

Correspondence.

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

From our Special Correspondent.

LIVERPOOL, May 16th.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN BREEDER.

There have been no fresh arrivals of Canadian stocks at this port; those landed ex Montreal last week were shown at Stanley, Salford, and Wakefield, and realised very fair prices, making fully 15c. per lb. This must be considered an exceptional price, as the small supply of native stock and U. S. cattle made buyers a bit easier to deal with. In London, though prices were not quite so good, yet the animals shown there participated in the slight improvement and business was fair. From Wakefield the report was "not so lively as Stanley," but all that was shown here sold early. At Glasgow they had a decent trade in spite of the increased offerings from Ireland, but here again the absence of U. S. stuff left the matter plain sailing. Anything sold this week was right, but I must again remind readers that the conditions under which they were sold were exceptionally favorable. That the same can be done next week is highly improbable, and the week after next, impossible. I see that more than a dozen steamers are now at Quebec or Montreal; when they get loaded up and sent here, we shall have more than enough to handle. Export men can't be too wary, and though freights are likely to be temptingly low, they must not reckon too much on that.

THE WEEK'S ARRIVALS.

For week ending 15th May 373 beasts were received from Boston at Liverpool; 1,167 at London from New York and Boston; 360 at Glasgow from Halifax, and 130 at Bristol from New York; in all 2,030 head. In addition to this there was also landed at Liverpool 5,138 qrs. fresh beef, and 875 carcasses of mutton.

HINDLIP SHORTHORN SALE.

Canada was again prominent this week as a buyer of fine stock. The scene of action being Hindlip Court, where Sir Henry Alsopp, Bart., has for many years had one of the best Shorthorn herds in England, comprising animals of the celebrated "Duchess," "Oxford," "Red Rose," "Wild Eyes," and "Kirklevington" tribes. Mr. John Thornton officiated as auctioneer, and prefaced the business with a few remarks anent the choice breeding and high character of the stock which were to be sold, he emphatically added, "without reserve in any form." The intense depression which still marks agriculture in England was probably never more publicly manifested than at this sale, where, in spite of the great and influential company present, competition dragged slowly from start to finish, and the average prices recorded are about the lowest on record for such high-class animals. Had it not been for the Canadian commissions held by Mr. Simon Beattie and Mr. Gray the sale would have been considerably worse, the average value of their purchases being \$1,125.00, against a general over-head average of \$575.00. The highest priced animal of the sale was secured by Mr. Gray for \$3,300, at which figure Duchess 124th may be considered dirt cheap. This animal is a beautiful light roan, out of the \$16,000 cow Duchess 117th sired by the celebrated \$22,500 bull Duke of Connaught 33,604. I give below details of the animals bought by Messrs. Beattie and Gray:—

MR. BEATTIE'S COWS AND HEIFERS.

Water Lily 2nd, red, c. Jan 19, 1878	\$1,000
Duchess of Hindlip 3rd, c. Aug. 3, 1880	1,800
Waterloo Belle, red, c. Mar. 3, 1883...	1,250
Oxford 30th, c. 1883.....	800
Belle of Worcester 3rd, c. Apl. 26, 1884	625
" " " 4th, roan c. Sept. 19, 1884	230
Duchess 125th, roan, c. 1884.....	1,600

In addition to the above Mr. Beattie also bought the Duchess bull Duke of Whittlebury 3rd 49,489 from Mr. Loader, M.P., at \$440.

MR. GRAY'S COWS AND HEIFERS.

Duchess 117th..... c. Apl. 4, 1878	\$2,150
Kirklevington Queen 5th c. 1882	750
Cambridge Rose 10th... c. 1883	1,000
Oxford 29th, roan c. Aug. 8, 1883	975
Worcester Rose, red ... c. Apl. 2, 1884	850
Duchess 124th, roan ... c. May 2, 1884	3,300

BULLS.

Duke of Cumberland	
49,439 c. Apl., 1883	700

I understand that several of the above are intended for Mr. J. J. Hill, of St. Paul, Minnesota. Messrs. Nelson & Sons of Bow Park, have, however, the best of the basket. It may be of interest to add the aggregate sum made by the 64 cows and heifers was \$39,750, the 19 bulls making \$8,160, producing an average of about \$575.

EARLY BREEDING.

From the (London) Live Stock Journal.

Last year we called attention to the evils resulting from the use of immature birds for stock purposes, and advocated that instead of breeding from pullets two-year-old hens should be taken wherever possible. From what we have heard, that which was then said has recommended itself very largely, as there can be no question but that in many poultry-yards and pigeon lofts, especially the former, much harm has been done by using very young birds for breeding. It has been contested by some that any advantage is gained from the preference given to hens over pullets, but a little reflection will, we think, show this contention to be wrong. The egg itself is an indication. As is well known, pullets' eggs are smaller, weaker in the shell, and do not hatch so easily as those from hens. This, to our mind, is a strong proof that the opinion held by us is a correct one.

There is, however, another point which is well worthy of discussion, namely, that of early breeding. This was, we believe, first brought up by Mr. Lewis Wright, and at the last Dairy Show he remarked a very general reduction in size of birds throughout the large poultry classes, which he attributes very much to the modern practice of very early breeding. This has been very largely caused by the giving of chicken classes at the summer shows, to the dangers and cruelties of which we called attention twelve months ago, then urging secretaries not to include such classes if these shows are held before September or October. We regret very much that the Royal Agricultural Society should have set so bad an example as to include chickens in their show to be held next July. The result, we fear, will not be satisfactory, and even if it were satisfactory, it would do much harm by inducing other societies to copy this plan. No fowl should be confined in a small show pen until it is five or six months old, and in July it is not possible to obtain many specimens of either one or other of these ages.

The tendency of high-class breeding is to forget economic conditions and health in the search after beauty. This is found in all departments of fancy stock, whether it be cattle or cage-birds, poultry or flowers, and it requires the constant thought of the breeder to prevent its being carried to the extreme. It is very easy to discover the reason. Prizes are awarded to beauty, and the shortest road to beauty is very often antagonistic to what is awkwardly expressed in the term "natural conditions." In-breeding, forcing, hothouse rearing, all temporarily succeed, but then it is at the expense of size, stamina, and reproductive powers. As an instance of this, a well-known strain of dark Brahmas may be cited. These have been remarkable in hens for pencilling, but that was at the cost of size. Beautiful indeed in markings of feather, but so very small, and every effort made by the owner to remedy this meant loss of the characteristic which made the strain famous. This is only one instance out of many. But as our desire is to show that an unnatural system of breeding can only be followed by a compensatory loss for every gain, this one quite serves our purpose. Too early breeding, therefore, is to be deprecated, because it ultimately, though, perhaps, imperceptibly, weakens the race of fowls dealt with in that way.

In seeking for a remedy for this state of things, we are brought face to face with the same cause to which we referred a year ago—namely, the early chicker shows. So long as such shows are held there will be breeders who tempted by the prizes offered thereat, will produce early fowls and force them so as to be ready in time. In some yards there are really two breeding seasons, first, that for producing winners at the summer shows, and, second, at a more natural season for the regular winter exhibitors. The birds bred for the former are seldom of any use for the latter. They never attain the size or the full matured beauty of the latter, and it is not seldom that an April or even May hatched fowl turns out far superior in November to his brother born in January. But so long as these early shows exist so long will this system of early breeding be encouraged, to the injury of the whole poultry race. Scores of these forced birds are sold in the autumn, bringing disappointment to the innocent purchasers. They never can help to improve the breeds, and, if used for stock purposes, will do harm instead of good. We should be glad, therefore, if chickens could be kept out of shows until after the 31st of August in each year.

There is, however, one point which must be mentioned, or we may be misunderstood. What we have here been saying does not apply to the breeding of table poultry, or to the production of egg-layers, as such. The former are born to die, and very soon their existence comes to an end. They are not used for breeding, and what injury would be done to the system by the strain upon it through early breeding is not accentuated or communicated to progeny. This makes all the difference, and what may be done with table fowls may not necessarily be so with those intended as breeders or for exhibition.

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION.

From the Liverpool Mercury.

From the annual report presented to the Canadian Minister of Agriculture by Mr. John Dyke, the Liverpool agent, it is evident that the most vigorous exertions are being made to attract settlers to the Dominion. The future of the country depends upon the growth of an industrious population, for vast sums have been spent in effecting railway and other com-