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EDITORIAL.

"Scotland Yet," in another column, lays out some useful work for our agricultural chemists and experimenters.

The intelligent rearing and feeding of more and better live stock is the key that opens the door to a more prosperous era in Canadian agriculture.

Prepare for the Ontario Fat Stock Show at Brantford, Ont., Nov. 30th and Dec. 1st and 2nd — the grand round-up for the Canadian show season of 1898.

They had a banner show of Hereford cattle at Omaha. The great interest ranchmen have lately taken in improving their herds has had a good deal to do with stimulating the fine stock trade.

As indicating the improved condition of the Canadian fruit trade this season, our correspondent, "Agricola," elsewhere reports that the first shipment of Nova Scotia apples to London, Eng., netted the shippers from \$4.00 to \$4.50 per barrel. Our Annapolis Valley friends are to be congratulated.

The poultry and egg industry of Canada is entering upon an era of rapid and large development. In order to aid in directing it along safe lines, we have devoted a large share of our space to poultry rearing, and in this issue Mr. A. G. Gilbert continues his instructive articles, dealing with special methods of fattening, particularly the "food cramming" process in vogue in England, France and Germany, and which in a small way has been practiced by a few persons in Canada. It is now to be made the subject of official experiment and demonstration. Mr. Gilbert very properly points out, however, that if this export trade is to grow successfully, our farm poultry must be better bred and better reared. It is folly to overlook this fact.

Mr. J. A. Craig, a Canadian, now of Shanghai, China, was recently on a visit to Ottawa to promote trade between this country and the Celestial empire. Britain now controls more than half of the trade. Russians and French, and United States liners from San Francisco and other Pacific ports, are working up a valuable trade on their own account, which bids fair to grow enormously. Canada has boats, among the finest in the world, plying between the Pacific coast and Hong Kong, and if Canadian shippers seize the opportunity they may realize great profit. China to-day wants flour, lumber, butter, canned goods, and bacon, and she wants the very best we can supply. While in Canada Mr. Craig will arrange for trial shipments of flour, lumber, and other articles. British Columbia dairymen are already shipping butter in sealed tins to China and Japan.

The Tuberculin Test.

The letter from Scotland published in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for October 1st indicates that the plan of dealing with the tuberculin test for cattle adopted by the Dominion Department of Agriculture commends itself to the good judgment of leading minds in the Old Country. The Canadian Government undertakes, under certain conditions, to test cattle for tuberculosis free of charge. Should a person surmise that any of his animals are affected he makes application upon the prescribed form, undertaking to accept responsibility for the results of the test, as set forth. A Government Inspector is then sent to conduct the test. During the past season a very considerable number of herds have been so tested, and but a small percentage (from five to seven per cent.) of animals showed the reaction indicating tubercular trouble, which, by the way, is a very gratifying showing compared with the lamentable condition of affairs found existing among the dairy and other cattle in

the Old Country, where the percentage is estimated to vary from 25 to 40. We find now that there is a general disposition to pay greater attention to improved sanitation, better ventilation, etc. The Government does not order the slaughter of diseased animals nor compensate if the owner slaughters on his own motion, but any animals found ailing must be isolated and the quarters where they are kept will be quarantined. Should the owner desire to kill and dispose of the carcasses for food he consults the local authorities. The premises are released from quarantine upon the certificate of the Inspector that they have been cleaned and disinfected as required.

There are two very sufficient reasons why amateur tuberculin testing by private parties should not be encouraged. In the first place, it is an operation the results of which may be worse than valueless if not properly performed by a person of professional skill and experience. There is reason to believe that not a few veterinarians, even, unfortunately find themselves ill prepared for work of this description. Indiscriminate testing also opens the way, as has been seen in the Old Country, for questionable transactions in the disposal of animals badly diseased, for food and for other purposes. In the next place, a certificate from a Government Inspector (in which case a fee is charged) that the animal has not responded to the test, with other data indicating freedom from disease, is the condition under which breeding stock is permitted to enter the United States without detention for test at the boundary, as provided under the new international arrangement abolishing the old and vexatious 90-days quarantine which long restricted the movements to and fro of live stock between the two countries.

A Study in Manuring.

Our Scottish correspondent in this issue turns his attention to the subject of concentrated or special manures, sometimes called artificial fertilizers, great quantities of which are used in Great Britain, and the use of which is increasing in the older tilled areas on this continent, and where the system of husbandry becomes more specialized. However thoroughly acquainted "Scotland Yet" is with agriculture in the Old Land, we must disillusionize his mind of the notion that the "new world" farmer has no manure bills to foot, being still happily at work on the virgin soil, taking no thought for the morrow or for manure. Even the Northwestern farmer on the rich prairie land that was but yesterday a "breaking" is beginning to husband carefully his once-despised barnyard manure. The withdrawal of plant constituents from the soil is as certain in its results as the law of gravitation, or the checking out of a bank account, and the extent and nature of the elements removed will depend on the sort of cropping. According to Liebig's law of minimum, where there is below a certain proportion of any one of the more important constituents of plant food it is impossible for the land to produce a healthy crop. All must be present in ample quantity, but they avail little in the absence of one another. Hence we find Old Country farmers supplementing the ordinary manure of the farm with "artificial" according to the character of his soil and the crop to be raised, in order to get the most satisfactory results. Slime fungus on turnips, the failure of permanent and hill pastures, sour and innutritious herbage, are attributed to the want of a manure containing phosphate and lime, and so on. The late Dr. Voelcker found that the soil of a very old hop garden in Kent, which produced ample bine but very little hops, although richly manured annually, had had the lime extracted down to an almost untraceable limit. The application of lime brought back weight and quality to the hops. A deficiency of lime tends to produce turnip and clover sickness. For nearly twenty years on the soil at Woburn

sulphate of ammonia alone, or mixed with other manures, but with little or no lime, did remarkably well both on the wheat and barley. Two or three years ago, however, the land was seen to be giving out for some reason or another, and last year it got so bad that the barley absolutely refused to grow on some of the sections. Dr. Voelcker conjectured that the missing link was lime; consequently an application of two tons per acre was made, and now every sign of weakness has departed. On the portion left unplanted there was only an occasional plant, but on other places the crop looked like yielding as much as it did fifteen or twenty years ago.

Seeing unsatisfactory results in given crops, or from certain fields, the advice of "Scotland Yet" is to carefully test dressings of manures commended and so take the evidence of the land itself. By all means, let the farmer also increase the quantity and improve the quality of his barnyard manures by the better feeding of more stock, and discarding the wretched and wasteful methods of handling manure yet in vogue on too many farms.

Treatment of Show Animals After the Exhibitions.

The treatment to be pursued in regard to animals that have been highly fitted for competition at the fall shows is pretty well known to all breeders who have been in the business for any length of time. As the ranks of exhibitors, however, are constantly being reinforced by younger men, who may not be so well informed, and by wealthy citizens who take up farming as a recreation and whose knowledge of the mysteries of breeding and showing is less, perhaps, than the length of their purse-strings, a few hints as to the most satisfactory way to treat show animals after their duties at the fairs are over will not be amiss.

When the show stock arrive home, they are, as a rule, pretty well tired, both of their journeyings and of the strong rations which they have been receiving so steadily during their tour, and are just as anxious for a change of feed as are their owners to give it to them and thus save their pockets from further expense. It is not wise, however, to make the change too rapidly, as a sudden transition from grain and dry feed to rich pastures would derange the digestion, cause scouring, and result in the animals getting a bad setback. As regards horses, cattle, and sheep, the better plan, and the one most generally adopted by breeders, is to lessen the grain feed gradually and turn the animals out on a short pasture for a few days during fine weather till they become seasoned; afterwards they can be given more succulent grasses. Whether they be deprived of the grain ration altogether then is a matter that depends on the condition of the individual animal.

Rams that are to be used on the flock should on their return home be deprived of all heating food, but should, nevertheless, be kept up in good heart so that they may be fit for their work. When the mating time comes salts may be given should a show ram prove sluggish in his work. This and plenty of exercise will remedy any trouble in this direction unless the animal is absolutely worthless naturally or has become so in consequence of too good treatment.

In the case of swine there does not appear to be quite so much caution required in lowering their diet, although here too a gradual change is best. Most of the pigs shown at our exhibitions are too fat, judging from the pork-packer's point of view, and have to lose a considerable amount of unnecessary flesh before they get down to ordinary breeding condition, and, therefore, many breeders shut off show rations at once when the exhibitions close. Some take their show pigs and turn them out on pasture, with no grain, but where they have access to plenty of water, and the results have been quite satisfactory. But here too the breeder