

Our Washington Letter.

Washington, D. C., March 20, 1884.

The recent agitation over the exclusion of American pork from France and Germany may have some interest to the Canadian farmer, as the hogs from his farm may be classed as "American pork." A report recently submitted to Congress by a commission of prominent gentlemen appointed by the President, "to examine into the swine industry of the United States, and the allegations as to the healthfulness of the pork products of the country," makes some interesting statements based upon practical experience and close investigation. On the subject of feeding and breeding, it says that it is manifest that the best hogs should be bred on the farms—not only those suited to the wants of the packer, but possessing as much physical stamina and vital power as possible. It suggests that more nitrogenous food would add to the nutrition of the blood and give it greater force in building up the system. The crossing of the breeds, it says, tends to impart greater constitutional vigor than animals have which have been bred for a considerable time in a direct line and on this account it may be advisable for the producers of pork to infuse new blood into their herds. While it may be for the interest of the pork-producer to fit his hogs for market in the shortest space of time, the same law does not hold good in the rearing of breeding stock. It adds that farmers have learned that they should grow slower, and that the food should be of such a combination as to develop the entire structure of the animal during the period of growth, and not the fatty portions to excess.

On the subject of sanitary conditions the report says: "Not all American farmers have yet learned that hogs are really among the most delicate of farm animals, and that exposure and sudden changes of temperature often seriously affect them. It is getting to be well understood that good water is almost as essential as good food to make healthy animals, and as a result of this knowledge, and the gratifying consequences of those who have tried the experiment, where there are no natural streams or springs to furnish pure water, a resort is being extensively made to wells, with wind-mills and pumps attached to procure the needful supply. The better care of the hogs now had, and the precautions exercised by farmers to either burn or bury all animals dying from disease, have had the most salutary effect in increasing the general healthfulness of swine. The sensational and exaggerated theories both in regard to the propagation of hog cholera and trichinae on the farms, are not in accordance with the facts as hogs are now managed and fed. The disease termed "thumps," which is one of the most fatal, is confined to young pigs, and is in no sense contagious, attacks pigs farrowed early, while shut up in pens and deprived of exercise. The maturity on this account has been materially reduced by later farrowing, to give the advantage of exercise, thus preventing excessive fatness."

On the subject of trichinosis in America and Europe, the report shows its existence in almost every nation of Europe, and alleges that Dr. Manson, in his examination of 235 specimens of Chinese pork, found nearly one per

cent infected with trichinosis. Continuing on this topic it says: "The number of cases of trichinosis occurring among people in the United States is very small, usually but two or four effected at a time, and all have resulted from eating raw or very imperfectly cooked pork. Curing and perfect cooking will in every instance destroy the germ. Cooking alone will in most cases be sufficient, if length of time and degree of heat are studied."

The substance of the report on the cause and prevention of trichinae in swine, is, that the worm known as *Trichina spiralis* has no stage of its existence outside of the animal body, and cannot multiply or even remain alive for any considerable time after it quits its host. That every infected animal must become infected either by eating the muscular tissue of another animal, which had previously obtained the parasite in the same way, or by taking food which had been soiled by the excrement of an infected animal. No effectual rules for the prevention of trichinae can be formulated, further than in a general way to recommend that hogs have no access to any animal matter, except what has been thoroughly cooked.

Among its conclusions it adds: That our pork would be firmer and of better quality if part of the corn fed were replaced with peas or similar concentrated food; refers to the soft and oily meats of most fed hogs, and says that barley is reported to make a remarkably fine pork. If the nutritive ratio of the food can be thus changed, the quality of the pork would, according to scientists, not only be improved, but the hogs would gain more rapidly in weight.

The last monthly report from the Department of Agriculture shows that there has been an increase in the value of horses, mules, and all kinds of cattle, with a considerable decline in the price of swine, and a small falling off in the value of sheep.

Agricultural and Arts Association.

The annual meeting of this Association was held in Toronto, on the 14th and 15th of March.

Mr. Joshua Legge, of Gananoque, Vice-President of the Association, was elected President; Mr. George Moore, of Waterloo, Vice-President, and Mr. George Graham, Brantford, was re-elected Treasurer.

A deputation from Guelph addressed the meeting on behalf of the Guelph Fat Stock Club, urging the claims which Guelph had for holding the next fat stock show there. Mr. Drury spoke in favor of holding the show in Guelph, mentioning the lack of interest manifested by the citizens of Toronto and the interest taken by Guelph in the matter. After some discussion the following resolution was carried: "That the next fat stock show be held by the Fat Stock Club at the city of Guelph, and that a grant from this Association be given for that purpose, provided the city of Guelph assist towards the same upon the terms upon which the show was held in Toronto last year."

Mr. Chase said he was delegated by the Guelph City Council to ask that the next Provincial Exhibition be held in Guelph.

Mr. Morgan urged the claims of Ottawa, and said there was a resolution in the minutes to

that effect. A resolution was unanimously passed declaring that the next Provincial Exhibition be held at Ottawa, commencing Sept. 22nd and continuing for a week.

A motion was carried discontinuing the grant to plowing matches this year, excepting \$300 to district No. 3, where last year's grant had not been expended.

The Treasurer's report showed the receipts of the year to be \$35,252; disbursements, \$31,427; balance on hand, \$3,825.

A motion was carried appointing an efficient superintendent for each class of live stock at the Provincial Exhibition, under the general superintendent. Those so appointed were to be on the ground on the Friday preceding the exhibition, for the purpose of properly classifying the stock.

In addition to the membership fee of one dollar, the following charges for entries were decided upon:—Horses, one dollar each; cattle, fifty cents; sheep and pigs, fifteen cents.

Mr. Weld, editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, was asked to address the meeting on a number of questions, especially with regard to the establishment of a Dominion Bureau of Industry, now in the hands of a committee of the House at Ottawa. He objected to the establishment of such a Bureau on the ground of expense, and its interference with private enterprise. The meeting coincided with his views, and accorded him a vote of thanks for the information imparted.

Mr. Shipley asked if it would be advisable to prohibit the importation of live stock from England, owing to the prevalence of disease. A lively discussion ensued, in which instances were cited where farmers had suddenly become poor on account of diseases amongst their stock. It was considered to be of the utmost importance that Canada should be kept free from the foot-and-mouth disease; if this country were once put on the black list like England and the United States, it would be ruin to the exportation business. Through excessive importation, the United States was thought to be as badly infected as England. The following resolution was finally carried:—"That a memorial be sent to the Hon. J. H. Pope, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, asking him to prohibit the importation of cattle, sheep and pigs into Canada, until such time as the foot-and-mouth disease is abated in Great Britain and the United States."

The meeting adjourned till 29th April.

STENCIL PLATES—Every farmer should possess a stencil plate with his name and residence cut in, so that he may plainly mark all bags, blankets, robes and boxes with it; also a brand with which he can burn his name into the handles of hoes, shovels and other tools. Then, if he is blessed with a borrowing neighbor, the sight of the name may remind the borrower to return the tool before he has worn it out. At least, there will be less danger of his thinking he owns it because he has had it so long that he has forgotten how he came by it.

A French farmer, who has just completed a successful experiment in ensilaging red clover in trenches, recommends that the fodder be cut when in full flower, a humid atmosphere being better than a dry.