

the disease is making. The newspapers and the agricultural journals are largely occupied with the subject. The Legislature during their late session passed a law with the view of arresting the spread of the disease, and a special meeting has been called to devise further measures with the same object. The disease is recognized as Pleuro Pneumonia, although some of the writers consider it something more, and of a more destructive character than the European cattle disease under that name. We gave in our last number a sketch of the history of Pleuro Pneumonia in Europe and the East from the earliest times in which there is any record of it to the present day. We give on another page an article from the *North British Agriculturist* showing the manner in which the disease has developed itself in Great Britain. It would seem from this account scarcely to have been lately of so virulent a character there as it has shown itself in Massachusetts, and in other countries where it has been known. This difference, however, may be owing to a variety of causes, to climate, to greater or less facilities for arresting the disease, or to the greater degree of intensity which diseases sometimes manifest on their first appearance in a country or district. Differences of opinion exist as to whether the disease is merely contagious, or whether it is epidemic. Some eminent writers have given it as their opinion that it is epidemic, that it is caused, like cholera and some other epidemic diseases to which the human species are subject, by some subtle influence which cannot be detected, existing in the atmosphere over wide areas of country. Others again, and we believe the larger number, contend that it is purely contagious, that animals can only receive it either by contact with or proximity to animals already diseased, or to some substance infected by them. The progress of the disease so far, in Massachusetts, affords the strongest evidence of the truth of the latter theory. All the cases which have occurred can be traced to one single herd.

The farmers of Canada cannot be too soon made aware of the deadly character of this disease. Should it make its appearance in this country it would be one of the greatest disasters which can be conceived. From our geographical position, should the disease prove to be merely contagious, we have a better means of protection, in our water boundary, from its entrance into the country than they have in the adjoining states. But there are many ways in which it might be introduced, and precautionary measures cannot be taken too soon. For instance, parties in Maine are said to be buying cattle in Massachusetts, for slaughtering purposes, because cattle can be got *very cheap* there. Owners of cattle in Massachusetts who fear they may become infected, are of course likely enough to dispose of them readily, and in this manner the disease might easily be introduced into a neighboring state. From Maine to Canada, its progress by way of the Grand Trunk Road would be a very simple matter. Or the disease may find its way, in spite of every precaution, to the Western States, and thence be easily brought into this country by way of the Great Western or the Grand Trunk Railroad. It is said that cattle have been infected by mere contact with persons or objects that have been near diseased animals. Our government cannot too soon give their earnest attention to the matter, and if it appears necessary, we trust they will adopt the most stringent measures to prevent a single animal of the cattle tribe from entering the country. Should any person be induced for the sake of gain to import *cheap* cattle from the infected districts and thus introduce the disease, we scarcely know of any words of reprobation which would be too strong to characterise their conduct.

We give the following condensed sketch of the progress of the disease since it has made its appearance on this side of the Atlantic.

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