

English Letter, No. 21.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Liverpool, December 6th.

Canada has proved her capabilities in yet another way; not only can she produce the best of bone and muscle feeders, but she can produce that bone and muscle itself in a decidedly convincing form. Canada, in the person of her hero, Hanlan, is now the rowing champion of the world. His great contest with Trickett, the Australian Champion, about three weeks ago, on the Thames, which has witnessed so many memorable contests, was quite a hollow affair, Hanlan doing just as he liked, and playing with his opponent much as a cat plays with a mouse. Laycock, another Australian oarsman of high reputation, has thrown down the glove to Hanlan, and a match, for £1,000, I think, is arranged to come off early in January. Many people are inclined to think much better of Laycock's chance than of Trickett's, but Hanlan had so much to spare last month that I shall be indeed surprised if he is not found capable of holding his own with Laycock also. Anyway his last month's feat was a memorable one. There is no reason, however, why Canada, the land of great lakes and broad rivers, *par excellence*, and the land of a fine athletic race, should not maintain the highest rank in the athletic, and especially in the rowing world.

We are having quite an Indian Summer here. This morning, as I write, the weather might have been picked out of the middle of June or September, and nobody know the difference, save from the altitude of the sun. The weather has been so wet, however, as to make but an indifferent sowing time.

Arrivals of Canadian cattle, I regret to say, have of late been of very indifferent quality. A number of Canadian "store" cattle have been disposed of in Scotland and Ireland at a good profit to the shippers, the farmers buying more boldly because of the abundance of feeding stuffs, especially root crops. The prospects for the ensuing season, I am informed by the leading salesmen here, are exceedingly good. Canadian shippers appear to have been even more eager than last year to secure freight in advance, and this on terms fully 25 per cent. more than are charged by vessels sailing from the United States ports. The rates of insurance are at present very high; but owing to the regulations which have been enforced by the Canadian Government on all vessels sailing with cattle from the Dominion, the scale of mortality has been wonderfully low during the past season, compared with that on ships from the States; and as a consequence, I am informed it is in contemplation to grant special rates from the St. Lawrence. This, if effected, will be a great, but deserved boon. It is anticipated that the export from the St. Lawrence next season will reach 50,000 head of cattle, and to meet this, special steamers will be fitted up and devoted to the trade exclusively. It is calculated that the privilege of taking your cattle alive into the interior of this country, increases their value £4 per head, which, on 50,000 head, will mean something like a million dollars.

Messrs. Hendrie & Douglas, the well known horse exporters from Toronto, have returned to Canada by the steamer "Spain." They appear to be well satisfied with their business during the past season, and will probably engage more extensively in this branch of trade during the ensuing one. It may be of interest to your readers to know that, for some cause or other, the States dealers have left this market, and that Messrs. Douglas & Hendrie are now probably the only dealers who are now shipping horses from the American continent to Europe. With the return

of prosperity an increased demand for animals of superior quality for carriage and hunting purposes may reasonably be looked for.

Several of the agricultural delegates who visited the Dominion this last fall have returned, and have made their reports, and they are, one and all, as last year, of a very favorable character. Mr. Cubitt, of Norfolk, an intimate friend of Mr. Clare Sewell Read, appears to be very favorably disposed towards the province of Ontario, but points out that a better system of farming should be adopted, for, if British farmers farmed their land as many of the Ontario farmers do, they would all be in the bankruptcy court very speedily.

I have to notice a very fine exhibition of roots, vegetables and fruits grown in Manitoba and Ontario which has been on view for the past few days at the establishment of Mr. Cuthbert, seedsman, of this city, prior to its appearance at the great Smithfield show, this week, where it will have a place on the stand of Messrs. Sutton, the Queen's seedsmen. Some of the roots and vegetables of the squash and marrow class are perfect mammoths. Specially noticeable was a splendid display of apples sent from the London, Ont., exhibition. The exhibition has been visited by many of the leading local agriculturists, including Mr. Scotson, secretary of the Lancashire Agricultural Society, Mr. Rigby and others, and during the whole time the specimens were on view the place was like a fair. Some of the roots opened the natives' eyes a little. The champion mangrel of England this year is a specimen of 48 lbs., whilst one exhibited by Mr. Dyke, which occupies the centre of Messrs. Sutton's stand, weighs 73 lbs, and measures 8 feet 4 inches round, and 3 feet 9 inches in length.

The Midland Railway of Canada is an extraordinary instance of sudden and rapid recuperation. For many years past it has been in a most unsatisfactory condition; but quite recently has taken a great turn for the better, and the English shareholders, who are the principal proprietors of the line, have now some assurance of receiving the advantages which they naturally looked for when they made their investment. The company's stock has for the last three years been unsaleable, and preference bonds offered on the London market were not taken up. Now, however, a small instalment of back interest has been paid; and the directors of the line are in a position to give confident assurances that in future they will be able to retire their coupons as they mature, thus giving their first mortgage debenture bond holders their full 5 per cent. At a meeting of the company held last week in London, Mr. George T. Case, the President of the line, to whose ability and exertions the improved condition of the line is mainly attributable, delivered a statement of the affairs of the company, and spoke very hopefully of its prospect. Since that meeting the shares have gone up daily, and in the aggregate nearly 20 per cent. It is worthy of note that at the period of its lowest ebb, when English speculators would not look at its securities, the company could always secure accommodation in Canada at 6 per cent. with the ordinary rates of interest ruling with you; this was a remarkable indication either of the character of the property, or the plenteousness of money amongst you.

In June next an International Exhibition of wool, woollen manufactures and allied industries, will be opened in the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, London, continuing for three months. American wool-growers and manufacturers are invited to attend the exhibit, and Mr. Cecil H. Cook has been sent to this country as the special agent of the exhibition, to endeavor to arouse interest in the project.

Agricultural Exhibitions.

Every intelligent, enterprising farmer must admit that every properly conducted agricultural exhibition is of great value to the farmers. These exhibitions resemble so many grand school rooms, where the plainest lessons are taught to every one. There is not a single farmer in our country with common observing power that cannot learn some valuable lesson from attending the smallest agricultural exhibition in this Dominion; the poorest child, blessed with sight, that attends, must learn something. The sight of good farm and garden products stimulates a desire to imitate. Thus the value of the farm products are increased; the exchange of thoughts, imparted merely by sight alone, are highly beneficial to old and young. No one having the use of his tongue and senses is entirely satisfied with sight alone; enquiries are made and thoughts are exchanged. Each can impart information that will be of benefit to his neighbor. We look on the visit to the agricultural exhibition as the best spent holiday the farmer and his family take during the entire year. An occasional holiday is of great advantage. You will find that the farmer who takes an occasional holiday, and gives his family a holiday to attend an agricultural exhibition, is better off, more intelligent and more prosperous than the drudge that stays at home.

Our opinion is that we should endeavor to maintain and keep up all the exhibitions we now have. The attempt made by some to destroy the township exhibitions we regard as similar or worse than closing the schools in rural districts. We deem it proper to make these remarks at the present time as we have heard from several influential parties that great attempts are to be made to strengthen a few large exhibitions at the sacrifice of smaller and perhaps more deserving ones. We fear from the present state of affairs that the desire of those in power is to centralize that power as much as possible. This may be right in political affairs, but in agriculture those that cultivate the acres in the back townships should have quite as much influence as a lawyer or a shoemaker or tailor; but the fact is, the farmer has not half the power or influence over the public management of his own agricultural affairs that a contractor may have. It is discernment that our farmers require to enable them to compete with others. If you look into your past history you will find that at every election where your money is expended and a heavy mortgage placed in the form of a debt on your farm and family for all time to come, it has been done by your lack of discernment. You have been led to vote for those who have had no real interest in agriculture. Their objects have been gain and political power, and that power has been too often sold to some contractor, jobber or manipulator, and the results are higher duties, higher taxes, heavier debts and heavier incumbrances for your farm to pay. This is all caused by your regarding the hue and cry of party, and electing far too many tricksters, who have not looked after the interest of the farmer as much as they have for the interest of some money-making scheme for themselves or their friends. Now it just happens thus that every position you give a man the greater power that person will have, and then he has the power of manipulating your money for or against your interests. This we allude to for the purpose of drawing your attention to the importance of attending to the

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

You should attend at the annual meeting which takes place. When at the meeting let your voice be heard, and that invariably for the electing of the most truthful and the most honorable farmer