

Jersey Cattle.

Our American cousins have a great Jersey bonanza. The enormous prices that these cattle—"insignificant looking rats of cattle," as some of our farmers call them—are realizing, must tend to open our eyes with wonder. There are but very few farmers in Canada that would take one as a present to breed from; the size would condemn them. But it is fortunate we do not all see with the same eyes. There are thousands of people in America that will and do pay more for the two hind legs of a common frog, than a farmer would pay for a good fat hen or a leg of mutton. To touch a person's appetite you touch their pocket. There are fortunately some that can see as much beauty in a canary as others can in a peacock or elephant. For our part, we can admire the beauty and butter qualities of a Jersey as well as we can that of a Polled Aberdeen; but the greatest point in favor of Jerseys is the superiority of the butter produced from them. People of wealth will have the best. To procure this, two, three and sometimes more than four times the price is paid for Jersey butter than our farmers' wives receive for their so-called butter. Not only is the quality of their butter a desideratum, but the quantity procured from some of the noted Jerseys is astonishing. A record is given of one that produced 25 lbs. 3 ozs. of butter in 7 days, and 778 lbs. in one year; another is recorded as having yielded 22 lbs. 7 ozs.; 15 are recorded that have yielded 18 lbs., and 150 are recorded as having yielded 14 lbs. and over in 7 days. At an auction sale that has just taken place in New York State, the herd, 57 in number, consisting of cows, calves and bulls, realized \$761 per head; the cows, 10 in number, averaged \$1,064 per head.

We are pleased to note that our Canadian breeders are taking a little more interest in this class. The Jersey men have formed an association to conduct their business and look after their interests, attend to the pedigrees, etc. Mr. V. E. Fuller, of Hamilton, Ont., is President. He is an energetic person of means and is building up a herd almost regardless of expense. He feels a pride in his work and wishes Canadian Jerseys to stand second to none on this continent. He has been purchasing largely in Jersey and in the States. The great object he is aiming at is to get a stock that will show the largest yield of butter; he says he is selecting his stock for that purpose, and that he considers it of more importance to have a great and rich milker, perfect udder and escutcheon than any other points, and has now a cow, Bertha Morgan, that has a record of 19 lbs. 6 ozs. of butter in January last. Mr. Fuller aims to stand at the head as having the best Jersey herd on this continent. We can but wish him success in such an enterprise.

English Letter—No. 37.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Liverpool, May 3rd.

After a winter and early spring of unexampled mildness, the end of April and the beginning of May find us returned to wintry weather. April 29th was bitterly cold, with a heavy snow fall which lasted all day; and on the hills in the afternoon there was fully 6 inches of snow on the ground. Till then the promise of a fruit yield of all kinds was brilliant; but now, I fear, much damage has been done.

The emigration from this port, as well as from the continent, is now very great, and the pressure on the steamship companies is enormous. The influx into Manitoba and the Northwest appears

to be on a vast scale, and to tax the energies of the department to the utmost.

The English farmers, notwithstanding the better promise of the season, continue restless and uneasy.

Mr. Samuel Hoare, the celebrated London banker, and Sir T. F. Buxton, another Norfolk land-owner, have just taken a novel method of furthering their own, as well as their tenants', interests. Last week they invited an influential party of their Norfolk tenants to accompany them on a visit to Holland, the object being to gain information as to the mode of farming practised in the neighborhood, more especially dairy farming, in which that country stands pre-eminent. The opinion arrived at is that the Norfolk men did not find the arable fields so well cultivated as their own, nor the butchers' horn stock or horses comparable to those in England, but the grass land was better farmed than their own. An estimate of the out-goings and in-comings per acre of the farms they visited, show a sum of \$22 per acre for rent and farmers' profit. They found that the cow is the Dutch farmer's fountain of prosperity; land is farmed for the cow and not for man. Some of them holding not more than 125 acres in extent, carry 200 head of stock. Cheese-making occupies most of farmers' time. In another portion they visited the land is let for \$18 and upwards per acre, on six years leases. Another conclusion arrived at was that the farmers in Holland are much more prosperous than those in England. The principal reason for this is that the land is just sufficient for a man and his own family to work, and his out-goings are, comparatively speaking, nothing; but he has his rent to pay, and the tax-collector makes a heavy demand of nearly \$5 per acre. It will be interesting to notice that many Dutch farmers find themselves in a similar position to those in your province; they are doing very well themselves, but cannot obtain land, or see any opening for their families, and the consequence is many of them are looking around for fields to emigrate to. A pioneer party of these frugal, and comparatively speaking, opulent farmers' will, I understand, leave for Manitoba during the next few weeks.

A notable instance of the way in which public opinion is changing here is furnished by the Liverpool Daily Mercury, which hitherto, if not exactly hostile to, has been conspicuously indifferent to Canadian interests. On Saturday last it had a leading article on the Dominion and its advantages as a field for settlement, which was warm and encouraging in tone as could be desired. It paid a deserved compliment to the Dominion Agent here, Mr. Dyke, for his exertions in promoting the emigration of desirable classes to Canada.

Great difficulty is experienced by shippers of stock in obtaining ships. Some Canadians from your province made arrangements with the Dominion Line for the transport of their horses. However, the Dominion steamers were so full of emigrants that they transferred them to the Beaver Line. This time a firm contract was made, but the pressure for emigrants was so great that the Beaver Line paid the shippers £50 and their expenses to Glasgow, and found them another ship from that port to Quebec. Thus the Clydesdales, which were originally from Scotland, had to be returned in order to reach Canada. According to the English Board of Trade regulations, only a certain number of horses can be carried on a ship which takes emigrants. In fact one horse shuts out 50 passengers. The freight on a horse would be £10, whilst 50 passengers at £5 each, you can readily understand, would be quite a different matter to the steamship company. The Allan Line steamer sails in a few days with a full cargo of

live stock, as she has been specially reserved for that purpose.

A stock-man from London, Ont., has been making some extensive and valuable purchases, which he will ship to Quebec in course of a week or ten days. It will be gratifying to admirers of "Doddies" in your Province to find that he has become enamored of the "black skins," and has purchased 25 of the best Polled Angus to be obtained for money. They comprise 8 bulls, and 17 females. Also sheep selected from the best flocks, which, in point of excellence and usefulness, cannot fail to be of distinct value to your Dominion. As far as the Polled Aberdeens are concerned, an exception may be taken in your Province where dairy interests have heretofore been paramount, but I understand that he has satisfied himself on that point, as some of the females which he has purchased are from strains which are as good milk producers as any other breed in Great Britain.

Very severe weather has been experienced on the Atlantic recently, and Messrs Douglas & Hendry, who have been again importing carriage horses from your Province, I am sorry to say, lost six valuable horses on the last trip. They were, however, it is satisfactory to know, insured. One unfortunate Yankee brought over 6 valuable trotters for the continental market (where trotting is more fashionable than in England) and being a "sport," thought he would undertake the risk of his own insurance. He landed with two horses, and these died before they could reach the stables. Rather an expensive operation for our cousin.

I may here remark that one of your Toronto drivers has met with great success in France, Hungary, and Russia, as a driver and trainer of trotting horses.

The import cattle trade presents no new feature of interest.

The Gregg Blackcap.

BY T. C. ROBINSON, OWEN SOUND, ONT.

It seems strange to me that the blackcap family are not more popular. I think it must be because they are not so well known by name, for I like their flavor very much, and I notice that folks who "go a berrying" seem to think it quite a stroke of luck to come across a good patch of them. They seem generally called Blackberries by the farmers, and sometimes Thimbleberries. First, let this point be settled by stating that the "Blackcap" is a raspberry, ripening at the same time as the common wild red raspberries of the fence corners, but differing from them in being black, rounder in the top of the berry and more curved in the stalks, which frequently are found touching the ground at the tips and starting to take root again. Of course there are other differences, but these will serve to distinguish the Blackcap from the true Blackberry, which ripens nearly a month later, and is long in berry and more upright in growth.

Sharpless, Cuthbert, Gregg—these are the three small fruits which established themselves at about the same time in the popularity of experienced fruit growers; and the greatest of these is Gregg, if we measure them by their excellencies, as compared with other fruits in their respective classes. Perhaps the Gregg is not absolutely a better fruit than Cuthbert or Sharpless; but there were fewer good blackcaps before than there were strawberries or red raspberries, so that its excellencies stand out more conspicuously.

In the spring of '79, I procured some fifty plants from E. P. Roe, and carefully planted them to see whether they would bear out the uniform praise the Gregg was meeting with. About ten were set on a small patch of clay loam on a southern slope,