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**RURAL NOTES.**

O. C. BRIDGES, Shanty Bay, Ontario, sailed from Liverpool for Quebec, June 1st, with a valuable shipment of Hereford cattle.

WHEAT harvest was over in Illinois by the middle of July. Cool, favourable weather, and, above all, a big crop of excellent quality, are reported.

"FASHIONABLE Butter Jerseys for Sale" is the heading of an advertisement in the *Country Gentleman* of July 20th. Is it the "butter" or the "jerseys" that the adjective "fashionable" is meant to qualify?

THE presence of plants belonging to the sedge family will often indicate to an observant farmer the need of drainage in fields or parts of fields which he supposed to be quite dry. Such broad hints should be acted upon.

THERE is complaint in some localities of apple trees dying the present season. The leaves curl up, and finally wither, the bark shrinks, and the whole tree seems blighted. It is believed to be the result of the protracted drought of last summer.

THE ensilage controversy still rages in the United States, and the battle is so hot that it is difficult to judge whether the *pros* or the *cons* have the best of it. When the smoke and confusion pass away, the truth of the matter will be more manifest.

AT a recent meeting in Buffalo, the representatives of all the railroads leading westward met, and decided to advance freight rates from three to ten cents per one hundred pounds, from and after July 24th. If this rise is applied to the grain crop about to be moved, it will amount to a tax which the Congress of the United States dare not impose upon the American people, and, any way, this tax-levying power of great railroad corporations ought to have a legislative limit.

PROF. J. L. BUDD, the able professor of horticulture of the Iowa Agricultural College, accompanied by Mr. Chas. Gibb, of Canada, has started on a trip to Northern Europe and Asia, to look up personally the apples, pears, cherries, plums, apricots, peaches, grapes, shrubs, trees, etc., grown on the northern steppes. The journey promises important results. While Southern Europe is well known in its varied products, etc., the region north of the Caucasus is unfamiliar to English and American horticulturists.

THE shipments of beef cattle to England seem to be giving place to those of dead meat. This is

not surprising when it is considered that there is a large percentage of loss on live cattle. An English journal states that of animals shipped last year from United States and Canadian ports, 8,721 were thrown overboard, 468 landed dead, while 472 arrived so much injured and exhausted that they were killed at the place of landing. The amount of money represented by these losses makes the fitting up of refrigerators on board ships a mere bagatelle in comparison.

THE *Globe* is responsible for the following item:—"Canadian farmers will be interested to learn that from the seed of the Early Amber sorghum there can be made a splendid article of buckwheat flour; or, which comes to the same thing in these days, not one person in a million could tell the flour made from sorghum seed from that made from buckwheat. The sorghum flour is, in fact, the better of the two, as it does not, to the same extent as does buckwheat, furnish the consumer of griddle cakes with an insatiable longing to wear out the back of his shirt against the gate-posts."

THE *Prairie Farmer* has this to say about Devon cattle:—"General Ross, the well-known Devon breeder of Illinois, has sold some of the best of his stock this season to go to Colorado. Upon hill pastures this breed will take the palm, and there is no question that the beef of the Devons is superior to either that of the Shorthorns or the Herefords, if indeed it is not better than that of the Galloways. Among the Devon breeders of Colorado are Levi Allen, Cary and Robert Culver and N. M. McCauslen, of Boulder county; J. R. Whicher, W. H. Thompson, Mr. A. Sherman and L. E. Eldred, of Fremont county."

A BUREAU of Animal Industry is likely to be created in the United States, the Senate Committee having reported favourably on a bill for the purpose. The chief of this bureau is to be a competent veterinary surgeon, and the functions of the bureau are to be as follows:—"To investigate and report on the number, value, and condition of domestic animals in the United States, their protection and use; also to enquire into and report the causes of contagious and communicable diseases among them, and to collect such information on these subjects as shall be valuable to the agricultural and commercial interests of the country."

THE *London Live Stock Journal* of June 28rd contained the following item:—"Mr. Wilken, Waterside of Forbes, shipped for the Hon. M. H. Cochrane another consignment of Polled Aberdeens yesterday, from Glasgow. The consignment is the fourth Mr. Wilken has sent to Mr. Cochrane within twelve months. There are in the lot six

cows with calves at foot, eight heifers and ten yearling bulls. They come from a number of herds, over twenty different breeders being represented. In this lot goes that fine cow, Blackbird of Corskie 2nd, 8024, the first-prize cow at Perth in 1879, and her heifer calf, dropped since she was purchased by Mr. Wilken at 200 guineas."

SHORTHORN buyers appear to be coming to their senses. The *Farmer's Review* says:—"It is with pleasure that we note the increased price of Shorthorns this season. Except in a few instances where fashionable pedigrees (useless animals) were sold at fictitious prices, the sales of the season have been of a practical aspect. Good remunerative prices have been paid for good animals, while poor ones have brought only beef prices. We hope to see this state of affairs continue. Let pedigree be regarded as only a guarantee that the animal is purely bred, and let individual merit govern the selections in Shorthorns, and the result will be improvement in the breed."

A TABLE showing the shrinkage of wool in cleaning has been issued by the Merino Sheep Breeders' Association of Michigan. It is based on testings made under the auspices of the Association in connection with a recent public shearing. Of the thirty-two fleeces taken off, eight were offered for trial, and these not the heaviest. They shrank from sixty-one to sixty-eight per cent., those in the dirt weighing from thirteen to twenty-four and a half pounds, and the loss from cleaning being from eight to seventeen and a half pounds each. It will be borne in mind that the test was had with the wool of the Merino sheep, which is peculiarly apt to gather dirt, but the percentage seems a large one even with this fact in view.

F. D. COBURN, author of a good, practical book on pig-farming, makes fun in the *Breeder's Gazette* of those sentimental people who maintain that the hog is "the cleanest of domestic animals, if he has only a fair chance." He says: "You might as well tell the farmer who knows his habits, that he is a singing-bird, or works well in harness. He cannot be induced to eat so much mush and sweet milk that he will not be willing to travel some distance to interview the carcass of a mule or cow diseased a fortnight before. I suspect that he would abandon the laughing brooklet at any time for an hour's repose in a bath of mud, mortar, manure and nastiness of such consistency as he likes. Of course this is all very shocking as well as new to some folks, yet the hog can do all these things and still be more cleanly than most dogs, or a good many people. He has his little peculiarities, but back of all of them he is chuck full of merit and meat."