

Stock Notes.

Mr. Armstrong, of Speedside, Ont., writes: The sale of cattle on the 4th brought very low prices. Although a great many were inquiring for bulls, yet money seemed so scarce that they would not go to a high price. The highest sum paid for a bull was \$180, for British Heir; Mr. David Rea, Eramosa, was the purchaser. The next highest for a bull was \$140, for Lovely Prince; the remainder of the bulls ranged in price from \$50 to \$90. Of the females, Princess Josephine 2nd, and heifer calf, bought by Mr. Wm. Whitelaw, Guelph, brought \$125; Cherry Blossom and heifer calf, Robert B. Fleming, County of Bruce, for \$120. The rest brought under a hundred dollars. My other stock are doing well. I have some fine calves from the Princess bull, 2nd Prince of Springwood, which I purchased from Col. J. B. Taylor, London.

The Ayrshire Breeders' Association met at Utica, N. Y., on the 17th ult., and elected officers for the ensuing year, as follows: President, Wm. Birnie, Springfield, Mass.; Vice-Presidents, Obadiah Brown, Providence, R. I., and Samuel Campbell, Utica, N. Y.; Secretary, J. D. W. French, North Andover, Mass.; Treasurer, J. F. Brown, Providence, R. I. By a vote of 51 to 10 it was resolved to drop from the records the names of all animals whose pedigrees cannot be traced to importation.

THE CATTLE TRADE.—It is said that the Toronto Cattle Dealers' and Butchers' Association proposes holding a meeting shortly at the Rossin House, Toronto, Ont., to which all the prominent Ontario cattle shippers are to be invited, when the live stock trade with Britain is to be fully discussed and plans suggested as to the best mode of dealing with the question.

Our English contemporaries publish the report from the Island of Jersey that the demand for the island cattle is in excess of all previous experience. France and America are competing with England for any choice specimens. It is also stated that "judging by points" is now gone out of use in Jersey, after considerable trial of its expediency.

The Austrians are breeding extensively with imported Arabs, and regard the cross as a decided improvement on the English thoroughbred carried to that country. The impart compact, symmetrical, well-proportioned form, as well as excellent limbs, and roarsers are not to be found among them.

Mr. T. C. Patteson lately purchased sixteen head of fat cattle from Wm. Donaldson, near Woodstock, Ont. The total weight of these cattle reached 21,740 pounds. One steer, three years old, turned the scales at 1,860 pounds. Mr. Patteson paid 5c per pound live weight.

Wm. Hodgson & Son, Myrtle, Ont., have recently sold to A. O. Fox, Oregon, Wis., several head of choice Cotswold lambs, among them two which are bred from their Centennial prize ewe, Grey Lass.

Mr. A. L. Hamilton, of "The Hamiltons," Mt. Sterling, Ky., writes that their herds are doing finely, and that they have had more demand for Shorthorns the last three months than in any previous year.

A meeting of breeders of Clydesdale horses is to be held in Chicago at an early date, with a view to the compilation of a stud-book for the Clydesdale horses of America.

Seven feedings daily for fattening steers are advised by the *Agricultural Gazette*—thus: At 5:30, a feeding of meal and chaff; at 7:30 sliced roots; at 9, meal and chaff; at 12, cake; at 2, sliced roots; at 4:30, meal and chaff; at 6:30, hay. For full feeding from 6 to 8 pounds of meal, and from 4 to 6 pounds of oil-cake, per day, are advised. Of roots, about 60 pounds is advised; although it is stated that a full-sized bullock may eat as much as 250 lbs. in one day.

More Danger Ahead.

HOG CHOLERA.

We much regret to inform you that we believe this disease exists in this Dominion. This week a farmer of this locality came into our office and informed us that there was some kind of disease sweeping off a farmer's hogs four miles from this city. The following evening we drove to the farm to ascertain all we could about it. We found about forty pigs and hogs, some in one place and some in another; one was lame in hind feet or legs; four were buried under straw, but when turned out one coughed and the discharge from them was of an unusually offensive odor. A lot were running in a shed, their skins looking unusually red. We were informed by the proprietor that he had lost forty-two.

The hogs lose their appetite, and bury themselves under manure or straw. They would drink large quantities of water, lose the use of their hind legs and then die; some would recover. From inquiring of our veterinary advisers and also from reading about the disease, we have every reason to believe this to be the real, genuine American hog cholera.

HOW THIS HERD BECAME AFFECTED.

We made inquiries from the owner as to where he procured his pigs from; he said that he raised most of them, and others he purchased from his neighbors. He had not heard of any of his neighbors losing any pigs from any disease. He called in a veterinary, who informed him that death was caused by disease engendered by filth and drinking lye water. On inquiring about the feed, he said he got swill from a leading hotel in this city, where the luxuries of life are liberally dispensed to the wealthy travelers and merchants who stop there. The disease may have been communicated by the straw from the unpacking of goods, fruit or game; or perhaps by the feet of ducks or geese; or by meat that had been contaminated with the virus of this disease, and thus conveyed to his premises as he takes the swill from the hotel.

Whatever this disease may be, we want none of it in Canada. It is the duty of farmers, of veterinary surgeons, councilmen, and of our legislators, to use their influence to prevent the introduction or spreading of every infectious or contagious disease. This is the first instance of suspected or real hog cholera that has ever been reported to this office, and the pigs above alluded to are the first among which we have ever seen hog cholera or thought that it existed.

We hope immediate steps will be taken to prevent the possibility of the disease gaining a foothold in the Dominion.

An immediate examination should be made into the case, if it is the real hog cholera we believe it is. Importation of swine should be immediately prohibited; if allowed to pass through our country in bond, strict regulations should be enforced to prevent the possibility of introducing the disease to our stock. Strict laws should be passed to punish any person attempting the concealment of contagious diseases in any kind of stock. We must use every extreme measure to maintain the health of our stock and our population. The first loss is the best. We must have the case looked into.

John Bull Market Reporter.

WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

As many of our subscribers have frequently asked us to publish a weekly, and as we often find important information that we wish to supply between each issue, we have commenced the weekly in a very small form, and at a very low price. If you want to see a few copies send 10 cents. Address, "JOHN BULL," London.

The Olliver Chilled Plow Company, of South Bend, Indiana, shipped one day last month 40 car loads of plows, numbering 7,000. This company has 350 agents in Michigan and Ohio alone.

Swiss Oats in Scotland.

This comparatively new variety of oats has now spread pretty extensively over Scotland. About a year ago we described these oats as very suitable for high and late districts where other grain often failed to reach maturity. For those late places another year's experience enables us to confirm what we formerly wrote. Swiss oats are long and thin looking in the pickle, yet they weigh well and are prolific. They are getting a little more plump than they were when first introduced. Their great merit, however, is their earliness, which is well maintained. Coming as they do to maturity a fortnight or three weeks before the common sorts, makes the Swiss of great advantage in the hilly districts.

Last year the farmers or crofters in the upland districts who were fortunate enough to have some Swiss oats sown had nothing else ripe when frost and snow made their appearance so destructively. In that very late season the new oats were nearly a month earlier than the other. This year being a very early one, the difference in favor of the Swiss is barely a fortnight in many cases.

The straw of the Swiss oat is not quite so strong, and not usually so long as that of some of our Scotch varieties. Wet weather is, therefore, more apt to "lodge" or break down a heavy crop of Swiss, but their earliness atones for more than all this in very late districts. In upland glens we consider that no farmer should be without some of them. He is independent of them in an early year of this sort; but taking the average of seasons, he will find it to his advantage to have a portion of his cereal crop break under Swiss oats.

But it is not alone in mountainous districts that these oats are valuable. In the earliest parts of the country they are being turned to good account, and are likely to be yet more largely resorted to. Last year some of our Forfarshire correspondents recorded how successfully they were enabled to clear some fields of yellow weed before sowing them with Swiss oats towards the end of May, and after all reaped a good crop of grain. With ordinary kinds of oats that would not have been accomplished. This year Swiss oats have, in the lower part of the country, come in very handy for another purpose. There was an unusually large amount of destruction to oat braid last April and May, by the operations of grub. Many parts of fields were completely cleared of plants. Turnips might have been put in if anything like an entire field had been destroyed, but the grub operates in patches or portions of a field. Some farmers of our acquaintance, whose crops suffered severely from grub, resolved to sow in Swiss oats. This was done during the second and third weeks of May on several farms, with the result that a capital crop of oats was reaped about the third week of August—just about as soon as the rest of the field which escaped the grub.

We have before us a sample of Swiss oats of this year's growth, which looks well, and weighs, we are assured, 45 pounds per bushel. The seed was not sown till nearly the end of May, and the crop was reaped about the middle of August. The crop was thus scarcely three months in the ground. The soil was strong, and the climate one of the earliest in Scotland.

It is certainly a boon to have some sort of grain that can be relied on to reach maturity even in the latest seasons and highest cultivated altitudes; and it is a material consideration, even in the low country, to have access to a variety of oats that will reach maturity in ordinary time, though not sown till close on Whitsunday. There will thus be less occasion for blanky fields in harvest through the depredations of the grub or other vermin in spring than has hitherto been the case.—[North British Agriculturist.

These oats may be of value to Canadians. We wrote to a friend in Scotland about the above above extract before publishing it; he says the report can be relied on.—Ed. F. A.

ONTARIO POULTRY ASSOCIATION.—This Association held its annual exhibition in Guelph the last week in February. The number of birds exhibited was unusually large and of fine quality. About \$1,600 was awarded in prizes. The attendance of visitors was not quite as large as was expected.

HONEY BEES.—We call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Mrs. Cotton in another column under this head. We have heard that Mrs. Cotton is one of our most successful bee-keepers.