

they are doing, empts them to bankruptcy. This special world will be stock circles, rapidly on the "wild-cat" than formerly, principles are ins in by-gone most impossible ng. If cattle a high price, owner in a few in the natural more systematic and small pro word. Early in this inevit-

\$1.75 per hun- and yet the re- hen. There is duct than last lative. A firm e to Berlin to ning a packing a large dressed g to begin the Germany. The and forwarding s is on the in-

high as now. here at \$12 to g cattle, year- 4 to \$5.75 per meeting and the ay 19-21, will

ter. (RENT.) til 2nd, 1884.

ow raging very l grazing inter- great meat con- and the *casus* adopted by the o moted by the trictions on the t was framed venting the in- the landing of mitted by the ave met the de- extent, so far concerned; but for Mr. Chaplin "protection" industry of the d. They want , but from com- in fact all they hen the bill got the Conserva- make a successful stringent char- bill, the effect to remove the Privy Council pulsory, upon imported from

any country, to at once stop the landing of live cattle from such country, so that all cattle sent to us would have to be slaughtered at home, and the dead meat only sent to us. How this would embarrass, and in many directions destroy the trade, is obvious. If we depended upon our own internal supply, butcher's meat would soon be the luxury of the very rich and would scarcely be obtainable at 50 cents a pound. No wonder, therefore, that a considerable agitation has sprung up in opposition to these amendments, and a hot fight is now raging. The landlord interests, backed up to a certain extent by the farming interests, are taking the one side, and the consumers in the large towns on the other. It is impossible to say what the issue will be; but certainly the interests of the landlords are being well advocated. Certainly many of the arguments adduced are very cleverly devised; but they will scarcely bear analysis, in view of the fact that cheap food is of paramount interest to the great mass of the population here. At the same time, it is undoubtedly the fact that the agricultural interest here is heavily and very unfairly handicapped. On the one hand they are exposed to the unrestricted competition of foreign productions rivaling their own; and on the other, the great coal, iron and textile industries of the country, which give them a market for their more perishable productions, are heavily taxed, and practically speaking, excluded from the markets of those countries which gain the most advantage from our own free markets. Again, the British farmer, during the last ten years, has seen the prime of the rising generation of laborers leave this country and become his rivals in the production of food across the seas, whilst he is left with old men and boys, the lame and infirm, and consequently his labor is either inferior in quality or much higher in price, and his poor rate is largely increased in order to support the old men and women whose sons have left them and who have to come on the parish. Thus, whilst his land is more heavily taxed, his markets are decreasing in number and in value. Therefore the British farmer is entitled to some degree of sympathy. As recently stated at a meeting of the Crewe Agricultural Society, the wheat produced in that district last season was probably as good as any which had ever been grown there, and the harvest was fairly satisfactory; but they had to contend with a better quality of wheat from Manitoba and elsewhere, which could be sold at a lower price. The prospects of the English farmer, not alone through climate, but through foreign competition even when he has done his best, are therefore annually darkening.

Not only in the matter of beef does this cattle diseases bill affect the population here. There is the question of the supply of milk. Notwithstanding the largely increased trade in condensed milk from Switzerland, Ireland, and, I am glad to see, from your Maritime Provinces, the demand for fresh milk goes on extending, and necessitates the importation of considerable numbers of dairy cows. These formerly, and more especially for the London market, came principally from Holland, but on account of disease, that trade has been suspended. There certainly appears to be no other country from which milch cows can be imported to such advantage as from Canada. A gentleman went

out last autumn to your Province, and became so satisfied with the dairy cows there suitable for the English market, that in the next few weeks he is again proceeding there to bring over a pioneer shipment. A few cows have been shipped by the cattle salesmen, but without any care apparently having been taken in their selection, and they have tended to beget distrust rather than otherwise. I trust in the interest of the milk consumers here, that the new venture may prove a success.

I understand that the Canadian Government is making extraordinary efforts to attract emigration from the continent, and I should strongly advise any of your farmers who require reliable labor to look out for some of the Swedes and Germans who will find their way to your Province this coming season.

The agricultural outlook in this country, so far as weather goes, is very promising. We have had a mild winter and dry March, and now we are having "April showers." So far the season is typical.

PRIZE ESSAY.

The Causes of the Recent Failure of the Clover Seed Crop.

BY JAMES SHANNON, WOLVERTON, ONT.

Somebody has said that "Clover is one of the mainstays of Canadian agriculture," and, after trials of other plants for fertilizing purposes in comparison with it, we believe this saying contains much truth. Its value in relation to grain farming as the best known recuperating agent that can be used in the regular rotation, is too well known to need further demonstration. As a forage plant it also towers above its competitors. Hence the great loss which now seems to be threatening the American farmer in the destruction of this inestimable plant. Hitherto it has been one of the most healthy plants propagated in this climate, but like other good things, it is meeting with enemies. The clover worm, which feeds upon the root only, seems to be as yet confined to certain districts, and is fortunately not very widely spread. But the most to be dreaded pest is the tiny midge which has lately spread to an alarming extent.

In the present article I shall confine myself to a short description of the clover seed midge, as contained in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for July, 1882, and other reliable sources, with such treatment as is thought will destroy this pest, and still preserve to the agriculturist the use of clover. It is now thirteen years since the writer first heard of this insect from an American gentleman whose family connections then resided in some of the western counties of New York State, where they were said to be working in the clover heads. A year or two later we saw some specimens from the same place. These were, to the naked eye, identical with the wheat midge, then too well known, but, according to entomologists, are not the same insect, but closely related to it. It passes the winter in the pupa state, as is common with the insect tribes. As soon as the weather is warm enough in the spring, the fly escapes, when the female becomes fertilized and is ready to deposit her eggs, which she does soon after the clover comes into bloom.

In about ten days the eggs are hatched, and the larva works its way down the flower tubes to the seed, upon which it feeds. When mature they leave the clover heads, fall to the ground, pass the pupa stage, and emerge as perfect fly, again to repeat the process of propagation. There are said to be two and possibly three broods during the season. Thus prolific with unlimited breeding grounds, it is spreading rapidly, and already large areas in the Northern States and Ontario are infested with it. I do not, however, attribute the recent failures in the clover seed crops in Ontario solely to the ravages of the midge. The seasons of late have been very unfavorable, resulting in blight in many cases. Of course we cannot guard ourselves against the extremes of our climate—heat and frost, drought and moisture—but we can wage a successful war against this little foe by united effort. The only remedy found to be effectual in destroying the wheat midge twenty years ago, was to deprive it of its breeding grounds, and allow it to starve out in time. Just so we think it must be done with this half-sister, the clover midge, with this difference, however, in our favor: In the case of the wheat midge we were obliged to cease for a time the production of wheat. In the present case we may continue the use of clover, and reap at least a two-third value as compared with the past. But we must not allow it to mature sufficiently to be worked upon by the fly. This plan will of course be subject to this one condition, viz., the importation of seed from disinfected districts. If farmers could be induced to adopt this plan for a few years, and avoid all attempts at raising seed, and mow or pasture off all second growths especially, so as to leave no harbor for them, we think it would not be long until we could again take up the ordinary routine. Great care should be taken in the selection of seed, as the larva may be carried in the kernel.

Canada Ahead.

Professor Arnold being in Ottawa during the session of the Committee on Immigration and Colonization, was called upon to give his opinion on Canadian salt in its adaptation to dairy purposes. He stated that much of the talk about the salt of different countries for this purpose were for the most ideas worked by dealers and agents, but he had carefully conducted a series of experiments with Liverpool salt and Goderich salt in comparison, and the Goderich salt produced the best results, and also in subsequent experiments came out ahead of Linn salt. In short, the Goderich and some other Canadian brines were the purest in the world, and the Canadian article was now coming into serious competition with the United States salt for dairy purposes in the American home market.

THE DEMOCRAT WHEAT.—Mr. James Thompson, of Thamesford, Ont., informs us that he considers this a very valuable wheat, and considers that he has made \$300 to \$400 more by sowing the Democrat than he could have done by sowing any other variety.

If you have good milch cows, by no means part with their heifer calves. It is cheaper and less risky to raise good milkers than to purchase them.