

Stock.

DANGER!

Immediate Action Required.

We have attempted to call the attention of our readers to dangers that threaten us. The warning has not yet been heeded or acted upon, and a case of "hog cholera" exists in Canada, and should immediately be stamped out. Hog Cholera is causing enormous loss in the States. OUR STOCK MUST BE PROTECTED FROM THIS and other dangers. Some person or persons are to blame for not taking action against this danger ere this.

If you do not wish for losses in this Dominion to exceed the figures shown in the article below, turn to your January, February and March numbers of this volume and read these articles: page 4, "Danger Ahead," 26, "U. S. Stock Diseases," 50, "Protect us from Danger," 58, "U. S. Stock Diseases," 70, "More Danger Ahead." Show them to the member of Parliament that represents your interests; enquire of the Board of Agriculture and Arts; obtain information from the School of Agriculture, or from your Reeve or Warden; ask them to do their part to prevent the spread of this disease. All should be able to give you information about this. It is of far more importance than the tariff or party politics. Look to your interests, farmers! Attend to it!

It is your duty to yourself, to your neighbor, your family, and your country. If you induce one M. P. to act, you will be a benefactor. This disease exists in our country, and may be nearer to you than you are aware of. Have it stamped out, and importations prohibited. We must keep our stock free from numerous diseases. Foot and mouth diseases existed at one time in our Province. Post yourself about it, and about Hog Cholera, Pleuro-Pneumonia and Trichina, their symptoms, their causes; what they have done, and consider what they might do for Canada. Act at once; there is no time for delay.

On Cattle Plague Legislation.

The *Agricultural Economist*, England, says:—"Whatever protection there is in the recommendations of the Cattle Plague Committee, it is not protection in the objectionable and political sense of the term—it is simply protection for the consumer as well as the stock owner, a protection against famine prices for butcher's meat in town. The supply of live animals from abroad bears but a small proportion to the home production. If due allowance be made for the greater weight of the British animals, to say nothing of quality, the foreign proportion of the whole supply may be put down at five—certainly no more than eight—percent. But the disease introduced by the imported Live Stock has cost the country during the last fifteen years upwards of £100,000,000 sterling. Foot-and-mouth disease alone, according to the most competent authorities, has, during that period, cost us no less than £75,000,000. One County (Cheshire) in 1872 suffered a loss from this disease to its cattle, not to mention sheep and pigs, estimated at no less than £150,000 to £160,000, for in that year 52,000 cattle were affected with the malady, within its boundary. Foot-and-mouth disease is not a fatal malady, but the losses sustained by it are enormous, and most seriously affect the meat production of the country. But the deadly cattle plague has, since 1862, cost us £8,000,000, and the almost incurable pleuro-pneumonia no less than £30,000,000. In fact, the annual loss to the British farmer, and therefore to the country, from the presence of foreign contagious diseases, exceeds the annual value of all our Live Stock importations."

The *Economist* urges the slaughtering of all imported animals at the ports of debarkation as the only effectual means of protection against cattle disease. We urge that we could and would augment the number of our cattle and sheep without lessening in any degree the importation of meat from abroad. We believe that with killing at the ports made a fixed instead of a chance regulation the import trade in animals would be steady, and would increase until superseded by a larger and more lucrative traffic in dead meat, and that the

select Committee are justified in their conclusion in paragraph 33 of their Report to the effect that compulsory slaughter at the ports of debarkation is not likely either to discourage foreign importation or to diminish the supply of our large towns, or generally to raise the price of meat."

Sweet Corn as Stock Feed.

I can, from experience, fully indorse the estimate of sweet corn for feed. I learned its value for cows incidentally. We always cultivate a small patch in the garden for table use. After the ears were pulled, the stocks were cut off close to the ground and given to the cow. The quantity of milk was increased and its quality improved; there was more butter in it. This gave me a hint. I observed more closely the next year, and was satisfied the sweet corn did it. Since then I have each year raised a small patch on purpose for my cow. A small space will furnish as much as one cow can manage until the frost kills it, when it is harmed for feed. I communicated the results of my practice to several neighboring farmers, but while they will readily agree that it is reasonable and doubtless profitable, they have not yet adopted it. I tried several times to cure some of the feed for Winter use, but always failed, and finally gave it up. But as a succulent crop of feed in addition to short pasture in August or September, or as a main feed under the soiling system, I think there is no other forage crop equal to sweet corn, especially when the ears are left on the stalks. I repeat the exhortation—"Let every farmer try a piece of sweet corn for 1879."—Cor. N. Y. Tribune.

Preserving Sheep from Dogs.

On one sheep in every ten of the flock put a bell of the usual size for sheep. The instinct of the dog prompts him to do all his acts in a sly, stealthy manner; his attacks upon sheep are most frequently made at night while they are at rest, and the simultaneous jingling of all the bells strikes terror to the dogs; they turn their tails and leave the sheep, fearing the noise of the bells will lead to their exposure. The ratio of bells may be made to vary according to the size of the flock.

We hear of more sheep being killed in several localities. We have at various times directed our readers to the use of the bell, and again advise you to put a bell on one.

Early Maturity of Farm Stock.

By the common admission of all competent to form opinions on the matter, remunerative meat production cannot be ensured at the present day without early maturity and rapid fattening. Young pigs fed from birth rapidly, and sent to the pork shops at about six weeks old, may be made to pay, but the production of bacon can only be accomplished at a loss. Lambs taught to nibble oilcake as soon as they will eat anything, and kept steadily moving so that they fatten as they grow, may at about ten months old be brought to heavier weights of carcass than our fathers used to bring their sheep to after keeping them three or four years. And cattle-feeding, to be rendered remunerative, must be conducted precisely in the same way. The calf must never be stinted of food, but have plenty of milk at first, and then milk and meal with a little oilcake. As he grows bigger and devours more of the natural food of the farm, whether it be hay and root pulp or green food, a portion of the milk may be taken off, or skim-milk thickened with linseed meal, or linseed boiled to a mucilage, may be substituted for the whole milk, but when this is done the allowance of oilcake should be increased. The calf should at all times be fed so as to go on steadily putting on flesh more and more as it grows, never being allowed to have a check at any time, but to enjoy one continuous, progressive development, with greater and still greater allowances of oilcake or meal, the result of which will be the production of two-year-old beef.

Well-bred young steers and heifers, in short, may be ripened into tolerably good maturity at two years old, if only they are of the right strains of blood, for a great deal depends on this. Practical men of great experience are well aware what astonishing differences present themselves in the capabilities of animals to lay on flesh rapidly, and arrive at maturity quickly. Of a number of stock picked up indiscriminately at a fair or market, the proportion of "ne'er-do-well" ones would be large, while others would thrive to a wish. Here and there a few excellent judges of stock may be found capable of picking out the good

doers from the bad at a glance, ere their capabilities have been tried. But this is a rare gift, and can scarcely be termed a feat of skill to be acquired, consequently the necessity of graziers, who desire to produce two-year-old beef on a large scale, rearing their own stock, manifests itself. Those who do so can, with the exercise of ordinary skill, generally manage to rear the right kind of stock; for employing a good pedigree bull will alone do a great deal towards accomplishing the object in view. 'A bull forms half a herd' is a proverb often quoted in parts of England, and the extent to which calves of ordinary grade will turn after the sire if he be of high pedigree is astonishing.—[Abridged from an English Exchange.]

Wheat for Stock.

It is somewhat common on the Pacific coast to feed wheat to stock, and trials of it in remote points in the West have not been infrequent, but it seems a little strange to see it recommended now in England, on account of excessive imports and low prices, the home product being still cheaper this year because of inferior quality; for poorer qualities as low as 32 shillings per quarter, or a dollar a bushel, was paid. It is thought by some to be worth more than that for feeding, especially by farmers who are compelled to buy expensive feed at once.

It is recommended as a ration for horses in preference to barley, and cheaper than that grain for pig-feeding at current rates, which are about 10 per cent. higher than those for wheat. May not we on this side of the ocean yet condescend to grow wheat to send 5,000 miles for the sustenance of British pigs?

YOUNG BEEF.—Taking the top price of beef at 9d. per pound, the Hereford which weighed at 2 years and 4 months (that is, 121 weeks) 140 stone, or rather more than 9 pounds a week, returned in money for the period of his life 6s. 9d. per week; and the Shorthorn did almost as well. They had been sufficiently fattened, but were they fed for profit, and killed a little younger, they would have given the feeder quite as much beef per week at a less cost. Bulls that are properly finished off, and their flesh made firm instead of flabby, can hardly be killed too young. They gain more per week and pay the feeder better when killed under instead of over 2 years old. And the same general rule applies to mutton. Young mutton, like young beef, pays best.

TO TAN SHEEP-SKINS.—Sprinkle liberally with salt and saltpetre, and roll up while the skins are yet fresh; then wash them in soapsuds, with a little ammonia added. Next soak for twenty-four hours in salt water, in which a little alum is also dissolved, and then hang up to drain. As soon as this is done, nail with the wool side in against the side of a shed or any place that is protected from the rain; rub well with a mixture of alum and saltpetre. When the skin is quite dry scrape well with a knife and rub down with pumice stone.

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF BREEDS.—J. Bell, Sussex, England, says on this subject: "It may be interesting to some readers to know the weights of the animals of different breeds exhibited at the Smithfield Club Show this year. I have taken the weights of the steers exhibited and they stand thus: Increase of growth from day of birth, per month—Sussex, 54 lb. 7 oz.; Shorthorns, 53 lb. 10 oz.; Herefords, 52 lb. 12½ oz., and Devons, 42 lb."

POTATO WATER IN REQUISITION.—Potato water, or water in which potatoes have been boiled, is now recommended in various quarters as not only an effective, but an immediate remedy for lice on cows and other cattle, also for ticks. The affected parts are to be bathed with the potato water; one application is generally sufficient. This remedy (if remedy it proves) has the merit of being exceedingly simple, easily employed and without danger of injury to the cattle.

Pasture of the best kind will produce more milk of the best quality than any other feed. A quart of meal, twice a day, is worth something in promoting gentleness. Corn and oats, ground and mixed in equal quantities, make the most valuable meal, and a given quantity of such meal is worth more than any other; though barley and meal made in "pearling," and meal from making split peas, and shorts and ship-stuffs, are held as of great value to help sustain the yield of milk during the winter.