

justified. If Mr Gardner does not apprehend the inevitable results of his policy, he may rest assured that his colleagues are not equally obtuse. He is, at the present moment, a thorn in their flesh, and they are scarcely likely to be grateful to him for the troubles into which he has precipitated them. In his own interests, then, as well as in the interests of his colleagues, Mr Gardner ought to think twice before persisting in a course so detrimental to the prospects of the agricultural classes.

There are some who still contend that Mr Gardner is obliged to adopt the view of the Board of Agriculture's veterinary surgeons. This hallucination should not exist after the proceedings of yesterday. Experienced agriculturists such as Mr Whitton, Couston; Mr Anderson, Balbrogie; Mr Peter Fenton, Dronley; Mr Bell, Barns of Claverhouse; and Mr Wm. Millar, Keillor, were able to testify that Canadian cattle are the healthiest obtainable at the present time. As Mr Hutcheson said, no farmer requires a microscope before he can say whether a diseased lung is really affected by contagious pleuro-pneumonia. Practical experience is a far better test than any microscope, and when over a million cattle have been imported from Canada without bringing contagious pleuro-pneumonia to Great Britain, no further demonstration of the healthy character of the animals from the Dominion is required. Apart from these con-

siderations, however, there is the fact that Mr Gardner's veterinary advisers have in the past committed serious blunders. Without referring again to the mistakes made in the cases of the horses Maccash, Cedric, and Knight Templar, and without alluding to the alleged discovery of Texan fever, it is sufficient to remind the public that it was these same veterinary surgeons who in 1890 reported to Mr Chaplin that pleuro-pneumonia had been discovered in Canadian cattle. Mr Chaplin on that occasion did not schedule Canada, nor did he order the slaughter of the animals that had been in contact with the cattle declared to have been affected. Yet there was no outbreak of the disease, so that clearly the verdict of the veterinary surgeons upon the lungs submitted to them was totally inaccurate. In the face of these facts, it is impossible for any sane man to contend that the advice of these advisers must be accepted. For some reason or other it has pleased Mr Gardner to take refuge behind his veterinary advisers, but by doing so he is weakening rather than strengthening his position. It can be proved beyond dispute that Canada is free from pleuro-pneumonia, and as they are fully conscious of this the agriculturists of Scotland are warranted in emphatically declining to tolerate the present restrictions.—(*Dundee Courier, 2nd August.*)