

meet the heavy charges against the land, provide for the sustenance of themselves and their families, and grow wheat at 29s. the quarter, is simply preposterous. The remedy suggested by Socialistic agitators, if applied, would be as bad as jumping out of the frying pan into the fire.

Men who have been ruined, and others who are doing their best to avoid financial collapse, are giving in their adhesion to the Fair Traders' policy, who demand that import duties shall be imposed on foreign produce equal to that which is placed upon home produce in the shape of the taxes already referred to, care being taken to give an advantage to the colonists over countries which, by high tariffs, all but exclude British manufactures from its markets. As an indication of the progress which the Fair Trade movement is making, attention may be drawn to the meeting of the Central Chamber of Agriculture, just held in London, at which the following resolution was carried by a large majority:—"That this meeting, looking at the continued and increasing severity of the depression of agricultural and other national industries, expresses its opinion that no adequate relief can be obtained except by the wise reform and readjustment of our fiscal system, and respectfully urges upon Her Majesty's Government and the Legislature the pressing necessity for the immediate introduction into Parliament of measures to enable our industries to withstand the severity of foreign competition in our home markets." This action on the part of the Central Chamber has created a great noise amongst the political economists, and pamphleteering against "protection" once more promises to become rampant.

Sir Walter Scott once described necessity as the "best of peace-makers" as well as the "surest prompter of invention." The necessities of the poor in Great Britain do not afford indications of a peaceful character. The last named of Sir Walter's observations would appear to be the most correct one of the two. The prospects of a rise in the price of corn are very slight indeed. The improvement in the tone of the English wheat markets at the beginning of the year was not maintained many days. Though the quantities on passage to England are comparatively small, the stocks at home are large, and the favorable accounts of the American winter crop will help to keep markets in a depressed condition. Invention is therefore coming to the rescue of the British farmer. If it succeeds as well as is prophesied of it, the consumers as well as the growers of corn will benefit, but for a time there will still be a bad lookout for the laborers, whose work on the soil will be supplanted by machinery. In Essex several great digging machines have been working for some time, and they are said to move across the fields like "steam elephants," each machine digging ten acres per day, equal to 170 men. The reader will best realize the value of the invention by the following description given of it by Mr. Octavius Deacon, of Loughton, Essex:—"A few weeks since I drove over several of the farms in the hands of the proprietors of this great digging machine; I passed through perfect villages of corn stacks and straw stacks, the result of last year's operations, and on my expressing my astonishment that the farmers should attempt to compete with American wheat in such a depressed mar-

ket, I was laughingly told, 'Oh, we are not afraid of foreign competition; we shall grow twice as much corn next year if all goes well.' From what I have seen of this great digger and the newly and deeply-dug fields, with their beautiful crumbled surfaces, the magnificent crops produced with hardly any manure, and the satisfactory financial results, I feel that it requires but to be introduced to landowners and capitalists, and the regeneration of British agriculture will surely follow. I ascertained that at the Royal Society's Show a special prize was awarded to the inventor; since then the steam digger has been perfected, and its work is a source of amazement to all who see it."

The cattle trade in England shows no improvement. Since writing my last letter several of the Australian frozen meat companies have been wound up, and apparently there will be no great expansion of the frozen mutton trade from Australasia during the next twelve months. Here comes in the old advice over again—what Canadian farmers have to do is to study quality. If they produce a first-class article there is no doubt but that it will still pay the raisers of mutton in the Dominion to send such produce to the British markets. Anything "scrubby," however, not only of mutton, but of cattle, it appears must, in the future, mean a dead loss to the Canadian producer. Under these circumstances it may be safely predicted that while the enterprising farmer who produces a really first-class article will be well remunerated, the enterprising yeomen in Canada, who have kept pedigree and first-class stock, must find their business vastly increased by the demand for superior breeding stock.

It appears that the exhibition of Canadian live stock, at the forthcoming Intercolonial Exhibition in London, has been abandoned, and quite right, too. The experience of the Royal Society, and the Bath, and the West of England Societies, show that Londoners are not very specially interested in agricultural subjects, and consequently, in the summer months when farmers were very busy, an exhibition of Canadian live stock, however good, would not be properly appreciated. Another objection is that it would be necessary to have such stock in a separate building. The extra cost of advertising would be enormous, and the exhibition of the stock would in no way compensate for the increased outlay. Let the Canadian farmers take advantage of a suggestion which has already been thrown out—prepare a score of first-class and well-matured animals and send them to the Smithfield Show next year. There is no objection to them being entered for competition and afterwards exhibited together in a group. Thus the various breeds of cattle and sheep would come under the notice of breeders, feeders and consumers, and would be sure to win the attention of the agricultural press of the world.

It may interest some of your old country readers to know that the old established newspaper, *Mark Lane Express*, has again changed hands. It is now the property of Mr. Walter Darwin, who is also the proprietor of *Bell's Weekly Messenger*. It will be remembered that Mr. Darwin paid several visits to your Province, and he has once been over the Canadian Pacific Railway as far as Calgary. He is consequently conversant with the resources of the Dominion.

There is no doubt, under these changed circumstances, that the spiteful and senseless paragraphs which, for many years, appeared in the *Mark Lane Express* against the Dominion, will now receive a check, to say the least of it.

The Liverpool "Shipperies" Exhibition is going ahead, but of course Canada, having to spend so much money over the Intercolonial Exhibition in London, cannot well be represented at it. Still, several importers will send, through the Canadian agent here, specimens of grain and other agricultural produce to assist this monster show in the north-west of England, and to illustrate the extent and nature of the imports of this, one of the most celebrated entrepôts of the world's commerce.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne has been chosen as the place for holding the Royal Society's Exhibition for the year 1887. The schedule of prizes for competition at the Society's Show, to be held at Norwich, on July 12th in the present year, and the four following days, have just been published. The total amount of the money offered is about £5,600. Nearly all this large sum will go to live stock, as implements will only take £80 and ten silver medals; cheese, £150; butter, £37, and hives and honey, £20 15s.

The council of the Smithfield Club have just appointed a Committee to report upon "the practicability of instituting a class or classes for animals entered for slaughter, the prizes being awarded to the best carcasses."

The Board of Trade returns for January show a remarkable decline in the imports of wheat, flour, cattle, fresh beef, bacon, hams and butter. The cause is attributed to the decline in the purchasing power of the people through bad trade. There has been a slight increase in the imports of sheep, fresh mutton and cheese, and also in butterine, the latter having arrived in much larger quantity than in the corresponding period of last year.

With regard to prices, cattle of all kinds, though showing no improvement in value for several months, are still no lower than they were last autumn. Sheep are about as low as one can almost fancy them, and are likely to have passed the minimum. It may be remarked that over a large breadth of Scotland the death-rate of black-faced hogs is heavier than usual.

Farmers' Organizations and Agricultural Education in the Maritime Provinces.

(FROM OUR NEW BRUNSWICK CORRESPONDENT.)

The New Brunswick Farmers' Association has just held its annual session in Sackville, Westmoreland county. This Association was formed some ten years since. The object of the Association was to bring the leading farmers of the Province together, to talk over and discuss practical questions relative to their business, hoping that by this course a more general interest might be awakened in the agriculture of the Province, and a better system adopted. The meetings usually have been well attended, but not so representative as it was hoped they would be. This year but two counties were represented—Kings and Westmoreland—and there was not near so much enthusiasm as on some former occasions.

The question which occupied the most time was the second on the list:—"How can the farmers of the Province best improve the practice of their profession so as to compete more