

to former lots of this description of cattle exported. I observe that a company has been formed for the sending over of dead meat from Canada.

I herewith, as formerly, insert a letter from Messrs. Swan & Sons, of Lauriston Place, Edinburgh, who have been so long connected with the cattle trade, and which gives their opinion regarding its present position:—

“EDINBURGH, 25th December, 1889.

“DEAR SIR,—As usual, we have pleasure in complying with the request that we furnish you with the result of the Canadian cattle trade in Great Britain during the past year.

“From the beginning of navigation till the end of July prices in this country ruled high and were generally profitable. During these months many of our farmers invested in winter-fed Canadians for keeping, which, however, have not proved at all profitable, and sales now of cattle bought in the earlier part of the summer are leaving little margin of profit to the feeder.

“There has been a remarkable development in the store cattle trade to this country, and it is gratifying to note that each year there is a general improvement in the grades of the cattle.

“The shipments of Canadian cattle to Glasgow during the year now closed have been 28,435, in addition to which about 9,000 have gone to Aberdeen.

“Store cattle, both English and Irish, have been very dear indeed in this country, and farmers who, in former years, would never have thought of buying cattle bred outside our kingdom, have been free purchasers of Canadian cattle, which are possessed of a strong constitution and thrive remarkably well on winter feed here. From the immense quantities of Canadians which have been imported, the prominent feature of our market is the large proportion of home-fed Canadians which appears there. These are paying in some cases fairly well, in others remarkably well. There have been a few lots of Black Polls from Canada, and this class has undeniably left most money for feeding, and it appears to us that this class should be largely patronised by feeders in Canada for export to this country.

“Regarding the Aberdeen business, the restrictions in force in many counties throughout Scotland have been so antagonistic and retaliatory in many instances that the Aberdenians have provided themselves with a foreign animals' wharf. Having shut out store cattle from all parts of Scotland and Ireland, except those sent direct, naturally shippers from Canada availed themselves of this port, which, in the centre of a great feeding district, enabled farmers to supply themselves with cattle direct from Canada, they having no other source of supply.

“Were outside farmers, that is to say, men who are not in a position to fatten cattle in Canada, to turn their attention to breeding stores, crossing their native cows, if they have nothing else, with well-bred bulls, either Angus or Shorthorn, and ship their cattle to this country at 2½ years old, they could get six cattle into the space of four on the steamer, and always find a ready market, in place of shipping indifferent fat cattle, which are neither worth a fair price as fat nor as stockers.

“It is perfectly evident that farmers in this country, from the scarcity of English and Irish store cattle, and a great many cattle-breeding farms in the north of England being turned into dairy farms, are likely to be short of store cattle and look outside this kingdom for their supply. And we are perfectly satisfied that Canadian farmers would profit more by shipping their cattle earlier.

“Shipments of cattle from the States have been large this year, prices there being exceptionally low but freights very high. States cattle at Yorkhill vary extraordinarily in values, there being a difference in some weeks of 7s. to 8s. per cwt. It is expected that this trade will grow, as prices in the States show no sign of improvement.

“In regard to the home trade generally, farmers are being very badly paid for breeding cattle, there being absolutely no comparison between the cost price of stores and the relative value of fat. It is on this account, therefore, that we recommend the shipment of cattle as store in place of fat to this country. As the markets are now largely supplied with frozen meat from all parts of the world, and the car-