

How Our Neighbors Restrict Their Live Stock Importations.

Sensational reports having been circulated in the country regarding the nature of recent orders issued from Washington under the authority of the United States Government, it will interest our readers on each side of "the line" to know to what extent the export of Canadian stock to the Republic is affected thereby. The regulations are in pursuance of an Act of Congress, approved on August 30, 1890, providing for "the inspection of meats for exportation, and prohibiting the importation of adulterated articles of food or drink, and authorizing the President to make proclamation in certain other cases and for other purposes."

According to the regulation based on the foregoing, all neat cattle, sheep and other ruminants and swine going in the States from Canada or elsewhere in North and South America are subject to inspection by a veterinary officer of the Bureau of Animal Industry, and if found free from disease, and not having been exposed to contagious disease, shall be admitted. In case of disease or exposure, animals are subject to quarantine or slaughter.

Cattle imported into the United States from other parts of the world, such as Europe, including Great Britain, are subject to ninety days quarantine; sheep and other ruminants and swine, fifteen days. Persons contemplating importation are required to obtain two permits from the Secretary of Agriculture: one stating the number and kind of animals to be imported, the port and probable date of shipment, which will entitle him to clearance papers from U. S. Consul at port; the other stating port of arrival where animals are to be quarantined, probable date of arrival, etc. Furthermore, on day of shipment the importer is required to telegraph to the Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry stating number and kind of animals shipped, name of vessel and port of destination. The importer is also required to secure affidavits by the owner from whom he purchases the stock, stating that animals have been in district where purchased for a year preceding sale, and that no contagious disease has existed among them or among animals with which they came in contact for one year, and that no inoculation has been practised among said animals for two years; another affidavit is required that animals were shipped in clean, disinfected cars and ships, and not through infected districts. The quarantine and other regulations on landing resemble the foregoing in character. Few importers will try to run this gauntlet, which is favorable to Canada rather than otherwise, as our readers can readily see.

The words "contagious diseases" refer to anthrax, contagious pleuro-pneumonia, tuberculosis, foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest, sheep pox, foot rot, scab, hog cholera and swine plague.

The quarantine stations and ports through which stock must be entered are as follows:—On Atlantic seaboard—Boston, New York and Baltimore; Pacific seaboard—San Diego; Mexican boundary—Brownsville, Paso Del Norte, Eagle Pass, Laredo and Nogales; Canada boundary line—through the customs ports in the collection districts of Aroostook and Bangor, Maine; Saint Albans, Vermont; Buffalo Creek, Niagara, Cape Vincent, Champlain, Oswegatchie, New

York State; Detroit, Port Huron and Superior, Michigan; Minnesota and Duluth, Minn., and Puget Sound, Washington. We hope our neighbors will not only be able to rid their herds of lung plague, but to prevent the admission of fresh contagion from abroad.

Chatty Letter from the States.

January 13, 1891, recorded the largest number of cattle ever received for one day's market—24,036 head, besides 669 calves—also the largest number of cars ever received in a day—2,099. Another significant fact is that stock cars average six feet longer than they did ten years ago. Chicago's receipts for the first half of January, compared with a year ago (same time), are as follows:

	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.
1890.....	174,000	446,000	89,000
1891.....	148,500	535,600	99,000

These figures show a decrease of 26,000 cattle, or 2,000 a day for each working day. At that rate the year would pan out about 600,000 decrease from last year, and there is little doubt that there will be about that much decrease this year. Hogs for the first half of the month showed a gain of about 90,000, but the rate of increase is vastly larger than it could possibly be for the year. The market for hogs was better, and that fact called in hogs that were as heavy as they should be and hogs that had run out of feed waiting for better markets. The increase of 10,000 sheep marketed shows that feeders are on the anxious seat because the prices have not been very attractive and the stock not well fattened.

The new year so far has not been the most unsatisfactory in the live stock trade. Offerings of stock have been heavy owing to the fact that many feeders made an effort to hold on until after the holidays.

Beef steers sold at \$3.50 to \$5.50; stockers and feeders at \$2.25 to \$3.70; hogs, \$3.40 to \$3.85; sheep, \$4 to \$5.15; lambs, \$5 to \$6.30. Some 127-lb. grade Shropshire sheep fed in the west sold at \$5.30, and 81-lb. lambs out of the same lot sold at \$6 to \$6.30 per hundred lbs.

There is a heavy crop of pigs and "shoats" in the country, and they are usually quite healthy. They are not receiving much attention, as farmers usually think they can make better use of their corn.

Hog prices are quite low, but they are not as low as they would be if the packers were not so heavily loaded with manufactured product. To a certain extent the packers want to keep prices up just now to strengthen the value of their provisions. The heavy receipts lately have been a surprise to them, and have been too much of a load to permit of any "bullish" tactics in the provision trade. The feeling is, however, that prices for hogs will not go lower than now.

Some people object to testing milk, on the ground that a small sample selected from the can is not fairly representative of the whole. This objection sinks into insignificance, however, when we remember that the best co-operative creameries are run on that principle, and the variation between the estimated production and the actual output is very trifling indeed. Two years ago, at the creamery in connection with the Ontario Agricultural College, the difference between the estimate and the actual production of the whole season was less than a dozen pounds of butter, which would not amount to one cent a week to patrons if the entire amount had been lost. This, however, was not the case, as there was no loss to anyone, but a decided saving to honest patrons. In this, as in all other matters, honesty need not fear the broad light of day, but to shrink from the most thorough test shows an inclination to "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain."

More Export Cattle.

We once more wish to impress the fact upon the minds of our breeders—the absolute necessity of at once making every effort to improve the quality of our export cattle. It is now a well-known fact that the whole of the great Western States are short of first-class cattle, that the percentage of really good export cattle, being ripe and having proper quality to recommend them, has become less yearly for the past five years. That this will give Canadian feeders and breeders a chance, and as our great Northwest ranchers have this year sent exceptionally good cattle, it must show how great our resources are. That it will be necessary to make a change in our system is true of the whole country, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, both on the farm and on the ranch. More care must be exercised in breeding, as well as feeding. Our present labor question demands that employment be found for our laboring population on the farm in winter as well as summer. That labor is impossible to be had just when the whole crop of the country depends upon prompt action, because laborers have found they cannot afford to work eight months in the year on the farm and lie idle the other four. When our older provinces were being cleared up there was always plenty of work to be found in some of the lines of timber cutting and hauling. That is all past, and the sooner our farmers apply themselves to the necessity of the case, in filling this gap by stock producing, winter dairying, etc., the sooner will our labor problem be solved. The only way that this can be made a success of is by paying more attention to it. Farmers must lay out their plans so as to grow abundance of feed for summer and winter. They must make stock breeding and feeding of the first importance. Then, by regained fertility on the farm, they can produce any crop they choose. They must see to it that only the very best cattle are to be found on their farms and in their barns. They must get their cattle matured earlier, for it only requires one trial to convince the most skeptical that two pounds of ground grain is as beneficial to a steer the first eighteen months, as five pounds will be the next eighteen months. All this requires close attention. There can be no more pleasant winter employment than feeding and caring for first-class stock,—not the poor, miserable scrub, but the heavy-fleshed, thrifty cattle, on which care and feed tell.

Some of our prominent farmers, who have found that summer dairying entails heavy expenses through the increase of wages for the needed labor, have adopted the plan of allowing one cow to nurse two calves, and thereby have made a great success of steer raising; and there is no doubt that this will pay if good cows are kept and bred to a bull of the best beefing sort, and that the calves be pushed right along. It is by this means the best beef is produced, and it is also by this mode of stock raising that the after feeding tells. There is a certainty that calves fed on whey can never give anything like satisfaction for any sort of beef production, and by glancing at the different dairy herds a visitor very quickly comes to the same conclusion. Milk is a necessity in starting the calf, and in dairy herds skim milk is just the feed needed; but those who attempt to bring up calves without milk have a steep uphill work before them. A herd of cattle by this treatment quickly lose size