

them. They may perhaps have some effect upon the cattle and hog trades in preventing the proper finishing of the animals for market. And yet it would be a calamity if such were the case. The quality of the fat cattle offered to-day is not so good that they can be put upon the market in any less finished condition. And yet many a farmer will hesitate about putting these high priced feeds into his animals unless he sees a prospect of good returns. But it will pay to finish all cattle well whether feed is dear or not. Nothing should be half done.

Canadian "Stores" Agitation

The English correspondent of the Chicago Live Stock Report, in dealing with the proposition to admit Canadian store cattle into England, contends that to remove the embargo in reference to Canadian cattle, it would be no more than fair to give cattle from the United States the same privilege, as they claim to be without disease as well as Canadians. Then if the embargo were raised to both countries, where would England be if disease were to break out in Canada and the United States. There would be practically a meat famine, as the English farmer would have gone out of breeding store cattle.

The writer evidently does not understand Canadian conditions at any rate. In a country stretching over a wide area, such as is the case with the Dominion, it would be impossible for any disease, and particularly pleuro-pneumonia to spread to all the cattle in the country. If it did break out in any one section, which there is no prospect of it doing at the present time, it would be practically impossible for it to spread over any large area with our present system of quarantine and veterinary inspection.

Quarantine Regulations Again.

A few days ago it was reported that Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, for the United States, accused the Canadian Government of failure to keep a Canadian veterinarian in England to apply the tuberculin test to cattle shipped for use in Canada or in transit to the United States. Hon. Mr. Fisher, though doubting the correctness of the statement from Washington, explains that the Canadian officer who has been testing cattle has been withdrawn from England only because no further shipments are expected this season. It is very unusual for any number of cattle to be shipped from England to this country during the winter and so it was not thought necessary to keep an officer there all the time. Besides, Dr. Rutherford, before leaving, made arrangements with three competent men in England to do the testing in case any cattle were shipped. The Washington authorities were notified of his withdrawal and there does not

appear to be any grounds for the accusation made. The Washington officials, however, have stated that they are not prepared to accept the test of the three English officials referred to, and consequently, any cattle that may arrive in Canada during the winter destined for the United States will be re-tested by the Canadian officials on landing on this side. But the United States have their own official in England and he is at liberty to test any cattle shipped to Canada for the United States.

Truly, the administering of the quarantine regulations between this country and the United States requires a lot of careful and judicious handling. The present action of Secretary Wilson, if he be correctly reported, seems like making a "mountain out of a mole hill." When officials are so sensitive on these points, there seems little hope of the breeders getting what they are entitled to, that is the abrogation of all tuberculin test regulations between Canada and the United States.

The Value of a Good Sire.

Many farmers fail to appreciate the real value of a good sire in any herd. In cattle, for example, who can measure in dollars and cents the value of a good bull. It is impossible to do it except in the abstract. Many will, no doubt, consider that the price (\$7,500) reported to have been paid for the Flatt bull, Choice Goods, by Robins & Sons of Indiana is a most extravagant one, and more than the real value of the animal. But consider a moment and try to estimate in dollars and cents the real value of this bull to the herd of these American breeders. Robins & Sons are among the leading breeders of Shorthorns in the United States. We would, therefore, expect them to have a number of females of individual excellence. These females are bred to this noted bull, who, if he is all he is claimed to be, will impress his own good qualities on his get. The result will be a higher type of animal in the young stock of the herd and an increased value to each offspring that will, in a comparatively short while, more than make up for the large price paid. Such has been the experience with other noted sires, provided they were mated with animals having individual excellence to back up a good pedigree such as Belvedere, Duke of Connaught, etc.

The same line of reasoning will hold good with less noted and much cheaper sires, such as the ordinary farmer could afford to purchase. When systematic breeding methods are followed the influence of any good sire will live for years after the animal is dead and gone. In selecting a sire the farmer must buy for the future, not for the present. While the influence of a good sire makes for the building up of any herd, it must not be forgotten that the influence of a poor sire

has the opposite effect. If it is difficult to measure in dollars and cents the value of a good sire it is just as difficult to measure the loss sustained by using an inferior sire. For this reason the difference in price between a good and a poor sire cannot be definitely stated. A man may pay \$50 for a bull and his influence on his herd may mean a loss of hundreds of dollars in the years to come, while his neighbor may pay \$500 for a good animal and gain many times that amount in the years to come from the introduction of this better food. The value then of a really good sire cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

The Demand for Horses.

As shown in our weekly market review the horse market reports are not very encouraging. When the dealer is asked how trade is, he will tell you it is dull, and that there is very little business doing. The sales of horses in Toronto recently have been mostly of second-hand drivers and general purpose horses for which low prices only are obtainable. This creates the impression in the country that trade is bad and the outlook not promising. And so it is for the general run of horses, the class that is most plentiful in the country to-day. And even these, though quotations appear low, sell better perhaps than they have done for several years back.

But there is another side to this question that puts the present condition of the markets in an entirely new light, and that is that dealers are prepared to pay good prices for first-class horses of the right type, such as heavy draughts, high-class carriage and saddle horses. But these types are not to be had in large numbers. In fact, it is hard to get them at any price, so scarce a commodity are they throughout the country. This makes trade dull and confines the operations of dealers of the commoner class of horses of which there are far too many in the country.

Not long since, good carriage horses were quoted at Montreal at \$175 to \$350 each, and heavy draughts at \$125 to \$225 each. A week ago, Grand's Repository, in this city, had some enquiry for heavy draughts, weighing from 1,700 to 1,800 lbs. each, but this class was so scarce that trade was small. Good animals of this weight would be worth \$200 each at Toronto. These are certainly good prices that would pay the farmer well who has horses of this type to dispose of.

The lesson for the farmer in all this is, breed and raise the class of horses in demand to-day and for which good profitable prices are obtainable. In our opinion, there cannot be too many of the right sort produced for many years to come. And in any case, it will pay to raise the best types rather than the poorer ones that are all too plentiful.