandry (stock breeding and feeding, dairying and veterinary science), and Horticultural (fruit and vegetable gardening, etc.) Under each group there have been selected five standard books, which the student is intended to read. This course is free to all, and is so planned that the student will have the fullest liberty in the choice and order of the subjects, and the amount of time to be devoted to them. The projector of the scheme, Mr. H. J. Waters, B. A. S., professor of agriculture for the college, estimates the cost of the books required at \$20.00, which will cover the cost of the books required for all three courses, and all of them are standard works which should be in every farmer's library. This course is free to Canadians, but we think that if the staff at the Ontario Agricultural College were to direct a similar course of reading, it would be appreciated by those devoting their attention to the departments of the farm in which they are most interested, and whose circumstances prevent them availing themselves of the more thorough college course.

### Valley Home Shorthorns.

The illustration which adorns our front page for this issue represents four Shorthorns from the Valley Home herd of Messrs. S. J. Pierson & Son, Meadowvale, Ont. These cattle are not only of orthodox North Country breeding, but as individuals embrace that true Aberdeenshire type from which so many successful Canadian showyard winners have sprung. The young bull is Mina Lad, just turned two years old, and we feel that no pen of ours can really do him justice, so thoroughly good is he all over. His equal in form is seldom approached, for with him every desirable beef point is clothed with a depth of natural flesh rarely seen. Mina Lad is a beautiful mossy roan of great substance. He has a capital front with deep ribs, particularly good at both flanks, well finished out behind, capital twist, and is one of those good ones that improve on acquaintance. Further he comes honestly by his strong individuality, as he was sired by Stanley, which was a sweepstakes winner two years in succession. He again was sired by Challenge, a bull in whom two of the longest successful Sittyton strains known in Canada are united, viz., those of Old Barmpton Hero and the Matchless of Elmhurst. Imported Mina Lass, his dam, is the roan cow which stands fronting us in the picture. She was bred at Kinnellar, and is full of that feminine character that would lead us to mark her as a breeding cow of merit. She, too, belongs to that easy feeding sort that have made North Country breeding popular among all feeders who are familiar with them, and to her breeding the young bull may claim half of his outstanding excellence, as Mina Lass was sired by Gravesend, a bull of Sittyton breeding that was much used upon the Kinnellar herd, and she herself belongs to the Mina family, one of the most numerous and most valued of the old sorts there.

The other cow in the foreground is Wimple of Trafalgar, a full sister of the roan heifer illustrated in Mr. Cockburn's group in our December issue, and which so successfully showed at the circuit of fairs during 1892. This cow belongs to another Kinnellar family, many specimens of which have been remarkably good ones. She was sired by Grand Warrior, a bull of Mr. Arthur Johnston's breeding, sired by the imported Kinnellar bull, Warrior, his dam being imported Fame 2nd, bred in the Sheriff-Hutton herd of Mr. John Linton, Yorkshire, England. Wimple of Trafalgar's dam is Wimple of Vermont, bred at Kinnellar, and by the Sittyton-bred bull Vermont. Here is breeding that should suit anyone, and she, too, can back it up, as she is a most likely cow for future honors in the show ring.

The third cow, standing in the background, is Jilt, a three-year-old heifer of good substance. She was sired by the imported Kinnellar bull Reporter, her dam by imported Baron Linton. Her grand dam was the imported Kinnellar cow Juliet. Among the many other good things in this herd, the imported bull Toffhills deserves mention. He is a bull of immense scale, and is remarkably smooth and deep-fleshed. He was first in the class for aged bulls at the late Toronto Industrial Show. He has done exceedingly well for his proprietors. Many of the heifers are by him, and we are assured he is still as useful as ever. The herd numbers fifty head, and comprises the thick-fleshed, useful sorts now in demand. Many of the most popular Scotch families are represented, and the herd is in the most profitable breeding shape possible, all the cows being regular breeders, while the heifers are a desirable lot. A number of these are certain to give an account of themselves at next season's shows. The Valley Home Farm is conveniently situated between the G. T. R. at Brampton, distant seven miles, and the main line of the C. P. R. at Streetsville, while the Orangeville branch of the latter at Meadowvale is about a mile distant from the farm. We understand that this herd will be offered at public auction on April 12, due notice of which will be given in our advertising columns later on. Those who are on the lookout for animals to found a herd or further replenish the ranks of one already established, we can cheerfully bespeak material for selection not often at command.

Free corn was one of the subjects which claimed the attention of the delegates at the Central Farmers' Institute at Toronto last week. Just why free corn is not numbered among the articles under the head of raw material we cannot see. The reduction or removal of the duty upon any article on which the cheapest form of production of beef, pork, or any other export depends, is surely in the interest of farmers, and has nothing whatever to do with the political phase of the question. Reduction of cost is the aim of manufacturers in order to cope with competitors. Surely agriculturists should pursue a similar course.

### Timely Hints for February---No. 2.

#### HORSES' FEET IN WINTER.

How many horses go lame in this country through their feet being neglected in winter, either through having their shoes left on too long, or through standing on a dry floor until their hoofs become brittle and contracted. Even colts should have their feet trimmed from time to time. The best plan I have yet discovered is to take off all shoes when the snow comes, and periodically have the feet trimmed by the smith; then when roads are slippery and dangerous towards end of March, keep them *sharp-shod*; but for most light horses the bare hoofs will be found the safest plan. Stallions should, if possible, stand on an earth floor, and should certainly be unshod.

#### MARKET PRICES.

Every weekly paper in the province, but more especially the Winnipeg ones, which go to nearly every farmer's house, keep up the solemn farce of publishing a market report. The unfortunate farmer who attempts to calculate his receipts by them generally receives a rude awakening on reaching town with his load. The fact is, there is no real market price for most of our products; it is simply a "gouge game" on the part of the townsman or grain-dealer in buying from the farmer, and generally, owing to his ignorance, the latter is robbed of a cent or two per pound or per bushel of the real current price. The "commercial" reports of prices—not a farmers' paper, but a dealers'—are almost invariably on the "bear" side of the market, and in taking them as a guide we know generally we can hardly receive less, and shall most likely receive a good deal more.

It's all very fine—on paper—for a newspaper to give us a lot of "taffy" about their solicitude for the "poor farmer." Let them do something really practical, and publish a fresh, crisp, reliable and thoroughly up-to-date market report each week. If there is a scarcity of any particular product, let it be published and give us a chance to fill the bill, and don't let every dealer be so very smart in sending away immediately to Ontario for pork, to Wisconsin for butter, or to the moon for something else. The Manitoba farmer is not quite as big a fool as, perhaps, some of these dealers think he is, and he is not likely to try "supplying the home trade" when the "home market" evidently would rather be supplied from *anywhere else* than Manitoba or Northwest Territories.

#### MAKING MONEY IN WINTER.

Are you making anything out of your farm this month, either directly or indirectly? If not, isn't there something lacking in your methods? If your stock are not gaining in growth or flesh, or both, you are losing the food you are giving them. If you are not earning anything with your team or yourself, or doing something else by which time may be saved during the coming spring and summer, you are losing your time. If your farm only gives you enough in the summer to drag out an existence and begin again next spring where you left off last year, you are simply a year out. If you are only getting deeper into debt, give the thing up, unless you can, by altering your way of working, also bring the balance to the right side of the ledger. But it is better to give up a losing game before it's too late. I believe there is a good living in farming in Manitoba to those who will farm, not for loafers, speculators, or those who have no more to learn. The man who has no more to learn is like the poplar tree, dying at the top, and is too old to live.

#### GENERAL.

What's the good of buying good stock, if you are too stingy or too lazy to feed them well?

The cow "with a record of 2.30" (in pounds of butter) is worth more to the farmer than the horse "with a record."

This winter has proved that pigs have paid better than 50 cent wheat.

A sum for your boy.—Wheat, 50 cents; say five pounds wheat make one pound pork. Pork=8½ cents. What is the value of a bushel of wheat to you?

Turn your horse's tail to the wind when leaving him tied out these cold days, and blanket him well. A \$3 blanket is easier bought than a \$150 horse.

By giving cows about to calve a pailful of bran once a day for a week or so before calving, you will much diminish the dangers of calving.

You have a lot of good animals to sell, and you find the old saying,—"a prophet hath no honor in his own country"—is so true that your neighbors will not buy from you, they would rather buy from "afar off." Then why don't you advertise your animals, and somebody else's neighbors will come from long distances to buy, because they are happier for so doing, not because your stock are any better than what they could buy a couple of miles away.

You like friends to come and see you sometimes, eh? Then what do you keep such a crowd of snapping curs for?

In nearly every instance it is better to sell and regret, than to keep and regret. The latter is only too common.

Improved stock will improve the stockman.

"INVICTA."