

### Still Fighting Pleuro-Pneumonia.

The official report of the United States Secretary of Agriculture to hand for the past year refers to the fact that there still remains a district in the State of New Jersey from which the infection of pleuro-pneumonia has not yet been eradicated. The battle against this deadly contagious disease is still being continued, and Hon. Mr. Rusk hopes before the end of the present fiscal year to be able to declare its complete eradication. The claim is again set up that owing to the confinement of the disease to that district, and the other measures enforced by the U. S. authorities, foreign restrictions (meaning particularly those of Great Britain, no doubt) against importations of cattle from the Republic are without justification; but there is no disposition on the part of Hon. Mr. Chaplin, the British Minister of Agriculture, or his advisers, to regard the question in that light or to take any chances of further contagion.

### Our Horse Trade.

In these days of more or less depression in agriculture we hear a great deal about there being no sale for horses, and how the American demand has ceased altogether. We are continually told that there is no money in horses now-a-days, and the man who attempts to make any money in horse breeding will be woefully disappointed; and yet, only a few weeks ago thirty-four horses shipped to New York by the well-known Toronto dealer, Mr. W. H. Grand, realized a total of \$17,029, an average of over \$500 a head. These horses were all bred and raised in Ontario; yet there is no money in horse breeding in this country! How are we to reconcile these two statements, for there is not a practical farmer in Canada who does not know that at such a price as \$500 in New York there is a good profit for both the breeder of the animal and the dealer who handles him? The explanation is simply this, that there is not one farmer in one hundred breeding the class of horses that will bring these prices. The horses shipped to New York by Mr. Grand were all light, the lot comprising hunters, saddlers, dog cart and carriage horses, and cobs, and we are only quoting the words of a very large American dealer when we say that the market for such horses in the States is almost unlimited; but they must be the right pattern—they must show at any rate a dash of thoroughbred blood, and in the case of harness horses they must have plenty of knee action. Now, we would ask, how many farmers are making a specialty of breeding such horses? We would point out the fact that an answer can be found in the very fact that so many of our best thoroughbred sires have been taken out of the country, and what are left are barely earning a living, while the same is the case with regard to high class sires of harness horses, when such horses as the thoroughbred horse Topgallant, the Hackney horse Young Nobleman and other sires, such as The Swell, owned a few years ago by Mr. Wilson, of Paris, are allowed to leave the country because farmers will not give their owners any encouragement to keep them, but prefer using grade stallions at a low fee. Is it any wonder that we hear on all sides that there is no money in horses? It is high time for Canadian farmers to drop the scales from their eyes and awake to the fact that in horse breeding, as in all other businesses, it is only those who make a point of trying to breed what is in most demand that make any money.

### An Agricultural Hall Required.

Alderman Frankland's speech, delivered before the last meeting of the D. S. B. A., is reported in this issue. Again he refers to the great need of an agricultural hall for the province of Ontario. Not only does Ontario require such a building, but every province in the Dominion should possess one, where farmers could convene in their various associations. Agricultural and live stock associations become more numerous each year, and as time goes on they will continue to increase. Toronto is the most central point. Other important reasons also make it an exceedingly desirable meeting place, but at present a suitable hall is not always available. One association will meet at one place and one at another, seldom meeting twice consecutively in the same building. This is very trying to farmers who come to these meetings from a distance, and are not well acquainted with the city. This fact alone causes many to absent themselves. Much has been said and written regarding this matter. All know the great need that exists; the time has now arrived when some one should take steps to bring this end about. An active, determined man could accomplish the desired end, if such a one would but take the initiative. Alderman Frankland says his friend would give \$1,000 to aid such a purpose. Mr. Frankland would perhaps do similarly, and otherwise materially assist the venture. Such a building should be suitable for holding fat stock and stallion shows. The ground floor should be large enough that all the animals on exhibition could have stalls in the building. The second floor could be used as an exhibition ring, and should be sufficiently large to safely accommodate all visitors. Large stables in cities are now built with one row of stalls above the other. A suitable audience room could be had in some part of the building. Who will make a move in this matter?

### It Pays to have a Definite Object in View.

Mr. Dryden, in his speech reported elsewhere, speaks of the damage done Canadian flocks and herds by the promiscuous manner in which farmers continue to breed their live stock. To be successful every farmer should have a definite object in view. In selecting a breed each farmer should buy the sort best suited to his surroundings and needs. Do not intermix the breeds, but develop the one chosen. If it is discovered a mistake was made in the sort selected the necessary change should be made; then stick to the sort chosen. A well-known farmer in eastern Ontario twelve years ago owned a very good herd of grade Ayrshires. They were said to be the best dairy herd in Renfrew county at that time. His neighbor bought a Holstein bull. Farmer No. 1 bred his Ayrshire cows to this bull for two years. He then used a grade Durham; the next cross was a grade Jersey. At the present time his herd would not bring over \$20 per head if put up and sold. Farmer No. 2, who bought the Holstein bull, has ever since his first purchase continually used a Holstein of good quality. Although his foundation cows were not as good as his neighbor's, at the present time he has 30 cows and heifers which, for all practical purposes, are as good as purebred Holsteins, and from which an expert could not distinguish them. The lot would, if sold, readily average \$50 or more per head, being worth at least \$30 per head more than his neighbor's mongrel lot. This is not an exceptional case. It is the rule, not the exception, for farmers to thus cross-breed their live stock. Few men have a definite object in view in breeding stock. From this cause alone thousands of dollars are lost by the farmers of Canada every year.

### The Judging Ring.

WHERE THE PRESENT EXHIBITIONS FAIL.

The object for which exhibitions were first instituted was to instruct those visiting them, as well as to encourage the improvement of breeding stock, and better mode of agriculture generally. The premiums awarded to the successful competitors were given as an incentive for still greater efforts on the part of exhibitors. The show ring is full of instruction and pleasure to the newly installed breeder or young beginner contemplating purchasing better animals of whatever sort his fancy may lead him to choose. How closely the classes are watched by each onlooker, in order to find how the decision of the committee coincides with those outside. What criticisms are heard round the ring as each fresh ribbon is tied. Each year the crowd of onlookers gain in knowledge. They have had one more year of individual experience, they are thoroughly interested in the breed that is represented in the ring before them, therefore, have taken pains to know all about them, and are wishful to learn more. Instruction should be one of the chief objects of the judging ring. From whom does the onlooker expect to derive his information except from the judges or judge? They or he act in the capacity of instructor. Yet how often we hear men, when acting in this capacity, remark, "this is the animal that suits me the best." Probably if asked why, he could not answer. In fact, it is the general appearance alone that such men are guided by, which is evidenced by the decisions they make. Every year brings the same discouraging abuse. Men receive and accept the position as judge on animals they must be perfectly aware they have no knowledge of. Cattle men are placed on horses, sheep men on pigs, and, perhaps, a dog man has cheek enough to judge all classes of stock. If there were no judges of stock in our country, the question would be a hard one to solve, yet all must agree that there are numbers of men that have made a success of the different breeds of horses, cattle and sheep they have bred. Without judgment and knowledge these men would have failed. Then, why are men placed in the judging ring who never owned a good animal of the kind, yet upon the merits of which they are asked to decide? In Ontario and Manitoba we now have well established associations, composed of prominent breeders of horses and cattle, and a most effective Sheep Breeders' Association, representing all breeds, also an equally effective Swine Breeders' Association. In all cases the whole of the prominent breeders are members of one or more of these. It is, therefore, in the power of these associations to do as they wish on any point relating to the welfare of each breed, or of the breeders generally. The appointment of judges is acknowledged to be the most difficult question that fair managers can arrange satisfactorily, yet they do not seem to think it worth while acknowledging the men recommended as capable for the position by the respective breeders' associations, for except in a few instances the selections advised have been entirely ignored. If any man, or body of men, are capable of stating who are competent for the position of judging a class of animals, it is the breeders of that class. Should it be necessary for the breeders to assert their rights in this matter it will be in order for them to agree to absent themselves from any exhibition at which judges are appointed outside the recommended list sent in for any breed. All that is required is concerted action by the members of the different breeders' associations, and their wishes will be recognized to a certainty.