

### The Agricultural Elephant in New Brunswick.

The all absorbing question in the New Brunswick Legislature this season is the Stock Farm established by the Government of that Province about three years ago. Complaints are lodged against the management; an inquiry is asked for; the Farm is not adapted to stock raising; the running expenses are too great, and many other forms of abuse are said to have crept in. Some members are in favor of abolishing the Farm altogether; some want a change of location, and others are in favor of squandering immense sums of additional money for the purpose of popularizing the institution in the minds of the farmers.

A change of location has been decided upon, and a fresh impetus to stock breeding is anticipated. The loss sustained by the Government in its support amounts to about \$3,000 a year, after crediting the services and stock sales, and the managers are attempting to cast the blame on the unsuitability of the present site known as the Otty Farm. The question was not made a party one, but the sectional jealousies have been so strong that bitter animosities were aroused.

If the most suitable farm in the Province be selected, the Government will have the advantage of other breeders, and in this manner may partially make up the losses already sustained; but as the existing lease is held for a term of years at a very high rental, a considerable loss must be sustained by the transfer, especially when the improvements, for which nothing may be realized, are added. Prof. Shelden, who visited the Otty Farm, asserted that it was neither fit for the raising of sheep nor Short-horns. The Government itself, as well as the other members of the House, were divided on the issue, some realizing that the institution must be conducted at a sacrifice to the Province, others seeing the same necessity, but on the grounds that it is under political control.

We do not wish to dampen the ardor of our Maritime friends in their ambition to improve the stock of the country, but merely to sound the note of warning within the hearing of other Provinces of the Dominion, which may be contemplating similar sacrifices. The breeders in the Maritime Provinces have been doing a brave work, and Government interference with their liberties deserves the suicide which has terminated its career, and will be resurrected only to meet the same fate. New Brunswick fell into the same error as Ontario; she mistook fancy stock for agriculture and agricultural interests. Farmers have not been too slow in realizing the advantages of well-bred stock, and are justified in rejecting the speculator's price for the pedigrees. They have been decried for their delinquency in recognizing their own interests, and Government means of persuasion have had to be resorted to. Farmers are just as capable of attending to their live stock interests as to their other affairs. It has been said that the owner will turn the waste places of his land into a garden, while the tenant will turn a garden into a waste.

More time and money have been squandered in debating Stock Farm topics in the New Brunswick Legislature than would be necessary to meet the present live stock requirements of the whole Province.

### Special Contributors.

#### A Chatty Letter from the States.

[FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.]

It has taken some time to bring it about, and the end may not yet have been accomplished, but it seems that makers of fat cattle are coming to realize the fact, that their work of the past winter cannot be remunerated as highly as they had hoped and expected. If they are not becoming reconciled, they are no longer hoping against hope, for the time of high prices has come without the high prices. A great many of the cattle now selling at \$4.75 to \$5.50 cost more in Chicago as feeding cattle, and it is no wonder that the farmers and feeders feel a little unwilling to accept prices that have lately been ruling; but they of course must accept the inevitable.

The young cattle which cost more last year as young cattle than they are now selling for per cwt., of course have been growing and fattening, and many may not lose any money for the feeders, but as a rule it is not considered a very safe thing to pay more for feeders than it is likely can be had for fat cattle. But right in the face of such low prices for fat cattle, buyers of stock and feeding cattle have been paying as much for them as if they fully expected not less than a six cent basis for fat cattle next fall. It is true that no man can surely tell what prices will be at the end of the year by what they are at the opening of spring, but it is the general opinion among conservative cattle men of experience that prices are too high for young stock.

All kinds of live stock have been selling comparatively very low, and not only fat stock, but breeding animals have suffered a reduction of prices. A well known firm of Norman horse breeders in Illinois lately sold some fair to extra stallions at \$1,000 to \$2,400 per head, making averages of about \$1,400 to \$1,700. The firm has only sold about half as many stallions as at the corresponding time last year, and reports prices considerably lower, perhaps 20 per cent. It is the same story among the breeders of fine cattle, though it must be said that there is nothing very serious to complain of in the reduction of prices, because it is not great as compared with the reduction in values in other lines. It is natural enough that men should complain and put on long faces, but prices have not yet got below a paying basis, if the management is fairly judicious.

Fashions are changing. Live stock monstrosities are no longer in fashion. Not long since a young man arrived at Chicago with a 725 lb. hog of the Poland China breed, which he seemed to regard a marvel of fine breeding. His father had kept the hog on the place as a show animal to help sell the young stock, and evidently took great pride in the massive brute; but the animal did not stand the practical test of the market. On a day when the best hogs were selling at about \$5.00, this fellow sold at \$4.00 per cwt.

The feeders of distillery cattle are feeling a little sore over their prospects this spring; and one or two of the prominent ones have declared that they will not make anything on this year's venture. They undoubtedly mean that they will make comparatively nothing, for even at

present prices slop feeders will make fair profits. Prices are \$10 to \$15 per head lower than last spring, but it must be remembered that the market last year and the year before was exceptionally high, and that this year is more nearly a proper average.

It is understood that the Marquis DeMores, of the Northern Pacific Refrigerator Co., who has a large slaughter house in Medora, Dakota, has contracted to take a great many fat cattle during the spring and summer months. He has a large cooling house at Duluth, and it is said that he and Moreton Frewen are interested in a scheme to extensively ship cattle and beef to the East by way of the lakes. By the way, there are a great many schemes of large proportion being worked out on paper these days, and something ought to come of the large variety.

The preparations in Liverpool for receiving and handling frozen mutton from South America are rather extensive, and will probably add another complication to the question of what to do with all of the mutton that is being thrown upon the markets of the world. Mr. James Pritchard, of London, who lately came through Canada, and also Mr. Pool, of London, say that the outlook for English flockmasters is very bad, on account of the great floods of good to prime mutton being sent from the colonies. So great is the competition in the British markets that Canadian sheep bought at \$3.00 per cwt., could not be shipped to England at low rates and sold with profit. And of course the state of affairs is worse concerning American sheep. The opinion is expressed that the sheep markets of England are absolutely taken possession of by the antipodean supplies.

The quality of the sheep sent from New Zealand is said to be remarkably fine, the animals all being wethers, and averaging about 75 lbs. dressed. They are worth fully a penny a pound more than the Australian offerings, because the latter are not so well bred, and are not in as good condition for mutton.

Cattle feeding during the first two months of this year was exceedingly unprofitable, and a great many feeders are now saying that during more than sixty days they almost threw away their corn. This fact, no doubt, had much to do with overstocking the market with half fat cattle. Owners concluded that they might as well sacrifice their cattle, as prices did not promise very well, as to sacrifice so much corn. It seems to be a lamentable fact that producers as a rule are only cautious and judicious when stock is advancing in value and is promising a boom. Then they hang on to it and take care of it, and deal it out in small parcels; but when values are on the downgrade and a little caution and management would be at a high premium, they all become reckless and let go all holds.

Last fall the people of the western country were considerably exercised over the prospect of a national cattle trail to extend from the line of old Mexico to British Columbia. The people of the Southwest wanted it, and the people of the Northwest who were engaged in cattle raising did not want it, because they were afraid that their country would be continually flooded with the young cattle from Texas, and that their ranges would be overstocked. But now the States and Territories of the Northwest are all contemplating quarantine laws against Texas