

No "Pleuro" Here—A Vigorous Protest.

To the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

SIR,—I am surprised to find that in the recent special examination of cattle shipped from Ontario to the Old Country, especially those purchased from the district around Woodstock, where I have practised for over ten years, that the veterinary experts who examined this shipment pronounced three cattle affected with *pleuro-pneumonia contagiosa*. Now, while I have every respect for the opinion of gentlemen appointed by the Home Government for the inspection and prevention of cattle being shipped into the motherland suffering from this terrible malady, yet, from my knowledge of nearly every herd in this district, for several years past, and knowing intimately Mr. McCulloch, who shipped these cattle (and who had been shipping similar cattle from these same breeders previous to my residence here), I am thoroughly convinced that the parties who made this inspection have made a serious blunder in their diagnosis of the disease. Over a year ago, when this craze first started, I was instructed by Prof. McEachern, Dominion Inspector, Montreal, to make an examination of the herds from which Mr. McCulloch had then made shipment, and I found every herd healthy, strong and in fine condition. Nevertheless, these inspectors find animals suffering from *pleuro-pneumonia contagiosa*, although only separated a few days. When men are looking for trouble, it is not long before they are satisfied they have found it. While I do not doubt but that the lungs and pleura of the animals examined showed a very serious and inflammatory condition, yet when the circumstances of their transit are enquired into, no man of ordinary intelligence would expect to find anything different. Mr. McCulloch, shipper, is a shrewd, careful, conscientious buyer, and I am satisfied, as far as he is concerned, no animal is purchased by him for shipment unless it is in the very pink of condition and perfectly healthy. Now, I will give my solution of the whole trouble. The animals shipped from this section, as far as I have observed, are certainly prime cattle. They are carefully fed, groomed and well looked after by the stablemen, in large, roomy, well-aired and comfortable stone stables. More pride is taken in having the bovines clean, slick, healthy and comfortable than the equine species, because these canny Oxford Scotchmen can see a cent a pound more in beefsteak by doing this for their cattle than they can command for horseflesh just now. When a shipment is made these animals are driven for a considerable distance to the railway centres, and being unused to such exertion, they become heated and exhausted considerably, and are then driven at once into an open box-car, and packed as tight as it is possible to put them, to go by rail to Montreal. Thus, with the crowding, jamming and uncomfortable surroundings, to which they have heretofore been unaccustomed, several of the animals, no doubt, contract a mild form of pneumonia. In this critical condition they are placed on board the vessel and subjected to all the discomforts of an ocean voyage. What wonder is it they find the lungs and pleura of the animals slaughtered soon after landing in a very serious condition. Nevertheless, there is not a particle of *pleuro-pneumonia contagiosa* affecting these same animals, I care not who examines them.

These inspectors have got to find something to keep the importance of this inspection before the eyes of the members of the Home Government, in order that their positions may become secure, even though we have no disease here. To show that my explanation of this trouble is correct, I shall give the following coincidence: About four years ago, Col. Collier, of the 21st Hussars, England, shipped the thoroughbred stallion Leontes, of which I am at present the owner, accompanied by 28 brood mares, to my stables in Woodstock. Now, several of these mares were affected with a heavy discharge from their nostrils, due to contracting cold while being shipped, which caused many to refrain from purchasing them. Had these mares been slaughtered then, and an examination made of their lungs, they would certainly have been found in a terrible condition. Mr. John Smith, farmer, near Beachville, purchased a pair of these mares, and they continued to discharge freely for nearly one year before fully recovering, and while in this condition they remained thin, and did not thrive well. Since that discharge ceased they have become fat, healthy, and one of the finest pair of mares in the locality. Had these Old Country Inspectors examined these mares, they would have at once shouted, "Another case of *pleuro-pneumonia contagiosa*!" Now, this is the experience of nearly every importer of horses, and if horses are affected in this way, surely it is not too much to expect to find the same trouble affecting cattle, which are subjected to more hardships during shipment than horses. Again, the cattle shipped from this district were purchased from four men, who grazed them together on the same farm during the summer months, and afterwards fed them in the same stable during the winter months. Now, although coming in such close contact during all this time, only three animals are found affected with this terrible contagious disease, all the rest being reported healthy. Such is the report of these inspectors! Such logic is too silly to be considered seriously, and I am surprised at Englishmen permitting such an hallucination to enter their minds. If these inspectors would come to Canada and observe the maturing and shipment of a herd, I am satisfied they would arrive at the same conclusion as I have, that not a particle of this disease, *pleuro-pneumonia contagiosa*, exists in the district around Woodstock.

Now, before closing, I think all will agree with me that, as a precautionary measure for our own protection, a very close and careful examination of each animal should be made by a competent veterinary in Montreal, appointed for this special purpose by the Dominion Government, and no ailing animal should be permitted to leave this port.

The apple industry of Canada was nearly ruined one year ago by shippers allowing rubbish and culls to be packed with those of the highest grade. The result was it ruined several, financially, engaged in the apple trade, and nearly spoiled the reputation of Canada for growing first-class keeping fruit. Let a young country like Canada ship only prime articles in cattle, apples, cheese, horses, etc., and soon all this *pleuro-pneumonia* clap-trap will be a thing of the past. W. P. McCLORE, V. S. Woodstock, Ont., July 20th.

Our Scottish Letter.

It is so long since I addressed the readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE that many of them may be disposed to think that "Scotland Yet" has ceased from troubling. There was a time when matters in this country were full of interest for the citizens of the West, when Canadians formed a large proportion of our visitors, and at all our shows and fairs they were present in numbers. Now, however, a change has come over our spirits, and the Canadian is conspicuous by his absence. He was a fine fellow when we knew him; a buyer of Short-horns, Shropshires and Clydesdales; keen for a good Ayrshire too, on occasion; but now all is changed. He does not want to buy; he very much wants to sell. Horses, mutton and beef, dead or alive (the mutton or beef only), he can supply in lots to suit purchasers, if we would only allow him. Well, we like him. He is our brother and companion. The same throne rules over him, and there is a solid magnanimity about him which seems to indicate future eminence amongst the nations. Canada we regard as in many ways the brightest jewel in the British crown. She has her problems to solve—some of them stern enough—but there is a something which says that she will solve them. Down Quebec way there may be trouble; up in Manitoba all may not be well, yet the Anglo-Saxon race is still coming, and the ark of the Covenant is with her. Now there may be troubles, but some day these will pass away, and if she would, even now, not ask us to accept it that there is no cattle disease within her wide domain, we could believe that all will be well. However, this need not disturb us. There will be no Canadian stores for the British market this summer, and maybe our poor breeders at home will get a chance to handle a few sovereigns.

The examination by experts of all cattle from Canada slaughtered at the ports of landing has, with us, come to an end. The Glasgow staff went home to London during the past week, and the corps of commissioners was disbanded. Three diseased lungs, we believe, have been found during the period of probation; two at Liverpool and one at Glasgow. The official report is not yet published, but it is said to be the opinion of experts that if the disease in these cases was not contagious *pleuro-pneumonia*, then contagious *pleuro-pneumonia* does not exist. The cattle, it is further alleged, came from the neighborhood of Woodstock, in Ontario. The official report on these cases should be interesting reading. No doubt the experts will differ; they always do. A celebrated judge of the Court of Session said that there were three grades of liars—the pure specimen; the d—specimen, and the professional witness, the expert. We agree with him. There are certain members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, in this country, who never by any possibility agree on a single subject. They are certain to differ. If the one says two and two are four, the other says that there is a shade of doubt as to whether the points in dispute are two and two. If the one says a horse is lame, the other says he is sound; if the one alleges that inoculation is an ascertained cure for *pleuro-pneumonia*, the other vows that inoculation is a demonstrated failure. Altogether, he is a wise man who places no dependence on the statements of either of the parties. The judgment of a sober-minded member of the profession is best worth attending to. If the veterinary advisers of the Board of Agriculture in this country do not know *pleuro-pneumonia*, no one else does. They may make a mistake, being fallible, but they know their business, and where they err no one need be sure.

Up to the middle of summer, until the 20th June, we had most unseasonable weather. Frost in May and extreme cold in the early weeks of June, so that neither fires in parlors nor winter underclothing on the individual could be discarded, were experiences one does not care to have repeated too frequently. Now, however, a change has come over the atmosphere, and magnificent summer heat and glowing skies are being enjoyed. Last year our English friends had cause to grumble at the miserable character of the season. The drought burned up everything. This year they can crow. We have just returned from the Royal Show at Cambridge, and a rare good time the farmers down there seem to be having. They are reaping magnificent hay crops, and ingathering it as they seldom have done. Generally hay in England is harvested much greener than in Scotland. With us the crop would not keep if it were put up as is done in England. The effect of the slight heating which takes place in the large stacks made in England is merely to sweeten the

fodder. If it were so to heat with us, the hay would be rotten. Very often the uncertainty of the climate in Scotland causes the hay to be whitened and bleached before it can be stored in the stacks, and the whole effect is to take the greater portion of the sustenance out of the crop. The English system makes the hay much more palatable to the animals, and the effect cannot but be highly beneficial to stock.

Shows have been the order of the day since last we wrote. Every day and more we have had a show. The Royal was the last big one; it closes to-day. Perhaps we have seen a better show of Scottish stock at the great English Show; indeed, we are confident that we have; but yet the display at the great show of the English Society is always of the first order. This year, meeting in Cambridge, the breeds of East Anglia were most in evidence. There were Suffolk horses, Red-Polled cattle, and the Black-faced Hornless Short-wooled Suffolk sheep in abundance. Those are most interesting breeds, but neither occupies a first place in its department. The horses are great pullers; can shift a dead weight with the best; but somehow, except locally, they have never become fashionable. Red-Polled cattle are a fine breed—a medium between the Galloway and the Aberdeen-Angus—and in their creation and evolution there can be no doubt that the Galloway has played an important part. They are a good, fresh, milking breed, and, perhaps, of all the Polled breeds, the Red-Norfolk is the only one which deserves to be called a dairy cow. Suffolk sheep are a queer breed, showing some affinity to the Down breeds, but having quite as distinctive characteristics as the cattle and horses of the East of England. Norfolk Hackneys were also strongly in evidence, and altogether the show of 1894 was a most interesting event. SCOTLAND YET.

Chatty Stock Letter from the States.

FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.

Prices for live stock and hog products are somewhat lower than a year ago. At present best heaves are worth about \$4.90, or 40c per 100 lbs. lower than a year ago. Best heavy hogs, \$5.20, against \$6.00 a year ago; best light hogs \$5.15, against \$6.20 a year ago. Lambs selling around \$4.50 for the best, or over \$1.00 lower than in 1893. Wheat sold at the lowest prices on record this week: July, 52c, or 15c. lower than a year ago. Lard, for September delivery, closed \$3.25 lower than a year ago, at \$6.82, and September short ribs, \$6.52, or \$1.90 lower than a year ago.

The quality of hogs this week was the poorest of the year, there being a much larger proportion of grassy stock and comparatively few desirable heavy corn-fed lots. The supply of good light bacon grades was somewhat smaller than the demand, which was active, owing to the improved shipping and export demand for meats. It looks as though good light will command a greater premium over heavy inside of the next few weeks.

No Western range cattle have arrived yet this season, but several trains are expected soon. The season is about a week later than last year. From reports the range cattle are in splendid condition this year; better, in fact, than they have been for several years past. Good rains have produced a luxuriant growth of grass, and ranchmen seem well pleased at the outlook. Prices, however, may not be as high as some anticipated.

Chicago's receipts of cattle, hogs and sheep were very materially affected by the labor troubles, which were so bad here earlier in the month. Estimating the remaining portion of the month, the total for July, 1894, will reach only 145,000 cattle, 325,000 hogs and 130,000 sheep, or a total of 600,000 head, against 1,015,000 head for July, 1893. Compared with a year ago, cattle decreased 121,000; hogs decreased 194,000, and sheep 100,000. The worst of the strike is over; in fact, no further trouble is expected in connection with live stock receipts.

The quality of Texas cattle received here the past week was the poorest in a long time for this season of the year, and prices have ruled very low, whole train loads of 750 to 900 lb. steers selling as low as \$1.50 @ \$2.00; while the best 1,100 to 1,200 lb. steers are worth around \$3.75.

The horse market of late has been on the mend, smaller receipts and a better general demand causing a stronger feeling without any quotable advance in prices. Good to fine drivers lately sold at \$120 @ \$157, with a choice driving team at \$360. Smooth, sound, 1,300 lb. chunks sold at \$100 @ \$120, while plain, common workers continue sold at \$45 @ \$65.

Blanching Early Celery.

"American Gardening" advocates hilling up only in case of single rows, and even then blanching might be accomplished by simply setting boards (about 10 inches wide, and of any length), slightly slanting, up against the row from both sides. In good growing weather, plants can be bleached fit for use in from ten days to two weeks' time. When blanched, the celery is gradually taken up for use or sale, and the boards moved to other parts of the row or the other rows not treated in this way. The claim that it requires contact with earth to "remove acid properties" of the celery is not well founded. Brittleness and nutty flavor are acquired by quick growth in a favorable, moist and cool atmosphere.