

The Tuberculin Test and Imported Cattle.

(From the London Live-stock Journal.)

Sir,—It looks as if the Governments of the United States and Canada mean to keep up the scare about bovine tuberculosis, although Dr. Koch has clearly shown that there is very little in it, in so far as the transmissibility of the disease from animals to mankind is concerned. These Governments in North America have rendered the exportation of carefully selected pedigree cattle from this country almost impossible. As tuberculosis is not hereditary, it is difficult to see what possible harm could result from the importation of carefully selected animals that are obviously in good healthy condition. If the Americans and Canadians are convinced of the value of tuberculin, why do they not make its use compulsory among the cattle in their own countries? They have more sense! As the new regulations will prove to be very detrimental to the export trade, could not our Government show that what is sauce for the goose is also sauce for the gander? The Americans profess to be frightened that their precious herds may receive contamination from good healthy British cattle. But what about our people who eat American and Canadian beef? There is no proof that the cattle there are wholly free from tuberculosis, and yet they are allowed to land here alive in thousands without any test to ascertain if they have this disease. It is to be hoped that the President of the Board of Agriculture will see to this anomaly at once. An order should be issued without delay, enforcing the application of the tuberculin test on all cattle imported from Canada and the United States. Perhaps a second test would also be desirable—the expenses of the tests and of the keep of the animals during the time they are undergoing the ordeal to be paid by the exporters. If 20 per cent. of the cattle reacted it might be desirable (again following American methods) to schedule the places from which they were consigned, and allow them to send their cattle as dead meat, for which a certificate ought also to be required that the carcasses were those of animals that had been put to the tuberculin test and had not reacted. Certainly the life of a British subject, which may possibly be endangered by eating imported tuberculous meat, is of infinitely more value than thousands of ranchers' oxen, which, they say, might contract disease from high-class healthy stock imported from this country. X.

Winter Care of Breeding Ewes.

If a large crop of strong lambs is to be expected when the lambing season arrives, the breeding ewes must receive proper care during the winter. The practice, so very common, of allowing them to forage for themselves in old meadows or around stacks until the gains made on the fall pastures have begun to disappear is very poor economy indeed, and altogether degenerating to any flock. Not that a run to the old pastures on fine days should be discountenanced, because long experience has proven that the more closely we follow nature in the management of this as well as other classes of live stock, the greater will be our success. They should not be expected, however, to depend too much upon such sources.

Where it is necessary to feed from the barn there is no better roughage than clover hay, but corn silage and clean pea-straw are cheap and valuable substitutes. A mixture of the three, about equal parts by weight, makes a splendid combination when cut into short lengths and mixed. If access to pastures is prevented, roots should be supplied in moderate quantities. Turnips will be most readily eaten, and the best method of feeding them to breeding ewes is to scatter them whole, either in the yard or pen, and allow the ewes to scoop them at will. In so doing they will obtain exercise, a reasonable amount of which is conducive to the growth of a strong fetus.

As the lambing season approaches, and within four or five weeks of that event, grain should be fed, in addition to the roots and roughage. To begin with, one half pound daily of oats, barley and bran, equal weights, should be supplied, and later this amount may be increased somewhat, according to the size and condition of the sheep. It is not necessary that ewes be kept fat; considerable flesh is desirable, but a strong healthy body is the main requisite.

The winter quarters should afford protection from rain and snow, be well ventilated and not drafty. A single ply of lumber with battens is sufficient for the wall unless early lambs are expected, in which case a warmer pen should be provided. If the location be well drained an earth floor will be quite satisfactory; the amount of space ranging from ten to fifteen square feet for each ewe.

Discard the Sour Swill Barrel.

One of the chief reasons why some hog-raisers fail to secure the success which their neighbors enjoy is because the kitchen refuse is allowed to become fermented before being fed. It is a mistake to imagine that everything a hog will eat is good for him. He has really no greater need, nor does his system call for food strongly acid, than a man would have for pickles at every meal. There is no more active agent in promoting indigestion in hogs of all ages and in checking rapid

**CHALLENGER.**

A British bull, the sire of some Shorthorn emigrants.

and profitable growth than sour swill. It keeps young pigs thin in flesh and heavy in belly; and for older ones, and brood sows in particular, it commonly puts them "off feed." While everything coming from the kitchen should be made use of, its receptacle should be kept clean. Take it all down to the pens while fresh, and feed at once; nothing can be gained by delay, and much may be lost.

To Remove Warts.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I notice in your issue of Nov. 15th, that J. O. N. of Sunbury Co., N.B., wishes to know how to remove a wart, and having a simple remedy which has been tried in several cases, and as yet has not been known to fail, I thought perhaps it would be well to make it known. It is as follows: Rub the wart well once a week with lard. This will remove warts from either cattle or horses, and in most cases that have come under my immediate notice, when the animal has come up for the third application no traces of the wart or where it had been could be discovered. Hoping this may be of benefit to some one, as many things in your paper have been to me, I remain, H. J. BRANDER. Lambton Co., Ont.

Hampshire Down Sheep.

Can you give me the address of some reliable breeder of Hampshire Down sheep? I do not see any advertised in the "Advocate."

Ans.—Hon. M. H. Cochrane, Hillhurst, Que., has a first-class flock. John Kelly, Shakespeare, Ont., has also a real good small flock, and Telfer Bros., Paris, Ont., showed a few good ones at Toronto this year.

The service rendered its readers makes the "Farmer's Advocate" the cheapest farmer's paper in America to-day.

**SHEEP OR DOGS, WHICH?**

Pay your money and take your choice.

The Shotgun Method.

In speaking of the dog nuisance in "Successful Farming," Mr. Wm. Rennie says:

"For that annoyance, lead is most effectual, and every farmer who has a valuable flock of sheep should keep a loaded gun in a convenient place, and when he finds a dog chasing his sheep he should shoot it, bury it, and keep his mouth shut."

FARM.**Rural Mail Delivery.**

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—Your October 1st editorial regarding free rural mail delivery was timely and to the point. The time has arrived when our Federal Government should begin giving their attention more to the needs of the agriculturists of Canada along that line. Manufacturers put forth their claims in concert, and frequently have their wants attended to. With the farmers in many parts of the older provinces, having in recent years changed their business of being merely grain-growers to be manufacturers of more finished products, which vary in values day by day, it has, therefore, become most important to have daily reports of the world's markets; and how is it possible to get these, with farming operations so often of late suffering from want of attention at the proper time, because of the existing scarcity of labor? Going or sending one to four miles daily for mail matter is getting to be altogether too heavy a tax on the majority of producers in the rural districts, and yet without the required quotations loss is certain to result. How often have we heard of a stock feeder, or a dairyman, or seed-grower, in marketing his productions, having lost heavily, simply because he had not the opportunity of being equally as well posted as the buyer who got his free delivering of mail three or four times during the day! In the thickly settled sections, how much saving of labor would result from having a carrier going along a ten or fifteen mile route with and for mail matter, compared with twenty or thirty individuals along the route going to the office daily? We fully recognize that principle of labor-saving in our beef-ring arrangements, when weekly we have our butcher deliver meat at our farms, and 'tis the same in connection with the delivering of milk to factories, towns and cities. One man, working along a practical system, accomplishes what a score can do on individual lines.

We are well aware of the question of cost entering largely into the consideration of the proposed improvement. Speaking for myself, I would say, better by far, if necessary, have mail delivery, even if we have to pay extra for it. But will extra pay be required if the post office department would not be compelled to do so much without any remuneration for the other departments of our Government and for individuals? I maintain we, in the rural sections, have the right to demand free delivery of mail, whether the department pays its way or not, while so much franking is done for the other departments down to party political campaign matter. The States Government has solved the question for us to profit by. It has for years experimented, starting on a small scale, not so long ago, but already the system is becoming general in many States. In connection with our sheep trade, we think half of our correspondents give free-delivery route addresses. Why not we in Canada also?

Let us unitedly demand the privilege given to our cities for years, and we can have it without fail. At our next general elections, let us put forth our claims, secure pledges of support from candidates, and give our support to those who will agree to carry out our wishes. Victoria Co., Ont. JOHN CAMPBELL.

Rural Mail Delivery.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I noticed an editorial in your issue of Oct. 1st, on the above subject, and I sincerely congratulate you upon your public spirit, and the deep interest your paper takes in the farming

citizens of this great land. A great many of us are unable to take a daily paper, due to the fact that we can not afford the time off our farms to go to the offices of delivery, which are from three to eight miles distant from any home on the fifth concession of Verulam, south of Sturgeon Lake. On this line, which is about four miles long, twenty-two families reside; this whole section is thickly populated, and having the mail de-

livered at least every second day would prove a great blessing to your less fortunate fellow-citizen, living out here sixteen miles from the nearest railway station, by bringing him in touch with the commercial world three times a week instead of once a week. It is to be hoped that all farmers will put their heads together, and, with one tremendous effort, bring an unparalleled blessing to their homes. R. J. MITCHELL.

Victoria County, Ont.