

members have the power of voting away the Township Exhibitions. We believe that this power should be so limited that no Township Agricultural Society be legally discontinued unless a petition to that effect be signed by a majority of the farmers of the township who occupy twenty-five acres of land and upwards.

There may be some counties that are so compact, that the inhabitants can reach the county exhibition with ease. In such instances there may be no advantage in maintaining the Township Exhibitions.

English Letter, No. 27.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Liverpool, June 16.

There is every promise now of a plentiful fruit year, and hay and corn are also doing well. This ought to speak well for the British farmers; but their decline really seems now to be chronic, and I doubt whether even a series of plentiful years can put them on their legs again, unless, indeed, there be short crops and disasters over nearly the whole of the rest of the world, which none of us, of course, can wish for. The shoe is pinching not only the farmers, but the landowners, who, if they are to keep their land occupied at all, are compelled to reduce their rents in a very substantial degree. In countries especially where there are heavy lands, and including unoccupied farms, the actual reductions compared with some six or seven years ago, are as high as 50, and in some cases 70 per cent. In other words the landlord whose income from land five years ago was £5,000 a year, finds himself now receiving only £2,000 or £2,500, and if he be in the unhappy position of having a heavy mortgage to face, his position is not to be envied. Neither is our general trade reviving in at all the degree that was expected, and in my humble judgment our policy of Free Trade will ere long have to run the gauntlet of a very keen discussion, and I, for one, doubt very much whether it will survive it. The feeling against one-sided Free Trade as it exists at present, is becoming very wide spread and very emphatic; the working classes are awakening to the fact that a low priced loaf is not necessarily a cheap one, and that if protection to our farmers and to our leading industries mean more work and higher wages, they will gladly pay a little more for their food. A man earning ten dollars a week is far more able to pay 20 cents a loaf for his bread than the man who earns 5 dollars a week is able to pay 10. This is really the axle upon which the whole question turns. In my humble view, a proper, patriotic, and in every way sensible solution of the difficulty would be a commercial federation between this country and its colonies. Ours is the finest market in the world as you well know, and I feel persuaded that in order to obtain a substantial advantage over the States and other competitors, such, for instance, as would be gained by our taxing American food supplies with a 20 per cent import duty, whilst yours had free access; your government would be glad to find ways and means for placing our manufacturers on an equally favorable footing in your markets. That a change of some kind must, ere long, be brought about I am absolutely convinced, and I should like it to take the form I have briefly indicated.

The fearful disaster which befel your city and district recently, caused immense excitement, sympathy and indignation here. The lists of the drowned were eagerly scanned, for probably no part of the Dominion has more direct ties with the old country than your own. There seems little

doubt that there has been gross mismanagement somewhere.

Emigration, which has been very brisk during the spring, shows some little sign of abatement. However, an enormous number of agricultural labourers and domestic servants from Ireland are leaving for the United States. I am informed by an agent of a steamboat company here that fully 75 per cent. of the passages of these Irish Roman Catholics are being paid for by their friends in the United States. Consequently it is nothing but natural that the emigration of this class should flow in that direction.

There is nothing of special moment to notice this month in connection with any of the live stock trades. The first shipments of Canadian cattle have arrived in good condition, and are realizing fairly remunerative prices. I am sorry to say, however, that the dead meat trade of New Brunswick does not appear to be properly managed, where the hitch is, I cannot say, but I am informed that the first two or three consignments have been disposed of at prices which must result in enormous losses. It may be remembered that since the initiation of the enormous trade in dead meat we have not experienced here a very hot summer. But from present appearances we may have both a long and very hot one, and in that case the dead meat market, which is already clogged by the compulsory slaughter of States cattle at the ports of debarkation here, will be in a bad way. This, however, so long as our Canadian cattle retain a clean bill of health, must be entirely to their advantage, as country butchers can take their purchases home and kill them as required.

Sir John A. Macdonald, your Premier, has arrived safely, and it is to be hoped that the change of air and scene, and absence from the effects of the "N. P.," will soon restore his health. I am sorry, however, to say that he looked far from well on his arrival here.

The acquisition of pedigree and other first-class stock by the agents of Canadian and States breeders actively continues. The S. S. Quebec, which sailed on Saturday last, took out a general consignment. Your townsman, Mr. R. Gibson, of Ilderton, Ont., was a passenger by this steamer, and took out, as may readily be imagined, one of the finest little lots of Shorthorns ever exported from this country. The lot includes the following: 1. Rowfant Duke of Oxford 2nd; 2. Rowfant Kirklevington 3rd; 3. A red and white bull calf; 4. Oxford Duke of Tregunter, roan; 5. Viscountess Barrington 2nd; 6. Grand Duchess Barrington 4th; 7. Duchess Wild Eyes; 8. Haverling Waterloo 3rd. Mr. Gibson has also purchased for Mr. Murray, of Chesterfield, Ontario, the following: 1. Waterloo Duchess, red and white, calved June 9th, 1874, and, 2, her bull calf; 3. Miss Wild Eyes, roan, calved June 10th, 1879; 4. and a red and white Barrington bull, bred by the Duke of Devonshire. Mr. Gibson's many friends in your district will, I am sure, be glad to hear of the safe arrival of himself and valuable stock.

Mr. C. C. Bridges, of Barrie, Ont., whose favour seems to lie in the direction of the white faces, has taken out a very fine draft of Herefords, comprising a two year old heifer (Mary), a bull calf (Corporal), a heifer (Violet) and two yearling heifers (Blossom and Moss Rose). Most of these were purchased at high figures from Mr. Grasset, a relative of Dean Grasset, of Toronto. Mr. Bridges also took out twenty very prime Shropshire ewes from some of the most celebrated flocks in the country.

Mr. McCrae, of Guelph, took out by the same steamer a selection of Polled Galloway cattle. Although these are very nice ones, your readers

will readily distinguish between them and the Polled Aberdeens, at your shows in the fall. Unfortunately there appears to be a prejudice against polled cattle generally in Canada, owing to the poor character of the Polled Galloways which have hitherto been exhibited in the Dominion. Mr. Simon Beattie has sent out to Quebec a very valuable draft of Jersey cattle. One cow is stated by competent judges to be the finest specimen of that breed in existence. After passing through quarantine, I understand they are to appear at your Western show. Mr. Beattie has also sent out a very fine bull and four heifers, selected from the best Polled Aberdeen herds in Scotland. I cannot speak too highly of this breed, which has been enormously improved during the last few years.

Messrs. Gudgett & Simpson, breeders and cattle ranchmen of Missouri and Colorado, have recently been visiting the best polled herds in the north and have succeeded in purchasing 38 head, giving as much as 70 guineas for some of them. The white faces are also making great head in public favor; very large purchases have been made for different breeders in the States, and I heard that the whole of the space of a steamer which is to sail shortly has been chartered for the conveyance of some 400 head of Herefords. I also notice that "Bell's Weekly Messenger," the oldest agricultural journal, which has for nearly 20 years made Shorthorn intelligence a feature of the paper, is now announcing that it will give weekly prominence to notes on Herefords, from the pen of Mr. Wm. Housman, probably one of the best authorities on horned stock in the world. This information may not be very pleasing to those who are so devoted to Shorthorns; but there is room for all, and any that will improve the native breeds should be equally welcome amongst you.

Meeting of the New Brunswick Board of Agriculture.

The members of the New Brunswick Board of Agriculture met in special session, the Hon. Mr. Wedderburn, the President of the Board, presiding. The object of the meeting was to confer with the Government with regard to the importation of stock and the procuring of a stock farm.

The Board proceeded to the consideration of the returns of several Agricultural Societies before entertaining the special business of the meeting.

The report from the committee that had been appointed to procure information with regard to the establishment of a stock farm, stated that Stanbury, York, St. John and Kings counties offered good sites for such a farm. The consideration of the report was postponed till the conference with the Government.

A motion that in the opinion of the Board it is desirable that a stock farm be established in the Province, was unanimously adopted. As was, also, a motion that a stock farm should be purchased in preference to being leased.

It was further resolved that the stock be purchased by a resident agent in Great Britain, and that the stock when imported be quarantined and sold at St. John.

It was agreed that the importation of stock be made with as little delay as possible, and the Secretary of the Board to visit such of the Societies as he would think proper. At a subsequent meeting of the Board with the Government the importation of stock and the establishment of a stock farm were fully discussed, with the result that the Government and Board are in accord in these matters, and the importation will be proceeded with without delay; efforts are to be made to secure a suitable tract for a stock farm.