

English Letter, No. 26.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Liverpool, May 2nd.

With the advent of the merry month of May an agreeable change in the weather has at length set in, and the fields begin to look as though stock could live upon them. It must have been a trying spring for farmers in the matter of fodder, for until a week ago there was literally no grass at all, and though this may be nothing remarkable with you, English farmers calculate usually on having a tolerably fair growth in April. The past month, however, has been very favorable for getting in the spring corn, and with a good time now, the English farmers have a fair outlook.

The emigration season has now fully set in, and I am glad to observe that so far a very large proportion of the most desirable class of emigrants, that is, English, Scotch and Irish farmers, with more or less capital, are seeking homes within the Dominion, the majority, I think, in the Prairie Provinces. It is true that a large number of English settlers are going to the United States; but they are principally from the manufacturing districts, and are going over to the large cotton and other manufacturing centres of the States. Enormous numbers of foreigners are passing through, chiefly Swedes and Germans. The bulk of this class of emigrants continue to be secured by the American companies, and many are going out to join friends. As the great North-West, however, gets better known, I look to a large influx of these hardy, thrifty, and in many ways desirable settlers, going into those regions of the Dominion so well adapted to them.

Appropos of the above, Chambers' Journal, one of the most widely read of our English periodicals, published a short time ago a series of articles entitled "Phases in Canadian Home Life," in the course of which allusion was made to the ravages of the tomato worm, and the potato bug, and also of bears and wolves in the suburbs of Belleville, Guelph, and I think of your own city of London, Ont. That journal now finds it necessary, in consequence of the numbers of contradictory letters it has received from residents in Canada, to insert a short explanatory article, in which the following suggestive sentence occurs: "The progress made by a new and flourishing country such as Canada, is so rapid and decisive, that descriptions which might hold good of it to-day, would, within a comparative few years, seem erroneous and inadequate." This is a pretty way of saying, in effect, that the article in question had been lying in the editor's pigeon-hole for some considerable term of years, and that a possible dearth of other acceptable matter had brought them forth to this ill-timed publicity. Let us hope that the "Times" and other leading English journals will take to heart the lesson thus taught, and take care in future to be well informed about Canada as it is, and not as it was even a few years ago, before they venture to discuss her affairs very dogmatically.

I am glad to notice that a large number of your live stock importers are now in this country, and are actively looking for, and pluckily buying pedigree and other valuable stock. Mr. Simon Beattie, of Preston Hall, Annan, shipped by the S. S. Brooklyn last week, a consignment of Clydesdales and thoroughbred stallions. The Clydesdales included "Lord Salesbury," "Imperial Crown" and "Fitzroland"; there was a fine Shirebred stallion "Renown," full brother to the celebrated mare "Nettie," and a magnificent dark brown thoroughbred stallion "Revolver"; he stands 16 hands one half inches high, is short on the legs, and has grand action. In fact, he is just the model of the

class of horse required in Canada to get carriage horses and hunters suited for this country. One of the principal failings of the carriage horses you are sending to this country is that they lack a turn of breeding. A dash of the good big English thoroughbred would effect the desired improvement. This horse, which is to be followed by some 40 or 50 others of like mould and character, is consigned in the first instance to Mr. John Holder-ness, hotel keeper, Toronto.

I am sorry to have to report that the steamers arriving here with cattle from the States ports are, in many instances, bringing infected cargoes. It is to be hoped that none of these steamers will ply to the St. Lawrence, and that your Minister of Agriculture will have the most rigid inquiries made into the antecedents of any steamer about which there is the least doubt. A little carelessness about such a matter might be the starting point of immense disaster to your trade.

Mr. R. Hunter, of Alma, county Wellington, Ontario, sails hence on Thursday next by the new steamer Oxenholm, which has just been fitted up to engage in the Canadian cattle trade. Her capacity will be from 800 to 1000 head. She will run regularly to and from Quebec. Mr. Hunter has been purchasing horned cattle and sheep for himself, and also for the Government Model Farm at Guelph. Amongst his own purchases are the following: He has secured from Mr. Hugh Aylmer, West Dereham Abbey, the magnificent Shorthorn bull "Socrates," and a two year old Shorthorn heifer "Golden Belle"; from the Marquis of Huntly, a yearling polled Aberdeen bull; from Mr. James Arge, two yearling heifers of the same breed. This breed is rapidly coming into favour on your side of the Atlantic, as on this. This fact is clearly shown by the results of a recent sale. After Mr. McCombie's death, his magnificent herd of Polled Aberdeens was dispersed, and now, owing to ill health, Mr. Adamson, Mr. McCombie's favorite pupil, and who for some time had the management of the Tillyford herd, in addition to his own, has been compelled to give up his holding. At his sale 36 Polled Aberdeen cattle averaged £56, or \$280. A two year old bull realized £165, a yearling £60, two yearling heifers realized £110 and £125, and one cow £225.

Mr. Hunter also takes out a splendid yearling Clydesdale filly, "Queen," and the well bred colt "Tinto." Mr. Hunter also takes out some valuable sheep. Of Southdowns, one shearing ram and two ewes from Mr. Coleman of Norwich; and two ewes from the Prince of Wales' flock at Sandringham. In Oxford Downs he has one ram and six ewes. One Cotswold ram from Mr. H. Aylmer, West Dereham; one Shropshire ram and 10 shearing ewes from the Earl of Zetland's Yorkshire flock, and eight shearing ewes from Lord Strathmore, and one shearing Border Leicester ram and two ewes from the celebrated Rock flock in Northumberland.

Mr. Hunter's purchases for the Model Farm include a yearling Shorthorn bull "Sir Leonard" and a yearling heifer, "Beta," from Mr. Aylmer's herd. These with Mr. Hunter's own selection, are described by Mr. Houseman as one of the most valuable and useful drafts of Shorthorns ever sent from Great Britain; Mr. Hunter has also made an important investment in Ayrshires for the Model Farm, including the celebrated bull "Stonealsey." He has also purchased on another account the handsome cow, "Daisy of Sandilands," and her yearling daughter "Daisy 2nd"; also a three year old heifer, "Avon Maid."

Mr. R. Gibson, of Ilderton, has arrived in this country, and has already made some valuable pur-

chases in Shorthorns, which he will ship towards the end of this month. Mr. R. Miller, of Duffin's Creek, is also busy selecting Shorthorns, Clydesdales, and Oxford Down sheep.

The usual "May-day" show of the Liverpool cart horses was held on Saturday last, but was scarcely up to the average, either in numbers or quality, the latter owing no doubt to the hard work they have had in an exceptionally long and severe winter. Still, no other town in the world can equal us in this respect, and no doubt our Canadian friends interested in horseflesh were busy taking notes of the kind of animal we require for our heavy traffic.

The Provincial Exhibition.

This year this Exhibition ought and probably will be the best ever held in the Dominion. The buildings are not as good as in some other cities; but the fact that the Western Fair alone has for years surpassed the Provincial and the Dominion Exhibition when held in other places, should be a guarantee that, now united, this will be the best agricultural exhibit ever beheld in Canada. The present Board has now overcome the result of previous improper management, and are determined to give better satisfaction to exhibitors and visitors. Greater care will be taken in the selection of judges, less partiality will be shown to exhibitors, and the buildings will be kept open during the time visitors are on the ground on the principal days. Better arrangements are to be made to enable visitors to see the stock. Military displays and improper shows will not be allowed; and better arrangements will be made, we believe, for the accommodation of visitors. The Western Fair, which has always been a success, often surpassing the Provincial in its utility and general management, this year will throw its influence towards the success of the Provincial Exhibition. The great superiority of the situation of the grounds in London, being but a few minutes' walk from either of the railway stations, where all trains must stop, is a great consideration. Being of a sandy nature, yet well sodded, and kept in good order, the grounds always present an attractive appearance, no matter what the weather may be. Arrangements are also to be made, we believe, to give farmers from other Provinces an opportunity of visiting this Exhibition. We know of no better plan to awaken a spirit of progress in our Quebec farmers than for them to take a trip to this the great agricultural centre of the Dominion. Our farmers from the Maritime Provinces would be benefited by a run from home; and no doubt Manitoba will have its representatives present. We trust that the arrangements to be made will be of such a nature as to induce many farmers from our sister Provinces to attend the Exhibition, and thereby share in the benefits which it was designed to bestow. It is well known that hitherto only a few farmers have travelled long distances to attend even the Provincial Exhibition, but those who do attend are generally the leading persons in their respective localities, and are certain to profit by the experience and knowledge gained. A farmer is improved by attending these Exhibitions. Knowledge is power; and no sane man can attend such an Exhibition without acquiring knowledge.

THE ARMY WORM.—Watertown, N. Y., May 18.—The army worm has appeared in this section, destroying all kinds of vegetation. Several fields of grain have been destroyed, and hundreds of acres of pasture land were stripped of every green thing. Reports from all parts of St. Lawrence County indicate that the ravages of the worm extend over the whole northern New York. Serious consequences are feared, and many farmers are greatly alarmed.