

as to Mr. Pridlen, the proprietor and manager of seven large retail establishments, and others. From the information received in this way, and a pretty thorough looking into the business generally, the following deductions may be safely drawn: That there is no feeling whatever against Canadian meat simply because it is Canadian. It is a question of quality and the keeping up of a regular supply. It was the same story everywhere, that no better meat goes into the British market than the best Canadian. I was told that by the great dealers of London and by the prominent men in the business in the larger cities of England and Scotland. We may depend upon it, if we hope to build up and maintain a large and profitable meat trade with Great Britain that it can only be done by sending the very best. We do not want to continue to do such a business as has been done during the season now just closed. When in summarizing the transactions it is estimated that between half and three-quarters of a million dollars have been lost by the dealers who have operated from this side. The same complaint is heard in all the great markets—a *superabundance of poor and middling stuff*. Englishmen must have the best. Even on the comparatively small quantity of really high quality meat which goes from this country, we do not realize what we would do if the supply was more uniform. As we are told on every hand by the dealers, there is no use in going into the selling of Canadian beef unless the supply of meat is kept up uniformly good, for no sooner is the taste of their customers educated up to using it than all at once the supply may run short and a lot of rough stuff be put on the market. It would appear that no other outside country has a better opportunity of taking a large share of the British trade than Canada, and if we do not secure it and hold it we have ourselves to blame.

"Before we can make the most of the British markets for our beef, I am inclined to think that we will have to go more into the business of slaughtering on this side and sending home in cold storage. If a supply sufficient could be had to warrant the starting of such an industry on a large scale, then we would be enabled to do as the Americans are doing, that is, utilize the inferior meats at home. It may here be said that the dealers prefer cold storage meat to the fresh killed meat from Liverpool and Deptford.

"As an illustration of the difference in values. On the 16th of October of this year fore-quarters were selling in the Farringdon street market at 3d. per pound, or 2s. per stone of 8 pounds, and the hind-quarters at 5½d., or 3s. 8d. per stone of 8 pounds. In the summer months suet is often not worth more than 1½d. or 2d. per pound, while in winter it not infrequently runs to twice that figure.

"As it strikes me, the matter is largely in the hands of the breeders and feeders of this country. The Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion has shown himself fully alive to the importance of having a suitable system of cold storage on our railway and steamship service. In carrying out this work he has been ably supported and assisted by Professor Robertson, a man of great ability and one who has given his best efforts towards advancing trade between the Dominion and the mother country. Our own Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, one of the foremost agriculturists and breeders not only in the Dominion, but on the continent—a man thoroughly conversant with our wants—has thrown himself with energy into the work of advancing our stock interests, and in doing so he has kept prominently before the government of this province the importance of working along those lines which would develop our trade with foreign countries. In this connection we may well ask ourselves the question, Are we not too much given to depend upon governments and legislation for removing difficulties and advancing interests which often can only be done by persistent individual effort?

There is something, however, which governments and legislation can do, but whether it is wise or in the interests of stock-raising and the

country generally that it should be done is a question upon which there is plenty of room for difference of opinion. I refer to those practically prohibitive measures which prevent our breeders from importing cattle and infusing fresh blood into their herds. No better illustration of what is going on in this direction can be given than to take the record of the transactions in Great Britain for the three months ending on June 30th of this year. During that period over two hundred Shorthorns were exported, and out of this number not a single animal came to Canada, but one hundred and ninety five went to South America, a country which in the near future is going to be one of Canada's greatest competitors in the great consuming markets. We may well ask the question, What are we to do? We have men here who in the past have invested hundred of thousands of dollars in importing the best stock that Britain could produce, and who are ready and anxious to do it again—men who, by their enterprise and skill, have been instrumental in adding millions of dollars to the material wealth of the land—men who have done much to make Canada favorably known through their successful competition in many an international contest in the great cities across the line. As matters now stand, these men and others are comparatively powerless to carry on the good work. Cattle may be bought in counties of England or Scotland where there is a clean bill of health; the necessary tests may have been made by the most reliable veterinaries of that country, showing perfect freedom from disease, all that, however, will count for nothing if they come off the steamer on this side, it may be, in a highly fevered state, resulting from a rough sea voyage, and will not then stand the test.

"There may be good and sufficient reasons why these stringent measures are kept in force, but admitting that it be so, I nevertheless felt, as I strolled through the rich pastures at Colingie, Lillycairn, and the Upper Mill, how bad a thing it was for Canada that the men, who had done so much in the past in building up the grand herds of this country, would not be there when these sixty or seventy of the finest young bulls that were to be seen within the same radius in any place in the world came to be offered for sale a few weeks after."

[NOTE.—It is probable that the total value of Canadian cheese exports for 1897 will amount to at least \$15,000,000, a much higher estimate than Mr. Hobson gives.—EDITOR.]

#### Our Cattle Trade and the Quarantine Regulations.

In FARMING for November, 16th we urged the necessity of something being done at an early date to remedy the unfavorable conditions affecting the importation of live stock into Canada, in connection with the quarantine regulations at the seaboard. At that time we pointed out that the regulations were almost prohibitive, and that very few purebred cattle were being brought into Canada. We are glad to know that the Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association is taking action, and that a committee has been appointed to confer with the Dominion Minister of Agriculture in regard to the matter. The only remedy seems to be, and which was suggested in our former article, to employ competent veterinarians in Great Britain to examine all pure bred animals sold for exportation to Canada, and to do away with the application of the tuberculin test at the Canadian port of entry. This would lessen the risk to the importer and enable him to judge whether the cattle purchased by him were free from tuberculosis before they were put on board the vessel or not.

For all practical purposes our cattle interests would be as much safeguarded as they are at present, and our breeders would not be hampered as they are now, with too strict quarantine regulations at the port of entry. As Mr. Hobson pointed out in his address, it is not fair to submit cattle to the tuberculin test immediately after a cold sea voyage, and if they were thoroughly tested before

leaving England there would be no need of retesting on this side. The arrangements which the government made in regard to the quarantine regulations between Canada and the United States, seem to be giving the very best satisfaction to breeders on both sides of the line, and why the same arrangements between Great Britain and Canada would not be as satisfactory is hard to understand. Of course it would not do to advise any change in the regulations that would interfere with our present arrangements with the United States, but we fail to see how the plan suggested above would do so, inasmuch as it would be just as effective in preventing the spreading of tuberculosis in Canada as the present regulations are. One thing is certain, the present condition of our export cattle trade demands that something be done to keep up the quality, or we shall not be able to hold our own in the British market. Recent returns show that when prime cattle were sent over fair profits were received, while on the poorer quality shippers lost very heavily.

#### The Foreign Meat Fraud in England.

The British beef producer is endeavoring to have legislation enacted to prevent the sale of foreign meats in England as the home product. This fraud seems to be practised to a very large degree in many quarters, and it is no wonder the British farmer is agitated over the matter. This foreign meat, when sold for home-bred, reduces the price of the home article and prevents the producer there from getting as high a price as he would if it were sold upon its own merits. But there is another side to this question. If foreign meat can be sold in England as the home product it must be because its quality is equal to that of the home product. Such being the case it will be to the interest of the foreigner as well as the home producer to have a law passed to prevent this fraudulent practice. Of course the name has considerable to do with the sale of any product in England, especially if the customer is judging between the home product and that produced in a foreign country. But if the quality is all right the producer need not fear as to finding a sale for his product at a remunerative price. For a time the British consumer would perhaps give the preference to the home product, but if the quality of the foreign product were maintained it would soon command the best price.

The foreign producer, who has a good quality of meat to send to England, should welcome the proposed legislation in regard to selling foreign meats as home-bred. In the case of Canadian produce instances are quite numerous of Canadian meat being sold as home-bred in England. If this meat were good enough to be sold for English meat it were good enough to be sold as Canadian, and the prejudice to any meats but home-bred would soon be overcome if we supplied only the very best quality. We do not wish our products to be sold under any other name than Canadian, and every cattle dealer here will welcome the legislation which the British producer is demanding.

#### Fraudulent Packing of Fruit.

Considerable attention is being directed, just now, to the development of our fruit trade. But how can we be expected to make any progress in that line if such frauds occur as the one mentioned in the following paragraph, which appeared in the Montreal *Trade Bulletin* of December 3rd?

"Last Saturday, the day after our article appeared exposing the false packing of a Western shipper, a grocer of this city called our attention to a barrel of apples he had just opened and paid a high price for, and we must admit it was the greatest swindle we ever witnessed. There were large, fine apples on the top layer or two, but underneath the whole body of the barrel was stuffed with the most abominable trash in the shape of small, spotted wind-falls that it is possible to imagine. If these frauds are to continue it is about time the police interfered to put a