

known wool merchant that thirty years ago he had often bought in a single season more wool from farmers' wagons in Hamilton, than could now be bought on the whole railway line from Niagara to Windsor! And it was the same all over. Little villages in almost every part of Western Ontario would then turn out from five to seven carloads of wool in three days, that now scarcely show a sack for sale. And yet it will scarcely be affirmed that farmers are more prosperous to-day than they were thirty years ago. The reason of this falling off in the wool supply is that Government and every other sort of encouragement has been given to almost everything the farmer raises except sheep. The useful, profitable sheep has been given the go-by. Of course, the conditions of the wool trade have changed from what they were thirty years ago. These conditions should be understood. Certain sorts of wool are in demand in Canada, others are not. What is wanted is a systematic education of our stock breeding classes in the sorts of wool that are most profitable to raise, and the sorts of breeds of sheep that are best fitted to produce these wools. The Government is the proper institution to carry out this educational work, and the Government should undertake it at once. Every year that this is not done means a tremendous loss to the revenue of our people.

But we have said enough on this matter for one paper. We shall return to the subject again and again. Our heart is in it.

Government Aid to Live Stock Breeding.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, has been making a speech in England, in which he has given utterance to a Government policy which we believe to be one we ought to come to here, and the sooner so the better. Sir Michael remarked very forcibly that the day for raising wheat in England had passed, but that stock-raising was an industry in which no foreigner could beat an Englishman. The future, therefore, of the British farmer depended upon the live stock of the country, and Sir Michael maintained that it was the duty of the Government to foster the live stock industry by every means in their power. They had already done something, both in Great Britain and in Ireland, in the promoting of the breeding of horses, but he believed that something should be done in promoting the breeding of other classes of stock. Every word of Sir Michael's remarks applies with as much force to Canada as to Britain. Owing to foreign competition the day for wheat growing in Canada, as an important industry of the country, is past. But foreign competition, while it may lower the prices of inferior stock and inferior classes of meat, has not, and will not for many years, affect the prices of the best classes of stock. The Canadian farmer, like the English farmer, is a horn stock-breeder. The hope of the country, therefore, lies in the improvement of the quality of the live stock it produces. That improvement can be greatly promoted by government assistance. In precisely the same way as our cheese industry and our butter industry have been built up, so should our stock industry be built up. There are two ways by which government assistance can effect improvement in this matter: First, by making it possible for pure-bred sires in all classes of stock to be generally available in every district of the country where their use would be beneficial, second, by making it easy for our meat products to be placed upon the English markets in the best possible condition. Our Dominion Government is doing a very great deal towards carrying out the second-named means of help. But the first-named means has hitherto been untried, and yet it is the beginning of the work of improvement, the first step, without which improvement on any large scale will be impossible.

Canadian Cattle in the United States.

The new United States tariff upon cattle is as follows: On cattle less than one year old \$2.00 a head. On all other cattle (except pure bred cattle for breeding, which are free), if not valued at more

than \$14.00 per head, \$3.75 per head, if valued at more than 14 per head, 27 1/2 per cent. ad valorem. The old duty averaged about \$1.50 a head. The new Dingley Bill duty ranges from \$4.00 to \$6.00 a head.

Notwithstanding the predictions that the Dingley tariff would cut off the export of Canadian cattle to the United States there has been so far no sign of their fulfilment. The recent sales of Canadian cattle in Buffalo have been larger than at any previous time since the removal of the quarantine regulations last fall. In the week ending Sept. 4 the receipts at Buffalo were over 80 car loads, and since that date the shipments to that market from Toronto and other Canadian markets have been equally bulky. While it is regrettable that our Canadian farmers have to lose the duty that the Dingley Bill imposes (for our export is scarcely large enough to make it otherwise), still this continuous brisk sale of cattle means a brisk movement of money among our cattle producers, which in itself is a good thing. But we should like to be able to chronicle an equally brisk sale of Canadian cattle for export to England, but our English trade in cattle is as yet in an undeveloped condition. The great attraction of the Buffalo market is its nearness, its quickness, and its freedom from risk. About two-thirds of the Canadian cattle sold in Buffalo are said to be sent there by the original owners, or else by small dealers who could not operate in transatlantic speculations. Nevertheless the Dingley tax of about \$5 a head is a heavy penalty to pay for access to a near and lively market. We hope soon, therefore, to be able to chronicle the fact that our government is doing something to practically encourage our meat trade with Great Britain, for only by selling in Great Britain can we escape the payment of the toll which the Dingley Bill imposes on us.

Growing Popularity of the Hackney.

The hackney is gaining in favor everywhere. Ireland has been for years almost a preserve for the thoroughbred. Irish hunters are known for their excellence the world over; but still there are many Irish farmers who cannot produce hunters profitably and who would like to be able to use a breed of stallions that would produce fairly good carriage horses. They have wished to be able to use the hackney, but heretofore all government and official encouragement has been given to the thoroughbred. This year, however, at the show of the Royal Dublin Society (a show remarkably successful because of the attendance thereof at the Duke and Duchess of York), a class for hackneys was introduced, and it is said that when the hackneys were being judged three times the number of people congregated at the ring that were present at any time when the thoroughbreds were being judged. This shows that people recognize the hackney as a good harness horse. This year, also, five out of the twelve commissioners appointed to enquire into the condition of the horse breeding industry in Ireland reported in favor of Government recognition of the merits of hackneys, instead of this recognition going as formerly exclusively to thoroughbreds. The argument is that for one man who can use a thoroughbred profitably ten can use a hackney profitably; and that it is quite as right to help ten men to get say \$25 increase in the price of the horses they raise as it is to help one man to get an increase of say \$250 in the price of the horse he raises.

Lessons of the Swine Plague.

The terrible swine plague that has been ravaging through the middle States this past year has made one definite impression upon swine-breeders, and the breeders of all other sorts of stock as well, that is, that cleanliness is the all important condition of health in stock-raising and stock-keeping. The cause of hog cholera is a bacterial germ which has its origin in filth. This germ is reproduced in filth, and it is carried about from place to place as filth is carried about. One frequently disastrous means of distributing the germ is water. The water from a filthy pig-yard is allowed to get into the well or pool

of water of which the swine are expected to drink. If any cholera germs are about, they are sure to be transmitted in this way into the systems of the animals that drink of the water. The only water that cattle, sheep, swine or horses should be allowed to drink is water as pure as that which man would drink.

Three Points in Swine Raising.

The Swine Breeder's Journal in discussing the tendency of hogs to disease says that there are three things that the experience of the past two years has emphatically impressed upon the swine man: (1) The absolute necessity of caution in changing from one diet to another; (2) the absolute necessity of using nothing but the purest water as drinking water for the swine; and (3) the absolute necessity of protecting swine from the injurious effects of dust. The first necessity has been generally recognized, if not acted upon, by the progressive swine-breeder for some time. The second necessity the ravages of the late plague have brought home to the minds of breeders in a way that will not soon be forgotten. But the third necessity is not so generally recognized as the other two, and yet it is as requisite a condition of good health as either of the others. Swine should not be allowed to wallow in dusty pens, fence corners, or straw stacks. Whenever they sneeze it should be taken as evidence that something is wrong. In swine-breeding, clean sleeping-places are an indispensable necessity.

Unprofitable Dairy Cows.

The average annual milk per cow in the United States is 3,000 lbs. instead of the 6,000 lbs. it ought to be. The average annual butter product of cows kept for making butter is 125 lbs. instead of the 300 lbs. it ought to be. Only one-third of all the cows kept for dairy purposes yield any profit whatever. "Is it any wonder then," asks *Hoard's Dairyman*, "that there is a need to keep constantly preaching the gospel of better cows?" In Canada the average yield per cow is somewhat better. It is estimated to be 3,400 lbs. of milk per annum. This, however, is 2,600 lbs. less than what it ought to be. The farmer who does not keep a strict tally of what his cows produce at the pail to see that none fall below the standard needed for profit is losing money.

The Illinois Anti-Color Oleo Law.

We regret to learn that the oleo-margarine people of Chicago are putting up a big fight to destroy the law recently enacted against coloring oleo-margarine to look like butter. The fight is not against the constitutionality of the law as such, but against the actual passing of the law on the ground that owing to an informality it was illegally put through the legislature. The butter men are very indignant against this procedure, and in the meantime are determined to press the law against all infractors of it, whether manufacturers, wholesale dealers, or retailers. In the end, should they prove victorious, they will have given the law-breakers a lesson in morality they will not soon forget. The butter-makers of Canada should be very thankful that there is no "oleo" to fight against in this country.

The Value of a Reputation.

The most valuable possession that a dealer can acquire—who sells his goods to distant buyers—is *reputation*. Reputation is hard to get, when once got it may easily be lost; and when once lost it is almost impossible to be got a second time. The English cheese market offers some good illustrations of the soundness of this law. The Americans lost their hold on the English market for cheese, partly because for some years they made poor cheese. They are now trying hard to win their reputation back again. But the answer of the British buyer is: "We want our cheese as solid as a board. We know what your cheese is—it is full of holes." Wisconsin is one of the best dairy States in the Union; and Wisconsin is trying hard to secure a good reputation for herself; and she