

Stock.

Dangerous—Infectious Stock Diseases

We have done our duty. We gave due notice to our Government as soon as we saw the Foot and Mouth Disease in stock in Canada; we also gave due notice as soon as we saw the Hog Cholera existing in hogs in Canada; and we also raised the warning voice about the danger we were in of importing Pleuro-Pneumonia from the States.

Our Government, the Government organs and officials have very improperly attempted to show that our information was not reliable, and resorted to very mean, contemptible and disgraceful means to impress such opinions on the farmers of Canada and on the inhabitants of Europe.

The National Live Stock Journal, of Chicago which journal is the highest authority in the U. S. in regard to stock, devotes nearly three pages in the June number under the heading, "Bovine Lung Fever (Pleuro-Pneumonia contagiosa)." The article is written by Prof. Law, the highest veterinary authority in the States. He first traces the disease from its first importation into the States in 1858; he describes the disease, shows what has been done to try to exterminate it, and shows that the disease has been transmitted by herdsmen from one drove to another; that it has also been conveyed by manure to different herds. We extract the following from one part of the article:

"BUT THIS IS NOT WHAT TROUBLES US.

"The pestilence may devastate the stables of the New York and Long Island dairies at its own sweet will; it may spread over the State of New Jersey until the inspectors allege that in many counties no less than 20 per cent. are infected; it may ravage Eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, and may invade the District of Columbia itself—all this and much more may befall us; we may remain month after month, and year after year in the most imminent danger of having the affection carried out to our Western plains, whence we could never eradicate it—this concerns us but little; but that England should for a moment suppose that we harbor such a disease, is a scandal and an outrage, and must be repudiated and denied with all possible vehemence. Our own veterinarians, who have studied the disease both here and in Europe, and who have acquainted themselves with the history of both continents, are to be silenced, that we may listen complacently to those who sit composedly at a respectful distance—at Toronto (Canada) and Edinburgh (Scotland)—and without personal examination of history, progress, symptoms, or lesions, pronounce oracularly that we 'are not dealing with the contagious pleuro-pneumonia of Europe.' This action is altogether too much like that of the hunted ostrich, which buries her head in the sand in vain hope of warding off her fast-advancing fate.

"Many American writers seem to lose sight of the fact that if it were established that the cattle on board the Ontario and Brazilian suffered from lung fever, it is far from being proved that this disease exists in our Western States. It would be ample ground, it is true, for a searching investigation through our Western herds, but no proof at all that these herds were really infected. But to return to the infected districts in the East. Any one who will consider for a moment must see that the opinions of Professors Williams and Smith, as to the nature of a disease they have never seen, and the descriptions of which have come to them only through newspaper paragraphs, are not worth the paper they are written upon. It must be evident to all that men who will found their opinions on such a slender basis are very unfit objects of public confidence. Seeing Prof. Smith is no further off than Toronto, and that he is so deeply interested in this disease, why did he not come to New York in person and satisfy himself as to the true nature of the malady, rather than hug his ignorance and publish an implied censure on the veterinary authority of New York, whose ability I do not for a moment believe that he doubts. By paying attention to what has been already published by the New York authorities, he could have ascertained the truth; but he has chosen to persistently shut his eyes and call for an experimental

transmission of the disease by cohabitation, as if that were not seen and demonstrated every day, and on a larger scale a thousand-fold than could be done in a few experimental animals under the eye of an expert. For the sake of men who persistently avoid the light, I would never have lifted my pen; but for the sake of the many readers of the Journal who might otherwise be misled, I shall furnish a few examples illustrative of our daily experience with this disease."

Those who desire to know more about this disease would do well to send and get a copy of the June number of the above-named journal.

We have not heard of a single instance of Pleuro-Pneumonia ever existing in Canada. We are in hopes that the Foot and Mouth Disease has entirely died out; we have not heard of a case for nearly a year. The Hog Cholera may also disappear in the same way; we have heard of no new outbreaks of it for some months. We believe that truth and facts should be made known, and then we can be on our guard if danger assails us.

The Dutch Dairy.

HOLLAND CATTLE—THEIR QUALITIES AND BREEDING

At a recent agricultural meeting in Bay City, Mich., a very interesting paper on the "Cows of Holland" was read, written by Hon. James Birney, U. S. Minister to the Netherlands. The following is a synopsis of the same:—

Holland is the paradise of cows, but the term "Holstein" is a misnomer, and the "Holland" or "Dutch" cow is rarely superior to the "Holstein." The Holland cattle are regarded as the best known for yield of milk and cheese making. A dairyman who carries on a large business near Utica, New York, gives the result of his experience that the milk the Holland cows yield is greater in quantity, richer in quality, and better adapted for butter and cheese making than that of any other species he has knowledge of. The genuine Holland cattle are almost invariably white and black. Some few of them are of a mouse or mottled color, but they are regarded as a depreciated or half-breed stock. One family of them is so definitely marked that when seen at a distance one would suppose they were black, with a perfectly white cloth bound round their bodies. In travelling all through Holland scarcely a specimen of any other color can be seen.

The Holland cattle are thoroughly short-horns, more so, indeed, than the Durham. The shape is very symmetrical, with long, straight back, small head, and trim limbs. They are of large frame. In disposition they are notably gentle and manageable. Their pastures are not enclosed by fences, but by shallow ditches. Over these they rarely leap.

During the pasture season they run upon the lot set apart for them. During much of the time they are clothed with a blanket of hempen cloth, which defends them from the fogs of the night, and the flies of mid-day. They are milked with punctuality. When the milker takes his seat, with a cord always at hand he ties their hind legs together, and with another attaches their tail, so that it cannot be whisked about. Over the large vessel into which the milk is poured, when the pail becomes full, a fine strainer is placed so as to catch all foreign particles. The most perfect care is taken of the lots in which they feed. Every few days a man will go over them with a shovel or rake in hand, and scatter the droppings, and supply the land with some fertilizing substance to keep the grass in healthy vigor. They practice here upon the theory that it is just as necessary to feed to land as it is to feed animals. During the winter the cows are confined in brick houses, constructed to afford the greatest possible comfort and convenience under the same roof, and at one end of the building the dairyman or herdsman has the residence of his family.

Between the residence and the stable is a large apartment used for the care of the milk, and the cleansing of the vessels in which it is conveyed to market. It is supplied with a stove and a well of water. The stable is oblong, with a hall through the centre, from which all feed is supplied, the heads of the cows on either side being turned toward the centre. The flooring is of brick, and the cows stand upon a brick platform five feet six inches in width. Immediately behind this is a gutter of the depth of eighteen inches, which

catches all excrements; still back of that is an aisle or walking place. The gutter is thoroughly cleansed every morning, and a stream of water made to pass through it. The manure is all taken to vats in the yard, and preserved for use.

Above the rear of the cows a pole or cord is extended through the entire length of the stable. To this the tail of each cow is attached in such a way that when she lies down it is always suspended sufficiently to prevent its contact with dirt. Sand, being plenty and cheaper than hay, is used for bedding. By this arrangement the cows are kept entirely clean, and the milk never takes the odor of the stable.

The watering, feeding and milking of the cows is done with the regularity of clock-work. The trough before them is filled three times during the day with clean water. They are fed frequently, and no more than they will eat in a short time. This mode is preferred, because it gives them intervals for rest, and their digestion is better if their stomachs are not overburdened. They are treated with kindness and tenderness. This induces contentment of disposition, and keeps them from becoming nervous and feverish. This greatly aids the secretion of milk. The Hollanders are impressed with a belief that if they keep their cows warm their product of milk will be much larger than if chilled by cold air. There are grated openings in the upper part of the walls for ventilation, but they are not large. The walls are thick, and the loft above filled with hay. And so it happens that if you enter one of these stables, coming from the clear air without, you are almost suffocated with its extraordinary heat and closeness.

This is the principal objection to their system. Nor do they yet seem to have found it out. Every now and then an alarm is raised throughout the country that some species of lung disease has shown itself among the cattle. The neighboring counties hear of it, and inhibit by stringent laws their importation. The State Inspectors are summoned, and wherever they find a herd with the symptoms of disease they slaughter the whole of them, and the State pays their appraised value. This is a very expensive process. The moment I entered one of these large stables, and felt the temperature of the atmosphere breathed by these cattle, and perhaps breathed more than once, it seemed to me that nothing short of a miracle would prevent lung disease. When spring comes the cattle are turned out as clean, as neat, and with hair as smooth as when they went in from the green pastures.

It is a recommendation of these cattle that when they become farrow, and cease giving milk, they take on flesh rapidly, and soon fatten. As meat brings a higher price in Holland than any other article of food, on account of an excise tax imposed upon its consumption, cattle are sold at about double the rates at which they may be bought in America.

Green Fodder in France.

M. Goffart, the discoverer of conserve green forage for stock, is in the habit of publishing annually a statement of his experiences. This year his remarks are not less valuable, because they are an exception to an uninterrupted success. The system has not been at fault; the plan has suffered from bad weather and questionable seed maize. His neighbors were not more fortunate. While 40 tons per acre of green maize were yielded, in some cases not twelve were obtained. This latter return is simply ruinous, when the heavy expenses of tillage and manure are borne in mind. The choicest seed maize comes from Nicaragua, but it never arrives in time, and is generally injured by the weevil. New York next supplies the best seed, provided it be transported in barrels, to avoid heating; failing both, the ordinary horse-tooth maize is to be preferred. There is no longer a question that the best method to preserve as well as to employ the forage is to cut it before treading it into the trench or pit. A machine worked by hand is not to be thought of; a cutter driven by two horses ought to chaff the green maize at a cost of six sous per cwt., while an engine will do the work for two-thirds less. It has been ascertained that a trench eight feet wide, and covered with earth, will lose twenty per cent. of its contents, while the loss will be only nominal if the trench be made double the width. Another point to be noted: there is a growing disposition among farmers to employ nothing but this trench forage all the year round. Generally one man, at 2½ francs per day wages, is expected to care for 12 head of cattle, fed on beets, turnips, hay, &c., to cut the roots and provender.