

EDITORIAL.

The Continent of Europe appears to be still suffering from foot and mouth disease among the herds there. Throughout the whole Empire of Germany there are reports of outbreaks, and in the northern part of France over 3,000 outbreaks occurred during the one month of October.

Quite recently there were shipped from Melbourne (Australia) to London, by the P. & O. steamer Ballarat, no less than 1,000 cases of butter. The consignment amounted to 500 tons, and is said to be the largest ever made to any part of the world. Our Antipodian cousins are awake concerning their export trade, and their vessels are thoroughly equipped with refrigerator space, by which perishable products are placed in the best shape possible on the British markets. When will Canada seek like advantages as regards shipping facilities, in which she is now so deficient.

It is reported that the dreaded foot and mouth disease has broken out in the South African Colonies. It is feared it has already become firmly seated, as outbreaks as far back as last September are reported in some parts of the territory. The disease has already appeared at different points, the latest being near the Natal border. It is difficult to estimate the immense loss that is likely to be sustained in a pastoral country such as this, where innumerable flocks and herds are scattered over immense areas of country, and where there is no means at hand for suppressing it. The loss will be more severely felt in that cattle and sheep constitute the principal wealth of the country.

Still the agricultural press of Great Britain continues to discuss the existence of pleuro-pneumonia among Canadian cattle as though it was an established fact, although infection has never existed in our herds. It is now certain that no amount of evidence to the contrary will satisfy the editors of these journals that Canada never had the disease, except the once in our quarantine station in 1886, at which time it was brought over with British cattle, when it was immediately stamped out. "There are none so blind as those who won't see," runs the old adage; but he who undertakes to remove the scales from the eyes of these gentlemen undertakes a contract in which the pounds, shillings and pence popularity of their supporters cuts a greater figure than a disposition to get at the true state of the case.

The present high price of pork is one of the topics on every tongue interested in farm products, and it seems to have struck all alike, as few had made preparations approaching anything that showed expectations like the present to be realized. It is quite a long time since fancy prices for marketable live stock have been obtained. There is, however, a certainty that the scarcity and high price of pork will lead to more beef being consumed, and prospects appear to favor better prices for the latter product before the present feeding cattle are ready for shipment. For years, as long as prices remained firm, there was a general disposition to add more and more cattle to the herds of the great west, until the demand was over supplied; but of late years it has been all the other way, and there is likely to be as great a dearth in cattle in the near future for the opposite cause. Those who are preparing for the rise when it comes will be fortunate.

The recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease among the cows of London, England, is ascribed by the Times to infection through hay in which eggs from Austria were packed. "The whole continent of Europe is," says the Times, "affected with foot and mouth disease, and from its various countries we are receiving produce and merchandise in large quantities, while many thousands of visitors from them are coming here every month. If there is danger in every package and every visitor, the outlook for the breeder and grazer is very serious, and all the trouble and expense to which we have gone to stamp out and keep out this disease may be in vain." By which it appears that trouble in a new form besets the path of the British farmer. With disease breaking out in many of the countries from which the great dumping ground of Britain receives her supplies, surely Canada may hope, sooner or later, to gain an advantage by her perfect immunity from infectious diseases, if the British press could only be reconciled to the fact that trumping up diseases can only affect Canada for a season.

There are many items of interest for Canadians in the "Trade Returns" for 1892, especially those relating to the exportation of live stock products to Great Britain. Thus, while the value of exports of live animals has decreased from \$9,165,000 in 1891 to \$8,035,000, partly due to the sudden termination of the export cattle trade, on account of scheduling Canadian cattle, yet the increase in two items of live stock export products much more than counterbalances this item. Thus butter has increased from \$935,000 in 1891 to \$1,275,000 in 1892, and cheese has increased from \$9,657,350 in 1891 to \$12,091,050, and Canada now holds the proud position of being the largest exporter of the latter product to British markets, leaving the United States far in the rear. That she will strive to maintain and strengthen this position, there is no room for doubt. In other articles, such as apples, eggs, bacon and hams, poultry, there has been a substantial increase, but the figures for which are not yet to hand. Altogether, the exports from Canada to Great Britain show an increase of nearly \$15,000,000, which is most satisfactory at a time when so much is heard on the score of depression.

Mr. Coxworth's Berkshires.

A particularly fine herd of Berkshires has been established within the last few years at Claremont, and has already become widely known and justly celebrated. Mr. Coxworth's farm is conveniently situated for the fine stock trade, at Claremont, his railway station, on the Canadian Pacific Railway. Visitors who have omitted to notify the proprietor of their intention of viewing the herd, may be easily transported from the station to the farm by a 'bus, which meets all trains.

In the illustration, which decorates our plate page for this issue, we are enabled to show a sample of the very excellent class of pigs that are bred on this farm.

The boar to the left in the foreground is Highclere Prince 2017, sire imported Parry Lad (1354), his dam being Imp. Highclere, a very celebrated sow in her day. Highclere Prince is one of the best boars that has been exhibited for a number of years, as his winnings in the best company testify. During last season he won first both at Montreal and Ottawa shows in the class for aged boars, beating the boar that, for some reason of his own, the judge at Toronto had placed before him. Highclere Prince is now at the head of the herd, and to him the majority of the sows have been bred. Mating such a pig with the grand lot of breeding sows which this herd contains should give the most satisfactory results, if high quality in the parents has any influence in breeding.

The two-year-old sow to the right in the foreground is Duchess CXIII. 27542, which was purchased last spring of her breeder, Mr. N. H. Gentry, of Sedalia, Mo., being selected by Mr. Coxworth, and she belongs to one of the best winning strains owned by that celebrated breeder. This sow, like many other good ones in the herd, has wonderful length and carries her size well back, with very deep sides and heavy hams well let down, while her head is well nigh perfect, with remarkably short dished face for so long a pig. Duchess won third at Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa last fall, when in quite lean condition after her recent sojourn at the quarantine station.

Lady Stanley 2183 in the back ground was bred in the herd. She was sired by Imp. Rising Star (1307), dam Imp. Lady Shaftsbury 3rd (1875). This sow also has great length of sides, very deep ribs, and heavy, well-developed hams, like the above mentioned boar and sow; she is exceedingly deep and thick at the flank, which is now the aim of advanced breeders in order to form a side of equal thickness throughout. Altogether this trio are very difficult to improve upon, so well is each point developed. All of them are exceedingly smooth and well finished, and possess quality in the highest degree.

Among other good ones are five remarkably fine imported breeding sows, every one of which have distinguished themselves in the show rings in the past, including the Royal of England, Toronto Industrial, also Montreal and Ottawa, and inspection of the herd reveals the fact that it has been the aim of the proprietor to select the highest breeding strains, together with the best individuals obtainable, retaining only such as have great length of body, deep sides, heavy, well developed hams, together with short dished faces, and the highest type of smoothness in finish. How hard these characteristics are to combine only the foremost breeders realize.

When the points above mentioned are being developed we are sure to find heavy weights attain-

ed at wonderfully early ages. With good feeding there is no difficulty in producing pigs of this type weighing 250 lbs. at five to six months. By such means only can pork be profitably produced when prices are low. At present rates there is plenty of money in it if good feeding sorts are introduced. Altogether twenty-five sows have been bred, in order to furnish pigs for the coming season's trade. Three breeding boars have been used upon the herd, in order to enable the proprietor to furnish pigs not akin to those who may require trios or pairs. Of these boars, besides the already mentioned Highclere Prince, is Royal Hero 3rd, a pig of immense length, depth and size. He was sired by Royal Hero -891-, his dam being Cornflower, a very superior individual.

Lord Lorne -2161-, the remaining one, is a very neat yearling boar. He was sired by Imp. Enterprise -1378-, dam Imp. Lady Lorne -2404- (25653), which also descends from a celebrated strain of prize-winning sows.

We also noticed a lot of particularly handsome young sows that have been bred to Highclere Prince, which possess length and depth, together with development in ham, smoothness and quality—a combination that would satisfy the most fastidious judge of Berkshire pigs; these are the types that the present trade demands, and when mated with such excellent sires should produce the best results. Customers who take the trouble to inspect them will be pleased with what they see, while those who order without previously seeing may rest assured that they will obtain satisfaction if they order by letter, as we have every confidence in Mr. Coxworth's integrity and good judgment.

The Canadian Packing Company.

The corporation which has organized in order to do business under the above title has chosen a particularly suitable site at the outskirts of London for carrying on the work required in connection with the export bacon trade. Although this is a new venture for this company in Canada, the members of the firm have for a long time been engaged in this trade, and their connection with the markets in England has been established for many years. To insure success in this enterprise they will require the co-operation of the farming community, who must set about breeding and feeding the proper type of hog to produce the pork required for this trade. Canadian farmers may find an immense field open for development, and much of the success will depend upon the efforts they put forth. To illustrate what has been done by others, we only have to cite what has been done in Denmark in a few years. Even as late as 1880 there were comparatively few hogs raised there, in comparison to the number she is now annually exporting to England. Thus we find that from 1880 to 1882 Denmark exported to England 4,000,000 lbs. of bacon, or equal to 17,000 hogs, or an average of 8,500 hogs per year. From 1887 to 1890 the exports had risen to 60,000,000 lbs. of bacon, equal to 140,000 hogs, or 46,666 hogs per year; while from 1891 to 1892 Denmark exported 420,000,000 lbs. of bacon, equal to 1,000,000 hogs per year. In 1880 Danish bacon was selling at 15 shillings under the price Irish bacon realized. Now Danish farmers are, by paying attention to breeding and feeding their hogs, obtaining the same price as that paid for Irish bacon, and are producing and exporting one million annually.

BREEDING AND SELECTION.

In Denmark the largest and best developed young sows from the best mothers are drafted for breeding, and mated at six to eight months old. The best bred boars have been imported from England for a number of years to cross on their sows, and with them the White Yorkshire has given most satisfactory results; and to judge by the quality of bacon they are producing, they have made a suitable choice. A few points that are strongly impressed upon Danish farmers are:—To select hogs for breeding purposes that are good feeders, and which grow the largest on the same food, under similar circumstances, in the same time; never sell a sow that has proved a good mother, nor dispose of a good boar that has produced good stock, on account of his age, appearance or form.

The finest pork is made by feeding hogs on barley, rye, wheat and peas (as grain food), but you must feed something else in addition, such as boiled potatoes, skimmed milk or buttermilk. Roots cut small and fed with grain also improve the ration and are a necessary adjunct in feeding young pigs. Canadian farmers are strongly advised to avoid feeding hogs on Indian corn, as it tends to make the meat extremely hard, coarse and dry, and the fat, that should be firm and white, is often yellow,