

beavers' cubs from the vicinity of Peterborough some four years ago. These animals were, he said, unfortunately lost on the road.

The Chairman mentioned an instance of a tame beaver which had been brought under his notice. This animal was most indefatigable at stopping up any chinks appearing in the rooms. As winter approached, should the slightest chink appear in the wall or elsewhere, the beaver would persistently set about stopping it up. To effect this, the animal would tear up the blankets or anything else in its way; and frequently, on waking in the morning, the owner of the animal used to find the very chinks of the door stopped up. (Laughter.) The Chairman also alluded to the fact that beavers' tails were esteemed as a great luxury by epicures.

Mr. Sandford Fleming said there were quite a number of beaver within three or four hours' ride of Toronto. They were also frequently found in the Nottawasaga river and in the neighborhood of Angus.

Mr. Hopkins said that some years ago, Mr. Booth, one of the surveyors of Upper Canada, having been called on to survey some of the eastern townships, found two-thirds of them overflowed with beaver dams.

ALARMING IMPORTATIONS OF CLOTHING MATERIAL INTO THE UNITED STATES.

The importations for the year have been enormous, and are reasonable cause for alarm, with reference to the future value and profits of labour. The month of November, it is true, has shown an import of smaller magnitude than November of last year, which was excessive. The manufactures of wool, cotton, and flax used in the United States should be produced within the United States, almost without exception; and those of silk should evidently be added. If the same rate of importation shall be continued, the accumulating surplus of foreign goods burdening the counters of country traders, from the St. John's to the Rio Grande, will displace almost entirely the products of native wool. We are now producing three-fourths of all the wool we need. Excepting carpet and combing wools there is no occasion for introducing a single ounce of foreign wool. We can easily produce all the clothing wool needed or to be needed for a generation, with double or quadruple our present population; but if the amount required for consumption shall be allowed to come in from abroad, it is very plain that the home production will decline.

The imports at New York city alone,

of three successive Novembers, are as follows:

	1864.	1865.	1866.
Manufactures of wool	\$619,586	\$885,896	\$1,205,661
Manufactures of cotton	135,402	815,253	447,210
Manufactures of silk	176,438	588,725	655,221
Manufactures of flax	186,862	533,740	985,066
Miscellaneous dry goods.....	87,824	27,775	177,539
Total entered for warehousing	1,206,112	2,851,390	3,470,697
Add entered for consumption	1,028,995	9,336,557	3,788,539
Total entered at the port.....	2,235,107	12,687,947	7,259,236

But the figures for eleven months of the past three years, according to unofficial statements of the New York custom-house entries, are still more significant. It will be seen that the excess of the present year over figures for eleven months of 1864 amounts to more than fifty millions, and thirty-nine millions more than for the same period of 1865:

	1864.	1865.	1866.
Manufactures of wool	\$14,272,965	\$7,409,031	\$18,628,967
Manufactures of cotton.....	2,968,246	2,571,890	5,830,758
Manufactures of silk.....	5,049,151	3,827,328	7,940,323
Manufactures of flax.....	4,326,404	3,346,425	6,816,520
Miscellaneous dry goods....	1,114,712	502,151	1,500,542
Total entered for warehousing	27,731,478	17,656,725	40,717,110
Add entered for consumption	42,299,707	63,729,422	79,516,014

Total entered at the port..... 70,031,185 81,386,147 120,233,124

—Washington Agri. Rep.

TRICHINÆ IN PORK.

A letter to this department from Chas. J. Sundell, consul at Stettin, in Prussia, announces the scouring of another locality by the fatal effects of introducing pork infested with these parasites into the human system. It also notices the recent terrible ravages of cholera in Stettin, by which 2,118 died of 3,416 attacks, among a population of 80,000. The following extracts are made:

"About that most dreadful disease in swine called trichinæ, nothing further was heard here since the Hadersleben calamity in January and February last, until recently; the reappearance of said malady is now being reported from the city of Griefswald, in this province. The meat of one single animal, and that not wholly used, as some remaining parts thereof were confiscated as soon as its infection was discovered, seems to have been enough to infest with these parasites over sixty persons, and among these some of the best men there. The sufferings from this shocking intrusion into the system is said to be attended with most distressing ag-

nies, and it is feared that many of those affected will pay with their lives for yielding to that peculiar taste for raw, chopped, or insufficiently cooked and smoked meat, so prevalent in this country. It is stated that those who had partaken of sausages prepared fresh from the infected meat, and only superficially smoked, are subject to worse pains than those who had eaten cutlets and other dishes insufficiently cooked. It follows therefrom that the greater the heat to which such meats are subjected the surer will the parasites therein be made harmless, and this is a simple fact which cannot be too strongly impressed upon the mind in a country like ours, where pork is so extensively eaten. It is also contended that by cutlets it is hardly possible to have the heat penetrate the meat sufficiently without burning some portion of the chops. The simple remedy would be to prepare cutlets without bones, and so with other dishes from swine's meat.

"The scientific commission of the medical faculty in Prussia gave as their decision, under date of the 14th of February last, that microscopical examinations of certain (enumerated) parts of the swine would be the surest way to prevent these fearful diseases. The government has, therefore, now recommended microscopic meat inspections, and that much care be taken in thoroughly cooking and preparing, but such examinations have not been made obligatory. This advice, as the Griefswald calamity proves anew, is discreet and well meant, but butchers and meat sellers here seem to care little about it, and it is now publicly proposed that those who sell trichinous meat be made responsible for the consequences. Thus it will be seen that the people here are in earnest to guard, if possible, against the recurrence of this late discovered ill that human flesh is heir to.—Washington Ag. Report.

Communications.

THE DRY EARTH CLOSET SYSTEM.

We have been favored with a copy of an important communication addressed by J. B. Young, Esq., Civil Engineer, to the Board of Health, to which we would invite the attention of the inhabitants of Pictou, Windsor, Yarmouth, New Glasgow, and other towns, as well as that of our own fellow citizens, and farmers and other residents in the country:—

In addressing the Board of Health on a subject of such importance as the cess-pit drainage of this city, I have neither the wish nor intention of undervaluing the efforts of its exertions for the public good. During the past year the health officers, by unwearied attention, succeeded in all human probability in preventing the out-