

Stock.

Pleuro-Pneumonia.

The great interest manifested by both the Canadian and American people in this subject, on account of the very serious effect its existence in the United States has on both countries, induces us to reproduce an article by Prof. Law in the June number of the Live Stock Journal, in which he fully establishes beyond a doubt the contagious nature of the disease.

That the interruption to our trade is a very serious loss cannot be overlooked, yet when the facts are considered that contagious diseases in cattle exist in the United States, and that (as the English law now stands) that country must be placed on the scheduled list, nothing was left for our Government but to prohibit the entry of American cattle, or to allow Canada to be scheduled also.

The question thus presented itself to the Government: Is it better to run the very serious risk of introducing cattle disease into our hitherto healthy country, and have our cattle slaughtered at the port of entry, or to protect our agriculturists at the risk of interfering in some measure with our carrying trade? The wisdom of the Government in adopting the course they have will become more apparent when we consider the rapid development of our country. It is true that, hitherto, the inducements for breeding large numbers of cattle were few; now, however, the opening up of our Great North-west Territory, which will speedily become great cattle-runs, and the increased attention to stock-raising which our farmers are now induced to give, will enable us in a few years to export ten times as many cattle as we do now, and every successive year will see an increase in our production of live-stock.

We have no intention of entering into the discussion raised by Prof. Williams of Edinburgh, and re-echoed on this side of the Atlantic by Mr. Smith of Toronto; both opinion and authenticated facts have long ago proved that the former has made a gross blunder, and has seriously shaken the confidence of the profession and the public in one whom they were inclined to look upon as an authority; and his follower has convinced the public that he has no independent opinion of his own, that he has presumed in the face of the most unmistakable evidence to theorize on a matter of the utmost public importance, on which he had no possible opportunity of being capable of forming a correct opinion, he never having even taken the trouble to see for himself whether it was or was not the contagious lung-plague of Europe. Not only so, but we believe he has never had any experience of the disease since he entered the profession; yet, simply because Prof. Williams disagrees with the whole profession in Britain on a question which he is not competent to judge, never having seen the disease in America—Mr. Smith, merely to gain some notoriety and to please a few interested parties, thinks fit to disparage the opinions of all the leading members of the profession in America, and thereby create and keep up a feeling of dissatisfaction between those immediately interested. If his opinion had any weight, which it fortunately has not, it would weaken the efforts of those who study the interests of the United States by endeavoring to bring about measures for the extermination of the disease by stamping it out.

It is much to be regretted that the United States authorities are not using due diligence in following up the disease. The inevitable consequence must be that the disease will spread (in fact we are credibly informed that it is spreading), and even now it occupies a much greater area than it did six months ago.

Since the opening of navigation about 7,000 head of cattle have been shipped from Canada, most of them distillery-fed. Will the obstructionists inform us why distillery-fed cattle from Canada should be free from disease, should stand the voyage and be landed in a healthy state, any more than distillery-fed cattle from the United States? Or why distillery-fed cattle from the West should be healthy, while those from the infected districts in the Eastern States are diseased, if it be not because the latter are exposed to contagion from which the former are free?

Why has pleuro-pneumonia not been found in Canadian cattle by the inspectors at British ports, if it be not because no such contagion exists here? The Canadian people accept the opinions of the obstructionists at their proper value, they have

confidence in the unbiased opinions of Professors Walley and McCall, and Inspectors Brown and Duguid, supported by the ablest men in the profession in England, and of Professors Law and Liantard, and of Messrs. Gudsden, Mincher, Bushman, McLean, Lockhart, and others in the United States, in confirmation of the report of Prof. McEachran, the Inspector for the Canadian Government, whose report on the disease in January last confirmed the statements as to its prevalence repeatedly made by the Commissioner of Agriculture to Congress, and the published reports in the Live Stock Journal and other leading agricultural papers. This evidence is but a fulfilment of the predictions of Prof. Gamgee in his report on The Lung Plague, published by the United States Government in 1871, and his lecture before the Vermont Dairymen's Association. What Gamgee then reported is equally true now, except that the disease is now more widely spread:

"That the lung-plague in cattle exists on Long Island, where it has prevailed for many years; that it is not uncommon in New Jersey; has at various times appeared in New York; continues to be very prevalent in several counties in Pennsylvania, especially in Delaware and Bucks; has injured the farmers of Maryland, the dairymen around Washington, D. C., and has penetrated into Virginia."

Had the following sensible admonition been acted upon, we should not have seen such a deplorable fulfilment of the prediction it contains. Prof. Gamgee in his report says: "Of all the cattle diseases pleuro-pneumonia is, in the long-run, the most destructive, because the most insidious and the least likely to rouse a people to united action for its effectual suppression. To ignore its presence is, however, to insure that the cattle mortality of America, like that of England, will be at least doubled in a few years. Rational means, energetic action, and earnest co-operation between the different States and the central Government may, with a modern expenditure now, save millions annually in the not distant future."

Unfortunately, obstructionists such as Williams and Smith who, without endeavoring to find out the truth, merely advance a theory to please those whose pockets are immediately affected, and thus lead to the continuance of the most destructive plague in animals by inducing apathy in stamping it out, will find followers. No doubt the gentlemen referred to have, in a measure, gained notoriety by these theories, but it is a notoriety which may prove of questionable utility to them.

BOVINE LUNG FEVER.

Prof. Law writes as follows:

"With some writers among us there appears to be a peculiar and inexplicable dread connected with this disease. If this were a genuine dread of the disease itself, accompanied by an earnest desire to rid the country of it at all hazards, it would be laudable. But it is not really the disease which is dreaded, so much as the knowledge on the part of our customers of the presence of the plague in our midst. The plague itself! why that is an exceedingly small matter. I know that that existed in Massachusetts in 1858 and 1860, and was killed out by the energetic action of that State, at a cost of \$68,000. I know that since that time it has been repeatedly carried from New York City into Connecticut, where it has been again extirpated by the action of the State Commissioners. I know that all the Massachusetts Board of Cattle Commissioners visited the Skillman stables at Brooklyn in 1862, and 'found some sick with the acute disease,' and killed one in the last stage of the illness, the examination of which 'showed a typical case of the same malady which existed in Massachusetts.' I know that the Commissioners reported that

"If New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania would adopt similar measures to those in the State (Massachusetts), it would be one of the modes of securing the whole community against this disease which, if allowed to remain, would endanger the best stock in the country, and greatly deteriorate the most substantial food of the people."

"I know that the importation of the plague into Massachusetts in 1858 was made in the persons of the Holstein cows imported by Mr. Chenery of Belmont. I know further that the first importation into Brooklyn in 1843 was by a Dutch cow landed near South Ferry and taken into a stable near the foot of Joralemon Street. Many still live who can relate all the circumstances of the boasted milking qualities of the imported cow; of her early death; of the infection of the herd with which she stood; of the extension

of the disease to a distillery stable across the street, and thence, by the sale of Cows, all over Brooklyn. From that time to the present it has prevailed constantly in Brooklyn, having been kept up by the continual changes among dairy stock, and by the mingling of different herds in summer on the open commons around the city. The ancestry of this disease, in Brooklyn, can be as satisfactorily traced as that of any family in the English peerage, or that of any crowned house of Europe. The Yankee is no more surely the descendant of the original Puritan than is the lung plague of Brooklyn the descendant of the *Lungen-seuche* of Germany.

"But this is not what troubles us. The pestilence may devastate the stables of the New York and Long Island dairies at its own sweet will; it may spread over the State of New Jersey until the inspectors allege that in many counties no less than 20 per cent. are infected; it may ravage Eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, and may invade the District of Columbia itself—all this and much more may befall us; we may remain month after month, and year after year in the most imminent danger of having the affection carried out to our Western plains, whence we could never eradicate it. This concerns us but little; but that England should for a moment suppose that we harbor such a disease, is a scandal and an outrage, and must be repudiated and denied with all possible vehemence. Our own veterinarians, who have studied the disease both here and in Europe, and who have acquainted themselves with its history on both continents, are to be silenced, that we may listen complacently to those who sit composedly at a respectful distance—at Toronto (Canada) and Edinburgh (Scotland)—and without personal examination of history, progress, symptoms or lesions pronounce oracularly that we 'are not dealing with the contagious pleuro-pneumonia of Europe.' This action is altogether too much like that of the hunted ostrich, which buries her head in the sand in the vain hope of warding off her fast-advancing fate.

"I still cling to the hope that this plague has not penetrated the West—a hope supported by the entire absence of any contagious lung disease in Western cattle stopped fifty miles west of New York, as also by their constant soundness on their arrival at our Eastern stock yards, and until they have been long enough there to develop the disease. But I do not contradict the conclusions of Professors Brown and Duguid, and of the Principals of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Veterinary Colleges, when they state that they found contagious pleuro-pneumonia among imported American stock. It is time enough to pronounce upon a disease when one has personally investigated it. Any reasonable man will admit that it is not impossible that there may be one or several centres of the lung plague in our Western States, or in Canada, whence some of the exported cattle were drawn. With the disease existing on our Eastern seaboard for thirty-six years, and affecting at different times, to my certain knowledge, high class herds from which cattle were likely to be drafted for transport westward, it seems almost miraculous that it should not sooner have gained the Western States and spread widely. But besides this there are various ways by which the 'Ontario' cattle may have been infected. We have no assurance that this disease does not exist in Canada. A few years ago the *ophthous fever*, incomparably less insidious and less dangerous than the lung plague, was exported from Great Britain to Canada, whence it spread widely over New York and New England. The importation and secret existence of the lung fever is a thousand-fold more probable.

"But these are not the only likely channels for infection of the exported cattle. Who can assure us that infected cattle never entered the stock yards at Portland, Me? Since the commencement of our work in New York we have had cattle sent to Maine under *permit*. Did such an occurrence never take place before, and without any professional vigilance and control? Again, who can assure us that the 'Ontario' never on any previous occasion carried cattle from any other port which infection was likely to reach? Who can demonstrate that the barge that carried the cattle to the 'Ontario' had not become similarly infected? Who can certify that neither of these vessels ever carried infected hides or other animal products to or from England or elsewhere? Who can tell whether the cars used for the transport of the cattle had ever carried infected cattle or hides? Who can deny that the attendants on these cattl