

The Cattle Trade.

The season of St. Lawrence navigation having come to a conclusion, the time has arrived when it is possible to in a measure estimate the progress that has been made by the cattle shipping interest, a branch of trade that has met with varied success, as judged by the fluctuations of the markets, and the frequent complaints of want of success on the part of those engaged in it. Upon the whole, however, it cannot fail to have been attended with a considerable measure of prosperity, as judged by the proportions to which it has grown, and the influence which it is regarded as exercising upon the cattle trade of Great Britain, in which country the Canadian exports of fat stock find their market. The figures for the last twelve years stand as follows:—

	Cattle.	Sheep.
1888	61,003	46,223
1887	64,949	35,548
1886	65,824	96,648
1885	61,947	39,401
1884	57,288	62,950
1883	49,060	84,790
1882	28,350	63,667
1881	38,536	55,538
1880	41,730	74,502
1879	21,026	62,550
1878	15,963	31,841
1877	6,040	9,500

The falling off in the export of sheep during the last two years is attributed to the severe competition which has been offered by other countries, Australia particularly, but it does not seem to have been so much felt last year, as the one preceding it. During the last three seasons the port of Glasgow appears to have been the principal point of landing, Liverpool,

London, Bristol and Aberdeen following, the respective ratios last year, having been as 23 to 18, 8, 6, 3, these figures being the units of thousands. With respect to prices, the following are the values that prevailed in Liverpool on the dates mentioned for primo Canadian steers:

	1885.	1896.	1887.	1888.
June 4	14	14½	12½	12 @ 12½
July 2	14½	13	19½	13
Aug. 6	13½	12	11½	13
Aug. 27	14	11½	11	13
Sept. 14	14	11½	11	
Oct. 1	11½	11	10½	12½
Oct. 29	10½	10½	9	11
Nov. 26	14½	10½	11	12

The development of the Canadian export trade has had immensely beneficial results upon Canadian agriculture. It has caused a most marked improvement upon the quality of the stock kept upon the farms, while the cattle sent to market have been such as to hold their own against all comers. Moreover, within a year or two our ranch cattle, most of them of the best description of grades,—their sires being among the bluest blood of the bovine race—have found their way upon the home market, and though somewhat high colored in flesh and what has been called "gamey" in flavor, owing to their condition of more than semi-wildness, are gradually overcoming the prejudices which "John Bull" not unnaturally entertains on the subject of beef. The Canadian cattle trade is capable of almost indefinite expansion, which will be the more rapid so soon as the authorities shall, in their wisdom, cease to restrict the ranging upon our rich prairies to a few companies who in the meantime appear to have

them almost entirely in their own hands. The existing monopolies in this particular are such that the sooner they are put a stop to the better.

British Columbia.

The Kamloops stockmen are forming a stock association for the purpose of protecting themselves from the C. P. R.—*Calgary Tribune.*

Mr. A. McGillivray has raised on his ranch over three tons of tobacco, and is manufacturing the same into cigars, plug and fine-cut, and he intends to build a factory on a large scale for next year. He has got a patent for his brand of tobacco. The fact that tobacco can be raised in British Columbia, and profitably, too, will, we venture to say, be a real surprise to our eastern readers.—*Daily British Columbian.*

It is rumored that the C.P.R. management are about to change the location of the main line from the course now pursued through the mountain, by an ostensibly more direct route? branching off from Medicine Hat to the Crow's Nest pass. That the C.P.R. are quite capable of looking solely after their own interests is a fact that has long been well known to Manitobans, and the move at present contemplated is but another scheme of the crafty management to foist another boon in town sites and lots on a gullible public in fields and pastures new, now they have obtained about all that can be got out of Calgary and other western towns. But all things have their day, and the old saying of "give a fool enough rope and he will hang himself" has on more than one occasion proved true, and this corporation whose power to pervert politicians and governments, is only too well known, will yet prove its own nemesis.

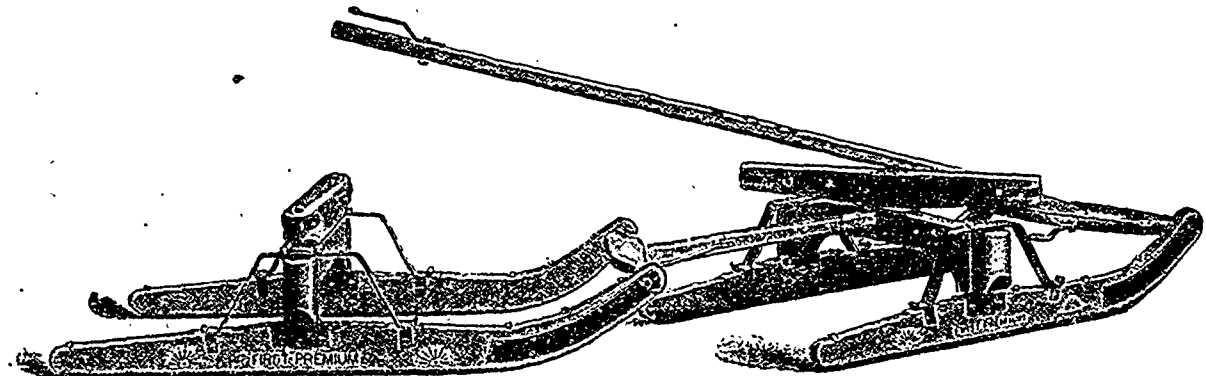
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