

### The Cattle Situation.

BY G. F. FRANKLAND.

The scheduling of Canadian cattle has created much bitter feeling, not only in Canada but in Scotland also, and from all the sources I have been able to gather knowledge in regard to the unfair and high-handed proceeding of the English Agricultural Bureau, I still remain of the opinion that the flocks and herds of the Dominion are free from contagious disease. If I thought otherwise I would hardly have dared to purchase 500 feeding cattle for the British market. Eighteen years ago the markets of Canada were filled with animal food, with few customers, and the prices were disastrous to our farmers. Pork, \$4 to \$5 per hundred, sheep and lambs from \$3 to \$4 per head, and beef from \$2 to \$5 per hundred, and it was lying in stacks around the St. Lawrence market here, while in Great Britain it was selling at \$18 per hundred, sinking the offal. At that time the United States had a big surplus, and was looking for markets; therefore Canada, having no other resource, entered upon the ocean cattle trade, which, with the clean bill of health enjoyed, has continued to the present and has ever been increasing in volume. It is true that from the beginning our live stock had to undergo twelve hours' quarantine, and a close examination from the local veterinary surgeon appointed by the Privy Council even, and were occasionally detained on suspicion while the lungs were sent to the great authorities in London, yet we retained our clean bill of health. Since those days great changes have taken place in supplying animal food to the millions of people of Great Britain. Refrigerators and cold storage have been brought to great perfection and, as a consequence, America has flooded the country with large shipments of dressed meat, at a serious loss to the American farmer, while millions of carcasses of mutton from Australia have found a market at some price in Britain, which the manufacture of ice has enabled them to take advantage of. At one time these were melted down simply for the extraction of fat. South America has also become a great factor, so that England at the present time is reaping a rich and cheap harvest from almost every part of the world, and the price of animal food, with the exception of the very best quality, is selling at a lower price in Britain than in any part of Europe. During all these years the thoughtful farmer will readily understand that England, Ireland and Scotland have been handicapped in their agricultural industry, rents have been lowered, farms abandoned, and as a result everything is being tried to place the British farmer in a position to compete with foreign supply, and that is the reason, in my opinion, why Canada is shut out from the markets of Britain. From what I have heard, while engaged in conversation with those supposed to know, during my transactions of the last four years, I have been expecting what has happened. Britain is over-supplied, and they can without alarming the masses depend upon a steady supply, no matter what obstruction is placed on foreign supplies. I have certainly depended much on liberal treatment for this great, loyal Dominion, which would be a source of comfort and strength to Britain, in case of war with America or continental nations, by supplying food in abundance. I can only reiterate what I have often written: Canada must gird up her loins and take advantage of her improved breeds and feed liberally, grow high-class cattle and finish them not only for May, June and July, but arrange to have cattle for every month in the year.

Our Government must admit corn into Canada free, or anything else the farmer requires for cattle feeding, for the success of the Dominion depends largely on a successful yeomanry.

If Canadian cattle are not permitted to go further into Britain than the port of debarkation, surely arrangements can be made that will enable them to have separate stables and slaughter houses established at such points as close to Manchester as possible, and also another at or near Deptford-on-the-Thames, London, as the present buildings, both in England and in Scotland, are occupied to their fullest capacity by cattle from the United States. There are

times when ships heavily laden, full of cattle, have to anchor in the Mersey, waiting for room to debark their hundreds of cattle. But let me warn Canada against the idea of any profit being formed in shipping dead meats. We have only to look at what the cattle men of the United States have lost through this means. Many of our prominent men are reported as saying that the scheduling of our cattle will lead to good results. I would fain hope so, but I think otherwise. However, we must battle with the new regulations as best we can. Canada can hold her own, if every appliance is made to work, in the production of cattle that can be marketed at the same price as the markets of Chicago. For it is acknowledged on all hands that that great market dictates the price of all animal food, not only in their own country, but also in Great Britain.

### Our Scottish Letter.

THE CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLE IN HORSE BREEDING.

The system on which stallions are hired in Scotland has long been a subject of interest to those engaged in the breeding of horses in every part of the world. The patriarchal oversight exercised by continental government, with the institution of national haras, has not done nearly so much to promote horse breeding as the voluntary associations which have so long held sway in Scotland. It cannot be said that horse breeders were the first to adopt the co-operative system, and there is some reason to believe that the famous Robert Bakewell, of Dishley, is entitled to the credit of its inauguration. It is at least certain that about the close of last century societies were formed amongst sheep breeders for the purpose of hiring the Leicester rams owned by Bakewell, and that he derived a princely revenue from this source. The Scottish stallion-hiring system is, however, an ancient one, and may very well have come into existence as the result of a general feeling in favor of improved horses, and without reference to any other scheme of a like nature. Several of the local societies or clubs have existed for over thirty years, and are still in a healthy, thriving condition. This result can only be attained by the exercise of mutual forbearance and generous charity amongst the members. The usual method of procedure is this:—A local banker or lawyer summons a meeting of those interested in horse breeding, to be held on a given day and hour at his office. Those who assemble form themselves by resolution into a society or association, the object of which is defined in some such terms as these: To improve the breed of horses in the locality by the introduction of a superior class of travelling stallions, this object to be attained by the hiring of the best horse attainable, at reasonable terms. A sum is fixed as the amount payable by each member as an annual subscription, say 5s. or \$1.25. In addition, the members agree to endeavor to raise funds to augment the capital of the society, and to use the horse or horses that may be selected. Frequently the land owners within the radius of the society's operations subscribe to the funds in sums from £3 up to £10 per annum, and some, like the Duke of Hamilton, the Duke of Argyll and the Marquis of Bute, subscribe as high as £80 and £100 per annum, merely stipulating that an effort be made to hire a horse at terms that will be within the reach of all the tenants on their estates. Funds having thus been raised, the executive meets and a statement is made to them of the financial status of the society. The questions of the kind of horse that is to be chosen, the lines of breeding, and the terms on which he is to be hired, are all discussed, and in the end a committee of selection is appointed. Sometimes the amount that they are to pay in premium, and the fees they are to guarantee, and the number of mares to be served, are expressly stipulated—at least the maximums are named; in other cases the committee, having full cognizance of the financial state of the society, and the character of its membership, are given a free hand, and told to make the best selection possible on the easiest terms. In other words, the instructions given are general, and not

particular. Sometimes there is a difficulty in regard to the number of mares. Where the membership of the society or club does not exceed eighty, each member is under obligation to give the horse one mare; and if he does not like the horse, he must find one who does like him and is willing to give a mare. Failing this, should he not use the horse, he must pay the owner of the horse the amount of service fee for one mare. In cases where the membership is varied, the committee may guarantee a definite number of mares, the usual figures being sixty for a three-year-old horse and eighty for an aged horse; and should the horse prove popular, the right to his services is balloted for, each member being entitled to one service to begin, and should this not fill up the guarantee, the ballot decides who are to have further use of the horse. In such cases the terms agreed on may be something like this: A premium of £80; a guarantee of eighty mares at £2 10s. each, payable at the close of the season, and other £2 10s. about the month of February for each mare that seems to be in foal. The owner of the horse agrees to give free service of one mare to each of those farmers at whose places the horse stays when on his rounds. The terms now quoted are regarded as good terms. They mean an income from one horse of about £400 at least. This, however, is an exceptional figure; more commonly the rates will run thus: £100 premium, no guarantee of mares, but a maximum of 100 named; fees to be £1 at service, £1 10s. additional for each mare proving in foal. These terms mean in the average cases an income of not less than £250 from a horse. In the majority of cases in which terms such as these rule, the horses hired are animals with an established reputation as fairly good breeding horses and approved foal getters. They are generally horses not in the front rank, but of better than average merit—useful horses that are known to leave stock that finds a ready market.

Of course there are horses engaged on terms that exceed those quoted, and there are horses engaged on terms that are less than those quoted. A number of breeders, say three, or four, or six, sometimes club together and hire a horse on their own responsibility. They guarantee the owner a number of mares, say seventy at £7 apiece, payable at service, and leave him free to take other twenty mares if he can find them. They then set to work to find subscribers to take up nominations for the seventy. In such cases the hirers are usually men who have a large number of mares of their own. One may have seven, another five, or another two, and when such men take the lead in supporting a horse it is usually easy to get up the necessary quantity of mares guaranteed. I should have mentioned that when a society hires a horse and gives no guarantee of mares, it is understood that each member of the society is under obligation to use his influence in support of the horse, and usually a horse owner is well content to take this. This course has some recommendation from a horse owner's point of view. This arrangement is a little loose, and hence is favored by the horse owner because it does not bind him too tightly either. The one great drawback in the case of horses hired in this way is, that if the selection be not popular, the district in which the horse travels is usually short in foals, as many do not use him, and the horse owner also suffers. This unfortunate state of matters often gives rise to heart burnings, and more than once has been the means of wrecking a society or club. I would be strongly in favor of a rule in all such societies binding the members to support the horse selected. If a mistake is made, it is unfair to make the horse owner suffer. He only did his best to get his horse let. The committee were under no obligation to take him, and his owner should not suffer because of a mistake for which he was in no way responsible. Be the choice bad or good, the committee should be supported so long as their term of office lasts. Only thus is it possible to keep such societies or clubs alive. A committee that errs need not be re-elected, and in most cases that have come under my observation, the effective method of silence