

The question of the effect of the embargo placed by the Mother Country on Canadian live cattle has been freely discussed. There seems to be a widespread opinion that the change will not materially affect United States cattle. It is surprising how the great slaughterers are spreading out. They own ranches and farms; have buyers at all principal points, and often scattered through the country; own and control live stock cars, refrigerator cars; and run thousands of retail butcher markets, usually in the names of trusted employees. The late prices for American live cattle in Liverpool and London have ranged at 10½c. to 11½c. per lb., against 12c. to 12½c. a year ago, while export cattle are costing in Chicago \$5 to \$5.25, against \$4.50 to \$5 a year ago. These facts account for the apathy of American live cattle exporters.

The change of administration, of course, will put an end to Mr. Secretary Rusk. He has made some great efforts in behalf of the American live stockmen, and there is considerable interest manifested in his probable successor.

The Farm.

Alberta Territory.

BY T. F. PATERSON.

The Ontario farmer on his trip westward is apt to be disappointed with the appearance of the country around Calgary, after leaving the fertile plains of Manitoba and Eastern Assiniboia. Nothing but a seemingly endless prairie meets his gaze in every direction, with a rancher's dwelling here and there to break the monotony of the scene. Arriving at Calgary (a most beautiful town situated about the centre of Alberta) he naturally asks, Is this a first-class agricultural country in every respect? Some will say yes, while others candidly will say no. The season being comparatively short, and the climate dry, wheat and coarse grains as a rule

in proportion to the number of cattle he owns, each cowboy generally supplied with six or seven horses. The ranching grounds are then scoured far and near, and the cattle corralled for the purpose of branding and castrating. All the mavrocks (or cattle which had escaped the branding operation the previous year and have consequently no owner) are put up at auction, and sold to the highest bidder; these being branded, they are then turned loose for the winter, and rounded up the following spring, to recount them and ascertain the losses, if any. The cattle, sheep and horses as a rule do well, and are generally in good thriving condition in the spring. The losses generally occur among the cows that have been suckled late in the fall. Last year the losses were considerable. On going down the C. & E. Railway great numbers of them could be seen lying dead, killed by the blizzard of last April. This is a rare occurrence, so we were told, but there is always more or less loss among such large herds of cattle.

In the High River and Willow Creek districts,



GROUP OF THREE SHEARLING SHROPSHIRE EWES.

Winners of first at the S. & W. M. Show, 1891, in the open class for ewe lambs. Bred and exhibited by John Thonger, Wolf's Head Farm, Nesscliffe, Shropshire. Imported and owned by The Isleigh Grange Farm, Danville, P. Q.

Among other matters not yet settled, the Secretary of Agriculture is conducting the experiment to determine the curability of lumpy jaw or actinomy cases by use of iodide of potassium. One disadvantage of having the chief of the Agricultural Department in the Cabinet is that a change is sure to be made with every administration, and political changes come faster than it is desirable to change officers who have important agricultural experiments and tests in hand.

The choicest native corn-fed beefs lately sold at \$5.75. A lot of 1,600-lb. steers sold at \$3.45, and 84 corn-fed Colorados, 1,520 lbs., sold at \$5.60. The 1,400 to 1,500-lb. steers sold at \$4.10 to \$4.90; 1,300 to 1,400 lbs., \$3.40 to \$4.90; 1,200 to 1,300 lbs., \$3.10 to \$4.55; 950 to 1,190 lbs., \$3 to \$4.40. Native cows sold largely at \$1.75 to \$2.45. Texas sold at \$1.25 to \$2.40 for cows, and \$2.65 to \$3.25 for steers. Western rangers sold at \$2.25 to \$2.60 for cows, and \$3.30 to \$4.45 for steers. Stock cattle sold at \$2.20 to \$3.25.

Western range cattle have not been marketed as freely as a year ago, and ranchmen are disposed to think they will make money by holding stock till next year.

do not yield paying crops, but in some seasons they have a fair average, should they be fortunate enough to get copious showers in June. But taking the country between Fort McLeod and Calgary, a distance of 104 miles, as a land of cattle ranches, it is not surpassed in the Dominion of Canada or United States. On looking at the prairie grass an Ontario farmer would naturally say it was worthless as far as fattening properties are concerned, but such is not the case. It is generally of a reddish color, and has the appearance of the wiry red top, well-known in Ontario, but does not grow over four inches long (except in sloughs, where it attains the height of five to eight inches, and is cut and used as hay).

The cattle and sheep on the various ranches were extremely fat, especially steers and calves; cows and suckling calves were in good winter condition. The different stock companies and ranchers turn out their cattle on the vast prairies, each having their particular brand. In the fall the Stock Association gives notice to its different members that the time for the roundup has been set. Each man then sends cowboys

and in the vicinity of Fort McLeod, were to be seen the largest herds, numbering from a few hundreds up to forty or fifty thousand. It was a pleasing sight, and one to be long remembered, to see such large herds of fine cattle. We were cautioned by the ranchers never to go among them on foot, unless we were fond of being trampled to death, as the sight of a man on foot arouses their curiosity; they will circle round you, and in a short time most of the herd want to participate in the examination; the near ones keep crowding the front ones until the circle becomes so small that in their frantic efforts to prevent coming in contact with you they end by trampling you under foot.

One great drawback was their lack of transportation facilities, but that has been overcome by the building of a railway from Edmonton to Fort McLeod. The principal market (besides home consumption) as yet is British Columbia. Owing to the cheapness of raising and fattening the Alberta rancher can compete and even undersell the B. C. farmer. With the general introduction of good eastern sires, good facilities for transportation and good markets, stock ranching in Alberta can be made a profitable industry.