

We learn from scientific observation, that so long as the *Trichina spiralis* remains with its "intermediary host the pig," it does not get beyond the larval stage of development; but once it reaches the alimentary canal of the human subject its growth is so rapid that in forty-eight hours it has attained maturity and forthwith commences to deposit its ova; in six days more these are hatched, and the little embryos directly start on their journey through the walls of the canal, stopping at nothing except bone till they reach the muscles. While this wonderful migration is going on the unfortunate sufferer fancies himself the victim of gout or rheumatism, or some very peculiar variety of fever, while the cause of his disorder is the wounds inflicted by these merciless little wretches, sometimes so severe and numerous as to be followed by death.

In view of the great prevalence of trichinosis in the pig herds of America, and the large importation of American pork into this country, the time, we think, has now arrived when some effectual means should be adopted in order to save the country from a painful and loathsome affliction. France and other continental nations have promptly and wisely forbidden further traffic in this article, and there is every reason to believe that the bacon factors of the United States will now seek to press it on our market at a price which must command a sale among a certain class of the trading community. Under these circumstances it is important to consider our present system of meat inspection, and to determine what amount of protection and security it affords to the people of this country against this pest-laden viand. It is generally admitted by those who are competent to judge that the inspection of meat as pursued in Great Britain—one of the most clumsy, inefficient, and disjointed services to be found in any European State. In the richest and largest meat eating country in Europe it is sad to think that the suitability of flesh as food for man should be left to the discretion of policemen and others of equally limited intelligence. By this system, or want of system, public health stands exposed to the most alarming dangers, and diseases and death are literally invited to our dwellings. When we remember that the bane of American pork consists of an organism so minute as to be hardly visible to the unaided eye, and requiring for its detection the experience of a practical microscopist; moreover, that it may pervade every inch of the muscular system of its victims, and in certain cases evade the most searching investigation—we may fairly conclude that the people of this country cannot long disregard the example which France has set them. France, even with her well-organized

system of inspection, and her staff of experts, clearly recognises the difficulty of dealing with the question otherwise than by excluding American pork from our shores, and having regard to the minuteness and prolific nature of the parasite involved, there cannot be much doubt as to the wisdom of the step she has taken. It is not altogether the direct influence of trichinised flesh of American pigs on man which constitutes the evil of its use.

The parasitic range of the entozoon in question is a wide one. It infects many of those creatures who stand in close domestic relation with man, and which, besides furnishing him food, are also food for each other. Thus dogs, pigs, cats, calves, rabbits, rats, mice, guinea pigs, and other creatures may receive and propagate the parasite, and it is much to be feared that should this prolific and pestiferous entozoon once become colonized among us, a wide-spread and enduring parazootic will result. The question of meat inspection is one of the most important and urgent matters relating to public health, and until a duly qualified service is established, the people of this country have just right of complaint.—*Agricultural Gazette.*

MR. FITCHETT of the firm of Dickey, Buckley & Fitchett, arrived at Amherst a few days ago from England with the returns on a heavy shipment of cattle made in January. He has furnished us with a statement of the expenses per head of this shipment:—

Freight to Halifax.....	£ 0 7 6
Ocean freight.....	5 10 0
Selling expenses.....	0 16 0
Cost of feed on board.....	1 0 0
Insurance.....	2 0 0
Buying expenses.....	0 5 0
	£ 8 8 0

The average sale was 15 16 0

Balance..... £ 7 7 6

Mr. Fitchett says that the firm met a loss of from \$10 to \$15 per head, which they, however, in a great measure retrieved by the profits on the produce he took over. This is not encouraging, and this firm state they will not at present make any more ventures, as the last one was made under what appeared to be peculiarly favorable circumstances.

Messrs. John Swan & Sons, of Edinburgh, in a circular forecasting the present season's market, state:—

"The Canadian season beginning about the middle of May, is compelling our farmers to get quit of their winter fed stock earlier than they used to do, whilst it is also forcing the graziers to hold their grass fed cattle longer than they used to do. Thus no one can predict whether supplies are likely to be shorter or prices better in one season

than in another. We know that freights for next year have already been taken at extreme rates for the earlier shipments. The probability is, prices may be higher during June and July than at any other time, and may warrant high rates of freight. The certainty is, however, that autumn shipments must always come to heavily supplied markets here, as, of course, our home stock must at given periods come to market. The quality of Canadian grass fed cattle, later in the season, is such that they cannot stand these high rates of freight, and being off grass, slide considerably in condition on the way over. We would not recommend you to base your calculations upon extreme prices for fat cattle at any time in 1881, either in England or Scotland. We have an abundant root crop all over, and we calculate there are at least twenty per cent. more cattle feeding in this country this year than last. Of course, the trade of the country generally is rather better, which will increase consumption, yet our belief is that we shall not have prices so high as last year."—*Maritime Farmer.*

THE ENGLISH MARKETS.

The following quotations are from the London *Agricultural Gazette* of March 28th:—

Liverpool, March 26.

There has been a falling off in the demand for wheat during the past week. On Tuesday holders asked a slight advance, but this they were unable to obtain, and on Friday prices gave way 1d. per cental in sympathy with the decline in New York quoted that day.

Flour, not having advanced in proportion to wheat, is not lower, but demand continues small.

Indian corn in the early part of the week advanced to 5s. 8½d. for old and 5s. 6½d. for new mixed; but in view of large shipments and only a limited inquiry, this improvement has since been lost, and the article closes very quiet today at 5s. 8d. for old and 5s. 5½d. for new American Round remains quiet at about last week's rates—viz., 5s. 6½d. to 5s. 8½d. per cental.

Beans, although still in small supply, are not in active demand, and holders have reduced their prices 1d. per cental without leading to much business. Egyptian Saida, 7s. 3d. to 7s. 4d. per 100 lb.

Peas slow, and 1d. per cental lower to sell. Canadian 6s. 9d. to 7s. 10d. per 100 lb.

Oats also were slow, but in the absence of business prices were not notably lower.

Oatmeal dull, and values are only sustained by extreme scarcity.