

Protect us from Danger.

It is really astonishing that with all the Agricultural Colleges, Veterinary Surgeons, Professors of Agriculture and Agricultural Boards, Societies, Granges and stump orators in the United States and Canada, these numerous dangerous diseases amongst stock should have been allowed to exist and spread for a series of years, without our Canadian Government taking steps to prevent their introduction to our Dominion ere this. The present action of the Governments of Canada and England is only as yet to protect us from Pleuro-Pneumonia. Our American neighbors, and some Canadians also, have attempted to conceal the existence of the disease, even since our Government has taken slight steps to prevent our stock from being contaminated. From American agricultural journals we learn that the disease has existed in that country for forty years; that steps had been taken to eradicate it twenty years ago in one of the Eastern States; that it is now to be found in all the Eastern States, and as far west as Ohio. This disease is not so easily stamped out as some may imagine. The U. S. Government may now possibly act vigorously, but such a foothold is now gained that prohibition only can prevent the possibility of its infecting our stock for the next ten or fifteen years. According to their own veterinary authorities, it may not be seen for three generations, and then re-appear.

What can we trust to inspectors when we find that the ship load of cattle that was destroyed in England during the past month had been passed by two inspectors and pronounced sound? Also, some strong American partisans or Americans even had the audacity to attempt to confute the British inspectors and try to prove that the disease was not the Pleuro-Pneumonia; further, Americans on this side of the Atlantic state that the cattle shipped on the vessel were all from the Western States and Canada, and that the disease never existed in either of these sections of the continent. This must show a greater necessity for rigor in preventing the spread of the disease in our country, because, as they state, the cattle were healthy and came from uninfected districts. Some one or more of the cattle must have had the virus of the disease inherited from sires or dams, or perhaps from great-grand-dams or sires; or they must have caught the disease from being shipped on the cars or vessel in which diseased animals had been previously shipped.

It is our opinion that our Government should extend the limits of the time of prohibition. There is a possibility of its being introduced to Manitoba or British Columbia, but this is not very probable; still we know not what injury might be effected by a designing person on the future prosperity of our farmers.

What England wants and will pay for is the best and purest of everything the world can produce. If we can but keep these diseases away that are so numerous, prevalent and destructive to different kinds of farm animals in the States, we shall be able to command a much higher price in the markets of England and the world than any country where these diseases are prevalent. No live animal of any kind should be allowed to be imported into this Dominion from the States to mingle with our stock. The through-transport trade should only be allowed in cars kept for American stock, and large, isolated, doubly-enclosed yards should be set apart for the shipment of their stock alone. There should be a strict watch kept, and notice given at once if any unknown disease should make its appearance in any part of our Dominion.

We would again direct the attention of our Government to the dangers of diseases in swine in the

States. There is a possibility of these diseased animals being imported to this country.

The loss to Britain alone caused by Pleuro-Pneumonia is estimated at twelve million dollars for the past twelve years, equal to one million dollars per annum. The Americans are now taking steps to try to stamp it out, but from the long time they have allowed it to remain and spread, they will have a difficult and expensive undertaking, which we doubt will not be accomplished in our day, perhaps never. Ten thousand dollars has been granted to effect this check and spread of the disorder; we doubt if ten million dollars would do it, or cover their loss.

On Political Economy.

As the representative of the independent and leading farmers of each Province of this Dominion, we would beg to call your attention to the immediate requirements for enabling us to restore this country to prosperity and preventing us from becoming a repudiating or bankrupt nation.

We respectfully ask for an immediate and great reduction in our general expenditure for Government; also a large reduction in the salaries received by many who live on our hard earnings and render but little or no service for such. We consider that we pay far too much for all public institutions, that they have been erected at too great an expense—far too large and grand for this Dominion. The interests of officers, contractors and city ornamentation have been more regarded than our interests. The weight of maintaining so many expensive legislators, so many expensive public institutions, and such a number of full-pay and half-pay officials, bears too heavily on the small number of farmers who have either encumbered or unencumbered farms.

Grants to local railways in well-developed parts of this Dominion may for the present be abandoned.

We also ask that the present bankruptcy law may be abolished, and that steps may be at once taken to cause the disgorgement of property now held by friends or relations of fraudulent bankrupts.

We also request that more stringent measures may be taken to prevent the possibility of our stock (particularly cattle, swine and poultry) from being injured by the dire diseases that have taken root in Europe and in the United States. Also, that steps may be taken to prevent the repetition of inferior American products being fraudulently sold under the name of Canadian products in the British markets.

We would also request that the luxuries of the rich be made to bear a more just proportion of taxation, and further, that all who live in a luxurious style be made to pay their just tribute towards the maintenance of our Government. The poor are too heavily taxed for the education of the rich. We have been living beyond our means; we must curtail expenses. We should all help to bear the burden and divert impending danger, if possible.

A much higher qualification is needed for our legislators and for our electors. Our franchise is too low; an empty bag cannot stand upright. Compare the expense of the British Members of Parliament to the country with the expense of our legislation, and estimate the wealth that one represents with the other. We must come to the conclusion that we pay far too dear for our whistle.

It is our intention to take up the above subjects separately, and to treat on each more fully as we feel inclined, if suitable to our readers and ourselves.

EMIGRATION.

Steps should be taken to make this Dominion a more suitable place for British farmers who have wealth to invest in agriculture. A better class should be encouraged to come amongst us. By the recent emigration expenditures we have had the scum of Britain sent here from factories, &c., who know nothing about agricultural labor. They have been like ticks on our sheep, the more they have the poorer they are. The franchise has been given to such, and the wealth of our country is becoming endangered almost as much as in the Southern States, where the debts are so great that if, in some instances, the whole State were sold and all its contents, the debts could not be paid. None but men of stability, having unencumbered freehold estates, should be allowed a voice in our Legislatures.

More stringent laws should be enforced to prevent labor or trade strikers from interfering with persons willing to work (see reports of Grand Trunk strike).

An alteration should be made in the mode of electing officers to our Board of Agriculture and Arts; this institution has become too expensive to remain as it now is, and we presume it will be about bankrupt within a year unless immediate retrenchment and care is taken.

Public servants who receive public money should show some value for the money they receive. Too high salaries are paid to some officials, and too large pensions are also paid to persons who have not earned or deserved them.

In Britain we find men of sterling wealth, who are trained and reared for politicians, men who are able and willing and do attend to the ruling and directing of the British nation, without having their minds burdened with the all-absorbing policy of this continent—the grasping of the public money. They are men of wealth and means, and can afford to employ their time in that high and honorable position of British legislation. This is the great foundation of England's strength; it springs from the firm and certain tenure of property, and the fixed state of her laws. Many of the laws may appear to us as erroneous, but are there not ten times less corruption and fraud there than we have on this continent? It is notorious that nearly all our railways, telegraph lines, stock companies, public improvements, etc., have been brought into prominence by buying up or feigning statesmen, and that individual or company interests have been the main moving powers. Great contracts have been given and great privileges accorded undeservedly to unworthy parties; real merit and just right have been thrown to the winds and disregarded. The great cause of this is because the standing and position of our legislators are too low. Men of straw, by means of a fluent tongue, by false and deceptive means, gain power. Our choice is limited to too small a number of capable men. We are paying too much for all the good we get. We have far too many legislators and officers to pay, considering the quality.

We deem it time to put in the pruning knife and to use the sieve; we should endeavor to have a less number of paid officials and better men. We feel sure that if our Ontario Agricultural Board were reduced to half the number of members, it would be of advantage to the country, and we think the same applies to higher and lower stations.

As both our Dominion and Local Legislatures are now in session, we hope that either one or the other, or both, may take immediate steps to advance the interests of this Dominion and arrange expenditures more in conformity with the Mother Country. We have not the wealth of that nation and should not exceed it in expenditure.