

other seasons, and we have become more and more convinced that the ideas then advanced were correct. We prefer calves dropped in September to any other month, for the very reason that calves then escape the intense heats of summer, and during the winter season they can be "pushed" with grain, and in the spring are ready for the young grass as soon as it appears. The professional breeder likes fall calves, too, but for the additional reason that they "show" at the September fairs as "calves," when, in reality, they are only a few days short of a year old, and as "yearlings," when they are really close to two years old. It would seem that there are tricks even in the farmer's trade.—*Exchange.*

CATTLE DISEASE IN THE UNITED STATES.—Since the last issue of the *Indicator* the chief topic of conversation in the western country has been animal diseases, and especially foot-and-mouth disease as developed in Woodson and Coffey counties, Kansas. Owing to the fears, excitement, and utter lack of official authority for organized resistance to what appeared as threatening dire disaster, Governor Glick, last Thursday, in response to the practically unanimous desire of leading citizens throughout the stock-growing country, issued a call for a special session of the Legislature of Kansas, to convene in Topeka on Tuesday, March 18, and it is now in session promptly canvassing the best means of meeting the present and like emergencies.—*Kansas City Paper.*

THOROUGHBREDS.—The value of thoroughbred stock is very much underestimated by many persons. Long years (in some cases a century or more) of careful breeding has fixed certain characteristics in particular breeds to such a degree that the immediate offspring of pure blood males crossed with common females shows a marked improvement in every way. But in every case the best results can only be obtained from the thoroughbred male. While the half-bred female is valuable for the further improvement of the stock by the same process, the half-bred male seems to lack the prepotency of his sire; and the young of the latter instead of showing an advance, will generally show the contrary.—*Rural Canadian.*

A RECENT LECTURE, now printed in pamphlet form, by Hon. Donald Ferguson, Provincial Secretary of Prince Edward Island, reviews in a concise and ample manner what has been done in various countries in Europe and America in the way of agricultural education, and discusses the question of how far his own Province can move in the direction of agri-

cultural instruction. Mr. Ferguson exhibits perfect familiarity with his subject, and scarcely one of his conclusions could be questioned in any quarter, while the practical, common-sense way in which he very forcibly urges the importance of the kind of education referred to is very well calculated to make a deep impression on the farmers of the Province. Mr. Ferguson thinks that his Province cannot afford an Agricultural College, but that much might be done for agriculture in the higher departments of the schools and in the Provincial University. The view which is incidentally presented of Prince Edward Island agriculture is interesting and instructive.—*Globe.*

A DUTCH HEROINE.—The last "boom" in cattle in the United States has been the advance, in interest and price, of the Holstein breed—or, as we call them, Dutch cows. This has been stimulated by the remarkable record, as a butter cow, of a Dutch cow named Mercedes, which succeeded in wresting from all the Jerseys the position of the greatest butter producer, she having exceeded 3 lb. of butter per day for thirty-one consecutive days. Upon the publication of the results of this trial, there was a scramble for any animal of Holstein blood akin to Mercedes; and her next calving was looked for with keenest interest to see if this return, enormous as it was, could not be exceeded—for Mercedes was still under 6 years old. But, unhappily, Mercedes succumbed to milk fever, March 17; and her new born calf died too. It is said that \$10,000 had been offered for the pair.

"WINDSOR CASTLE April 14, 1884.

"I have on several previous occasions given personal expression to a deep sense of the loving sympathy and loyalty of my subjects in all parts of my Empire. I wish, therefore, in my present grievous bereavement, to thank them most warmly for the very gratifying manner in which they have shown not only their sympathy with me, and my dear, so deeply afflicted daughter-in-law, and my other children, but also their high appreciation of my beloved son's qualities of head and heart, and of the loss he is to the country and to me.

"The affectionate sympathy of my loyal people, which has never failed me in weal or woe, is very soothing to my heart. Though much shaken and sorely afflicted by the many sorrows and trials which have fallen upon me during these past years, I will not lose courage, and, with the help of Him who has never forsaken me, will strive to labour on for the sake of my children and for the good of the country I love so well, as long as I can.

"My dear daughter-in-law, the Duchess of Albany, who bears her terrible misfortune with the most admirable, touching and uncomplaining resignation to the will of God, is also deeply gratified by the universal sympathy and kind feelings evinced towards her.

"I would wish, in conclusion, to express my gratitude to all other countries for their sympathy, above all to the neighboring one, where my beloved son breathed his last, and for the great respect and kindness shown on that mournful occasion.

"VICTORIA R. & I."

FRUIT FARMING IN ENGLAND.

The district of Pershore (Worcestershire) is well known as a large plum-growing district; and there are about 1500 acres now under fruit culture, including old orcharding, in that locality. The principal enemy they have to contend with is the frost, which often does them some hundreds of pounds' damage in a single night. The Evesham district, in the same county, has about 3500 to 4000 acres now under fruit cultivation—principally composed of plums, damsons, and damoscenes, besides ordinary market garden produce. Being near to the River Avon, and much of their orcharding lying right on its banks, as at Pershore, they also suffer greatly from spring frosts. The sorts grown are the Pershore Egg plum, the Prune damson, the Victoria, and the Early Prolific. Black currants do not thrive in the district, and are greatly liable to be smothered with white insect blight the gardeners call here.

There are abundant hands to do the cultivation, excepting at fruit time occasionally, when quantities of strawberries can scarcely be picked before they are over ripe. The bulk of the Evesham fruit is sent to London, Bilston, and Wolverhampton, and some farther north. The growers have but very unsatisfactory knowledge as to the state of the markets. In one case I heard of, on the best authority, fruit grown at Evesham was sold at a fashionable watering place on the north-west coast, the day after its consignment, at 40 per cent. profit.

The parish of Toddington, where Lord Sudeley has lately made his great experiment as a fruit grower, is within 8 miles of my own parish. Mr. Randell, the agent, in his letter to me says:—"You will see we are not relying upon pears or apples, but plums, with bush fruit, viz., black currants, red currants, gooseberries, raspberries, and strawberries, and shall yet go in for blackberries. The market is on the spot. The factory is let on lease—the lessee taking all the fruit we grow; he will sell, or make it into jam, as suits him best." The fruit farm consists now of 325 acres; but Lord Sudeley is intending planting about 60 acres more next year, out of part of an old wood which is now being grubbed up. In all fields the different kinds of fruit trees are planted in rows together—an important mistake, so a Kent friend remarked who accompanied me, as much unnecessary labour and expense will be occasioned at picking time, especially of the strawberries and raspberries, and that these fruits should have been put in fields by themselves. Strawberries will only stand for five years; and then there should be a regular rotation of new ground to plant over. Raspberries will last for fourteen years, and can be planted again immediately, as hops. The following are the principal sorts of fruit trees planted at Toddington (since 1881, when the work was first commenced), on a stiff but moderately good soil on the limestone formation. Apples—Lord Suffield, Cox's Orange Pippin, Warner's King, Cellent, King of the Pippins. Pears—Marie Louise, Louis Bonne of Jersey, Beurré Diel, Easter Beurré. Raspberries—Fastolf, Carter's Prolific, Semper Fidelis. Plums—Victoria, Tershore, Early Orleans. Gooseberries—Warrington, Crown Bob, Lancashire Lad. Red Currants—Dutch Red, Ruby Castle. Black Currants—Baldwin, Naples, Lee's Prolific, Old Black, Prince of Wales. The