

puts salt in his eyes. The horse, maddened, rears on his mate, and kicks his legs to pieces. He lights a fire under him, and the horse lies down and rolls in it. As a last resource he gets another team, or perhaps a yoke of oxen, and attaching a rope to the poor horse's neck attempts to pull team and load bodily.

He then does that which might have been done twice over in the time—unloads the grain, and draws out the empty waggon.

That horse, which never refused to draw before, is a confirmed baulker, on which no dependance can in future be placed.

Never mind the horses—that's the way to save time. C. E. W.

Ancaster, March 21, 1870.]

Importations of Live Stock.

Few persons are aware, unless their attention has been specially directed to the subject, how much expense and risk attend the importation of valuable animals from Europe. The selection and purchase of them in the first place usually involves, besides other expenses, a journey across the Atlantic and back. The price of such animals, when of first-class order, and none others are worth the trouble of importing, is often extremely high. Then there is the serious risk of the voyage. This, in the case of horses especially, is fraught with peril, a rough and stormy passage being often fatal; and the Insurance companies invariably decline to be responsible for any losses from this cause. No doubt, these difficulties have been very much in the way of valuable acquisitions from England, and those enterprising individuals who have successfully overcome them have laid the country, and the agricultural community especially, under great obligation.

One of the most serviceable importations recently made has been that of the draught horse "Old England," a noble animal, winner of many honours, which was imported last fall from Yorkshire by Mr. William Long. This gentleman again purchased, at still higher cost, another celebrated prize-winner, "Black Douglas," and embarked him in the spring for Canada; but, unfortunately, the animal died on the fourth day out from Liverpool. In order to repair this serious loss, Mr. Long contemplates a second voyage to England, and intends to bring out, besides other valuable stock, a first-class draught stallion. Some of his friends are desirous of aiding in this enterprise, and we call attention to the matter because it is one not altogether of a personal and private nature, but of some public importance to a Province like ours, so deeply interested in all that affects the progress of agriculture, and deserves the sympathy and co-operation of those who desire to promote the improvement of our farm stock. Persons who are disposed to lend their assistance toward the expenses of the undertaking are requested to send their contributions to any of the following gentlemen in this city:—Messrs. Crocker, Albion Hotel; Thomas Best, Bay Horse, Yonge Street; Swan Bros., King Street, or Captain Cox, of the Black Horse.

Sparred Floors for Cattle and Sheep-houses.

Sparred or grated floors for byres, cattle-feeding houses, and sheep-sheds, are now becoming of almost everyday use in Britain, and they might be adopted in Canada wherever a manure cellar is constructed. Mr. Mechi uses them altogether for both cattle and sheep. They save labour in cleaning the stable, keep the cattle and sheep always dry, and what is better than all, the manure falling through the interstices not only saves straw, but as it falls into a cellar, which must naturally be frost-proof, the necessary conversion of the fresh excretions into well decomposed manure is all the time progressing, ammonia is being developed in its most fertilizing shape from both the liquid and solid manure, and in the spring it is in the most useful state possible. If the smell of the fermenting mass in the cellar becomes too strong, or the ammonia is passing off, it can at once be stayed and deodorized by the addition of plaster or of sulphate of iron, and thus rendered into the richest possible manure, which is far superior to that not so treated.

Mr. Mechi does not find the health of his cattle and sheep injured by thus standing over the manure, therefore it may be inferred that we need not fear such a result here, where the lowness of temperature during the time the cattle are housed would render the smell from the pit even less offensive than in England.

The sparring of the floors must be done with oak strips or iron gratings, strong enough to bear the cattle without danger; and the under side of the interstices must be made wider than the top. They then clear themselves.

The cellar must, of course, be made absolutely proof against draughts and the weather; and in the case of cattle it is only the bottom of the manure gutters in the byres or stables which need be grated. For sheep the grating or sparring must be continued over the entire floor, but as the animals are so much lighter in weight, the grating may be of much slighter materials. The part near the feeding troughs and hay racks should be made solid, to guard against waste of food.

The manure cellars ought always to be well puddled with clay at the bottom, and be built up at the sides with brickwork laid in water lime, so that each cellar forms a tank for the liquid manure, without waste.

VECTIS.

Such are the points to be attended to if it is determined to build a manure cellar, but it cannot be denied that opinions of practical men are not altogether at one in regard to the propriety of their use, and with all the precautions that may be employed, any one may be pardoned for entertaining grave objections to keeping animals over a reeking mass of ordure.—Ed.

Shrinkage of Swine.

A correspondent of the *Prairie Farmer* says:—"Hog buyers will tell us there is about one-quarter to one-fifth shrinkage on our hogs, no matter how well fattened they may be. My experience shows me the shrinkage or difference between the live and dead weight of well fattened hogs is only about one-seventh of the gross weight. I have ascertained this from several tests I have made on the average of a lot of thirty or forty hogs, fattened upon the ground, with a good straw stack to lie in, and held until the first of January.

"My investigations show me that upon a lot of well fattened hogs that range alive from three hundred to four hundred pounds, after counting the weight of the lard taken from the inwards, the shrinkage is less than one-seventh of the gross weight; so I consider it safe to reckon the shrinkage at one-seventh, as it will vary but a small fraction from that in either way.

"There is no doubt but farmers may have their hogs in so poor a condition that the shrinkage or difference between the live and dead weight will be nearer one-fourth or one-fifth, but my opinion is this, if so, the hogs are unfit for market, and as a general rule make very unwholesome food."

Exportation of Breeding Stock to America.

The *Mark Lane Express* of April 28th states that a shipment of two-year-old and yearling Shorthorn heifers left Liverpool recently for Mr. James O. Sheldon, Geneva, New York. These animals were purchased in England, and shipped by Mr. John Thornton, as breeding stock for the celebrated Duchess bulls in Mr. Sheldon's herd. Mr. Cheney's herd at Gaddesby supplied two heifers—Bouquet 3rd, a roan of the Foggathorpe tribe, and of the same family as Col. Towneley's prize heifer Baron Oxford's Beauty, and May Lass 2nd, roan, descended from Mr. Fawkes' Milcent tribe; both these heifers were by General Napier, a bull of Bates—Prince's blood. Lady Worcester 4th, roan, a Bates' Wild Eyes heifer, was selected from Mr. John Harvard's herd at Winterfold, and Sidonia 2nd, a red of Mr. Bowly's Gazelle family, from Mr. Isaac Downing. Two heifers were bought of Mr. Hugh Aylmer—Guava 4th, with some Booth blood, and Britannia 18th, red, descended from Mason's No. 6 Chilton sale. A Booth heifer, Rosary Charm, was purchased from Mr. Torr, at Aylesby, and Rosemary, descended from Mr. Cowling's Kitt stock, came from Teesdale. These animals had a very good voyage, and were landed safely at Mr. Sheldon's farm at Geneva, New York State, on the 10th of March. Messrs. Walcott and Campbell, who recently purchased Mr. Booth's cow, Bride of the Vale, for 1,000 guineas, are in treaty for another shipment of Shorthorns, including Col. Towneley's heifer, Baron Oxford's Beauty, and other well-known animals, and a small lot of heifers and bulls will shortly be sent to Colorado.