

shipped to the Dominion and the breeding of this class of animal is fairly well looked after.

In my report for the year 1883 I ventured to utter a warning with regard to the introduction of Percherons into the Dominion, and I alluded to the means which were adopted to obtain a number of stallions from France. My remarks have been frequently reproduced in the Canadian papers, and that they were warranted is proved by the action which the Percheron breeders in the United States are now taking owing to the fraudulent practices of dealers in France. In no other country in the world are so many horses left uncastrated and it is stated that in order to meet the demand from the United States for Percherons, the dealers in France have been securing a lot of inferior animals and fraudulently transferring to them pedigree certificates. The American breeders have now resolved to ask the French Percheron Society to prevent such practices by branding all registered horses and requiring a sworn transfer, with full description of the animal in the case of every sale.

The imports of live cattle during the year show a decrease from nearly every country.

The Board of Trade returns give the decrease from Canada as only 970 head, but as a good number of cattle, on account of more favourable rates of freight, have come *via* Boston, the Canadian trade may be said to have held its own. Canadian animals coming *via* Boston are treated by the authorities here as United States cattle. The decrease from Denmark is 6,938, and from the United States 19,114 head, the total decrease being 22,138 head.

Unfortunately the drought, and consequent dearth of hay and root crops, necessitated British farmers forcing their stock on the markets, and this has resulted in a still further fall in prices.

The live sheep trade has been even more seriously depressed. This will no doubt, to a great extent, account for the decrease in the number of sheep from the Dominion, which is no less than 58,970 head. The more remunerative prices in the United States were probably taken advantage of. The decrease in the number of sheep imported from all countries is 67,564.

The mortality of the live stock on the passage from Canada is above the average, but the returns show that the increase is due to the losses which occurred on "outside" steamers, or what are termed "ocean tramps."

These are not adapted to the trade, and should receive special attention from the agents of your Department at the ports of embarkation.

Last year I referred to the inadvisability of shipping store cattle to this country. A company, as you are no doubt aware, was formed in Aberdeen to import store cattle from America, and my friend, Mr. Wilken, who was invited to the Dominion as a tenant farmer's delegate in 1879, paid a visit to Canada to make the necessary arrangements.

So far the venture can scarcely be termed a success.

One of the principal difficulties appears to be the high rate of freight to Aberdeen, and it is necessary to ship them direct in order to avoid areas infected with cattle disease.

There being no trade in grain or other heavy commodities with Aberdeen, the rest of the cargo has to be conveyed to some other port and the expenses of making a special call at Aberdeen are therefore heavy.

The cattle have on the whole given satisfaction, but I do not think that this trade could compete with the Irish store cattle trade, if Ireland can be freed from pleuro-pneumonia.

An influentially signed memorial has been sent to the Irish authorities on this subject and it is stated they intend to stamp out the disease. It is confidently asserted that this can be done and if it is accomplished the low prices and the great difference in freight will give the Irish trade an abnormal advantage.

A number of dairy cows have again been imported from the Dominion, but owing to inferior quality I am afraid the venture has not proved remunerative. Although the prices of dairy stock have fallen, I think there is a fairly profitable