

first impressions count for a good deal. In the case of cattle, the furnishing of good halters, and plenty of feed and bedding for the trip, and in the case of sheep or pigs shipped in crates, washing and trimming previous to shipping, and neatness, with lightness and strength in the crates, and the use of an address card or tag having the printed address of the breeder on it, are all details which indicate business methods and go to make a favorable impression, which will be found to pay many times their cost. The first essential, however, in establishing and maintaining a successful business by whatever method or medium it is advertised, is to produce high-class stock, to feed liberally in order to develop it creditably, and to ship only stock of such character as will themselves be a good advertisement for the breeder and be likely to prove satisfactory to the buyer.

The Canadian Minister of Agriculture Abroad.

Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, recently returned to Ottawa from a two-months visit in Great Britain. He had several objects in view: 1st, to buy thoroughbred cattle for the Dominion Experimental Farms; 2nd, to discuss the restrictions placed by the Old Country on the importation of cattle from Canada for their markets; 3rd, to discuss the purchase of horses in Canada for army purposes (War Office); 4th, to discuss some matters connected with patents and trade-marks with the Board of Trade authorities in England; 5th, to visit the Glasgow Exhibition and inspect the Canadian exhibits there which were prepared under his direction; 6th, to meet with and address various bodies connected with the Canadian trade in food products; 7th, to induce the heads of great shipping firms to improve the accommodations on their vessels for the carriage of Canadian food products; and, 8th, generally to investigate in what way Canadian trade with England in agricultural products can be improved and increased.

He visited many herds of cattle and sheep to find the animals wanted for the Farms, and found stock in England high in price and most of the breeders indisposed to sell their best. It took some time, therefore, to secure the animals desired, and which are coming out in charge of Mr. Grisdale, the Agriculturist of the Central Experimental Farm: some 20 head of cattle and a number of sheep and pigs.

We understand that Mr. Fisher was able to induce the ship-owners to start the improvements desired in the matter of accommodation for shippers, though disinclined to do so when first approached. He also obtained much useful information regarding the improvement of Canadian exports.

Mr. Fisher laid before the Imperial War Office a scheme for the purchase of army horses in Canada, with which they were favorably impressed, and a committee is now investigating the matter. In the meantime, however, the problem has been satisfactorily solved by Col. Dent and Capt. Maudslay, of the Remount Department, who are now thoroughly aware of those districts in Canada where suitable horses can be secured, chiefly through the private enterprise of our local horse dealers. Thousands of Canadian horses have been going forward to Africa this season, and our farmers have been getting remunerative prices—much better than were realized for such animals during recent years.

At the Glasgow Exhibition he found great interest taken in the Canadian exhibits, and most flattering things have been said of them by the press and the visitors. It is a thoroughly good economic representation of the products of our soil and industries. The exhibitors there have done an excellent business, and are well satisfied with the returns for the trouble they have taken. The Glasgow Exhibition is not as large as the Paris or Chicago ones, but the quality of the exhibits and the organization of the Exhibition are excellent. It has been a great financial success.

This season in England has been extremely dry. The hay crop is a very short one. The pastures when he left were burned up and the milk production shrinking. He found everywhere enquiry about Canadian hay. Those who have used it in England acknowledge it to be the best they can get. The hay crop in Canada this season being such a good one, there should be a good demand for the quality of hay which is expected by the English market. It must be free of weeds, amongst which is counted couch grass, and have about 20 per cent. to 25 per cent. of clover. To overcome the cost of carriage, it is necessary that the hay should be more tightly pressed than the old-fashioned press could do. In consequence of the sale of hay to the War Office for South Africa, a number of improved presses have been established in the country, which will be extremely useful in future hay trade with England.

As was foreshadowed in the Farmer's Advo-

cate" when he left on his mission, Hon. Mr. Fisher, like some of his predecessors, did not succeed in securing the removal of the embargo against Canadian cattle, which requires them to be slaughtered within ten days of landing, so that stockers or feeders are barred out and only cattle finished for the block are sent. From the standpoint of the Canadian farmer, many consider it to be by far the better policy for him to finish the cattle here. This restriction is statutory, and Mr. Fisher was told that an amendment could not be got through Parliament. The ostensible reason is to keep out a disease which does not exist and never has among the healthy cattle of Canada, but the real reason is that the majority of British stockmen, and the Irish farmers especially, are opposed to the competition of Canadian "store" cattle, which in times past were so popular there as feeders. A Scottish correspondent of the "Farmer's Advocate" lately threw out a hint that it would be desirable, from the British point of view, to admit dressed meat only (which sells at a lower price), and thus exclude our fattened cattle, which now go forward to the great lairages of Liverpool, London, and Glasgow. If John Bull is wise he will take a hint from the "Farmer's Advocate" and never attempt any game of that sort, and Mr. Fisher will do well to see that the present privilege is retained and the facilities improved. Nowhere in the world is the dressed-beef business carried on so perfectly and on so vast a scale as in Chicago and other Western States cities. Still, they ship thousands of their very best cattle alive to England every year. If there were as much or more money in shipping them as dressed meat, would they send them on the hoof? Uncle Sam is not in the habit of doing that sort of thing. As yet we have practically no export trade in dressed beef. Let us not drop a real substance for an uncertain shadow.

STOCK.

Practical Lessons from the Tuberculosis Discussion.

(From the English Live Stock Journal.)

The echoes of Dr. Koch's remarkable address at the Congress on Tuberculosis are still heard in many lands, and will doubtless continue to be so for a long time. At the closing sitting of the Congress, it was resolved, on the motion of Sir Herbert Maxwell, seconded by Earl Spencer, "That in view of the doubts thrown on the identity of human and bovine tuberculosis, it is expedient that the Government be approached and requested to institute an immediate inquiry into this question, which is of vital importance to the public health, and of great consequence to the agricultural industry."

These statements, no doubt, fairly represent the position, but it may be well to ask whether, during the period of experiment and investigation now before us, something cannot be done to modify the suspicion that has been growing up for some years regarding cattle as a cause of tuberculosis in man. The result of this suspicion has been most detrimental to stock owners in many ways. To specify one instance of this, it is well known to have had an adverse influence on the export trade, as the Governments of Colonial and foreign countries have insisted upon the tuberculin test being applied to all pedigree cattle purchased with the object of improving the stock of these distant countries. No one disputes for a moment the perfect right of the Governments to insist upon any reasonable precaution being taken to prevent the importation of disease. Many thousands of pounds have been spent in this country in order to clear our herds of all infectious maladies which could possibly be conveyed. It is the aim of breeders here to have only healthy stock, and the restrictions to which they have patiently submitted with this object amply prove their earnest wish to comply with the highest practical requirements as to the freedom of their stock from disease. But when the scare about the transmission of tuberculosis from animals to man extended all over the world a few years ago, something was demanded with which it was certainly difficult to comply, and many breeders, convinced of the health of their herds, declined to have their animals subjected to the tuberculin test, and preferred to let the export trade alone, while the diverse and uncertain results of the test have resulted in loss and inconvenience to those who have submitted to it. The cattle breeders, both in the United States and Canada, have revolted against this test in the case of carefully-selected pedigree stock, and if it rested with them its application would be withdrawn at once. It will be interesting to see if the Governments of these countries still consider it necessary to guard against a danger which Dr. Koch considers to be non-existent, because that is really the chief excuse for insisting upon the application of the test. Exporters are quite capable of selecting animals that are healthy, and that will certainly not be the cause

of disease among cattle. The test is not needed for that purpose.

It has been stated that Dr. Koch, in his declaration as to the non-transmissibility of tuberculosis from man to animals and from animals to man, has really attacked his own science, but this is not strictly correct. His discovery of the tubercle bacillus, upon which all the modern methods of dealing with tuberculosis in human beings have been built up, was followed, some years afterwards, by his invention of tuberculin as a cure for consumption in man. As is well known, this cure was prematurely disclosed, and disappointment followed the high hopes with which its discovery was hailed. It was not Dr. Koch who first applied it as a diagnostic among animals, but Professor Gutman, of Dorpat, Russia. Dr. Koch apparently considers it a useful agent for diagnosing the disease in animals for laboratory purposes, as he used it in his recent experiments to prove that the disease is not intercommunicable. The great edifice of suspicion against cattle that has been built up, to some extent by the results of the tuberculin test as a diagnostic for animals, is not, however, part of Dr. Koch's science. The object of his address was to recall attention to the real practical use of his discovery of the tubercle bacillus, which can, in his opinion, best be combated by preventing infection from human beings who are afflicted with the disease. The tendency has been to concentrate attention upon the possibility of the transmission of the malady from animals to man, and the reactions of the tuberculin test have tended to magnify the prevalence of the disease in cattle. Dr. Koch puts heredity and transmission from cattle in the same category, and does not consider it necessary to take any measures against either as a cause of the disease in man, and, of course, he did not make that declaration without a certain amount of proof, his experiments which preceded it, and of which he suggested a repetition elsewhere, being indeed such that Lord Lister admitted that he had established part of his case, viz., the incommunicability of human tuberculosis to animals. The other branch of the case is in dispute, and will probably remain so for many years, but Dr. Koch's pronouncement against it must have some considerable influence, as there is an absence of direct evidence to justify the suspicions that have grown up.

Few would object to adequate measures being adopted to safeguard the soundness and purity of the meat and milk supply, quite apart from the question of the transmissibility of this particular disease. A good deal has yet to be done to secure efficient inspection, and to avoid the unnecessary destruction of wholesome food, as also to apportion the losses from seizures and to introduce the principle of compensation for meat destroyed in the public interest; but the agitation for better inspection will make progress, and capricious condemnations will become more rare. No doubt the influence of Dr. Koch's statement will be increasingly felt in a more reasonable administration of the laws for regulating the purity of food. Some vexatious provisions demanded by local authorities will now have less chance of being conceded than ever, and a few of those already granted may with advantage be revised. On the whole, however, the public are not likely to consent to the withdrawal of safeguards in this direction.

As regards the disease in cattle, there was a good deal of alarmist talk at the Congress, and no doubt there would have been more if it had not been for Dr. Koch's intervention. Certainly it would be a great relief to cattle owners to know that their stock cannot transmit this scourge to the human race, and it seems strange that during all the years of controversy the veterinary profession do not seem to have systematically experimented on the lines carried out by Dr. Koch, as they might have done, though Professor Bang, of Copenhagen, mentioned that he had proved that there was very little danger in inoculating cattle from man. We are sure that the veterinary profession would welcome as much as the owners of live stock the establishment of the theory of the non-transmissibility of this disease from animals to man. This would relieve them from the task of dealing with subjects which do not directly touch upon the branch of study in which they are universally acknowledged to be distinguished experts.

If tuberculosis in cattle were to be treated as a disease of animals, much more rapid progress would be made with its extermination than has been the case during the period of alarm which has followed the introduction of the tuberculin test. The slaughter of cows that took place when pleuro-pneumonia was being stamped out revealed the fact that tuberculosis prevailed to a considerable extent among animals in town cow-sheds, while, according to these post-mortem examinations, it was not largely prevalent in the ordinary cattle stock of the country. It would not cost a great amount of public money to destroy any visibly affected animals in these sheds, compensating the owners for their loss. Professor McFadyen states that two per cent. of the milk cows have tuberculous udders. Could not these be dealt with on some practical scheme

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