

THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

THE DISEASE STILL PREVAILING IN FORD COUNTY, ILL.—DISEASED MEAT IN NEW YORK MARKET.

Special Despatch to the Chicago Tribune.

BLOOMINGTON, August 25.

Reports from the eastern part of this county, say that the cattle disease is still prevailing in Ford county, though, by the prompt action of the stock-raisers in the matter, it has been confined to the limits of its first appearance. Precautionary measures have been taken by the City Council to prevent the importation of diseased beef cattle into the market of this city.

NEW YORK, August 25.—Seventeen diseased cattle found their way to the city yesterday. Five were traced to a butcher on Stanton street, where they had been cut up and sold to the inhabitants of the Thirteenth Ward. One died before it could be slaughtered. The butcher was not arrested. The others have not been traced as yet, but it is supposed they have been sold to citizens as good beef.

COLUMBUS, August 25.—The Executive Committee of the State Board of Agriculture met here to-day to take measures to prevent the cattle plague being introduced in the State. They adopted resolutions recommending the Governor to appoint three Commissioners, with power to adopt measures to prevent the introduction or transportation of Texas cattle through the State. On their suggestion, the Governor appointed the following Commissioners: Wm. A. Neil, Jr., of Madison county; T. V. Reber, of Wyandotte, and John Enoch, of Logan county, giving them instructions and authority to prosecute all persons who shall violate any provisions of the Act passed by the Legislature on April 16, 1868, entitled, "An Act to prevent the spreading of contagious diseases among horses, cattle and stock;" and to take other steps to prevent the introduction of the cattle disease in the State. He has also warned all persons that the introduction of Texas or other cattle infected with disease, is prohibited by law.

CINCINNATI, August 25.—There is no abatement in the cattle disease. The consumption of beef and cows' milk has fallen off largely. Notice has been sent to dealers at different points south and west, not to ship any more Texas cattle to this city, and the Mayor has given orders not to allow any to be landed here.

OPINION OF A CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARMER.

A letter in one of the morning papers from Champaign county gives some statements of facts there. The writer says:

I am free to confess that in this locality the mortality has been equal to the rinderpest in Europe. In proof of the last statement, I offer a few facts which have come under my own observation. Mr. John Matthews, two and a half miles from town, had a small herd of fifty-six head, that ran with the Texas cattle from the 10th of June to the 20th of July. All the herd was taken at the same time, and at this time all are dead but four. Mr. I. J. Miller had fifteen head exposed, but did not run with the Texas cattle. They watered at the same place from ponds in the creek, and pastured on the same prairie. His cattle were late in taking the disease. The first died on the 9th of this month, and by the evening of the 13th all were dead.

Out of thirty cows in town that have taken the disease, there is one that will probably get well, three still linger, making twenty-six dead and three doubtful. It is probably from the fatality that some have classed it with the two first diseases under consideration.

I see that Prof. John Gamgee, of Albert Veterinary College, London, has stated that he could not find one diseased Texas steer. Let this be as it may, *I can find good men who have examined these Texas cattle; and all whom I have talked with agree in saying that they were sick, and some showed the same symptoms of our native cattle. The man who had the contract for skinning the dead Texas cattle says that some of them were found to be diseased the same as our native cattle.*

Again, he says he would not be afraid to eat of the meat, and at the same time hints very loudly at a blood disease. If it is a poison, and the blood poisoned, how is it that the meat escapes, when the blood passes through every part of the body and limbs; not a particle can be found but what comes in contact with the blood. I have been, and am still, a careful observer of this fatal malady in cattle, and under no considerations will I be induced to eat of the meat. Two weeks before Prof. Gamgee's report was made, I expressed the belief that it was a poison that acted upon the blood, and that the vital fluid was soon destroyed. To me it would seem reasonable to account for it in one or two ways:—1st. It may be caused by a parasite; 2d. It may be a disease peculiar to the cattle of the south when brought north of a certain line, caused by some chemical change in the animal, poisonous to others but not so to them.