

**English Letter, No. 3.**

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Liverpool, June 4th.

Barely a fortnight from the longest day, and yet no taste of summer! We are, in fact, just a month to six weeks behind time compared with average seasons; but those who are learned in such things take comfort from the fact that the fruit trees, &c., having escaped frosts, we shall have a plentiful apple, pear, plum and cherry season, and generally a good fruit year. The reports as to grass and cereals are also good, and the farmers, though they have had a very expensive winter and spring, have fewer complaints than usual about things as they are.

Cattle are arriving freely from the Dominion, and so far without any symptoms of disease. Some of them have not been, however, to use a trade term, "finished," and a number of these have been sent to Dublin, where they, no doubt, will realize very fair prices as "stores."

The "block" which I anticipated at the lairages and slaughter houses at this port has already commenced; and the Privy Council having scheduled States pigs, which must now also be slaughtered, the difficulties of the authorities here are materially increased. At a recent meeting the Mersey Docks and Harbor Board authorized an extension of the lairages and slaughtering facilities at a cost of £4,555, but even this, I fear, will be found quite inadequate to meet the demands of the next few months.

I have further to note that the steamship Lizzie, from Boston, arrived recently in London with upwards of 700 American sheep on board. These were landed at Thames Haven, and were afterwards forwarded to the Metropolitan Market, where the inspectors found them suffering from the infectious disease "scab." For some time it has been known in this country that sheep in Kansas and Texas are affected with this disease; but no case has ever been found amongst Canadian sheep. Our exemption hitherto, however, should not warrant the Government Inspectors in relaxing their vigilance in the inspection of sheep passing from this country, as it is just possible that some negligent farmer may not take the simple precautions which are necessary for the extermination of this disease, should it manifest itself in any form. In this connection, whilst conversing with a gentleman who is engaged exclusively in sheep-raising at the Falkland Islands, I was informed that sheep—the descendants of imported stock three generations before—had exhibited this disease, which was, however, easily eradicated by chemical washes, which are prepared for that purpose, and sold by almost all chemists and veterinary surgeons. This is not the first case of this disease which has been detected among American sheep, for in February 150 American sheep were detected with scab in London; and although the Privy Council have not as yet scheduled American sheep, this may be looked for at no very distant date.

As you are aware, the best sheep imported from the American continent come from Western Canada, and it is very gratifying for me to be able to remark that, through the efforts of your journal, your Canadian readers are better informed than any others in America as to the requirements of this market, which has now been proved to be the only legitimate and profitable market for your surplus stock. What is wanted in this respect is more lean, and not so much waste fat. I am pleased to state that one of those enterprising farmers who are the making of any country, Mr. T. D. Hodgins, a gentleman well known to you, having made diligent enquiries of the most competent authorities of this country as to the best

sheep to cross with our Canadians to meet the requirements of the market, has decided that Shropshire sheep or Downs are of the required class, and he has consequently shipped you a very valuable draft, selected from Lord Polewarki's flock, which will no doubt reach London, Ont., before these lines are in print.

I am pleased also to state that a number of horses have arrived here recently from the neighborhood of Toronto, Ottawa, and the Eastern Townships, care having been taken to select those suitable for omnibus purposes, and light compact farmers' horses; and it is very satisfactory to know that the result has proved highly successful. The horses brought, although they did not realize extravagant prices, were of that class which are merchantable, and as easily exchangeable as a five dollar bill. The demand for carriage horses, although slightly improving, is not what it was this time last year. There are a few enquiries for green Canadian hunters, which may be filled in time for the opening of the next season's fox hunting.

Mr. F. W. Stone, jr., writing to *Bell's Weekly Messenger*, on the 26th ult., states that his father's letter to your journal with respect to the demand for Hereford bulls for Colorado and elsewhere, contains a clerical error; "500" in his opinion being clearly intended for 50, which latter number he thinks would be quite adequate to meet the demand. In this Mr. Stone, jr., is evidently mistaken, as I have just seen Mr. Scott of Colorado, who has been in this country for several months, endeavoring to purchase one hundred Hereford bulls for that country. This is only one instance, as there are several others from the far west at present here, bent on the same purpose, and they are now anxiously awaiting any relaxations of the order which prohibits British cattle entering the United States, and in the event of this not taking place within a certain time, I anticipate good prices realized for those Herefords which you have for sale in the Dominion. The reason assigned by Mr. Scott and others for their preference for Herefords over Shorthorns is that it has heretofore been found that the Shorthorns get too leggy, whilst the Herefords and their descendants retain their shape, keep close to the ground, and do not develop the unprofitable offal portions.

Hogs from the States arriving here still continue to exhibit signs of typhus. I visited the abattoirs where they are being slaughtered, at Birkenhead, the other day; I saw some, which had been slaughtered, in really a terrible condition. This must be an awful disease. They were fairly rotten. The whole of the carcasses affected in this manner are placed in a retort and burned, as if they were once allowed to go outside the slaughter-houses the demand for meat in this country is so great, even when of bad or dangerous quality, that there would be serious danger of some of them getting into consumption.

No doubt your farmers' wives are now busy with their crop of turkeys and other poultry. I may here remark that the trade which has been conducted for the last three or four years in poultry from Canada to this country bids fair to be quadrupled during the ensuing season. Your lady friends should bear in mind that the better the quality the better the price that will be paid; and as dealers will leave this country to purchase any really good stock, there will be ample demand for all they may produce, and any special care and attention which is paid to the rearing and fattening will be amply rewarded by the high prices obtained. Anything second-class will not do for shipment to this country.

A report got abroad a short time ago that the Prince of Wales, following the example of several

of the leading land-owners in this country, was going to reduce his rents—in the Prince's case 20 per cent. At a recent rent audit, however, to the great disappointment of the tenants, it was stated that this was an error, and nearly all the tenants declined to sit at the audit dinner. The Duke of Bedford has remitted half a year's rent to his farming tenants, which act of generosity, it is stated, cost His Grace the good round sum of \$70,000. Some of us, however, could just manage to make ends meet on the balance of the year's rent.

The sixteenth annual horse show was held at Islington, London, on Saturday last. The total number of horses shown was 337, in 15 classes. The exhibits are stated to have been of a better class than any since the inauguration of the show. A number of mules have lately arrived from Kentucky, and have been forwarded to some of the tramway companies in this country for trial.

Talking of horses, the greatest event of the English racing year, the Derby, came off on Wednesday, May 28th, and was remarkable for many things. First of all, it was the centenary of the great race; next, the subscribers numbered 280, the largest number ever known; the field comprised 23, the largest since 1867; three horses came in before the favorites; the winner, Sir Bevys, is reported to have been the property of Baron Rothschild, who has since been the victim of sudden death; and finally, the winner was ridden by Fordham, the well-known jockey, who, after being upon the turf for twenty years, and winning every other great turf prize, has only thus succeeded at last in winning the blue ribbon.

The fixing up of the Royal Agricultural Society's show yard, at Kilburn, London, is rapidly approaching completion. There will be something like three miles of shedding for machinery and implements alone. The Prince of Wales will open the show, which is, as you are aware, international in character. In my next letter I hope to say something more in detail on this subject.

Messrs. Cassells & Co., the well-known publishers of London, have announced the issue, in monthly parts, of a new and original work entitled "Dairy Farming," edited by the celebrated Professor Sheldon, one of the best authorities on dairy matters in Europe. The results of recent investigations and experiments in Europe and America will be given, and the various improved practices and processes will be described and illustrated. This being the first important publication on dairy matters in this country, it is anxiously looked forward to by a large number, both of producers and consumers, who are viewing with dismay the advances which have been made by our French and Schleswig-Holstein competitors. The first number is to appear on the 25th inst.

I promised in my last a description of the new cold store which has been constructed in Victoria street, Liverpool; but as it is still incomplete, I must postpone my account for another month.

At about the middle of the past month Canadian steers were sold in the principal markets of Belgium at 1 franc per kilogramme live weight, or about 9½ cents per pound, being nearly double the price at which our choicest stock can be bought for here. If then it pays to re-ship our live stock from England to Belgium, surely it is a safe enough investment to export there direct. Sales of Canadian saddle and carriage horses have also recently been made in Antwerp at from 1,200 francs to 1,800 francs each, or \$240 to \$360. In corroboration of the above, a private letter from Antwerp states that "products of every kind are now being introduced into Belgium from Canada via England, even fat cattle and horses, and they give good satisfaction."—[Montreal Gazette.]