

Compton; J. M. Browning, esq., ex-President, Dr. G. Leclerc, Secretary, and Mr. D. McEachran, consulting Veterinary Surgeon, of the Council of Agriculture.

We notice with pleasure that Hon. M. Cochrane has been elected a Vice-President, and J. M. Browning, esq., a Director, of the Association.

The principal business of the discussions was, "what steps should be taken to get Congress to rid the United-States of Pleuro-pneumonia," which was suggested by the able address of the President which we reproduce in full. A lively discussion ensued among the members present, during which Mr. McEachran was several times called for to give information and explanations with regard to the disease, its history in America, its ravages, and other particulars which materially helped the meeting in arriving at conclusions, as to what action was necessary in the premises.

A letter was also read from Professor Lair, and a short address by Dr. N. H. Paaren of Chicago on the subject. The result of the full consideration of the question was the appointment of a Committee of five to press the matter before Congress, consisting of Hon. T. C. Jones, Ohio, Hon. Emory Cobb, Illinois, Mr. Claude Mathews, Indiana, Hon. T. J. Megibben, Kentucky, and Hon. L. Coffin of Iowa; to whom, upon motion, the Hon. David Christie was added. It was also resolved that the State Agricultural Societies be requested to memorialize the legislatures of the States to petition Congress on the subject of sanitary regulations concerning live stock.

The members representing the Western States complained of the injustice of the States being included in the prohibitory order simply because lung plague existed in the few Atlantic States, while they, one and all, positively asserted that no contagious disease existed west of the Alleghany Range of Mountains.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Gentlemen,

As you are aware, at the last meeting of the Association it was resolved that the next meeting should be held at Nashville, Tennessee, but owing to the prevalence of that terrible scourge, yellow fever, and in consequence of the urgent remonstrances of many members of the Association, the meeting was postponed. The same difficulty occurred this year; in these circumstances, it was deemed proper to consult the Directors of the Association as to what should be done. The responses were unanimous in naming Chicago as the place of meeting, and certainly, since a wise discretion rendered a change of place necessary, there could be no more fitting place than this great city, easy of access from all parts of the continent, a great cattle mart, the first in the world, and also the leading city in one of the great cattle States of America, a State not surpassed for fertility and for Short-horn Cattle.

When we last met the storm of adversity had compassed the length and breadth of the land, and it extended to every branch of business and to each industrial pursuit. The breeders of Short-horn Cattle felt the full force of the blast. Prices receded to a degree unprecedented in Short-horn history. In England, last year, the average of the 64 sales was £57 5s. 9d.; 56 of these comprised 99 per cent. of the whole, and averaged £37 0s. 7d. One thousand and thirty-one animals averaged less than £30. One animal, Baroness Oxford 5th, brought 2,660 guineas, or more than the individual proceeds of 51 of the 64 sales recorded. So said the *Mark Lane Express*. Our American averages were not much better. Now the storm has passed, and already we have seen the harbinger of prosperous times. A recent Short-horn sale in Chicago has given a better average than we have had in America for two years past, and better than the average in England last year. The lesson taught by adversity should not be lost.

"Sweet are the uses of adversity,

Which, like the toad, ugly and venomous,
Wears yet a precious jewel in her head."

Men of the present generation are not likely again to be tempted to over speculation, or to give excessive prices. Another important lesson is not to place unreasoning reliance on mere pedi-

gree, whether of this or that family or tribe, without giving due weight to personal qualities. Pedigree is very important, because it gives a reasonable degree of assurance of the transmission of valuable qualities from parents to progeny; but how can an animal be expected to transmit qualities not possessed by it, but which, according to tradition, may have been the characteristic of some one or more remote ancestors. The old adage, that "like produces like," commonly holds true; the principle of pedigree is based on it, and rest assured, gentlemen, that the day has come when the presentation of a "long pedigree" will not cover the want of distinguished personal qualities. Both together, but neither singly, will satisfy future purchasers. The demand for good animals, of good pedigree, will increase year by year. The demand for a superior quality of beef for export to the British market will compel breeders and feeders to use only good and well-bred animals; because it will neither pay to breed nor to export inferior cattle. With all due deference to the opinions and statements of our Hereford friends, there is no race of cattle which, for early maturity and aptitude to produce, with profit, really first-class beef, can compare with the Short-horn. It is one of the promising features in the future of America agriculture, that a line of demarcation is being drawn between the business of breeding and of feeding cattle for beef. The lands in the East, and as far west as the Missouri, are too high-priced to enable farmers to raise beef-cattle with profit. On lands worth from \$50 to \$100 per acre beef-cattle cannot be raised with profit. In ordinary circumstances a steer cannot be ready for market until he is three years old, during which period we will cost more than he will bring in market. In Great Britain this is well understood. English and Scotch farmers purchase, at the great fairs, cattle bred in Wales and the Highlands of Scotland, where they can be raised cheaply, and then feed them. (1) They know well that all the profit of stall-feeding does not consist in the extra quantity and quality of beef but in the large quantity of valuable manure produced, and in the cultivation of the soil for root crops, which, in due time, result in large returns of grain per acre in succeeding crops. The farmers of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, who feed cattle, act on the principle that is more profitable to purchase than to raise stock for that purpose. They know that they cannot compete with breeders living on the cheap lands of Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado, and therefore, they repair to the great cattle marts of Kansas City, St. Louis, and Chicago; at which, any day in October and November, they can purchase all the stock they need for feeding purposes. A few years ago it was difficult to get as many well-bred steers as were needed, therefore recourse to the lean and ill-favored Texan was a necessity, the descendants of the old Andalusian cattle—a race unprofitable to feed, and sometimes bringing with them, as in 1868, "Texan Fever," a scourge which desolated large districts of country. Fortunately, during the past ten years, a better race of cattle has taken their place. From the extensive dissemination of Short-horns among the Western herds, the supply of good cattle is yearly becoming more abundant, and promises soon to keep pace with the demand. This is a most encouraging fact to the breeders of Short-horns. Many of the Western herds require the service of 60 to 100 bulls, which of course must be replaced by the purchase of others every third year.

If you will permit me to trespass a little on your time, I wish to quote from a report by Prof. Brown, of the Ontario Agricultural College, at Guelph, the narrative of an experiment made at the college, last year, in feeding Short-horn steers. Prof. Brown says: "During the past winter, our school made two experiments in fattening of steers: 1st. With four steers of our own breeding, *four-fifths* prime fat, and nine-tenths-bred Short-horns. 2dly. With six steers bought in, half fed, and two-thirds-bred Short-horns. All the animals were entered on the 8th of December, and withdrawn on the 6th of March, being 67 days—say three months—

(1) Many lean beasts come from Ireland—good Short-horns: the Castle Hill at Norwich is, on Saturdays in October, covered with them, many *Galloways* are sent South, at 2 years old and moving down through Yorkshire to Lincolnshire and Norfolk, are slaughtered in London at 4 years old. It should be observed that, as the great majority of English farmers cultivate their land on the 4 course shift, the clover standing only one year, breeding is, to them, an impossibility. Still, all I hear from England leads me to believe that it will not be so long. Many men are preparing to lay down part of their farms to grass, intending to breed their own bullocks as they already breed their own sheep. A. R. J. F.