

### Editorial.

#### Manitoba.

Great dissatisfaction exists among some of the inhabitants of Manitoba and the Northwest. This is not to be wondered at after the inflation which existed subsided, speculators and others are feeling the reaction. The rash and imprudent are ever ready to lead onward any cause, no matter what the result, so long as they are able to put their hands on more cash. We have previously spoken of the inefficiency of some of the officials in Manitoba in dealing out justice to settlers. Years ago, when we made our first trip to that part of the country, our remarks were then treated with disdain, and pronounced to be untruthful by some who knew to the contrary. It is very difficult to govern so vast a domain as ours; the interests of different localities being so diversified, that they frequently clash. No doubt the heavy custom duties are grievous to the residents of our Northwest, and the farmers are quite right in ventilating their grievances and laying their complaints before the authorities in a proper manner. But when they obtain rampant agitators to harrangue them with disloyal speeches and threats of secession, as well as demanding the lands from the railway companies, from the sale of which these companies expect to recoup themselves for the outlay in constructing the roads. We think that they are exceeding the bounds of moderation. Fair railroad rates and just treatment the farmers have a right to expect. But who made these railways which have helped so much to develop the country? Probably not these agitators, who pretend to be working for the farmer's interest, but whose object is *self*.

#### Contagious Stock Diseases.

Many years ago, when the foot and mouth disease was introduced in Canada, we telegraphed the information to the proper authorities, and the existence of the disease was denied by the Government authorities, through the political papers, and our reputation and veracity assailed. When we saw hogs dying from cholera, we also gave notice in the proper quarter, but the facts were suppressed by the authorities. When cattle were dying from Anthrax, and hundreds were being swept away by the disease, the authorities had to expend large sums to check it. When we drew attention to the deficient state of the quarantine at Point Levis, Quebec, the Government took steps for its improvement. When we called attention to an animal suffering from disease in the quarantine at Point Edward, no information was furnished us as to what became of the animal. Again, when we gave an account of the death of a large flock of sheep in Goderich, no information was given either of the cause or remedy. And when in August last we gave the information that thirty-five lambs had died from a disease which existed at the Model Farm, Guelph, a paid Government official gave notice in a political paper that the information was *untrue*. Farmers, the statements we made were facts, and we believe we have been only doing our duty to you in expending money in travelling all over the country in quest of information

which, we consider, ought to save you millions of dollars. Who can estimate the extent of injury to a country when contagious disease once gets a foot hold? For nearly twenty years we have stood alone fighting your cause, without either political party acknowledging the service, although many of the members of the same were cognizant of the truths we have stated. In fact, some had lost stock from the diseases, and yet allowed falsehoods to go unchallenged. But we feel encouraged in our endeavors by the kindly letters received from our numerous subscribers.

The important letter signed "OXFORD FARMER," which appears in another part of this issue, informs us of what we were not previously aware of, and which, if correct—and we fear it is—we have SHEEP ROT now spreading in our Dominion. This is much to be regretted, as we have known many wealthy farmers to be reduced to poverty by this disease spreading among their flocks, and should teach us to be very careful about introducing the disease to farms not yet infected.

#### On the Wing.

##### FAT STOCK EXHIBITIONS.

The past year has been remarkable for the rapid increase of Fat Stock exhibitions, several new ones have sprung into life in Ontario, and the probabilities are that they will increase in number in the future, is most probable. As many breeders are of opinion that the shambles are the best places to decide which is the most useful breed of meat producing animals, and that these fat stock exhibitions are of more importance in deciding the question than the spring or autumn fairs. A strong feeling of rivalry exists between the owners of the different breeds, and of the different families in each breed. The breeders of several classes have their combinations for the special purpose of advancing the interest of such particular breeds, and leave no stone unturned to accomplish their purpose. The past decade has been the Shorthorn era; these fine docile animals stand at the head of all the bovine races, and are destined to hold their high position, at every show of farm stock they predominate.

The fat stock exhibitions are now principally under the control of those interested in the welfare of the Shorthorn class, and the stock departments and prize lists at our principal fairs are also in a great measure controlled by them. The Government Herd Book has been manipulated by the same parties. When men gain too much power history shows that revolts arise and they are supplanted by others. The Shorthorn cattle are so valuable to the country that we think that no mismanagement can ever depreciate the real merits of this class, but such is the influence of the Shorthorn combination, that the breeders of other classes of cattle begin to open their eyes. Facts tell more than words. The Devons, the Ayrshires, the Galloways and the Herefords were formerly to be seen at our fairs in large numbers, but now at the fat stock shows in Canada no other animals but the Durhams or their grades are to be seen. The before mentioned classes when we first came to this country were about as numerous as the

Shorthorns, and were used for beef making purposes. The beef from some of the other classes may not weigh as heavy as that of the Durhams, although it is claimed for some that they produce meat of a better quality. The breeders of other classes complain that their interests are and have been greatly injured by the Government expenditures in fostering the Durham class, as they the breeders claim that the Shorthorns are adapted only to the richer lands of the Dominion, and a profit could be derived from half of the land in Canada by keeping other breeds, and that loss is sure to follow the introduction of either Durham bulls or cows into some parts of the country, and that animals of the lighter and more active classes will thrive where the Shorthorns would starve.

In the neighborhood of Guelph and other places where fat stock exhibits are held, and where private interests are only used, and one class of cattle predominate, the directors have a right to act as they choose, but as soon as Government money is used, as in Toronto exhibit, then each class should receive encouragement. The breeders of other classes than the Durhams consider they are being taxed and the money devoted to the injury of themselves, and some of the more thoughtful express themselves that they consider the Government Agricultural expenditures are not as conducive to the general welfare as private enterprise, being often used to suppress rather than encourage the latter, as every party paper will defend the acts of a Government, and decry any enterprise, no matter how beneficial it may be, if not under the control of their particular party; and the majority of the recipients of Government monies will also use their influence and employ every means to support their party.

##### THE GUELPH FAT STOCK MARKET

was held in that city on the 12th and 13th Dec., many hundreds of really fine beef animals changed hands. This is the largest and best fat stock market in Canada. The farmers in this locality have made beef raising a speciality. More turnips and roots are grown in this neighborhood than in any other part of the continent.

The farmers in the vicinity of Guelph have also a fat stock show, which has been established for some years. The exhibit was held as usual in the spacious drill shed, near the market. A remarkably fine display of cattle was made, and some of the prizes were strongly contested. Many of the farmers around Guelph feel aggrieved at the Torontonians getting the aid of the Government to establish what these farmers consider as a rival exhibition, and say that as Guelph is the centre of the beef producing country, and they have by their own exertions established and successfully held fat stock shows, that they should have been encouraged instead of being opposed by expenditures from the Government exchequer.

##### THE OXFORD COUNTY FAT STOCK CLUB.

The Oxford County Fat Stock Club held their meeting at Woodstock during the holding of the one at Guelph. At this show a lot of fine animals were exhibited, which otherwise would have been shown at Guelph.

The centre of attraction of the fat stock