

# The Commercial

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## EXPORTING CATTLE.

The scheduling of Canadian cattle by the British authorities, has stirred up considerable interest all over the Dominion in this matter. The export cattle trade of the country is a very important one, and Great Britain is our only market at present for any large quantity. Anything that would injure the sale of our cattle in British markets, would be a serious matter. British farmers of course suffer from the competition of imported animals, and they are anxious to have every restriction possible against imports. Backed by the farmers, there is a considerable interest in the Old Country ever ready and watching for an opportunity to place obstructions in the way of importing cattle. This, no doubt accounts to some extent for the great watchfulness of the British authorities, in looking for traces of disease among imported cattle. Of course these authorities are anxious, upon principle, of preventing the introduction of contagious diseases, but in this department they seem to be over zealous. In the care of the Canadian cattle, it is a disputed question as to the nature of the disease discovered among them, some competent authorities declaring that the disease with which the few affected animals were afflicted, was not the contagious one, but only a comparatively harmless affection. Be this as it may, the British authorities lost no time in scheduling Canadian cattle. To the uninitiated, this means that Canadian cattle arriving in British ports must be slaughtered at the docks, as they will not be permitted to pasture with British farmers. Heretofore, Canadian cattle have enjoyed the special privilege of being allowed to be passed into the country for grazing and feeding, while imports from other countries had to be slaughtered on arrival.

There is a difference of opinion as to the effect the taking away of this privilege will have upon the Canadian export cattle trade. Some claim it will not be serious, while others go so far as to declare it will prove an advantage in time. A good many lean cattle, known in the trade as "stockers" are shipped from Canada to Britain and are fattened there. If the cattle must be slaughtered on arrival in British ports, the shipment of lean or partly fattened animals will be cut off, as they will be unfit for slaughtering on arrival in the British ports. Canadian farmers will therefore only find sale for fat animals, and this it is claimed will be a benefit to them in the long run, as they will make more money out of fat animals than by selling them in an unfinished condition. THE COMMERCIAL has heretofore expressed this same opinion. It does seem that if British farmers can make money by buying lean Canadian cattle and fattening them there, that the Canadian farmer could do better by fattening the cattle himself, when we consider the abundant supply of cheap fodder here, as compared with the cost of fattening an animal in the Old Country.

As regards the shipment of cattle, THE COMMERCIAL has on previous occasions expres-

sed a belief that the shipment of dressed meats might be advantageously substituted to some extent, at least, for the exportation of live stock. At present, however, facilities for the transportation of dressed meats are inadequate. We have in Western Canada a great field for the development of stock raising, and any question regarding the exportation of live stock, is of great moment to us. THE COMMERCIAL, however, looks forward to the establishing of an export trade in dressed meats, via our northern Hudson Bay outlet, as the future hope of the stock-raising industry of Western Canada.

## SANITARY SCIENCE.

Those who give some attention to hygiene and sanitation will be pleased to learn that a bureau has been organized in connection with the World's Columbian Exposition, to prepare a collective exhibit illustrative of the present condition of sanitary science. In comparison with the inestimable importance of the matter, sanitation is neglected to a surprising extent. The civilized world has certainly made some progress in the line of sanitary reforms, but it does seem that but little has been accomplished, in comparison with the advancement made in less important matters. In America, perhaps, sanitary science is more neglected than in the more progressive countries of Europe. In fact, the disregard for sanitation shown in the management of many of the cities of this continent, is a frequent matter of comment from Old World visitors. We do not know that Chicago itself, where the exhibition is to be held, has very much to boast of, as regards the sanitary condition of the city.

To those who have given even superficial thought to the questions of hygiene and sanitation, it does seem strange that there is so much neglect of these important matters, both in a public and private way. As individuals, we build our houses without a thought as to requirements of health. In our cities the large number of persons who live in rented houses, seldom give any particular attention to the matter of the healthfulness of the houses into which they may propose to move. With diphtheria, scarlet and typhoid fevers and other deadly diseases lurking around, one would suppose that great care would be taken in selecting a residence, not only as to the sanitary condition of the building itself, but also as to the healthfulness of the locality in general. Yet parents will move their little ones into a house which presents every favorable condition for the lodgement of disease, without a thought as to their responsibility in the matter.

The same neglect is often shown in a public way. As the parents are largely responsible for the health of their families, so the rulers of countries, divisions of countries and civic corporations are responsible for the health of the people. In the conduct of a town or city, what more important matter is there than the public health? yet often a most sadly neglected feature of civic government. The greatest disregard for public health is perhaps shown in the management of the affairs of the smaller cities and towns. In the matter of sanitation, the authorities should take the lead, and not

only carry out necessary public works in the interest of public health, but also compel private parties to observe sanitary rules in constructing their buildings, and in other necessary ways have a watchful regard for the health of the people. Private and public disregard for hygiene and sanitation may both be characterized as simply criminal.

To show what may be accomplished for a community through regard for public sanitation, the case of the city of Munich may be used as an illustration. When that city was devoid of sewerage and pure water supply the death rate from typhoid fever—preeminently a disease revelling in filth—was 21.20 per ten thousand. The illustrious scientists, Pattenkofer, was consulted, and recommended the establishment of a system of sewerage and the introduction of a water supply from a new source. Upon the inauguration of the new systems the death rate was reduced to 13.30 per ten thousand; partial progress further reduced it to 9.26 and the completion of the cloacine caused the rate finally to fall to 1.75 per ten thousand, at which it has approximately remained.

At the World's Exposition, it is proposed to illustrate every possible phase of the great questions of hygiene and sanitation. This will give medical men, architects and others a fine opportunity of studying the latest developments of sanitary science. Those especially who have charge of departments relating to public health, either in municipal or in more enlarged spheres of operation, should make use of this opportunity of acquiring additional knowledge in a direction which is certain to be of great value to them.

## The Money Market.

There has been a hardening of rates for money, helped on by the larger institutions and lenders, until the call and time rates have come together at 5 to 6 per cent. Yet at the close there is plenty of money seeking employment at these rates, since foreign banks and bankers have been free lenders, as rates on the other side have not kept pace with our market, but rather have remained at old figures, for the reason that general trade and manufacturers are as inactive there as they are here. The enormous movement of grain at the west has required heavy shipments hence; but towards the close of the month the return flow began to offset the outward movement. As a result, the banks began to gain in their reserves, which had been practically exhausted during the month.

Gold has ceased to be exported, and there have been some predictions of imports before long, but they have not yet materialized, and sterling exchange has ceased to attract attention or be an important factor in the monetary situation. Silver has advanced in sympathy with the rupee in India and the demand from China, together with reduced production by our mines, some of which have been closed.

The prospects of some favorable action, in the direction of international bimetalism, by the coming conference, owing to the increasing unsatisfactory financial and trade relations of England with her Indian Empire, have also caused some investment and speculation in silver, on the belief that the decline was too low and must be followed by a reaction, by the operation of the natural laws of supply and demand.—New York Bankers' Magazine, for November.