

buried in the mire. One or two incidents came under my notice whilst standing on the show ground with a friend. A farmer from the West of England, with feet encased in heavy hobnails, was wading along, followed by his wife or sweetheart. Coming to one formidable spot she exclaimed, "Don't 'ee leave me, Jim—don't 'ee leave me." Jim replies, "Come on; thee'll be all right." She expostulated, "How be I goin' to get over this mud?" Jim saw the reasonableness of this, and threw towards her a small piece of plank and said, "Put thee foot on that." She did so, but alas for the success of Jim's gallant effort, for the wood slipped on the greasy clay, threw her down, and Jim, for the next twenty minutes, was busily engaged in scraping the mud, as best he could, from the smart attire of his heart's desire, to the infinite amusement of a number of spectators. Again, there was a model tramway on the ground, which was very largely patronized, but near the Judges' Stand there was a sharp curve, and some stout and jolly farmers, being on the near side, did not notice this, and were comfortably shot into a pool of mud, where they floundered like pigs in a favorite mud patch. It will be seen, therefore, that though so desolate, the scene was not without ludicrous incidents.

It is variously estimated that the losses which will fall on the Royal Society this year through the inclement weather will be from £20,000 to £50,000. Even the smaller sum is serious enough. Still, though this show has resulted in such a failure, it is becoming one annually more international in character, and includes many kinds of implements and other things not strictly pertaining to agriculture. It is, therefore, a question whether our Provincial or Dominion Government should not make a display of our products there, as this would place our resources before the class of men who are most desired as settlers in Canada, in the most forcible and successful manner. The Show will be at Carlisle next year, and this being very central for England, Scotland and Ireland, a large show in every respect is expected.

The steamer "Bulgarian," of Boston, arrived in the Mersey last week, with 1,600 sheep, which, I understand were purchased in Boston and Buffalo markets. These sheep, being evidently diseased, were debarred by the Privy Council Inspector, acting for Mr. Moore, the gentleman who made the seizure of American cattle for pleuro, and of hogs for typhus, and who is at present ill. The Privy Council, on being aroused, sent down Prof. Cope, and he at once pronounced it to be a decided case of foot and mouth disease, though this is strenuously disputed by several shippers and others. Notwithstanding this they were all ordered to be slaughtered on the Quay, and they were ultimately taken to the new lairages at the Hoskisson Dock and slaughtered there, the skins being impounded. If this be a case of foot and mouth disease, it can only have reached the States through imported animals—probably from Holland and Belgium, which are the hot-bed of this terrible disease in Europe. I understand that representations have been made to your Minister of Agriculture, which, probably ere this reaches you, will have resulted in the prohibition of the entry of American sheep into Canada, and the taking of all other possible precautions, for the foot and mouth disease, unlike pleuro, may be conveyed by the slightest means. It has even been said that hares and rabbits, or dogs will take it from one farm to another.

In the current number of *The Nineteenth Century* Mr. T. Vernon Smith has an article upon the development of your immense area of prairie land in the North-West, which he considers destined to

work a great revolution in the sources of food supply. The article has excited great attention.

Speaking of the Liverpool Cold Store of Messrs. H. J. Stephenson & Co., already referred to in this letter, the *Mark Lane Express* says: "This is a step in the right direction for putting the dead meat trade on a firm footing; and it is to this trade, home and foreign, that we must look for the extinction of the foreign import cattle trade to which producers owe the presence of contagious diseases of animals."

Yesterday I heard an old farmer of 50 years' standing say that he does not remember a season which, up to the present time, has looked so utterly dark for the British farmer as the present one. I hope to have better weather news in my next.

#### Manitoba—No. 2.

In undertaking to furnish our readers with correct information about Manitoba and the North-West Territory, we find we have one of the most difficult tasks we have undertaken since commencing this publication. In every new country there is a difficulty in forming correct conclusions; more particularly is this the case in Manitoba, there are so many powerful influences at work, all tending to bring men and money into this part of our Dominion, the centre of which is at present in Winnipeg. In our writings we shall endeavor to lay the advantages and disadvantages of this section of the country before our readers. We do not think that the real interest of the farmer will be overlooked if we expose a few evils that appear to be at present existing.

It would be a much easier task to write a laudatory account of all the prosperity and future prospects, or an emigration pamphlet, or disparaging accounts. But we must give you both sides as they appear to us. We cannot convey a correct idea in the small space that we can occupy in one or two issues of this journal; it will take some months to complete our observations on our first trip, which took place in June, generally the wet month in Manitoba, and this season it happened to be unusually so. The height of excitement in regard to this Province is probably at the present time; at least we hope so, for the deluded class are too numerous. We fancy that we know enough about wet and mud in Ontario, so that we can form an opinion of the state the land would be in when dry. We do not wish to check enterprising, active, energetic farmers or speculators that have money from going there, but we wish to immediately check the emigration of poor and industrious farmers' sons that cannot command about \$1,000; our last issue stated \$600, but we do not deem that sufficient to make a good start with. The Government pamphlet states \$300 as sufficient; that sum may have been so a few years ago, if the individual was fortunate, but the present position of affairs requires more money to make a start with.

We returned to our office on the 8th of July, having been away just four weeks. Emerson is the first point we touch on reaching Manitoba; it is a thriving, busy place, and appears as if it will be an important town, having the advantages of railway and steamboat communication, and good soil in its vicinity. We saw wheat growing most luxuriantly; it was looking better than the majority of wheat-fields we have seen in Ontario. We heard many farmers there who had taken up land speak most favorably of their prospects; many preferred the climate and soil to that they had left in Ontario. Those that were engaged in mercantile pursuits were doing well, and hotel-keepers were doing a good business. Many emigrants were preparing to go into the country to their several destinations. Many people were out of employ-

ment and could not find work. Several emigrants who had intended to take up land had returned unable to find suitable locations, and complaining bitterly about having been deceived; they were much exasperated. Many were going into the United States, some to take up land, some to seek for work. Many of these are farmers' sons who came here expecting to obtain free land, to do some improvement and work out part of the time to earn necessities, many of them persons who have gone through hard work in Canada, and ready to go through hardships and toil if they could see a chance of their obtaining the land they expected; but having expended from one to two months in traveling in quest of suitable locations, they leave in disgust; they go to the States, enraged by the treatment they have received, and now take the oath of allegiance to that country. They complain that free land suitable for farming, within reasonable distance of timber, is not to be had; they have traveled to every place they were directed to, and have been deluded by false statements. The best lands are now all taken up, or reserved for Menonites, Icelanders, English companies, the Hudson Bay Co., Indians, etc., and what is not taken by these and other reserves is Scrip, that is, held by speculators, some of whom hold from 50,000 to 100,000 acres. The only free land to be obtained is wet and low, and not worth having, or is too far from timber.

Again, they say that speculators want from \$3 to \$10 per acre; then if they go and hunt and report favorably of a lot, the speculator will spring the price on them or pretend it is sold. From these and other causes

#### WE HAVE LOST SOME THOUSANDS

of really first-class, loyal men, who would have been settlers in our Dominion—men that shameful treatment or rascally bad management have driven from us, and most of whom are driven for ever from the British Crown. We have been paying many thousands annually to import poor, miserable, inefficient emigrants, and for the lack of correct information allowing our farmers' sons to be deceived and driven to the United States by bad management, neglect or greed. One of our good native sons is really worth more than a dozen of these new imports that we have to feed and clothe.

After spending some time about the Village of Emerson, we walked to the emigration sheds. Here we found some that were going into the country, but by far the larger number have been out, some in search of work, some in search of land. As we approached the sheds we met three good farmers' sons walking off to the States, intending to work and get back the best way they could. Some had been at work on the Canada Pacific R. R. They say the men broke out with black-leg or other diseases from improper board; they were treated like dogs. The men would not be allowed to board themselves, but must pay the Company or be dismissed; their wages were reduced without notice, and they were not paid as agreed; every man had to pay fifty cents for doctors. Two of the men had been injured by blasting, and were allowed to lie unattended, except by the other men after work, and they died from neglect.

From so many similar reports about the treatment of the men, we are inclined to think that the workmen on this line differ very materially from the operatives that struck on the Grand Trunk R. R. The men only asked for their own and their just dues on the Canada Pacific, but on the Grand Trunk the men committed acts deserving of severe punishment, imprisonment and fine. The contractors appear to us from all reports to have been at fault in Manitoba, and they should be made to pay all expenses connected with that disturbance. We hear of several that are unable to pay their