

English Letter, No. 19.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Liverpool, Oct. 4th.

The past month has presented very few features of interest for your readers. It is essentially the holiday month. It is noteworthy, however, that it witnessed the departure of your Ministers who came over to negotiate for the ways and means for the completion of the Canada Pacific Railway, that vast undertaking which is to have so great an influence on the future of the Dominion. Of course you know all about the terms upon which they have accomplished their mission. For many reasons I am inclined to think the course they have adopted the best of the alternatives which presented themselves. The process of making an appeal to the public purse on a large scale, is a very tedious and expensive one, and I cannot but think that a somewhat more liberal grant of land to a small company or syndicate of capitalists, letting them solve the problem of raising the ready cash, is in the end the most economical and in almost every way the best plan; and I think you have reason to be satisfied with what has been done. No doubt the Canada Pacific Railway will soon become a solid fact, and the value of its influence in developing the great North-West cannot well be over-estimated. I was reading some curious railway statistics the other day, which show the marvellous effect they have in developing new countries. In Europe the highest average of railways to population is ten miles to every ten thousand inhabitants, and this, strange to say, is in Sweden. The next highest—Great Britain—is only a portion over eight miles per ten thousand of population. But directly we cross the Atlantic the proportion springs up tremendously, for in the States the average is over thirty-two miles per ten thousand. There can be no doubt that this great development of railways is the main cause of the rapid opening out of the Western States and Territories, rather than any superiority of climate or soil over the Dominion.

We have had the usual statistics about the exodus from Canada to the States; no doubt there is a certain genuine movement of the kind, but it is far smaller than the United States officials and newspapers would have us believe. "A Canadian visitor" from this country, writing to the Daily News, ably exposes the hollowness of these figures. He says:—"If I take a fancy to cross over to Sarnia to buy a basket of grapes, I am classed as an emigrant, and no note is taken of my return; and similarly, all along the line; or if I go to England, via New York, I am classed as an emigrant, and if I come back the same way, I am classed again." I notice that these statistics are quite silent on the point of how many people from the States enter Canada yearly. That, of course, is quite another question.

Your great officials who have been over here have not devoted their attention exclusively to railway matters. The Hon. Mr. Pope, in particular, as becomes the Minister of Agriculture, has had one eye open for good things in his own special line. Amongst the purchases made on his behalf were a two year old bull and three heifers of the Polled Angus variety closely allied to the celebrated Tellyfour blood. The bull was highly commended in his class at the late Royal show at Carlisle. These animals were shipped by the S. S. Ontario on Sept. 9th. Mr. Pope has also purchased at high figures a Cheviot ram, and a fine young Clydesdale stallion.

Some Canadian harness horses, imported by Messrs. Douglas & Hendrie, have been winning honors at our local shows lately; one took first prize and another second in their respective classes at Southport, and the latter of these, a bay

gelding, was afterwards awarded first prize at Birkenhead.

The exceptional spell of fine weather which I referred to in my last letter continued until the middle of September; we then had a few days broken weather, and then another short spell of sunshine, enabling the northern farmers to secure the balance of their crops satisfactorily. I hear of occasional cases of disappointment, but on the whole there can be no doubt the harvest is a really good one. It must not be supposed, however, that the English farmer has thereby been rescued from all his troubles. If he has more to sell he finds the markets glutted and prices fearfully low. The Chelmsford Chronicle (Essex) recently contained one hundred and eighty advertisements of sales by auction of farming stocks, produce, &c; and nearly the whole of these arose through farmers giving up their occupation. The Agricultural Gazette of the 27th ult. opens an article on the agricultural situation with these portentous words: "The terrible catastrophe of suicide,—saddest of all deaths—has been frequent among farmers during the existing agricultural crisis." You will see, therefore, that all is not yet retrieved.

I have just been shown some samples of grape sugar, glucose, and syrups, manufactured in Toronto. I am not a very deeply versed judge of such things, but I should think that they ought to be close rivals of similar States products.

There is nothing special to note about the cattle trade, which goes on in a tolerably even groove. *Appropos* of losses referred to in my last letter, I observe that during the past month, in one cargo of nearly two hundred, only about twenty were landed alive; nearly the whole of those lost were washed overboard. The Great Eastern is shortly to embark on her Texan cattle importing enterprise. The idea is to bring twenty thousand head at a time, and to make four voyages a year. For reasons which I have already given you, I don't think it will do.

The ground game act is now the law of the land, and it has become part of the tenant farmer's right of occupation to kill off every head of hares or rabbits on his holding, if he likes. As, however, tenants generally like to be on good terms with their landlords, I fancy that in ninety per cent. of the farms, the act will work very little alteration, except perhaps as regards rabbits, for which landlords don't care much, and which breeding so much faster than hares, are a greater nuisance. These, no doubt, will this winter be killed off extensively, and then will come a scarcity. I enquired prices last Saturday, and one small dealer offered to take two hundred couples a week, and to pay me sixty cents a couple, and half freight charges. If, therefore, any of your readers have any to send, there is a market ready.

In my letter in your September number appears the phrase "buyers for Canadian horses." I wrote, or intended to write, "houses." It rather effects the sense of the passage.

Warm quarters, as well as plenty of nutritious food, must be provided for all stock. When stables are cold, animals consume much more food to produce the same results as when they are kept warm. Cold freezing weather dries up cows rapidly, but this may be mitigated to a great extent by providing warm stables. It is claimed by men of large experience that grain—clean, well cured grain—or hay from cultivated grasses, makes the sweetest, heaviest and most perfect milk. Beets and carrots, without grain, make thin milk. Potatoes and slops injure its flavor and make thin milk. Grass or hay, and bran alone, makes thin milk, although wholesome. Grain must be used with grass, roots or hay, to make rich milk.

P. E. Island.

A very successful exhibition was held in Charlottetown, at which nearly all the magnates of Prince Edward Island attended, and several from the other Maritime Provinces. Professor Sheldon and Mr. Sparrow, two English delegates, were also present. A dinner was provided, and a pleasant and profitable time was spent, with speeches, &c. These are the right kind of exhibitions to encourage, and much valuable information is often obtained at such gatherings. We think that Ontario has a pattern to follow in many respects when we look at the small isolated Island, and yet we must acknowledge, from personal observation made during the past summer, we consider that the Islanders are a better average class of farmers than those in Ontario. They are careful, loyal and honorable. We saw more green hedges on this Island than we have seen in Ontario. Their land may not on the whole be as fertile, but there is greater care taken, and some of the farms we saw on this Island would compare favorably with the best we have seen in Ontario. When we inquired into the public expenditures we found that real, live, active farmers had the control of them; and the public service was in most instances performed by officers, not, as in Ontario, for the purpose of making all the gold capital they can and all the political power they can obtain, no matter at what sacrifice to the interests of the farmers or the country. In P.E.I. the leaders in agricultural matters have labored for honor and to do good to the country, and their services are paid for not by the revenue in cash drawn from the farmers, as our expensive and cumbersome Board of Agriculture is paid, but by the thanks and gratitude of all well-wishers of agriculture.

The Island has a Government Stock Farm, the total cost of which, we were informed, was the small sum of about \$1,500 last year. They raise a number of Shorthorn cattle, and send them to the different counties to sell for what they will bring. Thus they are doing good service. The farm is well cultivated, and is a great credit to the Island, to the directors, and to the manager. They are all active working people that have anything to do with it.

The English delegates, Mr. Sparrow and Professor Sheldon, expressed themselves much pleased and much astonished at the extent and fertility of our Dominion, and particularly with P. E. I. and its inhabitants. They had enjoyed themselves better during the five days they had spent on the Island than any other time spent on this continent.

Mr. A. Simpson addressed the meeting. He said that he had visited nine of the United States, and was not afraid to say that little P. E. Island possessed more essentials of comfort than any of them. We coincide with Mr. Simpson's remarks, and would say to any of our friends who have time and means, and desire to know anything about the pleasures of breathing a cool and pleasant air, and enjoying a pleasant climate, fresh green hedges and country, just go down to that Canadian Gem of the Sea, and if you cannot live and enjoy yourself for a few weeks on that Island in the summer-time, you need not hunt around this earth any longer for comfort or pleasure.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—The Provincial Exhibition, held at St. John, is said by the Maritime Farmer to have been the best ever held in the Province. The show was interesting as being that of a Province which has sprung into existence within ten years. The show of horses, cattle, sheep and swine was choice and more extensive than that of former years. The parade of the prize horses and animals at noon on Friday was an animated and exciting scene.