

### Argentine Ports Reopened.

British breeders are jubilant over the announcement of the decision arrived at by the Argentine Republic, conveyed in a cablegram from Buenos Ayres under date of Feb. 17th, that in view of a statement by the British Legation that foot-and-mouth disease has disappeared from the United Kingdom, a decree has been issued reopening the Argentine ports to cattle coming from Great Britain. Although the word "cattle" is used in the despatch, it is presumed that sheep are also included in the removal of the prohibition. The announcement has been received with much gratification, especially by breeders of Shorthorn cattle and Lincoln sheep, who, previous to the imposition of the embargo, were finding their most liberal buyers among the South Americans, and will now look for a renewal of their patronage. What is good for British breeders in this proclamation will probably not be so favorable to North American importers and breeders, who will doubtless find competition for the best animals more keen than it has been in the past year or two, and will likely have to pay higher prices for such as they want. It is probable that the action of the Argentine Government now announced will induce the British Board of Agriculture to take an early opportunity of removing the restrictions on the importation into the Old Country of cattle and sheep from the Argentine for slaughter at the ports of landing, and while it is scarcely likely that the business will assume the proportions that it did previous to the closing of the ports, owing to the successful establishment and expansion of freezing companies, and the fairly satisfactory shipment of frozen or chilled meats, yet the competition to be met by the stock-growers of this country will doubtless be greater than of late, and in order to holding our own in the British market we shall need to pay more attention to the quality of our exports.

## FARM.

### Stone versus Wooden Silos.

We have frequently had enquiries as to the suitability of stone or brick as material for building silos, and, as a result of our reading and observation, have always declined to give any encouragement to their use for this purpose. We believe, from what we have been informed, that a round or an octagon concrete silo made perfectly smooth on the inside makes a completely satisfactory silo, and it has the additional virtue of being practically indestructible. A wooden stave silo, however, the staves being dressed on the inside, will keep silage in as perfect condition as any, and is probably the cheapest, as far as first cost is concerned. The only question is in respect to its endurance. On this subject we are favorably impressed by the following answer by Prof. I. P. Roberts, of Cornell University Experiment Station, to a query addressed to the Country Gentleman:

"I am led from my own experience to conclude that neither stone nor brick silos preserve ensilage as well as wooden ones do. Some twenty years since, we built a double grout silo, each compartment 11 by 14 feet and 28 feet high. It was supposed to be the fifth silo built in the United States. It was certainly air-tight on the sides and bottom. It did not preserve the ensilage satisfactorily. Some five years since, the dividing wall was removed and an oval wooden silo of two-inch beveled staves was erected inside of the grout walls. This wooden structure is a great improvement over the square grout silos. Why?"

"The weight of the material and the carbonic acid gas developed pressed the heated air toward the point of least resistance. This point was in the corners and at the sides, where, by reason of friction in settling, the material was not as compact as in other parts of the silo. The heated air was forced to the walls; they absorbed a portion of the heat, and hence the temperature of the material along the sides was not raised and kept high enough. All these conditions accelerated the egress and ingress of air at the surface and at the corners and sides. Mold and decay was the natural result. Wood is a poor conductor while stone is a good conductor of heat."

"The circular silo, with planed material placed vertically, offers the least possible resistance to settling evenly. The wood does not rob the material of the inevitable and necessary heat soon after the silo is filled; therefore the material is kept alike from center to circumference. It is not positively necessary to cement the bottom, and ensilage should never be damp enough to require a drain to carry off liquid."

### The Tile Drain's Soliloquy.

Here I am, resting  
In quiet and peace,  
At last.  
Yes, and doing more good  
Lying still in the ground,  
Saying nothing,  
Than in all my existence  
Before.  
I'm fragmentary, 'tis true,  
But not broken;  
Made up of joints of burnt clay  
Called tiles;  
Yet I am one.  
Drain.  
I've been talked about in the papers,  
And at conventions;  
Aye, even roasted;  
But care I for that, do you think?  
Not I.  
Why should I?  
I'm faithfully doing my duty,  
With no one to hinder  
Or help me;  
I'm content.  
"Still waters run deep."  
Yes—just four feet  
In this bit of soil  
Where I am.  
Do they think of me now  
At the factory,  
I wonder,  
Where the man with the patent  
Kiln  
Made it hot for me,  
Thumped me soundly  
And said,  
"That's a good tile;  
Has the right ring,  
And the color,  
Etc."  
Does he care for me now?  
I guess not!  
He's selling kilns,  
And I—  
Am draining land,  
And making my owner richer  
Each year.  
I've found my work,  
And I'm going to  
Stick to it.  
I suppose some men  
Still talk about me  
As they always have talked,  
And say  
I cause drouths,  
And floods in the Ohio valley  
And elsewhere.  
Of course!  
For nothing of that kind occurred  
Before I got in  
My work.  
Oh, no!  
But they'll understand  
What I'm doing  
Sometime.  
I'm a Twentieth Century drain,  
And am doing business  
According to lately  
Revised laws of  
Soil physics;  
And getting along all right,  
Too.  
The tilemakers likewise.  
Time once saw me proud,  
With few friends, and  
Choice,  
But now, many  
Know me  
And speak well of me.  
One is always well spoken of  
After he's buried,  
I know,  
But it's true, with me,  
That I do more good  
Under the ground than  
Above.  
Far more.  
—Clayton Melville, in The Drainage Journal.

### Thermometers for Farmers.

One of the useful articles which should be in the possession of every stock-breeder is a clinical thermometer. This delicate little instrument may be obtained for \$1.50 to \$2. The temperature of farm animals is averaged at 100 degrees Fahrenheit by most persons. The following temperatures will, however, show the variation in different animals: In the horse, while in health and at rest, the normal temperature is 100 degrees Fahr., in cattle 102 degrees, in the pig 102.5 degrees, and in the sheep 103 degrees. Any material variation from these figures should always be regarded as indicative of constitutional disturbance. When the temperature in either of the animals referred to is more than a degree above or below the figures given it may be taken as a certain indication that the health of the animal is not what it ought to be. With regard to the method of using the clinical thermometer, we quote from Hopkins' "Veterinary Elements": "The temperature of animals is usually taken in the rectum, where the thermometer is allowed to remain from 1 to 3 minutes. Always shake the mercury down in the thermometer before using it. To do so, place the instrument bulb down between the finger and thumb, then with a wrist movement shake the thermometer in a downward direction. The bulb of the thermometer should have a little vaseline put on it before introducing it into the rectum. It should be introduced slowly, and if any obstruction is met with, should be turned between the fingers and its direction changed slightly."

### The Blockade to be Relieved.

The Canadian Pacific, in response to the representations made by the Hon. Mr. Bulyea, acting on behalf of the Territorial Grain Growers' Association and the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, has announced that arrangements have been made whereby a supply of cars is being obtained from the Great Northern for the shipment of wheat to Duluth, where there is ample storage. If sufficient rolling stock can be secured from this course, it should relieve present serious situation.

### The Spring Seeding.

March is the month for preparation for the spring seeding, when calculations must be made as to the crops that are to be sown, the seed well selected, cleaned and made ready for the fields as soon as the land is in fit condition to work. The earliest-sown grain crops are almost invariably the best yielding. It is therefore important that the time be well improved during the first days that the soil is in workable condition. Early-sown clover and grass seeds are also the most likely to germinate in largest percentage and grow strong, owing to the more plentiful moisture prevailing in the spring months. The early-sown is usually the earliest-harvested grain, giving the young clover a chance to secure the benefit of any showers that may come after the harvest, to strengthen it for the ordeal of the dry time which usually comes in the later summer months, and often at that stage burns the life out of the tender plants which have grown up under the shade of the grain crop. Of the spring grain crops, wheat and barley are doubtless the most favorable for seeding with clover, as they have less leafy stems and grow less rankly than oats, giving the clover more air and sunlight, drawing less heavily on the store of moisture in the soil, and leaving a larger share for the clover plants. If clover be sown with oats, it will be wise to sow the oats as thinly as is consistent with the probability of securing a fair crop. If the seed-bed be well prepared, we are persuaded that thinner seeding than is generally practiced would give as good results in the yield of grain if the preparation of the seed-bed is as thorough as it ought to be, and would give the clover a much better chance for its life. While it is important that the seeding be done as early as possible, it may be unduly hurried if the bulk of the land be not dry enough to work freely; this is true especially of clay soils, which if worked while wet will bake and harden if a spell of dry weather comes, and seriously check the growth of the crops. In the rush to get through with the seeding early, there is the liability to slight the cultivation, which is certainly a mistake and will tell adversely on the crop during the whole season unless the weather conditions happen to be exceedingly favorable. Thoroughness of cultivation depends much upon the class of implements used and their condition for doing the best work. A cultivator that will do very good work while the land is moist in the early spring may, for want of sharpening, be quite unfit two weeks later if in the meantime the soil has become dry and hard, and the sharpening of the hoes may make all the difference between thorough work and a half-done job, and a difference of several bushels per acre in the crop yield. The fields that are to be latest sown could be greatly helped in holding moisture and keeping them in condition to work freely if they were harrowed once or twice, especially after a shower, before they get dry and hard. Where this has not been done, a stroke or two of the harrows before the cultivator will cause the latter to run a more even depth and the land to break up into finer particles. In such case, the roller can be used to good advantage after the cultivator and before the harrowing and drilling, making a finer seed-bed. It is well to finish a field before leaving it to begin another, running the necessary water furrows, and shovelling them out if need be, so that if rains come no part of the field may be flooded. Sometimes it is wise to finish one half of a field before attempting to complete the whole, especially if the weather is threatening. Thorough cultivation, with the object of securing a fine seed-bed, leaves clay land liable to pack and crust on the surface after a heavy rain, preventing the plants from coming through, excluding the air, and cramping them, it may be, throughout their life. In such case relief may safely be given by harrowing before the land gets hard, even if the seed has sprouted and the blades have partially shown above ground. In extreme cases of this kind we have seen the cultivator used with good effect. Soils and circumstances differ so widely that each farmer must consider his own and use his best judgment as to what is the best procedure under the conditions confronting him. For this reason, no cast-iron rules can be depended upon as being applicable to all. There is no sphere in business life where common sense and sound judgment are more necessary than in successful farming.

### Care of Harness.

The life of a set of harness may be very considerably prolonged by the exercise of a little care in its treatment. When from accident or neglect harness has been soiled, it can easily be cleaned by washing with castile soap. As a dressing for keeping leather or harness pliable there are many preparations upon the market. Cod-liver oil of the cheaper grades is now largely employed for this purpose instead of the neat's-foot oil which our forefathers used in such quantity for the preservation of their harness. One of the great advantages of using cod-liver oil is that rats and mice usually give a wide berth to any harness or other appliances dressed with this oil.—Ex.