

blood. But the Board had not the means, any more than they had means of importing Horses, or Sheep, or Pigs. To import a few black cattle would not be a benefit, except to show people what they are like, for their males cannot be used to cross with any other breed or with common cattle without greater risk of deterioration than of improvement in the progeny. The whole fund at the disposal of the Board would have been required to make an effective importation, so as to bring within reach of individuals herds sufficiently extensive for the production, not of a few thorough-bred bull calves, which would be unsaleable, but of beef cattle. This being so, the expenditure of the money would have prevented any importation of *Short Horns* this year, and the continued improvement of our *Short Horns*, which the Board has so steadily pursued, would have been stayed. This is what the Kentville argument amounts to. But the Board had no option in the matter. Their past efforts in *Short Horn* importation had led, not to satiety, but to a yearly increasing thirst for the bluest of *Short Horn* blood, and the Agricultural Committee last winter simply expressed the desire of our most intelligent Agriculturists throughout the country when they directed the Board to get some of the very best *Short Horns* that could be obtained.

The time of the black skins is coming. Should the present lot of *Short Horns* sell at reasonably remunerative prices, it is possible the Board may be in a position to make another importation of cattle next fall or spring, and, although the importation of Galloways, Angus or Aberdeens would be a new and untried enterprise, yet it will no doubt be carefully considered by the Board, and meantime any suggestions that may be offered by men of experience or knowledge will be acceptable and valuable. As the Galloways and Angus are about as different from each other as Devons and Herefords, except that they are both black, we hope the backers of these respective breeds will show their preferences in time to prevent the Board making a mistake. It is so much better to have the scolding done before the milk is spilt.]

(From the Country Gentleman.)

FARMING IN NEW ENGLAND.

ANY one who observes the signs of the times cannot fail to note the fact that at no period since the panic of 1873 have the prices for farmers' products been so good as at the present time. It now looks as if farmers might be able to reap the rewards due them after these long years of enforced economy and privation, provided they are in shape to adapt themselves to the circumstances by which

they are surrounded. Prices for nearly all kinds of farm products are fully twenty per cent. higher than two years ago. This is due largely to the returning prosperity of all our business interests, which interests were set in motion by the good harvests that a bountiful Providence gave us, and also due to the good markets which the necessities of foreign nations gave. This ought to be a satisfactory state of affairs to the husbandman, and the rough school, with the stern teachers he has had, ought to have prepared him to avail himself to the utmost of the prospects ahead. I claim that no class of men has suffered the signs of hard times as much as the farmers of New England, and at the same time it has been a benefit to them, for being unable to buy the corn and products of the West, they have had to raise their own supplies, thus serving practically as an illustration of how protection may add to home industry.

Having seen a good deal of New England during the past year, I am convinced from what I see and hear that farmers are raising more crops of all kinds than ever before, and that they are doing it cheaper, and at a greater profit than they ever supposed they could. There was a time when the majority of eastern farmers thought they could not afford to raise corn in competition with the West. This opinion is changed, and now many are raising all they use. In former times they bought their corn. They find, too, that the profit is not only in the corn raised, but also in the greater crops of grass induced by improved cultivation and tillage. Not only has the cultivation of corn increased, but more wheat is raised, both winter and spring, with very fair success; the former in Maine, and the latter in the Connecticut valley.

An increasing attention is being given to sheep, and in many sections sheep are now kept where ten years ago they would have been a rarity. The same is true in fruit-culture of both large and small kinds; peaches and grapes particularly; more attention is given to them, and fair prices are obtained. Sorghum is securing attention in some sections, and experiments have demonstrated that a good syrup can be obtained at a comparatively small outlay, and that it sells at a good profit. One new industry, which Yankee ingenuity has enacted, is the making of apple jelly. This, for a time, must increase, as it gives large returns for a small outlay. Perhaps the greatest gain has been in the improved quality and quantity of our products. This is due not only to the improved methods used, but also to the growing intelligence among our farmers, who are led to study the demands of our markets better, and to provide for them.

The returns from the last census show us that the population of the six New England States is a trifle over four millions; that while the per cent of gain for the whole country is about thirty, in New England it is only about fifteen. With our manufacturing industries prostrated; with a surplus population without work, and in view of the fact of the millions of acres of cheap lands and cheap rates to the West, the wonder is that we have done so well. The agricultural towns show a much less loss of population than in that of the decade preceding this. All these are facts encouraging to the New England farmer. They show him that in spite of the fact of competition with cheap lands, "bonanza" farming, and cheap freights, we can hold our own; nay, more, we can make money and live in the land we love. We can see that when intelligence and industry are applied to our rough farms, they are made to "blossom like the rose;" and that when the taxes and labor bills are paid, there is enough left to give us a liberal support.

But this is not enough. As I said before, the times are improving, and it seems to be the opinion of some good business men that we have just begun a new era of prosperity that may last a few short years. Let us, then, who have had "hard sledding," now that we have got in a better road, remember the team that carried us through, and "make hay while the sun shines." More manufacturing means more money; more money more luxuries and high living, and this means better prices to the farmer. It is well on these closing days of the old year, to take a new account of stock; to make plans for a better trade, which we will be sure to get if we look for it. At the same time the old advice not to "keep all our eggs in the same basket," is good, for with a diversified production, we are always sure to have something that will bring a fair price. Let us remember, too, that quality is better than quantity, and what we do raise let us do it so well that when on the market, cheap rates from a long distance will not affect our prices. This, and raising that for which there is a demand, will give us good returns.

TO BREEDERS AND EXPORTERS OF BEEF CATTLE, AND SHEEP.—Mr. Simon Beattie, having been asked to receive American and Canadian cattle for sale in England, has made arrangements with Mr. Richard Judkins, who has had upwards of forty years' experience as live cattle salesman in the London Smithfield Market, and his son Mr. William Judkins, for the sale of animals in the London, Liverpool, Barrow, or Glasgow Markets. Mr. John Thornton of Lon-