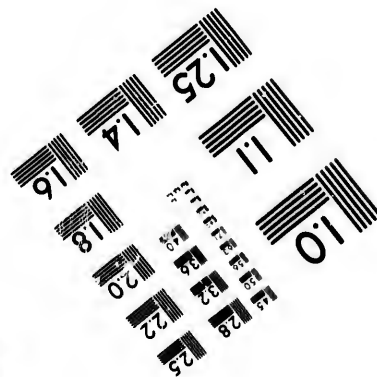
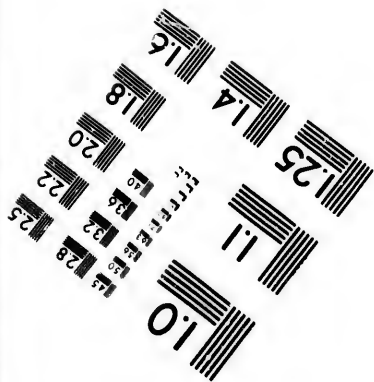


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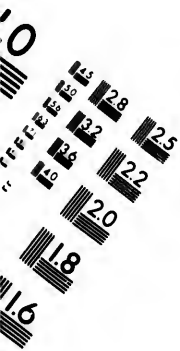
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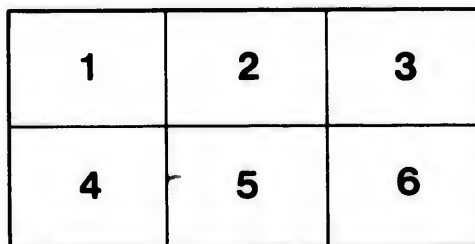
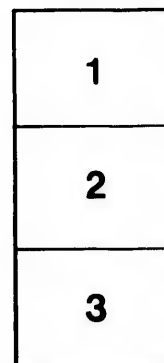
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STOPPAGE
OF
CANADIAN CATTLE TRADE

INJUSTICE TO SCOTCH FARMERS.

PLEURO SCARE FROM DAY TO DAY.

INTERVIEWS WITH FARMERS AND OTHERS.

REFRINTED FROM THE DUNDEE COURIER.

PRICE THREEPENCE.

Dundee:

"DUNDEE COURIER" PRINTING WORKS.

1892

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STOPPAGE OF CANADIAN CATTLE TRADE.

S U M M A R Y.

From the following it will be seen that there were sold at Dundee on 6th October 522 cattle, landed on 29th September *ex* Monkseaton s.s., and 684 cattle landed *ex* Huron s.s. The cattle, both while on board the ships and while housed in the covered sheds at landing wharf, where they stood for several days, had nice, dry, comfortable quarters. After the sale they were dispersed over the country, many of them being put out into fields, remaining out all night, and it happened just at that particular time that a spell of cold, wet weather occurred, lasting for nearly a week, and which was quite sufficient to cause the cases of cold and lung affection which showed themselves among the cattle.

On Sunday, 9th October, a cow, which, it is said, had calved on board ship, and, on that account, was in a weakly condition, bought by Mr Guild of Lindores and Parkhill, was examined by Mr Reid, veterinary surgeon, Auchtermuchty, who thought it was suffering from pleuro. This was notified to Board of Agriculture, who ordered the animal to be slaughtered, and the lungs sent to the Royal Veterinary College, London, the result being that the Board of Agriculture examiners pronounced it a case of pleuro, and out of the whole herd of 223 head of cattle on the two farms 107 head known to have been in contact with the animal killed were ordered to be slaughtered.

In the case of the cow referred to it appears that Mr Reid retained a piece of one of the lungs, and this, at the instance of the Fifeshire Local Authority, was submitted to Principal Williams, of Royal Dick's Veterinary College, Edinburgh, with the result that a joint opinion was received from Principal Williams and Professor Owen Williams stating that the animal had died of broncho-pneumonia or "cornstalk," a non-contagious lung disease, and not of pleuro-pneumonia at all.

Subsequently Professor R. Wallace, Agricultural Department, Edinburgh University, examined the lungs and microscopic sections, corroborating the opinion of Principal Williams and Professor Owen Williams.

On an inspection of the lungs of the other 107 cattle slaughtered at Parkhill by Mr Gordon, from the Board of Agriculture, and Mr Reid, veterinary surgeon, it would appear that suspicion could only be attached to the lungs of one other cow. Its lungs were, therefore, immediately despatched to London, with the result that the Board of Agriculture examiners are said to have pronounced that the lungs showed all the symptoms of pleuro. This cow, it has transpired, was a home-bred

animal, and is said to have stood in the same byre, if not the same stall, as the Canadian cow first inspected, and the opinion is expressed, if there was any pleuro at all, that the home-bred cow must have been suffering before the Canadians arrived, and that the Canadian cow, which was first killed, if it had pleuro at all, must have contracted it from the home-bred animal.

On the 21st October, Mr Esplin of Westerton, Colliston, near Arbroath, reported that a Canadian ox bought by him on 6th October *ex* Monkseaton's cargo was showing indications of pleuro. The animal was thereafter killed, and its lungs sent to the Board of Agriculture in London, with the result that Westerton, Colliston, was declared infected, and all cattle there ordered to be slaughtered.

No check appears so far to have been made in this case on the Board of Agriculture's diagnosis.

On the 21st October, Mr Stewart of Leckiebank reported two animals affected with illness. One appears to have recovered before the Board of Agriculture Inspector got there, while the other, which is also stated to have been nearly better, was slaughtered, and its lungs sent to London, the result being that Leckiebank was also declared infected with pleuro. No check would appear to have been so far made on this case on the Board of Agriculture's diagnosis, except that Mr Stewart, the owner of the animal, who had previously had considerable experience of pleuro, is strongly of opinion that it was not a case of pleuro at all. Following on these cases orders appear to have been given for the slaughter of the whole of the 1200 Canadian cattle sold at Dundee on the 6th October, and this appears to have now been accomplished without a single case of pleuro, so far as is reported, having been discovered, or any suspicion attached to any animal outside of the three whose cases we have already given particulars of; nor are any cases reported of infection having spread from any of these 1200 cattle to any of the large number of other cattle with which they have been in contact at the different farms.

It will also be noted that the farmers whose cattle have been slaughtered are almost to a man of the most strong opinion that there is no pleuro at all, but that the Board of Agriculture have entirely blundered in their diagnosis. This opinion, it will be seen from the appended interviews, is also shared by other leading agriculturists throughout Forfarshire, Fifeshire, and Perthshire.

NOTE.—Since above was written the lungs of one animal slaughtered at Ardgath, Perthshire, have been reported by Board of Agriculture as infected, and the remaining stock, 103 head, slaughtered out. No check has so far been made of Board of Agriculture's diagnosis. The Perth Local Authority have requisitioned for an independent investigation of the lungs.

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STOPPAGE OF CANADIAN CATTLE TRADE.

INJUSTICE TO SCOTCH FARMERS.

THE PLEURO SCARE FROM DAY TO DAY.

From Dundee Courier of 2nd October, 1892.

SLAUGHTERING OF THE CATTLE.

CONTINUED CONTROVERSY ON THE DISEASE.

The reported outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia on the farms of Parkhill and Lindores, near Newburgh, has created much talk, not only in the district, but throughout the whole of Fifeshire and the adjoining counties. The farm of Lindores is occupied by Mr William Guild, while that of Parkhill is managed by his son, Mr Guild, jun. The fact that the cow which is said to have been affected was imported from Canada has given rise to

CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION.

Several of the leading farmers in the district hold that no such disease as contagious pleuro-pneumonia ever existed in Canada, and attribute the illness of the cow to broncho-pneumonia or cornstalk disease, which is non-contagious and unknown in this country, but well known in the Western States of America. The animal affected is said to have been landed at Dundee on the 29th September by the steamer Monkseaton, which discharged a cargo of 522 head and 4 calves, all shipped by Messrs Bickerdike & Crowe, Montreal. These cattle, along with 684 head landed by the Thomson Line steamer Hurona, were disposed of at a sale held on the 6th October. Mr Guild attended the sale, and bought the cow along with six heifers. These were despatched by rail to Newburgh on the same day, the cow, for convenience, being housed at Parkhill for the night. On Sunday Mr Reid, veterinary surgeon, Auchtermuchty, was called to attend to the animal, which appeared to be

SUFFERING FROM ILLNESS.

Mr Reid, on examining the cow, was of opinion that it was suffering from pleuro-pneumonia, and at once communicated with the Board of Agriculture. This body immediately ordered the cow to be killed, and the lungs sent to the Royal Veterinary College, London. There they were examined by the Inspectors of the Board of Agriculture, who also came to the conclusion that the cow had been affected by contagious pleuro-pneumonia. Orders were thereafter sent by the Board to have the whole of the animals which had been in contact with the diseased one killed. On learning of this the Fifeshire Local Authority communicated with the Board, and requested that the

SLAUGHTERING OF THE CATTLE

should be delayed until a full investigation were made into the case, which was of a peculiar character. The fact that the cow was a Canadian, and that no outbreak of pleuro was ever known to have occurred in Canada, was also pointed out. The Board of Agriculture, however, decided that the whole herd should be killed, and replied to that effect. In all, the stock on the two farms numbered 223 head, and of these no fewer than 107 were

known to have been in contact with the infected animal. The cattle were valued on Wednesday, and on Thursday morning the work of slaughtering them was commenced by a number of butchers under the supervision of Mr Duff, of Messrs Lawson & Duff, auctioneers, Dundee. Altogether 65 animals have been ordered to be killed on Parkhill Farm and 43 at Lindores. Up till last night about 30 head had been slaughtered at Parkhill and 26 at Lindores. The

GRUESOME WORK

was carried on vigorously all day by the butchers, who were assisted by several of the servants on the farms. A large shed was utilised on each of the farms for the skinning and cleaning of the carcasses, which were hung in rows from the joists of the buildings. The lungs of each of the animals were not allowed to be removed from the carcasses until they had been examined by Mr Gordon, one of the Board of Agriculture Inspectors, who has been going to and from the farms since the operations were commenced. Mr Reid, V.S., has also been in attendance.

MOST OF THE ANIMALS KILLED

were from two to four years of age, and they included eight Canadian heifers and two Canadian stots. The carcasses weigh from 6½ cwt. to 7½ cwt. each, and all are for Messrs Lawson & Duff, Dundee. It is expected that the whole of the animals will be killed by to-night. The purchasers at the sale of the Monkseaton's cargo included four or five of the farmers in the districts around Cupar and Newburgh. Up till last night no further trace of the disease had been discovered. Mr Reid, we understand, before sending off one of the lungs to London, retained a piece. The Local Authority yesterday communicated with Mr Reid, and requested him to have the

PART OF THE LUNG DESPATCHED

to Professor Williams, Edinburgh, in order that he might give his opinion as to whether the disease was that of contagious pleuro-pneumonia or not. His decision will in all probability be reported to a meeting of the Authority which is expected to be held in Cupar on Tuesday first. Mr J. Ballingall, Dunbog, on whom our representative called yesterday, is one of the gentlemen holding the opinion that the outbreak is not one of

INFECTIOUS PLEURO-PNEUMONIA,

but of cornstalk disease, which, although to some extent unknown in this quarter, is very common in the Western States of America. Contagious pleuro, he explained, was transmitted from one animal to another by breathing, and it first of all affected the bronchial tubes, whereas the disease known as cornstalk seemed to be more a species of blood-poisoning, and affected the lungs through the blood. He also understood cornstalk to affect the lungs more in the extremities of the veins than in the centre. It was next to impossible, he thought,

for an animal suffering from contagious pleuropneumonia to have been brought from Montreal to Dundee without having affected some of the other animals in the steamer. The

TWO DISEASES, although having many symptoms similar, were, he held, quite distinct, and could easily be distinguished by experts; and he is of opinion that Professor Williams, who is regarded as a specialist in this direction, will have no difficulty in proving whether or not the animal had been affected with cornstalk disease. Considering the extensive traffic carried on in cattle between Dundee and Canada, the necessity of getting at the real facts was of the highest importance. If it was proved to be a genuine case of contagious pleuro, it would, he believed, follow as

A MATTER OF NECESSITY that Canada would have to be placed under the same regulations as the States. This would imply that all live cattle imported from Canada would have to be slaughtered on landing. Mr Mitchell, of Fliskmills, and several other well-known authorities on cattle endorse Mr Ballingall's opinions. Mr Reid, who has had large experience as local inspector for the district, still firmly adheres to his former opinion that the cow had been suffering from contagious pleuro. Should this be the case, the

WHOLE OF THE CANADIANS disposed of at the sale in Dundee on the 6th October will have to be traced and slaughtered, along with the animals with which they have been in contact. This will involve a large undertaking, as over 1200 head were sold, and these in turn must by this time have been in contact with many others.

WHOLESALE SCHEDULING OF FARMS.

SUSPECTED CASE AT ARBROATH.

FORFARSHIRE FARMER ON THE POSITION.

The slaughtering of the 107 cattle on Parkhill and Lindores which were declared to have been in contact with the animal supposed to be infected with pleuro began on Thursday in both places, and was continued on Saturday. Mr Gordon, the Government inspector, travelling from Perth on Saturday morning by the 10.50 train to superintend the slaughtering. On reaching Newburgh he at once proceeded to Parkhill. Here in a shed there were twenty carcasses hung up ready to be taken away by Messrs Lawson & Duff, Dundee, who have bought the whole of the carcasses. After a short stay, Mr Gordon proceeded to Lindores, where the remaining portion of the animals were being slaughtered. When our representative entered the slaughterhouse eight animals that had been newly killed were being dressed. There were fully a dozen men at work. After the carcasses were thoroughly cleaned they were removed to another shed, in which, as already stated, there were fully a score of carcasses. Here were to be seen the remains of the animal which was supposed to have been suffering from pleuro-pneumonia. The beast was cut in quarters, and the internals had been removed for examination. Mr Duff, Dundee, cut out slices from the flank, which he found to be perfectly true. At midday there were 20 cattle to be killed and dressed at Parkhill. The men had been working hard since Thursday morning, and were

THOROUGHLY SICK OF THE WORK.

The scene presented by the wholesale slaughter was of the most revolting kind. Even the animals on the farm rebelled against it. A young man was

leading a horse along the front of the farm, but when the beast came near the slaughterhouse it became restive and began to rear. The unusual occurrence attracted the attention of more than one of the servants, and, on inquiry, it was ascertained that the horse shied at the smell of so much flesh meat. At Lindores the "slaughtering out" was carried on vigorously on Saturday. Mr Duff was anxious to have the work finished that day, and to effect this he engaged a number of extra hands. There were no persons either at Parkhill or Lindores but those engaged in carrying out the orders of the Board of Agriculture. Mr A. Hutcheson, vice-convenor of the Perth County Council, was engaged to value the animals which were ordered to be slaughtered, but, though his valuation has not transpired, it is understood that Mr Guild will lose about £200 on account of the action of the Board of Agriculture. As already indicated, the scene of carnage both at Parkhill and at Lindores was a sickening one. Carcasses lay quite thick on the floor of the slaughterhouse undergoing the process of cleaning and dressing, preparatory to being strung up in an adjoining shed. After each half-dozen carcasses had been made ready for the butchery they were removed from the killing-house, and another half-dozen cattle were brought in and slaughtered by experienced butchers from Dundee. Although there were nearly a dozen men employed in the ghastly operations on each farm, the work of slaughtering proceeded slowly, and it was late on Saturday night before the last of the herd was killed. Many of the cattle as seen alive in the yards on Saturday were very thin, and would have improved immensely with a few weeks' feeding. The leanest of the cattle were valued at £6 a-head, and the best of them were valued at £17. This, of course, was the value put upon them in fixing the compensation due to the owner, Mr Guild of Lindores. Mr Graham, farmer, Kildinny, thinks the Board of Agriculture have made a huge mistake in ordering the slaughtering out of the cattle on Parkhill and Lindores. He points out that pleuro has never been known in Canada, and that it had not been proved that the animal at Parkhill which was said to be diseased was suffering from pleuro. Had it been clearly shown that the animal was suffering from pleuro, he thinks the slaughtering out of the stock was quite justifiable. Several other Perthshire farmers expressed exactly the same opinion.

THE SALE AT DUNDEE.

On Friday twenty sides were received at Dundee, and sold in the meat market of Messrs Lawson & Duff, while eleven others which arrived on Saturday were disposed of privately. It was intended to have the whole of the dead meat transferred to Dundee on Saturday, but on account of the interruption of traffic consequent on the breakdown on the line near St Fort it was late in the evening till the consignment arrived. The meat is lying at the Tay Bridge Station, and a portion of it will be sold privately to-day, while the remainder will be disposed of by auction to-morrow. The prices realised for the meat already sold ranged from 2½ to 4d per lb., and this is considered a fair average, having regard to the fact that the slaughtered animals were store cattle.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE MOVEMENT OF CATTLE.

Mr Patrick, the county clerk, has received a letter, dated 21st October, from Mr Davenport, travelling inspector for the Board of Agriculture, stating that he has served a notice on certain cattle owners in Fife, restricting the movements of their

cattle throughout the county. The following are those who have been served with the notice:—Mr P. Christie, Scotsbrig, Tayport; Mr S. Dowdie, Balcombe, Crail; Mr A. Duncan, Craigfoolzie, Cupar; Mr A. Gillebrist, Carvenon, Anstruther; —Stewart, Leekiebank, Anstruther; W. Wilson Morton, Kingsbarns, Fife; W. Gentle, Airnie, Crail; R. Hutcheson, grain merchant, Kirkcaldy; T. Tosh, Tronstric, Crail; W. Miller, Falside, Anstruther. Similar notices have also been received by farmers in Forfarshire, Kincardineshire, and other counties, who are known to have purchased cattle at the sale. Not only does the Order apply to those animals which formed part of the cargo of the Monkseaton, but to all others which have come in contact. In the event of cattle being moved in contravention of the Order those responsible are liable to fine and imprisonment. The Monkseaton arrived at Dundee on September 29th, and her cargo consisted of 523 head. The cattle were sold on 6th October, and they were distributed over a very wide area, the buyers including farmers from Perthshire, Forfarshire, Fifeshire, Invernessshire, and Morayshire. About this season of the year farmers begin to have cattle removed from the fields to the courts, but many of them are still outside. As these cannot be housed unless under a special license, it is expected their health may in many cases be seriously affected, and this would, of course, result in a disastrous loss to the owner. The cattle landed by the Monkseaton were sold in conjunction with 681 brought to Dundee by the Thomson Line steamer Hurona, a total of 1207 animals being exposed on the day of sale. At that time the cargo were considered to be in excellent order, and the prices paid were in advance of those paid at previous sales. Amongst the buyers were—Mr Robert Rodger, Mains of Lun; Mr Spence, Gleniskenny; Mr Couper, Brae of Pert; Mr Robert Donaldson, Newton, Inverkeillor; Bailie Salmon, Woodrae; Mr John Bell, Caudleots; Mr George Nicoll, Forfar; Messrs Reid & Taylor, Leitham; Mr M. Walter, Ethie; Mr James Duncan, Dundee; Mr Sampson, Balwyll; Mr D. Souther, Brechin; Mr A. Couper, Stannoch; ex-Bailie Taylor, Pitliverie; Mr A. B. Watson, Kirkton of Lundie; Mr James Key, butcher, Dundee; Messrs Lawson & Duff, Dundee; Mr P. McIntyre, Dundee; Mr Thomson, Tannadice; Mr A. Lawson, Dundee; Mr Brown, Cairnbug; Mr Esplin, Colliston; Mr Winter, Dunbarrow; Mr George Roy, Kirkhill; Mr Taylor, Keith; Mr Laing, Keith; Mr John Weighton, East Idvies; Mr Hutchison, Posterton; Mr Guild, Parkhill; Mr Andrew Gilhuth, Seaton, &c.

SUSPECTED OUTBREAK AT ARBROATH.

A case of supposed pleuro-pneumonia has taken place on the farm of Westerton, Colliston, near Arbroath, tenanted by Mr David Esplin. The animal affected is a Canadian ox, and, along with five others, was purchased by Mr Esplin at a sale held in Dundee on 6th October. The animals formed part of the cargoes of the Monkseaton, which arrived with a large shipment on 29th September, and the Hurona. Mr Esplin on Friday last reported the matter to Sergeant Craik, of the County Constabulary, who at once communicated with Mr Wallace, V.S., district inspector for the Arbroath Local Authority. Acting on his instructions, the animal was slaughtered on Saturday. The lungs were taken out and forwarded to the Board of Agriculture in London for inspection.

A FORFARSHIRE FARMER INTERVIEWED.

The order by the Board of Agriculture is likely to result in great hardship to those farmers who,

owing to the lateness of the harvest, have not been able to remove their cattle from the fields to the courts. One of our representatives, hearing that notices had been received by farmers in the county, has had an interview with one of the largest farmers in Forfarshire. Asked what he thought of the Order, the gentleman in question said it was evident the Board of Agriculture had resolved that the illness from which the animal died in Fife was pleuro, and, having slaughtered such a large herd on the strength of that belief, were

NOT LIKELY TO TURN BACK.

Otherwise they could never have issued these stringent stereotyped notices. He held, however, that the circular, when framed, was not intended to apply to weather such as that we are now experiencing. In the summer time, when the fields were in good order, there would have been nothing to say against it, but this was the season when farmers were obliged to shelter their stock. Personally he had purchased six cattle at the sale of the Monkseaton's cargo, and these were loaded with other 40 or 50 beasts, so that they all came within the range of the circular. He had intended tying them up to-day for the winter, but the notice prevented his doing this, and every day they remained out now had the effect of lowering them in value.

THE LOSS TO FARMERS

who had not their stock in courts yet must be a very serious one, as no recompense was allowed for the deterioration involved. The clause was absurd on the face of it, because it should certainly be provided that the animals could be sheltered, although it might be quite right to prohibit their removal from the farm. There must be many farmers in the same awkward position as himself, the Monkseaton's cattle being in contact with those imported by the Hurona, or with Irish and other cattle, it being customary among a good many agriculturists to have all sorts of beasts in order to watch which were the most profitable. The notice was a harsh and cruel one. The animals which he had avenged in value about £15 per head, and the effect of

A WEEK'S EXPOSURE

in the present weather would reduce them by £2 to £3 per head. It would take them from a month to six weeks to make up what they would lose if kept out night and day for a week just now; and not only that, but many of them might die or contract lung diseases, which a good few farmers agreed in believing was the initial stage of pleuro. There had been a great deal of foolish talk about the necessity for Government regulating the manner in which Canadian cattle were introduced, but such high-handed action as this pointed to the necessity of Government adopting some judicious method for preventing such an unseasonable Order being issued by the Board of Agriculture.

THE POSITION IN THE ARBROATH DISTRICT.

SCHEDULING OF FARMS.

Amongst the buyers at the sale held in Dundee on the 6th inst. of the Canadian cattle shipped by the Monkseaton and Hurona there were several of the leading farmers in the Arbroath district. The only farm on which any sign of disease has as yet manifested itself is that of David Esplin at Colliston, where, as stated yesterday, a bullock was killed on Saturday and the lungs forwarded to London for inspection. The other farmers in the district have, in view of the pleuro outbreak, all received instructions from the Board of Agriculture not to move their cattle, and accordingly a large proportion of the animals purchased on the 6th

October are still out in the fields. At Mr R. J. Donaldson's farm of

NEWTON, INVERKILLER, there are 90 cattle, of which 31 were purchased by Mr Donaldson at the sale of Canadian cattle in Dundee on 6th October, and conveyed to his farm at Newton. In accordance with the instructions contained in a circular from the Board of Agriculture, Mr Donaldson allows these animals to remain in the field where they were put on their arrival, and they are thus removed from the rest of the cattle which are feeding. An interesting incident, in view of the possible spreading of infection, is that these animals of Mr Donaldson's managed to get out of their own field into an adjoining one, where they were mixed with 25 other animals belonging to Mr Andrew Milne, Kirkton Mill. The Canadian cattle purchased by Mr Donaldson on the 6th inst. are fine, healthy-looking animals, and Mr Donaldson states that his experience of Canadian cattle at any rate has proved them to be considerably superior to the Irish animals. Mr Donaldson wrote to the Board of Agriculture yesterday asking them what steps they proposed to take in regard to the cattle which he has lying out in the field, and mentioned the hardship they would have to undergo in the event of a spell of severe weather. On the farm of Mr John Bell,

BHUNTON, there are forty-eight cattle, one of them being a Canadian cow, about five years old, bought by Mr Bell at the sale in Dundee on the 6th inst. As the cow has been permitted to mingle with the other forty-seven, it will be a serious matter for Mr Bell if the Board of Agriculture finds that the pleuro is of the contagious kind, as the whole of the forty-eight will have to be slaughtered. The only inconvenience experienced by Mr Bell in the meantime is in regard to the removal of the cattle, which the Board of Agriculture prevent him from doing. Mr Bell states that his Canadian cow is in as healthy a condition as any of the rest of his stock. He is of the opinion that the outbreak is not of a dangerous type, and thinks the regulations of the Board of Agriculture unnecessarily stringent. In the event of a declaration by the Board that the outbreak is one of contagious pleuro a considerable amount of slaughtering will, in common with that on Mr Bell's farm, take place on Mr Andrew Gilruth's farm of

SEATON, AUCHMITHIE. At the Dundee sale on the 6th inst. Mr Gilruth bought eight bullocks, and had them conveyed to his farm at Seafeld, where they were placed amongst other ten animals. Mr Gilruth had the intention of transferring these animals from Seafeld to Seaton, but received warning from the Board of Agriculture to refrain from doing so in the meantime. Nothing like trouble has made its appearance amongst the eight animals at Seafeld.

Other buyers in the district were Mr John Hall, Goulie Ayras, and Mr J. Rodger, Courthill, Inverkeilor. Nothing of the nature of disease is reported from either of these farmers. Mr Rodger purchased and brought to his farm from Dundee on the 6th inst. fourteen animals, and it is stated that nothing appears to be wrong with them. In regard to the

CASE AT WESTERTON, COLLISTON, the remaining cattle were stated yesterday to be in apparently excellent condition, no signs of disease having appeared in either of the other five animals. It appears that Mr Esplin saw that something was the matter with the animal at the middle of last week, and on Friday he communicated his suspicions to Sergeant Craik, of the County Constabulary. Mr Wallace, V.S., district inspector, was also told of the matter, and information was

sent to the Board of Agriculture, who ordered the animal to be killed and the lungs sent on to them for the purpose of being examined by the inspectors of the Board. No notification of the result of that examination has as yet been received, but Mr Wallace, V.S., the district inspector for the Arbroath Local Authority, states that he expects that the result of the examination will be intimated to him tomorrow. The further action of the Board of Agriculture is being awaited with a considerable amount of interest, but in the meantime it may be stated that most of the farmers in the district are strongly disinclined to believe that it will turn out a genuine case of contagious pleuro, or, at all events, such as would render at all necessary the wholesale slaughtering of all cattle included in an affected area. It should be pointed out that in Dundee strict precautions are in force against the sale of any meat which is unsound. Not long ago the restrictions in force were complained of on the ground of expense, but in an emergency of this kind their value is certainly considerable.

SIX FARMS IN PERTHSHIRE SCHEDULED.

Considerable stir was occasioned among agriculturists attending the Perth auction marts yesterday when it became known that six farms in Perthshire had been scheduled in consequence of one of the 523 head of Canadian cattle, which arrived in the Monks-eaton steamship at Dundee on 29th September, having been suspected of being infected with pleuro-pneumonia. Mr Patrick Martin, clerk to the Perthshire Local Authority, received intimation from Mr Davenport, travelling inspector of the Board of Agriculture, that he had served notices under the powers granted under Article 15 of the Pleuro-Pneumonia Orders of 1891, restricting the movement of cattle, on the following persons:—Mr P. Constable, Baledgarno, Inchture; Mr J. Grainger, Pitcur, Coupar Angus; Mr W. Allan, Kimonpark, Methven; Mr T. G. Gardiner, Banchoy, Coupar Angus; Mr David Morgan, Ardgath, Glenearse; and Mr D. Patullo, Gask, Coupar Angus.

THE CARSE DISTRICT.

Mr Patrick Constable, Baledgarno, states that he bought six of the Canadian cattle forming part of the Monks-eaton cargo. Only five stots have been in contact with them. The Canadians and the stots are on the Priory parks. He has, however, 16 cows in the byres at Baledgarno, but these have never been nearer the Canadians than a quarter of a mile. At the beginning of last week Mr Constable sent 24 cattle from the farm of Balgay for sale. If he had kept them for a few days longer they would have been enclosed within the scheduled area. The farm of Baledgarno is a comparatively small one, there being only three pairs of horses on it. Mr Constable is satisfied with the appearance of his Canadians, and is sure that there is no disease amongst them. The Canadians were bought for wintering. Mr W. F. Morgan, Ardgath, purchased seven cattle either from the Monks-eaton cargo or that of the Hurona, but as Mr Morgan was absent from the farm when our representative called yesterday, it could not be ascertained which ship they were consigned with. Ardgath is a six-pair farm lying about a mile east from Glenearse Railway Station. There are other twenty American cattle on the farm, but it is a good while since they were bought. They were confined to a separate part of the byre from the seven which were last purchased. At the time of purchase the cattle were in a very lean condition, but they have now improved considerably. The two batches have never been in contact, and a veterinary surgeon from Inchture, who was present

at the farm on Saturday, examined the animals, and certified that there were no symptoms of pleuro. There are 101 feeding cattle and six cows on the farm.

METHVEN DISTRICT.

Mr William Allan, Kinnorpark, who is an extensive dealer in live stock, states that he purchased in Dundee fifteen cattle which formed part of the cargo brought over by the *Harona*. The whole of the fifteen cattle were in a forward condition, and were meant to be kept only a short time before being resold. Since the Canadians were taken to Kinnorpark they have fed well, have rapidly taken on flesh, and have never shown the slightest signs of disease. There are other seventy cattle on the farm, all of which have been in contact with the foreigners. The farm is a pretty large one, there being five pair of horses on it. Referring to the supposed case of pleuro at Parkhill, which led to the slaughtering out of the entire herd, Mr Allan expressed the opinion that it was not a case of infectious pleuro, and believed the animal had caught a chill while crossing the Atlantic.

FORFARSHIRE FARMS SCHEDULED.

Yesterday morning Mr A. W. Myles, clerk to the Forfarshire Local Authority, received from Mr F. H. Davenport, travelling inspector to the Board of Agriculture, the following list of farms in the county which have been scheduled as affected areas. We understand that most of the farmers and cattle-dealers named purchased cattle which were brought from Canada by the steamer *Monkseaton*:—J. Adam, Braithford, Forfar; J. Bruce, Knockhouse, Glamis; J. B. Bell, Braithford, Arbroath; W. Calder, Seatons of Usan, Montrose; W. Conpar, Kintrockat, Brechin; John F. Dickson, Pikello, Carnoustie; Donaldson, Newton, Arbroath; A. Deuchar, cattle-dealer, Forfar; Esplin, Colliston, Arbroath; Hume, Town Clerk's office, Arbroath; W. McLaen, Deraelie, Forfar; George Nicoll, South Ains, Forfar; R. Rodger, Mains of Dun, Bridge of Dun; Reid & Smith, Letham; J. Samson, Balwyllo, Brechin; Spence, Glenskenno, Montrose; David Soutar, Brechin; Thomas Semple, Farnell, Brechin; William Simpson, Ingliston, Meikle; A. Simpson, Hatton, Newtyle; Annand, Newton of Glamis; Donaldson, Newton of Glamis; J. Gibson, Leoch, Auchterhouse; Gilrath, Seatons, Arbroath; Hall, Goulie Aeres, Arbroath; David Kinnear, Dysart, Montrose; Playfair, Morphee, Montrose; J. Rolger, Courthill, Inverkeillor; G. Roy, Kirkhill, Forfar; William Salmund, Woodlea, Forfar; Stewart, Noranbank, Brechin; Semple, Haughs of Kinnaird, Montrose; Taylor, Pithvie, Carnoustie; A. B. Watson, Kirkden, Lundie; Winter, Dumbarrow; Congleton, Dumbarrow.

DOUBT ON THE SUBJECT.

The discovery in Fifeshire of pleuro-pneumonia in an animal from Canada is (says Monday's *Times*), if it turns out to be true, a very serious matter; but the fact that the Board of Agriculture has suspended the order for slaughter gives strength to the rumour that there is some doubt on the subject, and therefore any comments had better be deferred. Of there being pleuro-pneumonia in the animal from the United States slaughtered at Deptford there seems to be no doubt, and in each case the prompt action of the Board of Agriculture has been most praiseworthy. Apart from these two cases, stock continues fairly healthy, the great drawback to the breeder and grazier being the low prices which prevail and which seem to show no sign of improving. Both in corn and horn there have been

fluctuations during the past week, but no solid improvement can be reported. Wheat and sheep are slightly better in value, but cattle remain as they were, and are almost unsaleable.

WAS THE ANIMAL SMUGGLED?

An entire change in the outlook as to the minimisation of American cattle to the interior of this country has been produced (says Saturday's *Standard*) by the detection of an animal affected with pleuro-pneumonia in a cargo of cattle from New York, and another in a lot of store cattle from Canada. As Canada has been free from the disease for years, the probability is that the latter beast was an American one smuggled across the border, as it is reported that many have been smuggled recently. The symptoms of disease were not noticed until the animal had arrived at a farm in Fifeshire, and when it had been slaughtered and its lungs had been examined by Professor Brown, who declared it to be affected with pleuro-pneumonia, over a hundred cattle on the farm had to be killed also. In the case of the animal which came direct from the United States a portion of the lungs has been sent to the Chief of the American Bureau of Animal Industry. Perhaps, as on a previous occasion, that gentleman will endeavour to persuade us that the disease was not contagious pleuro-pneumonia, but "cornstalk disease," or something of the kind. But we can only be guided by the conclusions of our own veterinary inspectors, and these show clearly that pleuro-pneumonia has not yet been completely suppressed in the United States.

THE PLEURO SCARE.

It is quite possible that the Board of Agriculture will condemn the action taken under the cognisance of the Fifeshire Local Authority in detaining a portion of the lung that was recently sent to the Board for official inspection, so that it might be ascertained whether the animal to which the lung belonged had been suffering from pleuro-pneumonia. Whether the course is approved or not, it is evident that in the present instance it has been productive of good results. The letter read yesterday from Principal Williams, Edinburgh, is a very emphatic declaration to the effect that, after all, there has been no reasonable ground for the pleuro scare by which farmers in the counties of Fife, Forfar, and Perth have recently been affected. The Principal states that the lung presented all the signs found in what is known as broncho-pneumonia, called by American writers cornstalk disease—a disease which is of a non-contagious character. In all probability had the whole lung been sent to London the suspense of the last few days would have been continued for a considerable time. The Board of Agriculture never admits that it has been in the wrong. When a mistake has been made a discreet silence is observed, and the incidents which led up to the mistake are permitted to be forgotten as soon as possible. Such a policy may suit the Board of Agriculture, but it is undeniably

opposed to the best interests of agriculturists. The understanding all along has been that Canadian cattle are free from pleuro-pneumonia, and scares of the kind recently promulgated are calculated to disturb this comfortable impression. It is only fair that in every case the fullest and most impartial investigation should be instituted, and that the result should be widely published. By the method adopted in Fifeshire some such result will be obtained, and consequently the members of the Fifeshire Local Authority acted wisely in approving of the conduct of the local Inspector. It is all very well to take precautions against the spreading of pleuro-pneumonia, but there is a possibility of overstepping the limits of prudence. For each healthy animal slaughtered by order of the Board of Agriculture the owner is allowed full value, so that the reckless destruction of large numbers of animals entails a considerable loss to the ratepayers, who have in some way or other to pay their portion of the allowances granted. Various considerations point to the desirability of exercising the utmost caution. Before animals are killed in a wholesale fashion care should be taken to prove that the course is absolutely necessary. At the present moment grave doubt is entertained as to whether the slaughter at Lindores was warranted, and the mere fact that this doubt exists is sufficient to prove that the system which is being followed is not altogether judicious. It has been suggested by practical farmers that inoculating experiments, coupled, of course, with the total separation of the suspected animals already enforced, would have demonstrated whether or not pleuro-pneumonia had made its appearance. In future such experiments ought to be attempted. They will cost nothing, and they might lead to very valuable results. In the meantime the order that has been issued to farmers not only occasions great inconvenience, but also militates against the health of the suspected cattle. Clearly a different plan of dealing with cases such as those that have occurred is essential not only in the interests of farmers but in the interests of all classes of the community.

OPINION OF PRINCIPAL WILLIAMS.

ACTION BY FIFESHIRE FARMERS.

A meeting of the Local Authority of Fifeshire was held in the County Buildings, Cupar, yesterday. There were present Mr John Gilmour, Montrose; Colonel Erskine; Messrs John Mitchell, Fliskmish; John Ballingall, Duntog; Geo. Watt, Kilmany; J. Sime; George Russell, Hatton; David Lees, Pitsoctie; Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Gray, Cupar, &c. Mr John Gilmour, who was called to the chair, read a letter from Mr R. Cathcart, Pitcairlic, chairman of the Authority, regretting his inability to be present owing to illness.

The CLERK narrated the circumstances regarding the alleged outbreak at Parkhill of pleuro-pneumonia, and of his having written the Board of Agriculture suggesting the delaying of the slaughter order, but no reply had been received further than an acknowledgment, and therefore, no attention had been paid to any communication from the Authority. The local veterinary inspector, Mr Reid, had been asked to retain a part of the lung of the suspected animal at Parkhill. The Chairman instructed him (the Clerk) to get it diagnosed by Professor Williams, Edinburgh, and also by Professor Walley, Edinburgh. Mr Reid took it to Edinburgh last Friday, and submitted it to Professor Williams without telling him where it came from. The same was done to Professor Walley, and the Clerk stated he had followed that up by writing to the Principals of these colleges to give their opinion on the piece of lung submitted. He had got a joint opinion from Professor Williams and Professor Owen Williams, which he would submit, and he had also a communication from Principal Walley regretting that, as he was an official of the Board of Agriculture, he could not give an opinion. The letters were as follows:—

N. W. Veterinary College, Edinburgh, 24th Oct., 1892.

W. Patrick, Esq., County Clerk, Cupar Free.

Sir,—In accordance with your request, we have examined the portion of lung brought here by Mr Reid, veterinary surgeon, Auchtermuchty, on Friday last, and found said lung to be diseased and presenting all the signs found in what is known as broncho-pneumonia, called by American writers "cornstalk disease"—a disease which had been found by ourselves in 1873, and by Mr Noard in 1890 and 1891, and proved by independent experiments conducted by Mr Noard to be a non-contagious lung disease.—We remain, yours faithfully,

W. WILLIAMS, Principal.

Royal Dick's Veterinary College, 8 Clyde Street, Edinburgh, 24th Oct., 1892.

W. D. Patrick.

Dear Sir,—I duly received yours of the 21st inst. I regret that owing to the fact that the matter is in the hands of the Board of Agriculture I cannot, as one of its officials, give an opinion in the nature of the lesion exhibited in the section of lung handed to me by Mr Reid. I am, yours faithfully,

THOMAS WALLEY.

The Clerk (continuing) said that the lung of one of the cows killed at Parkhill on Saturday had also been forwarded to London, but no report had as yet been sent. A portion of the lung of a heifer killed at Leckiebank had also been forwarded to London, as it was also considered to be a suspicious case of pleuro. He (the Clerk) had got a copy of the Order and a list of the parties who had purchased cattle at the same time as those purchased by Mr Guild of Lindores. The whole of the arable land and woodlands around Lindores had been scheduled. The other farmers who made purchases were not allowed to move any stock without a license from the Board of Agriculture.

In answer to Mr Haig, the CHAIRMAN said that the portion of the lung reported on was one of the 107 killed at Lindores, and that Leckiebank was one of the places under supervision.

Mr BALLINGALL, Dunbog, at some length referred to the very grave nature of the occurrence at Parkhill, and of the scepticism of many of the farmers of North Fife as to this really being an undoubted case of pleuro-pneumonia. He explained what he had done as soon as the report went abroad the previous week in getting the Chairman to ask the Inspector to retain a part of the lung for independent diagnosis. His object in doing so was that if Professor Williams' report did not coincide with that of the examiners of the Board of Agriculture they might be armed with that report in the event of the Board of Agriculture wishing to schedule the entire county, and putting stock-owners to a great inconvenience and trouble. He considered it very desirable that the Authority should know the facts from an independent

source. He was glad that they had got that report from Professor Williams, because it relieved their minds so far that it was not an undoubted case of pleuro. He (Mr Ballingall) thought that they as Local Authority should express their approval of what the Chairman had done in getting that independent diagnosis. He thought they would all be pleased that there was some doubt in this not being a case of pleuro, and he was of opinion that the Authority should send a copy of Principal Williams' report to the Board of Agriculture.

The CHAIRMAN thought that would be a very proper thing to do.

Mr BALLINGALL said that in all likelihood in future the Board of Agriculture would retain the whole of the lungs and not give them another chance.

Mr MITCHELL, Fli-killin, said he would memorialise the Board of Agriculture to make a thorough investigation into the "cornstalk" disease, because it was likely that importation would go on, and they might have cases occurring frequently, and bringing on a great expense on the country and causing a good deal of anxiety. He quite agreed with Mr Ballingall in the probabilities and the presumption that this outbreak was that of cornstalk disease. From the experiments made by the Board of Agriculture and the veterinary authorities, it had been found that the disease of pleuro was difficult to communicate, and that it could only be communicated by the breath of one living animal to another. If so, this animal at Parkhill could not have got the infection from anything in the ship coming across the Atlantic. There was no disease in Canada, and there was said to be none in the United States, and it was scarcely possible that it could have been affected with pleuro. He (Mr Mitchell) was convinced that the disease was "cornstalk," and not pleuro-pneumonia at all. It never had been known to arise spontaneously, though it was continually to be found in the Steppes of Hungary and Eastern Europe; but from their experience in Belgium and Denmark it was found possible to stamp it out. It had been found that it arose from simple contact, but if it was to be found that it arose spontaneously the whole fabric of stamping out tottered to the ground. He believed it was a foreign disease, and it could be stamped out. Mr Mitchell concluded, after some further references, by asking the Authority to memorialise the Board of Agriculture to have a thorough investigation in regard to the cornstalk disease, and also to pleuro, and the whole circumstances connected with the outbreak.

Mr DAVID LEES rather feared the case was one of pleuro. It was, he said, the opinion of the butchers who killed it. He did not think they should buoy themselves up that it was cornstalk disease.

Mr BALLINGALL, Dunblow, explained that the cornstalk disease was difficult to diagnose, and he explained the difference in which the animals affected by these two diseases manifested itself. Cornstalk, he said, was not in the slightest degree contagious. It was only, he held, men who had made it a special duty who were qualified to diagnose it. He thought the opinion of the butchers was of no consequence. The Chairman said that he would put very little weight upon the opinion of any one but an expert in a matter of this kind, and while they had experts such as Mr Reid and Professor Williams differing as they did, it was outwith the province of any one of themselves to give an opinion. While the declaration by the United States Ministers had been made that the States were clear of pleuro, great doubts were cast the other day on that statement. They were not to take for gospel all the statements

that came to them. There was nothing to prevent pleuro from being carried to Canada from the United States, which could be kept quiet, and, if so, it might be sent here. He did not think they should come to the conclusion that the outbreak was one of "cornstalk," and that it was not pleuro simply because the animals had come from a country where up to the present time it was not known. That might occur any day. He thought there was a strong reason for them not expressing any opinion in the matter too strongly. There were others of the same cargo under inspection and suspicion which they would shortly have a report upon. He quite agreed with Messrs Ballingall and Mitchell that they should send a copy of Professor Williams' report to the Board of Agriculture, and also express their opinion that the time had arrived when this disease of cornstalk should be investigated by the veterinary profession.

Colonel BRISKINE thought it would be advisable not to do anything until they had the report regarding the other cow at Lindores and the heifer at Leckiebank.

Mr HAIG pointed to the desirability in any outbreak occurring of the local inspectors calling on their neighbouring inspectors to examine any suspected animal.

Mr WATT, Kilmany, thought it a little premature for them to come to any decision, and he acquiesced in a thorough investigation being made. Mr Guild of Lindores had told him that he had little doubt of it being pleuro-pneumonia.

The question having arisen whether in cases of pleuro the local inspectors had power to retain a portion of the lung sent to the Board of Agriculture, Mr Borrowman, the local inspector, who was present, said his opinion was that they had.

After some further discussion, it was agreed that they should at once forward a copy of the report by Professor Williams, as proposed by Mr Ballingall, and, further, that an investigation into the disease of "cornstalk," and the whole circumstances connected with the present outbreak, as proposed by Mr Mitchell, should be sent to the Board of Agriculture.

A hastily called meeting of the Committee of the Five Farmers' Club was held yesterday in the Corn Exchange, Cupar, to consider the present position of the alleged outbreak of pleuro. Mr Gilmore presided. The meeting was held in private, and what was done has not transpired. Considerable interest was excited in the market among the farmers as to the result of the report by Professor Williams on the lungs of the animal alleged to have been suffering from pleuro, and when it became known that the Professor's diagnosis of it declared it to be that of cornstalk satisfaction was expressed at the decision of such a high authority.

THE VIEWS OF FARMERS.

It cannot be said that the opinion given by Principal Williams has occasioned much surprise among farmers in this and neighbouring counties. In the interviews which our reporters have had with agriculturists in Forfarshire, Fifeshire, and Perthshire it has been made apparent that the belief generally entertained is that the disease by which the animal which caused the scare was attacked was not the dreaded pleuro, but was in reality that kind of bronchial affection to which the term "cornstalk disease" has been given in America. As a matter of fact, the cow which first manifested the dreaded symptoms was never a particularly robust animal. It calved on board ship, and on that account was in a weakly condition and was thus rendered very susceptible to

bronchial disease. Besides, it has to be remembered that the very cold weather recently experienced could not have any other than a detrimental effect upon the cattle that arrived by the Monkseaton and the Hurona. In the case of the Monkseaton the cattle were about four weeks under shelter. After having been well cared for and attended to they were suddenly thrown out into an unusually bitter atmosphere. In the first week of October, indeed, there was very copious rain, which could not fail to prove injurious to cattle that had previously been kept in comfortable quarters. By the Order that has been issued by the Board of Agriculture their sufferings in this respect have been intensified. The majority of farmers rightly or wrongly have construed the Order as an injunction not to remove the cattle from the fields in which they are at present grazing. Perhaps this is too strict an interpretation, but it has not been made clear that any farmer would be allowed to bring the suspected animals near a steading, even although he took precautions to secure their total separation from other cattle. Now, it is the height of cruelty to keep cattle out in the inclement weather that is being experienced, and the injunction ought therefore to be relaxed, so that the animals may be got under cover. The object of the Order is understood to be the stamping out of any pleuro-pneumonia that may exist, but it will be apparent that instead of effecting this purpose it is more likely to promote the spreading of the disease. Any animal with the slightest tendency towards pleuro-pneumonia will have that tendency increased by the operation of the scheduling restrictions that have been published.

INOCULATION EXPERIMENT PROPOSED.

A matter to which attention has been drawn by practical agriculturists is the value of inoculation in the present emergency. It has been suggested that virus might be taken from the animals supposed to be affected by pleuro-pneumonia and that with this virus sound, healthy animals should be inoculated. In this way it would be shown in the course of eight or ten days whether the disease was of the fatal kind represented. Already a considerable number of farmers adhere to the opinion that inoculation would be a preventive of pleuro-pneumonia, but the experiment now proposed would simply mean the substitution of a safe test for the horrible expediency of reckless slaughter that has in the present instance been adopted.

FORFARSHIRE FARMS INSPECTED.

Francis H. Davenport, travelling inspector for the Board of Agriculture, was in Arbroath yesterday, and visited a number of the farmers in the district who had purchased cattle at the sale in Dundee on 6th October, for the purpose of inspecting the animals which were then bought. The farms visited yesterday were in the Auchmithie, Ethie, and Carmyllie districts.

AN INDIGNANT FARMER.

It was reported in Dundee market yesterday that a farmer in the district intended to communicate with Mr Davenport, Perth, Inspector under the Board of Agriculture, and direct his attention to the fact that his cattle, which had been kept in the fields on his order, had been exposed to 15 degrees of frost on Monday evening. In the event of Mr Davenport not revoking the order, it was stated the farmer in question proposed laying the matter before the agent of the Dundee Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

MR GARDNER AND LIVE STOCK IMPORTATION.

Replying to a deputation of cattle traders from Deptford and district yesterday, the President of the Board of Agriculture said he could not consistently, with the responsibility of his office and the Act, see his way to removing the restrictions at present placed on the importation of live cattle from infected Continental ports owing to the prevalence of foot-and-mouth disease and the necessity of preventing its spread in this country.

MORE SLAUGHTERING OF CATTLE.

Undeterred by the professional report from Principal Williams, by the opinions of sound practical agriculturists, or by the suggestion regarding inoculation experiments, the responsible officials of the Board of Agriculture continue to order the destruction of large herds of cattle. The instructions that have just been received indicate that Mr Herbert Gardner's assistants are meanwhile in a state of panic. Evidence which was discomfited by Principal Williams has sufficed to convince them that the dreaded pleuro has been introduced into Forfarshire and Fifeshire, and the only remedy apparent to them is the destruction of every animal which was in the least degree likely to be affected. But, although in London the conviction seems to be that the disease from which certain cattle has suffered is pleuro-pneumonia, the farmers of the counties of Forfar and Fife will continue to question the validity of that evidence. The farmers who decline to believe that the disease is pleuro-pneumonia are agriculturists of great experience. The results of their observations are substantiated by an independent examination by one of the chief veterinary surgeons in Scotland. It is plain that the case put forward by them is at least as strong as that made out on behalf of the Board of Agriculture.

ALLEGED OUTBREAK AT LECKIEBANK.

MORE CATTLE TO BE SLAUGHTERED.

The case of pleuro-pneumonia reported as having taken place on the farm of Leckiebank, near Auchtermuchty, has now been confirmed by the Board of Agriculture. It will be remembered that on Sunday last Mr Reid, veterinary surgeon, and the local inspector for the district proceeded to Leckiebank and

KILLED ONE OF THE ANIMALS

which was suspected to have been affected with the disease. The lungs were immediately sent to the examiners to the Board of Agriculture in London, and the following is the letter which Mr Wm. D. Patrick, the county clerk of Fifeshire, yesterday received from Mr Gorlon, one of the travelling inspectors to that Board:—

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Station Hotel, Perth. 25th Oct., 1892.

Dear Sir,—Pleuro-pneumonia has been declared to exist at Mr Stewart's premises at Leckiebank, Auchtermuchty. I am going out to-morrow, and will be glad to furnish you with any particulars should your Local Authority desire them.—Yours truly,

WM. GORDON.

Since the 6th October, the day on which Mr Stewart purchased the Canadians at Dundee, two of the animals appeared to be

AFFECTED WITH ILLNESS,

and ate very little food. On Tuesday, the 18th inst., Mr Stewart, while on a visit to Perth, met Mr Gordon, one of the inspectors to the Board, and informed him that he had two Canadian animals which appeared to be suffering illness. After some inquiries, Mr Gordon requested Mr Stewart to make an official report, but Mr Stewart replied he was unwilling to do that for a day or two, as he believed the animals were only suffering from the cold, and perhaps slight inflammation of the lungs. On Friday, however, Mr Stewart made an official report, and the same day Mr Reid proceeded to the farm and inspected the animals. One of them had recovered somewhat, and yesterday it was taking its food well, and appeared to be

ENTIRELY FREE FROM DISEASE.

The other animal which was suspected was slaughtered on Sunday, as already stated. Mr Stewart had in all 38 animals, and of these 32 were Canadians. The Canadian stock was composed of 27 heifers landed by the Thomson Line steamer Huronia, and 5 bullocks belonging to the Monkseaton's cargo. The other animals were 4 home-bred cows and 1 calf. A large byre contained 22 of the Canadians, while the remainder of the foreigners, along with the 4 home-bred cows were housed in another byre, which was separated by a "reed." The heifers were a lot of two and three-year-olds, and were all well forward. Yesterday morning Inspector Gordon and Mr Reid visited the farm, and

MADE A CAREFUL INSPECTION

of the whole of the stock, after which they examined the whole of the steading. Mr Gordon informed Mr Stewart that a valuator would likely visit the farm this afternoon at five o'clock to value the stock, and immediately thereafter the slaughtering of the cattle will in all probability be commenced.

MR STEWART'S OPINION.

Mr Stewart, in the course of a conversation with our representative, said he was strongly of opinion that the animal which was slaughtered had not been suffering from contagious pleuro-pneumonia at all. He pointed out the animal which the affected cow stood beside, and explained that both received their food out of the same box. Considering this fact, he could not understand why, if it was a case of pleuro-pneumonia, the animal which stood next to the affected one, and ate out of the same trough,

HAD NOT BEEN SEIZED

with or shown any signs of illness. Proceeding, Mr Stewart stated that neither of the four home-bred milk cows nor the ten Canadian queys, which were in a separate byre from the affected animal, had shown any symptoms of illness, but, notwithstanding this, they had been ordered to be slaughtered. He explained that he had

REQUESTED THE INSPECTOR

not to kill the four home-bred cows until he had seen whether the ten queys which were housed beside them had been affected in any way. If nothing were then found wrong with the queys he saw no reason why they should be slaughtered. To this, however, the Inspector would not agree, and

held that no distinction could be made. Mr Stewart remarked that he had had considerable experience which assisted him in judging what contagious pleuro was, having had his stock

TWICE CLEARED OUT

by that disease while he tenanted the farm of Whinnymuir, Seone. He will suffer considerable inconvenience and loss by the present outbreak.

THE SLAUGHTERED CATTLE AT PARKHILL.

A HOME-BRED COW AFFECTED.

The alleged outbreak of pleuro is likely to prove more serious on the farm of Parkhill, Newburgh, tenanted by Mr William Guild, than was at first expected. It will be remembered that about the beginning of last week 63 animals were

ORDERED TO BE KILLED

on this farm owing to a Canadian cow, alleged to have been affected by contagious pleuro-pneumonia, having been kept at the steading overnight, previous to being removed to the farm of Lindores. The slaughtering of the animals said to have been in contact with the one affected was completed on Saturday night last. The lungs of the animals killed were left hanging from the carcasses, and were afterwards examined by Mr Gordon and Mr Reid. These gentlemen,

ON INSPECTING THE LUNGS

of a home-bred cow, had their suspicions aroused. They immediately despatched the lungs to the examiners of the Board of Agriculture, London, and yesterday information was received that the lungs showed all the symptoms of contagious pleuro-pneumonia. The cow is said to have stood beside the affected Canadian for twelve hours previous to being removed to Lindores. It is expected that the remainder of the cattle on the farm or Parkhill, to the number of about thirty, will have to be killed in the course of a day or two in consequence of this fresh discovery.

STATEMENT BY MR REID.

Mr Reid, the veterinary surgeon, in the course of a short conversation with our representative, stated that he had not the least doubt about the cases already reported being that of contagious pleuro-pneumonia. The whole of the symptoms of the disease had been shown in the affected animals he had already inspected on the farms of Lindores, Parkhill, and Leckiebank, and the fact that the lungs of the home-bred cow killed at Parkhill had been affected by the disease went to prove his statement.

THE OUTBREAK NEAR AIRBROATH.

The Board of Agriculture have now given their decision in regard to the suspected outbreak of pleuro at the farm of David Esplin, Westerton, Colliston. As already reported, a Canadian bullock on this farm, which showed signs of disease, was killed, and the lungs forwarded to the Board of Agriculture in London for inspection. The bullock, along with five others purchased by Mr Esplin, was part of the cargo either of the Monkseaton or Huronia. As a result of their examination, the Board of Agriculture on Monday ordered all the cattle on the farm of Westerton to be slaughtered. Mr Francis H. Davenport, travelling inspector for the Board of Agriculture, who inspected the cattle at Westerton on Tuesday, has received instructions from the Board to make preparations for the slaughter of the animals. The cattle, which are to be valued to-day, are twenty-one in number, and include other five Canadians bought at Dundee on the 6th October, and seven milch cows, eight calves, and one bull.

THE OUTBREAK AT COLLISTON.

The work of slaughtering will take place to-day (Friday) on the farm of David Esplin, Westerton, Colliston. The Board of Agriculture having given orders that twenty-one animals on this farm which had been in contact with an infected Canadian bullock must be slaughtered, Mr. Andrew Hutcheson, Dundee, proceeded to Westerton on Thursday and valued the cattle, which include other five Canadians, seven milch cows, eight calves, and one bull. Mr. Francis H. Davenport, travelling inspector for the Board of Agriculture, will be in attendance for the purpose of supervising the slaughtering operations. Further slaughtering is expected to take place in this district, as several of the leading farmers in the neighbourhood were amongst the buyers at the sale in Dundee on the 6th October.

THE SUSPECTED OUTBREAK AT LECKIE-BANK.

One of the *Courier* representatives paid a visit on Thursday afternoon to the farm of Leckiebank, at which a cow suspected to be infected had been slaughtered under the circumstances narrated in Thursday's *Courier*. Previous to the suspected animal being killed on Sunday there were in all on the farm 38 animals, of which 32 were Canadians. Of the latter, 27 heifers were brought over by the Thomson Line steamer Hurona, and 5 bullocks had come in the Monkseaton. The other animals were 4 home-bred cows and a calf. The farm has a fine southern exposure, and the standing buildings are in good repair. The byres, though not so roomy as many of those put up within the last half-dozen years, are fully as good as the average farms in Fife, and have the appearance of being kept scrupulously clean. At the time when our representative called, Mr. Stewart, who had gone to Perth in the morning, had not returned, but was expected by the evening train arriving at Auchtermuchty. Meanwhile the cattleman volunteered to show our representative round and point out to him the stock. Mr. Stewart appears to have in this servant a man who knows his duty, and seems to have at heart the interests of his employer, as well as the careful feeding of his stock. Proceeding first to show the second animal that had been ailing, he pointed to one with a very good coat, which was greedily devouring the food placed before it. Speaking of the two that had been ill, and, as he said, had been suffering from cold, he narrated his treatment of them in giving them doses of treacle and oil. The one which had been killed on Sunday he declared to have been quite recovered, as his treatment had cured it, and it was eating corn as greedily as any of the others, and he seemed to lament the haste of the Inspector in depriving him of his recovered patient. The other seemed to be quite healthy. Going round examining the others, they appeared to be doing very well. Their former rough coat was being supplanted by one of a better pile. It was expected that the cattle would have been valued on Thursday evening, but that arrangement has fallen through. This, however, will be done to-day or to-morrow, and the slaughter carried into effect as soon as possible thereafter, as the Board of Agriculture seems to have no dubiety about it being a case of genuine pleuro.

PLEURO-PNEUMONIA AT PARKHILL CONFIRMED.

Yesterday the County Clerk of Fife, Mr. Wm. D. Patrick, received the following telegram from the Local Inspector, Mr. Reid, Auchtermuchty:—"No suspected case Lindores. Cow's lung sent from Parkhill on Sunday to London; diagnosis confirmed, pleuro-pneumonia." The remaining cattle at Parkhill will now be slaughtered without further delay.

ALLEGED OUTBREAK IN THE DUNDEE DISTRICT.

On Thursday evening Mr. Peter M'Intyre, Denfind, received notice from one of the traveling inspectors of the Board of Agriculture that it would be necessary to have 21 animals on his farm immediately slaughtered. It appears that Mr. M'Intyre purchased 23 cattle at the sale of the cargoes of the Monkseaton and the Hurona at Dundee on 6th October. They were at once driven out to Denfind for wintering purposes. At the time in question the weather was exceptionally wet, and soon after they had been in the park one of them showed signs of illness and had to be killed, the belief then being that it had contracted a severe cold. About a week ago another took ill, and was slaughtered, we understand, on Sunday last. The lungs of the beast were forwarded to the Board of Agriculture, and, following their examination, came an order that the whole of those remaining should be killed. With this object butchers left the city at four o'clock yesterday afternoon. It is confidently believed by those who have seen the animals that they were not suffering from infectious pleuro-pneumonia, but from a chill resulting from such severe exposure after the steaming they receive on board ship.

SLAUGHTERING IN THE ARBROATH DISTRICT.

The work of slaughtering has now been inaugurated in the Arbroath district. Besides David Esplin, the owner of the farm at Colliston, a large number of the leading farmers in the district were purchasers of the cattle disposed of at Dundee on the 6th October, and most of these farmers have now been informed that the cattle then bought are to be slaughtered, as well as, in many instances, the cattle with which they have been brought into contact. In view of the wholesale slaughtering thus contemplated, Mr. Andrew Hutcheson, Dundee, accompanied by Mr. Francis Davenport, travelling inspector for the Board of Agriculture, visited a number of the surrounding farms on Thursday, and put a valuation on all the animals which it was proposed to kill, this work of valuing the cattle being accomplished in every case to the satisfaction of the farmer. Amongst the farms on which the cattle have been valued with a view to their slaughter is that of

WEST MAINS OF ETHIE.

Mr. Hutcheson and Mr. Davenport paid a visit on Thursday to the farm of West Mains of Ethie, which is occupied by D. J. M'Walter, when the work of valuing the cattle was carried out. The number of animals on this farm whose slaughter has been definitely fixed upon number nine, and consist exclusively of Canadian bullocks purchased by Mr. M'Walter at the sale in Dundee on the 6th inst. These animals formed part of the cargo of the Hurona. It may be interesting to mention that one of these bullocks has been lodged in a shed on the farm along with twenty other Irish cattle, and, notwithstanding the fact that they have been in contact with the condemned bullock, the Board of Agriculture have resolved to exempt this score of animals from slaughter in the meantime. Two home-bred heifers have likewise been housed with the condemned Canadians, and the Board has agreed to spare these also. No day has yet been fixed for the carrying out of the Board's order, but should the slaughter of these nine animals result in the discovery of any signs of disease, the other forty-seven cattle on this farm will in all probability share the same fate. On the other hand, however, should the lungs on examination show no appearance of disease, the restrictions imposed by

the Board in their schedule will very likely be at once removed. Mr M'Walter has never had any trouble with Canadian cattle since he began to purchase them two years ago. The valuation put upon the condemned cattle is equal to an average of about £10 per head, and this estimate Mr M'Walter regards as a perfectly just market value. It is expected that the slaughter of the cattle will take place in Arbroath, whither they will be conveyed on "floats" during the night, with the view of preventing infection by the way and otherwise removing the possibilities of infection. The only inconvenience to Mr M'Walter arising from the slaughter of the animals will be the higher price that is now being asked for cattle. Mr Gilruth, who occupies the farms of Seaton, Auchmithie, and also

SEAFIELD,

is the owner of seventeen Canadian bullocks that will be included in the intended slaughter. Mr Gilruth purchased nine bullocks in Dundee on the 6th inst., and conveyed them to Seafeld, where they were put under cover in company with other eight Canadians bought by Mr Gilruth a week previously. Before receiving the schedule of the Board of Agriculture Mr Gilruth had followed the plan of putting them in the field during the day and sheltering them under cover by night, and he has continued doing this since. Mr Gilruth contemplated bringing the cattle from Seafeld down to Seaton, but was warned by the Board of Agriculture not to do so in the meantime. Mr Gilruth's stock has not yet been visited by the travelling inspector of the Board. There will also fall to be slaughtered under the Board's orders thirty-one cattle on the farm of

NEWTON,

occupied by Mr Donaldson. These animals were valued by Mr Hutcheson on Thursday, the total valuation, it is understood, amounting to nearly £400. They are well grown and superior looking animals. As already stated, Mr Donaldson has been prevented by the order of the Board from bringing the cattle out of the field in which they were put on their arrival. They were conveyed to Arbroath, where the slaughter was begun vigorously, and proceeded briskly. More slaughtering is expected to take place to-day. Mr Donaldson has never had any trouble with Canadians, and has hitherto found them much superior to the Irish cattle. He also states that the only inconvenience that will be felt will be in connection with the higher price of cattle.

SLAUGHTERING AT COLLISTON.

Slaughtering operations were begun on the farm of David Esplin, Westerton, Colliston, yesterday morning at eight o'clock. The work was in the hands of a number of butchers from Arbroath, who carried it out most expeditiously, the disagreeable operations being brought to a conclusion about one o'clock in the afternoon. In all twenty-one animals were slaughtered, including one bull, seven milch cows, eight calves, and other five Canadians. A large shed was brought into requisition for the slaughter, skinning, and cleaning of the animals, which were suspended from the joists of the building. Mr Davenport, the inspector, was in attendance for the purpose of supervising the slaughter, and the lungs of the animals were not detached until they had been examined by Mr Wallace, V.S., district inspector for the Arbroath Local Authority, who arrived in the course of the afternoon for that purpose. We understand that several of the lungs have been forwarded for inspection to the Board of Agriculture. Mr Esplin states that one of the bullocks exhibited signs of disease previous to being slaughtered, this being subsequently confirmed. Mr

Esplin has received as compensation over £200. Disinfecting operations will be effected immediately, and Mr Esplin thinks that when this has been carried out to the satisfaction of the Board's inspector he will be at liberty to look out for a new stock for his farm.

FIFESHIRE.

Yesterday 15 cattle were slaughtered at the farm of Mains of Sectseraig (Mr J. Christie's) by several butchers from Dundee.

CUPAR DISTRICT.

There is as yet no report of any further development of the pleuro outbreak in this district. The animals in contact, and on which the slaughter order has been pronounced, await the perfecting of the arrangements.

SUPPOSED OUTBREAK IN LANCASHIRE.

A supposed outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia has occurred at Matthew Dawson's farm, Bashall Eaves, near Clitheroe. Inspector Hill, of the Board of Agriculture, traced from an infected place some cattle bought several months ago, and on their being slaughtered yesterday evidences of disease were discovered. Eight cows and one calf were slaughtered, two being buried as unfit for food, and the others conveyed to Liverpool. The lungs of one cow were sent to London for examination. Farmers in the district are greatly concerned, it being feared that markets and sales will be stopped.

It is stated that official information has been received from the Board of Agriculture to the effect that it is more than probable the 1200 cattle ex the Hurona and Monkseaton will all be slaughtered.

WHOLESALE SLAUGHTERING IN FORFARSHIRE.

It is now understood that the Board of Agriculture have decided to have the whole of the 1200 cattle landed at Dundee by the steamers Monkseaton and Hurona slaughtered. The work of slaughtering the animals will be overtaken as speedily as possible, but on account of the large number of cattle involved it will, of course, be some time before it is completed. On Friday night and Saturday morning 21 cattle were despatched on the farm of Denfind, and the carcasses will be removed to Dundee to-day, and be disposed of to-morrow at the dead meat mart at the Cattle Market. There are, we understand, about 70 home-bred animals on the farm of Denfind, but as these have not been in contact with those slaughtered they will not be interfered with. On Saturday 7 Canadians, supposed to have contracted the malady, were killed at Loch of Liff, tenanted by Mr A. Osler, and the carcasses were removed to Dundee in the course of the day. Fifteen animals have also been killed on the farm of Mains of Sectseraig, tenanted by Mr Christie. Mr Dawson, inspector under the Board of Agriculture, and Mr Andrew Hutcheson visited Pitliver farm on Saturday, and valued seven animals belonging to ex-Baile Taylor, and which formed part of the cargo of the Monkseaton. They afterwards proceeded to Panbride to value a number of animals belonging to Colonel J. F. Dickson. As the Colonel was absent at the Arbroath market Messrs Dawson and Hutcheson did not manage to get the work overtaken. They will, however, return to Panbride to-day, and it is stated that they will afterwards visit several other farms in the district where there are cattle brought by the Monkseaton or the Hurona. It is understood that

the Canadian cattle on Pitlivie will be killed to-day. It may be mentioned there are 200 animals on the farm. These include six valuable shorthorns, the others being Irish and home-bred cattle.

SLAUGHTERING IN ARBROATH.

Slaughtering is now proceeding briskly in the Arbroath shambles. It was inaugurated on Friday night with Mr Donaldson's herd of 31 Canadians, and was carried on vigorously all Saturday and yesterday. The slaughter of Mr Donaldson's cattle was brought to a close about four o'clock on Saturday morning. Nine Canadians belonging to Mr D. J. McWalter, West Mains of Ethie, were brought in on "floats" on Saturday afternoon, this mode of conveyance being adopted to prevent the possibility of the animals affecting another herd of cattle, which they expected to encounter on the road to Arbroath. The slaughter on Saturday and yesterday included five Canadians from the farm of Mr J. Hall, Condie-Aeres; nine Canadians, the property of Mr Gilruth, Senfield; six from the farm of Boysack Hill, occupied by Mr J. Anderson; and also six Canadians belonging to Mr J. Thomson, Woodlands. The cattle of Mr Hall, Condie-Aeres, were only valued on Saturday afternoon, and so it is evident that the Board of Agriculture have no intention of wasting any time in connection with the stamping out of the disease. One Canadian cow, belonging to Mr Bell, Branton, will be conveyed in a "float" to the shambles to-day. Mr F. H. Davenport, travelling inspector for the Board of Agriculture, and Mr Wallace, N.S., attended in Arbroath for the purpose of examining the lungs of the slaughtered animals, and it is understood that several lungs were detached with a view to their being despatched to the Board of Agriculture in London for inspection.

A cow, belonging to Mr Baxter, dairyman, New Rattray, was slaughtered by order of the Board of Agriculture.

It is intended that the cattle at Leekiebank, near Auchtermuchty shall be slaughtered to-day.

A number of cattle belonging to Mr Granger, Pitcur, near Connor Angus, which are alleged to have been in contact with pleuro pneumonia infected cattle, were slaughtered yesterday.

FORFAR.—It is gratifying to learn that in the Forfar district no signs of disease have been observed amongst the cattle purchased at Dundee by local farmers and cattle-dealers on 6th October. A considerable number of these animals have since the sale been in contact with other stock on farms in the neighbourhood, and we understand that the farmers have confidence that no outbreak will occur.

The *Standard* points out that the Act of Parliament expressly lays down, with regard to foreign and Colonial imports, that when the Government is not satisfied that the sanitary conditions of any country are such as to render the importation of cattle free from all risk, such cattle are to be slaughtered on their arrival. "They are not to leave the port alive." Nobody, it remarks, can pretend to say, after what has occurred at Dundee, that Canada is a country in which the sanitary condition of the cattle is at the present moment such that no risk is run by importation.

FORFARSHIRE.

SLAUGHTERING AT ARBROATH.

The intention of the Board of Agriculture to stamp out the disease by slaughtering all the animals sold in Dundee on the 8th October has now been almost carried out in the Arbroath district. One cow belonging to Mr John Bell, Branton, was conveyed into Arbroath on a "float" early yesterday morning and slaughtered. An examination of the animal's lungs proved that it had been in a perfectly healthy state. This means that the rest of the stock on Mr Bell's farm will be exempted from slaughter. Mr Davenport and Mr Wallace, V.S., attended the shambles yesterday for the purpose of examining the lungs of the slaughtered animals. It was understood that a good many of the lungs were detached with a view to their being sent to London to be examined by the Board of Agriculture.

HILLHEAD.

Mr Davenport, travelling inspector for the Board of Agriculture, proceeded to the farm of Hillhead, which is occupied by Mr Robert Hume, yesterday, and valued eight Canadian bullocks purchased on the 6th ult. in Dundee. The valuation was accomplished to the satisfaction of the buyer of the cattle. The cattle are to be slaughtered in Arbroath to-day, whither they were conveyed last night. The lungs of the slaughtered animals will afterwards be examined, and if no signs of disease are apparent, Mr Hume will be at liberty to set about augmenting his stock. On the other hand, however, should the lungs exhibit any appearance of disease all the remaining cattle on the farm—which are fourteen in number, and include several fat bullocks and Canadian home-bred and Irish cattle—will also be slaughtered. It may be mentioned that Mr Hume had only provided himself with one-half of his winter stock when the restrictions imposed under the Board of Agriculture order came into operation.

Colonel J. F. Dickson, Craigmill, possesses 29 Canadians, which are also included in the impending slaughter. Twenty of these are in a field where they were placed on their arrival, and where they have since remained. The remaining nine are under cover in a byre, in contact with four home-bred bullocks. Mr Dawson, inspector under the Board of Agriculture, and Mr Hutcheson visited the farm on Saturday for the purpose of valuing the cattle, but the Colonel was away from home, and the work of valuation, we understand, has not yet been undertaken. It is expected that this will be accomplished to-morrow, when the work of slaughtering will immediately begin. It was anticipated that the business of slaughtering the nine Canadians on Pitlivie, belonging to ex-Maile Taylor, which were valued on Saturday, would have been carried out to-day. This, however, has, it is understood, not yet been accomplished. The slaughtering of the animals at Pitlivie and at Craigmill will mean that the work pursued by the Board of Agriculture of exterminating all the cattle disposed of at the sale held in Dundee on the 6th ult. has finished so far as the Arbroath district is concerned. Slaughtering was begun on the farm of Westerton, Colliston, occupied by Mr Esplin, on Saturday, October 22, by the slaughter of a Canadian bullock, and by the slaughter of other twenty-one animals on the Monday following. The latter lot included five Canadians, seven milch cows, eight calves, and one bull. When the slaughter on Pitlivie and Craigmill is finished, the total number of animals slaughtered will be 135. This number is distributed as follows:—Mr D. Esplin, Westerton, Colliston, 22; Mr R. J. Donaldson, Newton, 31;

Mr D. J. M'Walter, West Mains of Ethlie, 9; Mr Gilruth, Seafield, 9; Mr John Anderson, Boysack Hill, 6; Mr J. Jamieson, Woodlands, 6; Mr J. Hall, Condacres, 5; Mr J. Bell, Branton, 1; Mr Robert Hume, 8; ex-Baillie Taylor, Pitlivi, 9; Mr J. F. Dickson, Panbride, 29. All the cattle are Canadians with the exception of Mr Esplin's. Slaughtering operations will now be transferred to the Forfar and Montrose districts.

SLAUGHTERING AT BRECHIN.

On Saturday a staff of butchers arrived in the Brechin and Montrose district and commenced the slaughtering of the Canadian cattle out of the two suspected cargoes belonging to local farmers. The fourteen cattle on Haughs of Kinnaird, tenanted by Mr J. L. Sample, were first killed, and the men, who were under the supervision of Mr Cameron, Glasgow, then proceeded to Glenskinno, where Mr Spence had twenty-one of the cattle. Some of these were killed on Saturday evening, and the remainder on Sunday, and the butchers then crossed over to Dunninald Mains, also tenanted by Mr Spence, where there were forty-two head. The slaughtering of these was concluded yesterday, the carcasses being dressed and forwarded to Glasgow. In the afternoon the forty-four out of the same cargoes belonging to Mr Samson, Balwylo, were slaughtered, but in this instance the carcasses were carted to Montrose Shambles and there dressed. The other farms in the district on which there are cattle from the suspected cargoes are:—J. Calder, Seaton of Usan; W. Comper, Kintrockat; R. Rodger, Mains of Dunn (54 head); D. Kinnear, Dysart; Mr Playfair, Morphee; and W. Salmond, Woodrae.

VALUATIONS IN FORFARSHIRE.

Yesterday Government Inspectors, accompanied by valuers, visited the Forfar district and valued several of the cattle which were landed at Dundee by the Monkseaton and the Hurona. The animals which had been in contact with them, however, were not valued, and they will not be slaughtered unless they exhibit symptoms of illness. Mr Dawson, Government Inspector, accompanied by Mr Andrew Hutcheson, Dundee, valued the cattle on Drumclune (which belong to Messrs Reid & Smith, dealers), as well as some cows in Forfar. The number of animals valued on the farm of Drumclune was 39, but some more still remain to be valued in this district at some future time. The farm known as the Gask, tenanted by Mr Pattullo, and the farm of Ingliston, tenanted by Mr Simpson, were also visited, and the cattle were valued by Mr Brown, inspector, accompanied by Mr Hay, of Messrs Hay & Kyd, Perth. The various lots on the several farms which were valued yesterday will probably be slaughtered within the next two days.

PERTHSHIRE.

Mr William Allan, Kinnonpark, Methven, whose farm has been scheduled, was in Perth yesterday. He stated that he had not as yet received any notice about slaughtering, but he expected to receive such a notice either to-day or to-morrow. Mr Allan bought 16 Canadian cattle in Dundee on the 6th October, and since then they have been in contact with his other stock, which include 70 cattle. Yesterday Mr Alexander Hay, of Messrs Hay & Kyd, auctioneers, Perth, proceeded to the farm of Gask, near Coupar Angus, tenanted by Mr David Pittullo, for the purpose of valuing eight Canadian cattle, which were purchased in Dundee on 6th October. The stock includes 85 cattle. Six

of the Canadians are in a separate byre, which is divided from the cow byre by a wooden partition, and the other two Canadians are in a byre with 20 feeding cattle. Neither Mr P. Constable, Baledgarno, Inchture, who has six Canadians on the Priory parks along with five stots, nor Mr Morgan, Ardgath, Glencarse, who has 27 Canadians on his farm, seven of which were purchased on the 6th October at Dundee, have had their cattle valued. The other stock at Ardgath include 104 feeding cattle and 6 cows.

SLAUGHTERING OF THE STOCK AT LECKIEBANK.

As reported in the *Courier* of last week the whole of the cattle at Leckiebank, near Auchtermuchty, had come under the slaughter order. One of the animals suspected to be suffering from pleuro was, it will be remembered, killed on Sunday week, and on its lungs being sent to the examiners of the Board of Agriculture it was declared to be a case of pleuro-pneumonia, and the Board of Agriculture thereafter declared the farm an infected place. The total number of cattle on the farm was 37, made up of 32 Canadians and 4 home-bred cows and a calf. The cattle were valued on Friday evening, and arrangements were made by travelling inspector Gordon for the slaughtering being begun on Saturday. On Saturday morning Mr McCall, Dunblane, as representing the Board of Agriculture, arrived at the farm with a squad of nine Glasgow butchers, about seven o'clock. With the aid of a local joiner, one of the large sheds on the farm was fitted up in which to kill the animals, and suspend the carcasses, and at half-past ten o'clock the work of slaughtering was begun, and continued uninterruptedly until dusk, when it was found that 22 of the cattle had been killed. The work was then adjourned till the following day. The slaughtering operations were resumed on Sunday morning at seven o'clock, and by twelve o'clock the remaining 14 of the cattle had been killed and their carcasses hung up. Mr Reid, jun., V.S., Auchtermuchty, visited the farm on Sunday about ten o'clock, and he was followed by Mr Gordon, the travelling inspector, about eleven o'clock. The former immediately on his arrival began an inspection of the carcasses. The whole of the lungs were then detached, and a careful inspection made of them by these two officials. All the lungs of the Canadians were then packed for transit to London, those which had come by the Monkseaton and Hurona being packed up separately. Messrs Gordon and Reid left the farm again at one o'clock, by which time the butchers had begun to tie up the carcasses. Six of the butchers left during the afternoon to catch the train on the main line for Glasgow, and Mr McCall and three men were left to tie up and arrange the remaining carcasses, which was only completed at twelve o'clock yesterday, when the carcasses were at once sent down to Auchtermuchty Railway Station en route for the Glasgow Head Meat Market. One-half of three of the carcasses were retained and burned, as these showed signs of a little inflammation having taken place in the rib. The inspectors communicated little or no information to Mr Stewart, the owner of the cattle, but in an interview with our representative yesterday Mr Stewart very courteously gave his opinion of the state of the cattle. He is still strongly of opinion that it has not been a case of pleuro at all, as the symptoms were not at all like those which manifested themselves in two separate outbreaks of the disease when he held a farm in Perthshire. He also examined all the

carcasses himself, and says there were not any apparent symptoms of pleuro. In some of them, however, there were traces of tuberculosis, but this, he said, was very common in American cattle, which, he said, was caused by overheating in the ship. Two of the carcasses were a little marked, and had encrustments on the ribs, and one of them was a little soft, and in one or two of them the lungs were a little congested. It was the halves of three of the worst of these which were kept and buried. He stated it was quite impossible to get American cattle shortly after their long journey without the little taints he had indicated, and these, he asserted, would never develop into pleuro. The farm buildings will at once be cleaned and disinfected, and Mr Stewart will then be enabled to restock his farm, as he is left without any.

SLAUGHTERING IN ELGINSHIRE AND BANFFSHIRE.

Our Elgin correspondent, telegraphing last night, says:—It is understood instructions have been given for the slaughter of all the cattle that were in contact with the Canadian animals alleged to have been found suffering from pleuro-pneumonia in Forfarshire, and which, along with the other portion of the live stock cargo, were exposed for sale in Dundee on 6th October. Two or three gentlemen in Morayshire purchased part of the cargo, and to-morrow (Tuesday) these are to be slaughtered. There are 35 on the farm of Carswell, Alves; 9 at Spagnie, belonging to Mr Laing, Keith; and 17 at Burnside, Fochabers. These animals are all in a healthy condition, but the order for the slaughter is imperative. Considerable excitement is being caused among northern agriculturists by the news that so many cattle are to be slaughtered. In addition to those mentioned in Morayshire, 37 are to be killed at Drum, near Keith, Banffshire, making 99 in all. They form part of the two cargoes sold at Dundee on 6th October. The slaughter was partly accomplished in Morayshire to-night, and the remainder will be killed to-morrow.

NO PLEURO-PNEUMONIA IN CANADA.

INQUIRIES BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

The Ottawa correspondent of the *Times* says:—Inquiries made in all parts of Canada elicit the reply that no pleuro-pneumonia exists in the country. Cattle dealers cannot believe that an actual case was found amongst some Canadian cattle shipped to Dundee. They think that the slaughtered animal suffered from bronchial pneumonia, a non-contagious disease, contracted en route. The Minister of Agriculture is causing the origin of every animal shipped on board the steamers *Hurona* and *Monkseaton* to be traced.

RESTOCKING AT DENFIND.

The cattle on the farm of Panbride, belonging to Colonel J. F. Dickson, were yesterday valued by Mr Andrew Hutcheson, and will be slaughtered to-day in accordance with the general order issued by the Board of Agriculture that all the cattle forming the cargoes landed at Dundee on 6th October by the *Monkseaton* and the *Hurona* should be killed. Mr Peter M'Intyre, Denfind, has received a notice from Mr William Davidson, one of the inspectors under the Board of Agriculture, withdrawing the restrictions placed on his farm in consequence of the disease. Mr M'Intyre, it will be remembered, purchased twenty-three of the animals at the sale in question, and shortly thereafter two of these died, and the twenty-one others were slaughtered on Saturday last. Considering the short time that has elapsed between the slaughter of Mr M'Intyre's cattle and this order allowing him to restock his farm, the general feeling is that, so

far at least as the animals in his possession were concerned, they could not have been affected with pleuro.

SLAUGHTERING IN ARBROATH AND CAPELOUSTIE.

It may now be said that, so far, at least, as this district is concerned, the last of the two suspected cargoes sold in Dundee on the 6th ult. will be killed to-day, when slaughtering operations will take place on the farms of Pitlivi, belonging to ex-Ballie Taylor, Dundee, and Craigmill, occupied by Colonel J. F. Dickson. Nine Canadian bullocks were valued at Pitlivi on Saturday, and yesterday Mr Andrew Hutcheson, Dundee, proceeded to the farm of Craigmill, where there are 29 Canadians, and valued the animals with a view to their slaughter to-day. This will bring the slaughtering in this district to a close should these animals show no sign of disease. The work is to be undertaken by a staff of butchers from Dundee. The eight Canadian bullocks on the farm of Hillhead, occupied by Mr Robert Hume, were conveyed into Arbroath on Monday night in "cattle" floats, and slaughtered in the shambles yesterday. We understand that the lungs of the animals are to be examined to-day.

THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

CONDEMNED.

INCISIVE ADDRESS BY PRINCIPAL WILLIAMS.

A meeting of the Fifeshire Local Authority was held in the County Buildings, Cupar, yesterday, which was well attended—Mr R. Cathcart of Pitcairnie presiding.

The CHAIRMAN, before the proceedings commenced, stated that he had heard the previous day that Principal Williams, of Edinburgh, intended being present in Cupar that day, and he telegraphed to that gentleman asking if he could be present at their meeting, as he (the Chairman) thought all the members of the Authority would be anxious to hear what he had to say on the cases which had been so prominently before the agricultural community for some time back. Anything that Principal Williams might say would not bind them in any way, but he thought it of consequence that they should be in possession of as much information as possible on the subject. The Board of Agriculture did not afford them any information. They took everything in their own hands, and left the Authority to find out what they liked for themselves. He thought it therefore all the more necessary that they should take advantage of hearing any statements the Principal might make to them. The meeting thoroughly approved of what the Chairman had done.

The CLERK submitted a statement giving a record of the cases in the county which had been suspected, and of the slaughter at the various places, an account of which has already appeared in the *Courier*, and he stated that he had got notice from the chief travelling inspector of 12 cattle at Airdrie, (rail; 10 at Carvenom, near Anstruther; and 15 at Falside.

PRINCIPAL WILLIAMS' DESCRIPTION OF PLEURO.

Principal WILLIAMS was then called in and introduced by the Chairman, and on being asked to make a short statement said he came before them as representing both himself and his father, and a great many veterinary surgeons, regarding the so-called outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia. The Canadian Government denied that they had disease in the country, but, apart from that declaration, the Principal and those who were of his opinion

as far as they had seen from the specimens they had obtained, had found no trace of it, and they made that declaration, and would stick to their opinions through thick and thin that undoubtedly it was not pleuro-pneumonia. A searching microscopic examination had proved it to be, in their opinion, broncho-pneumonia, which disease occurred, he said, in Irish, American, and Canadian cattle, and which was due to the animals catching cold on the voyage to this country. Going on to describe the forms of the disease, Principal Williams said that in contagious pleuro there was febrinous exudate, which filled the air vesicles and the smaller bronchial tubes, leaving the epithelial lining of the vesicles and the smaller tubes intact. But in cornstalk disease there was none of that febrinous exudate, and the epithelial lining became altered in condition, and either fell off and was cast away in the discharge or multiplied. In pleuro-pneumonia contagious the disease extended to the walls of the blood vessels and disturbed their inner lining, and in consequence during the life of the animal the blood was conglobated in these vessels, and they could never be restored to health. In cornstalk disease these conditions did not occur, and it was quite possible for an affected part to recover and be restored to health. Referring to a number of specimens of the lungs and illustrations of the different effects of pleuro and cornstalk on the lungs of the animals, which were exhibited in an adjoining room, the Principal (continuing) said the specimens were sufficient to convince any one that those they obtained were not contagious pleuro-pneumonia. In all the specimens submitted the lungs did not sink in water, whereas in contagious pleuro they sank. Though this question might be a small one to the country at large, it was a very important one to the farmers of Fifeshire. He (the Principal) did not think the question a local one. He considered it almost an Imperial one. As they were aware, the Dominion was divided between French and British Canadians, the former of whom were anxious to have an amalgamation with the United States, and if Canada was scheduled it might lead to civil war and separation from this country. He considered the Government of this country should give Canada the satisfaction of having it proved or disproved that this disease was really that of contagious pleuro-pneumonia.

Questions being invited, in answer to Mr Mitchell, Fliskmills, Principal WILLIAMS said disease in animals arose from at least one of two conditions. The first might be contagious, and the other under certain conditions and circumstances in which they were placed, such as being exposed to severe cold draught. Cornstalk was an acute cold affecting the chest of the animal, and such might have been the case with the second cow said to have been affected at Parkhill. In answer to Mr Ballingall, the PRINCIPAL said if he had a small portion of the lung of the animal he could give an opinion. He might aid, he said, that pleuro-pneumonia originated at a centre perhaps about the size of a pin point, which gradually spread from the centre, getting larger, until the animal died or was slaughtered, or until the germs lost their power in extending to everything they came into contact with. It was quite possible, he said, for a man to have pleuro-pneumonia and seemingly recover and live ten years after, and still have it in his system. There was no disease without germs, but cases of broncho-pneumonia were easily recoverable, as there was no affection in the blood

vessels. He never knew of a case of pleuro-pneumonia developing more quickly than in three weeks. He thought the Government should give them an opportunity of having the animals inoculated, but there had been no opportunity by which the lymph could be got.

Mr BALLINGALL, at the close of the questioning, said he considered that they had been all through very cavalierly treated by the Board of Agriculture, as they had not been given the slightest opportunity of satisfying themselves, and but for the merest accident they would not have got part of the lung which had been submitted to Principal Williams. He could not let the opportunity pass without again protesting against the treatment they were getting from the Board of Agriculture, as he thought they were entitled to every facility to see for themselves, and if they or any authority were to be of any use they ought to get opportunities of informing themselves on these outbreaks. If not, they, as an authority, would soon require to sign their own dissolution.

In the adjoining room, Principal Williams exhibited specimens in printed plates and photographs of pleuro-pneumonia and cornstalk diseases, and the difference between the two was exhibited in a marked manner by powerful microscopes also on parts of diseased lungs.

UNWARRANTED ASSUMPTIONS.

The *Times* has a long leader on the pleuro-pneumonia scare in its yesterday's issue. After narrating the circumstances connected with the dispersion of the cargoes of the *Monk-seaton* and the *Huron* at Dundee, it points out that the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act of 1878 provides that when the Privy Council—now the Board of Agriculture—are satisfied with regard to any foreign country that the laws of the country and the sanitary condition of animals therein are such as to afford reasonable security against disease, then they shall allow animals to be landed without being subject to slaughter. What concerns the inhabitants of these islands at this moment is the fact that pleuro-pneumonia exists in Canada, and the other fact that cargoes of Canadian cattle are actually on their way here. By what is done in the case the public will have a means of judging the administrative capacities of the new Minister of Agriculture, Mr Herbert Gardner.

Last night's *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch*, commenting on the above-mentioned leader, says:—The *Times* to-day readily assumes the accuracy of the diagnosis of the Veterinary Department of the Board of Agriculture, and treats as a fact the allegation "that pleuro-pneumonia exists in Canada," and that it has been introduced into Scotland. These so-called facts are denied by veterinary authorities on the spot, who are not less qualified—probably much better qualified—than those in London to pronounce an opinion. What is desired in Scotland, and demanded as a right, is that the question should be authoritatively set at rest before scores of healthy cattle are sacrificed to what is believed to be an obstinate delusion.

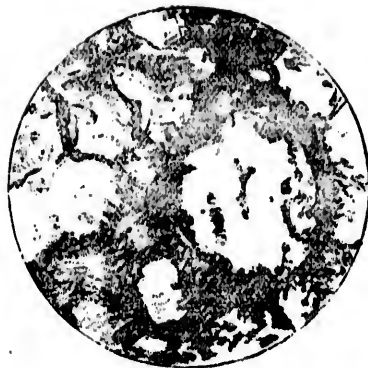
PLEURO-PNEUMONIA V. CORNSTALK DISEASE.

In the absence of any declaration by the Board of Agriculture as to the principles upon which they have decided that the disease attributed to Canadian cattle landed at Dundee was pleuro-pneumonia, the address given by Principal Williams, of Edinburgh, at the meeting of the Fifeshire Local Authority on Tuesday has created much interest among agriculturists. The main purpose of Principal Williams' address was to prove that the malady was not pleuro-pneumonia, but broncho-pneumonia, a disease occurring in Irish, American, and Canadian cattle, and due to the animals catching cold on the voyage to this country. Through the courtesy of Principal Williams we are enabled to reproduce to-day photographs of parts of diseased lungs showing the appearances presented in cases of pleuro-pneumonia on the one hand and of cornstalk disease on the other.



PLEURO-PNEUMONIA.

These photographs were among those exhibited by the Principal in illustration of his lecture. As he then pointed out, there is in contagious pleuro febrinous exudate, which fills the air vesicles and the smaller bronchial tubes, leaving the epithelial lining of the vesicles and the smaller tubes intact. But in cornstalk disease there is none of that febrinous exudate, and the epithelial lining becomes altered in condition, and either falls off and is cast away in the discharge or multiplied. In pleuro-pneumonia contagious the disease extends to the walls of the blood vessels and disturbs their inner lining, and in consequence during the life of the animal the blood is coagulated in these vessels, and they can never be restored to health. In cornstalk disease, on the other hand, these conditions do not occur, and it is quite possible for an affected part to recover and be restored to health. In referring to the illustrations of the different effects of pleuro and cornstalk on the lungs of the animals, the Principal added that the specimens were sufficient to convince any one that those they obtained were not contagious pleuro-pneumonia. In all the specimens submitted the lungs did not sink in water, whereas in contagious pleuro they sank.



CORNSTALK DISEASE.

FURTHER SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE.

The cattle purchased by ex-Bailie Taylor, Dundee, for his farm of Pitlivic, at the sale on 6th October have been valued prior to their slaughter, which will be completed to-day. Those bought by Colonel J. F. Dickson, Panbride—about 20 in number—were killed yesterday.

THE SLAUGHTERING IN ARBROATH.

Mr Wallace, V.S., was in attendance at the Arbroath shambles yesterday, and examined the eight cattle from the farm of Hillhead, belonging to Mr Robert Hume, which were slaughtered yesterday. We understand that several lungs were detached with a view to their being sent to London to be examined by the Board of Agriculture. Eleven animals were conveyed to the Arbroath shambles last night from the farm of East Mains of Rossie, near Montrose, and will be slaughtered to-day. When this has been accomplished, the number of cattle that have been killed in the Arbroath shambles will be 86.

FORFAR.

Yesterday 43 of the animals purchased in Dundee on 6th October by Messrs Reid & Smith, Letham, were slaughtered on the farm of Drumclune, near Forfar, occupied by the trustees of the late Mr James Wylie, by order of the Board of Agriculture, in consequence of the suspected outbreak of pleuro. Operations were carried through by a staff of Edinburgh butchers, employed by Mr Dawson, the Government's official. They commenced their disagreeable work early in the morning and finished in the evening. It was intended that the 25 cattle bought by Mr James Simpson, Ingleston of Eassie, on the same date should be brought to the Forfar slaughterhouse yesterday morning to be killed, but the traction engine, belonging to Mr Hendry Young, timber merchant, Kirriemuir, by which they were conveyed to town, broke down on its way to the farm. Probably, however, the cattle will be sent to Forfar to-day, where they will be killed. Yesterday forenoon one cow and two calves, purchased by Mr Alex. Deuchars, fisher, were killed in the slaughterhouse. Their lungs were in the course of the day examined by Mr Tait, veterinary surgeon, but we understand that they do not show any signs of disease. They will be transmitted to London for inspection, and it is expected they will be reported upon in a day or two. Mr

Andrew Hutchison, Dundee, and Mr Dawson visited the farm of South Mains, tenanted by Mr George Nicoll, yesterday forenoon, and valued 37 Canadian cattle, of which 25 belonged to Mr Nicoll's son, 9 to himself, and 3 to Mr Allardyce. Mr Alexander Simpson, Hatton of Newtyle, purchased 8 of the cattle sold in Doune on 6th October. One of these—a cow—Mr Simpson had on his farm, and the remainder he had at Hatton of Carsgray, and Mr Hutchison placed the valuation upon the nine. It is expected that they will be slaughtered in the course of the week. Mr Brown of the Board of Agriculture, accompanied by Mr Hay, Perth, visited Drumbarrow Farm, where thirteen Canadians belonging to Mr Wighton, Ilvie, and nine owned by Mr James M. Winter, were valued. The other places they called at were Kirkhill, tenanted by Mr George Roy, where they placed the price upon one cow; Knockcumy, occupied by Mr James Bruce, where they valued six cattle; and Newton of Glamis, of which Mr Alex. Annand is the tenant, where they appraised ten cattle. To-morrow they will visit Woodnac, tenanted by Mr Salmund, when they will fix the value of ten animals belonging to that gentleman. It is expected that the cattle at Drumbarrow will be there slaughtered, and that their carcasses will be brought to Forfar to be dressed. We understand that the principle upon which the values have been made will give to the owners about a couple of pounds above the purchase price, which will cover the cost of the transmission of the animals from Dundee and their keep.

SLAUGHTERING OF CANADIAN BULLOCKS.

Yesterday afternoon a staff of butchers arrived at Baland, near Johnshaven, tenanted by Mr P. D. Playfair, to kill twelve bullocks, which had been landed by the s.s. Monkseaton at Dundee. The men had just come from Scotton, St Cyrus, where they had also been making a slaughter of Canadians. They were strong, superior animals, and seemed quite healthy. They were all killed and dressed, and the carcasses await the Inspector for the Board of Agriculture to examine them. Luckily for Mr Playfair, it was the first and only lot he had bought in for the winter.

ANSTRUTHER DISTRICT.

The Canadian cattle which formed part of the cargo of the Monkseaton and Hurona brought to this district were traced to the several purchasers on Saturday by a representative from the Board of Agriculture. These were dispersed to seven farms, and after a valuation the order was at once given for their immediate slaughter. Messrs Lawson & Duff, butchers, Dundee, at once began the work with a squad of eight men at the places already mentioned in the *Courier*, and 22 were slaughtered yesterday at Balcomie. Other Canadian cattle still exist about Kirkcaldy, and the work will be continued in that district to-day. No signs of disease were apparent about the animals killed, but the lungs were forwarded to London. The remarks of Principal Williams at Cupar on Tuesday met the approbation of the farmers, and the feeling that they should have some say in the matter is pronounced.

A VETERINARY SURGEON AND THE MATADY.

In connection with the supposed outbreak of pleuro amongst the cattle landed by the steamers

Monkseaton and Hurona, we understand that Mr Andrew Spreull, veterinary surgeon, Dundee, has refused to give an opinion regarding the malady from which the animals were suffering. Mr Spreull is district inspector under the Board of Agriculture, and having regard to this it may be taken for granted that had he considered the malady to be pleuro he would have had no hesitation in stating his opinion, but as he has refrained from so doing it is believed that he concurs with Professor Williams, Edinburgh in considering the disease to be one of cornstalk.

ON THE BRINK OF A MUDDLE.

A DISAGREEABLE surprise will be given to farmers in Scotland by the announcements made to-day in our London Letter. One of these is to the effect that a number of English agriculturists are to-day to urge the Ministry to prohibit the further importation of Canadian cattle, and the other is that Her Majesty's Ministers are actually to take the proposal into serious consideration. It has long been evident that a section of English agriculturists were strongly opposed to the importation of cheap store cattle from Canada. The trade is not to the liking of breeders who wish Scottish farmers to pay them heavy prices for stockers, nor is it relished by landowners who fear that cheap cattle will mean further reduction in rents. These classes have made repeated attempts to damage the cattle importation trade, and sometimes, if not always, they have had with them the sympathies of the permanent officials of the Board of Agriculture—on which, by the way, Scotland is not represented. The present is not, be it remembered, the first "pleuro scare" that has occurred. Canadian cattle have before now been needlessly slaughtered by order of the Board of Agriculture, but on these occasions the Board has tacitly admitted that it had blundered. At this juncture, however, it would appear that to conceal one mistake other and far greater mistakes are about to be committed. If discretion is not observed at to-day's Cabinet Council the whole country will be thrown into a complete muddle. The question whether Canadian cattle may be landed in this country does not affect Scottish farmers alone. It is, in point of fact, a question of great diplomatic importance. In Canada the business of cattle growing and exporting has largely developed within recent years. An unwarrantable interference with that business would undoubtedly

have the most momentous effect upon Canadian loyalty. It would certainly give an impetus to the movement in favour of union with the United States—a movement which is already supported by a considerable party in the Dominion. For Colonial as well as for other reasons, therefore, the Government would do well to pause before taking the rash step that is now contemplated. Mr Campbell-Bannerman, it is known, has been deputed to sound Scottish agriculturists with regard to the matter, and perhaps the emphatic remonstrances he has received, added to those sent up yesterday by Mr Whitelaw, M.P., will prove sufficient to prevent the adoption of a policy that would be followed by the most disastrous results.

IS THE PLEURO SCARE WARRANTED?

ALL the farmers who bought cattle landed by the Hurona and Monkseaton were yesterday called upon by *Courier* representatives, and accounts of several of the interviews are given to-day. In every case the farmer waited upon has declared that no signs of pleuro-pneumonia were exhibited by the cattle he had had under his charge. The animals are described as having been particularly strong and healthy. These statements, taken in conjunction with the result of the very important examination made by Principal Williams of the lung of an animal said to have been suffering from pleuro, are sufficient to warrant the belief that the wholesale slaughter insisted upon by the Board of Agriculture has been altogether unnecessary. Even were it proved that two of the animals recently landed were actually suffering from pleuro-pneumonia, the scheduling of Canada would be intolerable. About 100,000 animals are annually imported from Canada into the United Kingdom, and it is preposterous to imagine that this tremendous traffic is to be stopped because two animals have been discovered to be unhealthy. But, as a matter of fact, the existence of pleuro has not been proved. On the contrary, the evidence adduced has pointed to an entirely different conclusion. The officials of the Board of Agriculture have refrained from publishing the evidence which they have deemed satisfactory, and,

therefore, Scottish farmers are entitled to dispute the necessity for the slaughtering that has taken place. Their position is rendered all the stronger by the very careful examination made by Principal Williams—one of the best veterinary experts of the day—who, it will be seen, is emphatically of opinion that in the case founded upon by the Board of Agriculture there was actually no pleuro-pneumonia. In addition to his averments and those of the farmers into whose hands the cattle have fallen, there is the very important fact that pleuro-pneumonia is unknown in Canada. Experience in Scotland alone is sufficient to establish that fact, and no later than yesterday an official announcement was published from the Dominion to the effect that the country was free from pleuro. All these considerations lead only to one result. They show that, by whatever motives they were actuated, the officials of the Board of Agriculture have during the past two or three weeks blundered woefully, and that for the pleuro scare there has been no real foundation.

THE DANGERS INCURRED.

By the foolish conduct of the Board of Agriculture great dangers are incurred not only by Scottish agriculturists, but by the whole of the Scottish people. If the Government decided to prohibit the importation of cattle from Canada the farmers would be compelled to rely upon Ireland for stockers. Now, it is well known that pleuro exists in Ireland to a very considerable extent, so that the chances of introducing the disease into this country would be seriously multiplied. Not only so, but the farmers would be compelled to pay the prices demanded by the Irish dealers, and, as the supply of fat cattle from the United States would continue uninterrupted, it would be impossible for the farmers to recoup themselves in any way for the extra money they were forced to lay out. In these days of agricultural depression, the losses thus entailed would be severely felt, and might ultimately put an end to the home feeding trade. All this would, of course, entail a sharp rise in the price of beef, so that the general public as meat-consumers would inevitably suffer. In other

respects the outlook is not one whit less gloomy. Large sums of money have been expended both in Aberdeen and Dundee on the erection of cattle wharfs. Unless the importation trade is stifled at the instigation of English Protectionists a fair revenue will be derived, but the action threatened by the Government would cut off this revenue and force heavy losses, not only upon Dundee and Aberdeen, but upon every city where expenditure in the equipment of wharves has been sanctioned.

IMMEDIATE ACTION NECESSARY.

As the interests of all classes are to a greater or less degree affected by the proposed action on the part of the Government, it is to be hoped that no time will be lost in endeavouring to prevent the carrying out of the rash policy now under consideration. Fortunately the question at issue is in no sense political, and therefore the influence, both of the friends and the opponents of the Government, may be safely exercised. Had Mr Barclay been still member for Forfarshire he would no doubt have been indefatigable in his exertions to avert the threatened calamity. Mr Rigby, however, we believe, has the interests of his constituents at heart, and we have little doubt that if he is at once acquainted with the exact position of matters he will do his best to frustrate the wicked machinations of a number of discontented Englishmen. Scotland is well represented in the present Government, and its interests ought consequently to be carefully guarded. In addition to Mr Rigby, representation should also be made to Mr Asquith and Professor Bryce. The promptness of the Perthshire agriculturists in yesterday securing the services of Mr Whitelaw is in every respect commendable, and the example should be followed to-day by farmers in the counties of Fife and Forfar. Every moment is valuable, and the telegraph should at once be set in motion by the constituents of the statesmen we have named.

THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE'S BLUNDERS.

EXISTENCE OF PLEURO DENIED.

INDIGNANT PROTESTS.

With the object of ascertaining the general feeling that prevails amongst farmers and others interested, several representatives of the *Courier* had interviews yesterday with a large number of Forfarshire,

Perthshire, and Fifeshire agriculturists, who, from their experience of the cattle trade, are well qualified to express an opinion regarding the pleuro scare. Without exception the parties approached unhesitatingly declare that the cattle are sound, and that the Board of Agriculture have fallen into an egregious error in declaring a discovery of pleuro amongst the cattle landed by the Hurona and Monkseaton. In the circumstances the slaughter and restrictions are regarded as unwarranted.

"THE HEALTHIEST CATTLE IN THE WORLD."

STRONG EVIDENCE AGAINST THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Although Messrs Lawson & Duff, meat salesmen, Dundee, only bought one animal of the cargoes landed by the Monkseaton and Hurona, they have had about 120 of the cattle through their hands, these having been slaughtered by them at the farms to which the animals were transferred. Of this number 107 were at Parkhill and Lindores, 15 at Seals-craig, 8 at Kingsbarns, 6 at Loch of Liff, 1 at Viewbank Cottage, Liff, 2 at Broughty Ferry, and about 80 at five farms in the Crail district. In the circumstances, the members of the firm are particularly able to speak with emphasis as to the condition of the cattle. In a conversation yesterday at the Dundee Cattle Market with a *Courier* representative, Mr Lawson stated that he saw the cattle both at the time they arrived and subsequently at the sale, and he asserted that the cattle were then in fair condition, and there was not the slightest symptoms of pleuro or disease in any of them. "I case that statement," he continued, "on my own experience, and I consider that I have had a fairly extensive experience in that line."

How does your experience lead you, he was asked, to believe that cattle arriving from Canada in the fall are likely to contract disease, having regard to their changed surroundings?—I find that some of the cattle, he replied, arrive in a somewhat delicate condition, this being due in many instances to so many of them being kept closely together on board ship. In such circumstances some of them are bound to contract a slight touch of inflammation of the lungs on their being exposed to the air. This disease has a resemblance to pleuro, but it is quite distinct from it, as it is not contagious in the least. While there was a deal of rain about the time the cargoes of the Hurona and Monkseaton were landed, I do not think there is the slightest reason to believe that it could have interfered with their health.

Have you paid particular attention to the condition of the Canadian cattle slaughtered on the farms of Lindores and Parkhill?—Distinctly so. As I have already mentioned, these cattle were all slaughtered by our men, and our instructions were to report as to the condition of each beast, and in no case was any of them found wrong. I may say that there was a home-bred cow on these farms, and in my opinion it was suffering from pleuro before the Canadians arrived. The Canadian cow about which so much has been heard was placed in the same byre, indeed I think it was in the same stall. Consequently, if it suffered from pleuro at all, it is my belief that it must have contracted the disease from the home-bred.

Then you admit that the Canadian had actually suffered from pleuro?—I don't say that. It may have had the disease, but it was slaughtered within three days of the time it was suspected. By that time the pleuro (supposing that it had suffered from such) could not have developed to such a degree on this animal as to render it liable to communicate the disease. It takes between four and five days before an animal affected can propagate the disease.

Consequently, if the home-bred had not been on the farm, the slaughter of the cattle was, in my opinion, undertaken too soon.

What about this "cornstalk" disease, about which so much is being said? Have you ever had any experience of it?—It is a new disease to me. It is a Yankee phrase, I think, for inflammation of the lungs.

Have you ever known of cattle from Canada being affected with pleuro?—Certainly not. I consider Canadian cattle to be the healthiest on the face of the earth.

On the other hand, I suppose in your experience you have frequently come across cases of pleuro in cattle imported from other quarters?—Oh yes, more particularly in cattle brought from Ireland. The reason for that is easily explained. In Canada the cattle are in the open air from the time they are calved, and that upbringing prevents the engendering of disease. Irish cattle, on the other hand, are reared on boggy land, or are tied up almost from birth. In this way they often develop weak constitutions, just in the same way as the want of fresh air is likely to create consumption in the human being. I maintain that the Board of Agriculture have made a great mistake in declaring the Canadians to be infected with pleuro. I don't believe it could be demonstrated that the disease has been brought to the country by them, and until this is done I prefer to believe that the Canadians are still free from the malady. In further conversation, Mr Lawson said that, while not directly responsible for the course taken by the Board of Agriculture, he believed that the landlords were as a rule anxious to have a stoppage to Canadian cattle being brought into the country, so that prices might be kept up. It was a well-known fact that if Canadians were brought into the country beef would eventually become much cheaper, and that was what the landlords wished to contend against. If beef were reduced in price farm rents would also have to come down. Having regard to the large fall in the price of grain, the farmer was unable to give the large rents formerly paid from that source at least, and the landlord well knew that the raising of stock was the last straw he had which would enable him to get a good rent. As an evidence of this, Mr Lawson directed attention to the fact that States cattle would not be allowed to be imported into the country alive, and he held that this policy was also adopted with a view to keeping up the prices.

Before leaving Mr Lawson took the *Courier* representative to one of the buildings of the slaughter-house, where a large number of newly-killed Canadians were hanging. He explained that, had any of the cattle been suffering from pleuro, there would have been a large inflamed mark in the cavity of the chest. This, Mr Lawson said, was due to the adhesion of the lungs to the ribs after the disease had developed. Not a single carcass inspected betrayed the slightest appearance of disease in the region referred to, the pleural skin in each case being clear and sound.

A CARSE FARMER'S OPINION.

DOES NOT BELIEVE IT IS PLEURO.

Mr Patrick Constable, of the farm of Baledgarno, Inchture, is one of the many parties who purchased Canadian cattle at the sale in Dundee on 6th October. The lot which Mr Constable secured consisted of six fine bullocks. These formed part of the Monkseaton's cargo, and, when purchased, they were in the pink of condition. They were dispatched to Inchture Station on the evening of the day of the sale, and were placed in one of the parks on Rossie Priory, where they have been allowed to remain ever since. Notwithstanding the wet and

cold weather which has prevailed throughout the past few weeks, the animals appear to be extremely healthy and free from all disease, and are taking on flesh rapidly. About a fortnight ago Mr Constable received a notice from the Board of Agriculture requesting him not to remove the Canadians or any of the animals which were beside them in the park until further orders were given. Since then, however, no action has been taken by the Board with the view to remove the restriction imposed, although all the animals on the farm show no signs of illness. The park in which the Canadians have been placed also contains five home-bred stots, while a number of cattle occupied the fields adjoining, and were separated from the Canadians only by a wire fence. From the accounts of the suspected pleuro which Mr Constable has read and heard, he is of opinion that no such disease has occurred in connection with the cattle landed by the steamers Monkseaton and Hurona. Mr Constable is well acquainted with the symptoms of contagious pleuro, having had all the cattle on his farms of Baledgarno and Balgray cleared out about two years ago on account of the disease. There was no case, he held, reported during the past month which would lead one to expect that pleuro existed in the country, excepting the home-bred cow which was slaughtered at Parkhill, Newburgh. That case seemed a little suspicious, but the fact that on none of the farms the disease had been found to have spread seemed to indicate that the outbreak of pleuro was more a scare than a reality.

MR MILLAR, FALSIDE.

In a conversation with Mr Millar, farmer, Falsidewho feeds and kills for his shop in Anstruther, and has thus a wide experience in the ailments of cattle, a correspondent ascertained the following particulars:—On the 6th October he purchased 15 of the cattle which formed part of the cargo of the Monkseaton, all in the best condition. There was some ruin, but the animals were conveyed to his farm in covered waggons, and while with him were exposed to no bad weather, being taken in at night. It was possible that one or two might have caught the cold in leaving a warm country or the ship, but when slaughtered all the stock were as clean and fresh as one could desire, and in their feeding they had shown every sign of excellent health. He had purchased them for the purpose of fattening. He had never heard of pleuro-pneumonia being in Canada, and it was many years since he had met with any case from Ireland. He was positive that in none of his cattle had there been any symptoms of pneumonia.

THE OPINION OF MR GIBSON, LECH.

"GRAND, HEALTHY BEASTS."

As one of those who bought cattle at the sale on 6th October, Mr Gibson, Lech, has been served with official notice to allow none of his stock off the farm and to introduce no new animals. His purchase of Canadians amounted to 21 head, and these he describes as grand, healthy beasts. Wonderfully good weather prevailed at the time, but Mr Gibson took the precaution of placing the lot under cover, and to this he ascribes the fact that they have been free from ailment. As an instance of the efficacy of this treatment, he quotes an experience which he had ten years ago, when, in a season of very wet weather, he procured 14 Canadians, all of which, he believes, would have died of lung affection but for his system of "grueling" them. Mr Gibson has no personal experience, so far as he is aware, of cornstalk disease, and is not prepared to say that there has been no pleuro at the present time, although he has

never known of that disease coming from Canada, but his belief is that it is simply cold. In these circumstances he regards the slaughter which is being carried on as unnecessary, and in his own case views with much disavowal the possibility of the destruction of so well-conditioned animals. Mr Gilruth's herd at the present times comprises 30 head inclusive of the Canadians, which have been mixed up with the others, and he not unnaturally regards the singling out of the foreigners in such a case as absurd.

THE SUSPECTED ANIMALS IN THE ARBROATH DISTRICT.

Many of the leading farmers in the district of Arbroath were buyers at the sale in Dundee on the 6th ult. Consequent on the outbreak of pleuro at different places, restrictions were imposed on the farms to which these cattle were conveyed, farmers being prevented from bringing in or sending out cattle. This course was adopted by the Board of Agriculture pending their investigation into the suspected cases. That inquiry resulted in the issuing of an order by the Board, containing instructions for the slaughtering of all the animals in this district which had been purchased at the sale in Dundee. This order has now been carried out, every animal, with the exception of 22 on the farm of Westerton, Colliston, being conveyed to the Arbroath shambles and slaughtered there.

Mr R. Hume, Hillhead, secured 8 animals from the cargo landed by the Monkseaton. In reply to several questions addressed to him yesterday, Mr Hume stated that the animals looked fine and healthy when they arrived at Hillhead, and commenced to thrive almost immediately. They were out in the field during the day and sheltered in the shed by night. The animals landed at the farm in fine condition, quite free from anything like cold. They never showed any symptoms of sickness. Mr Hume said he had never heard of pleuro from Canada, but he had heard of outbreaks among Irish cattle, though not for a long time, that country at the present time being practically clear of disease. Mr Hume's cattle were slaughtered in Arbroath on Tuesday, and a number of the lungs were sent to London for examination. Mr Hume received word last night that the lungs of his cattle had been found all right.

MR GILRUTH, SEATON,

attended the sale of the cattle from the Hurona and Monkseaton, and purchased nine Canadian bullocks. These were slaughtered in Arbroath on Sunday, and the lungs forwarded to London for inspection. As a result of the examination, Mr Davenport, travelling inspector for the Board of Agriculture, sent a telegram to Mr Gilruth on Wednesday, informing him that the lungs exhibited no signs of disease, and that he was at liberty to set about stocking his farm. This notice arrived in time to admit of Mr Gilruth attending a sale at Forfar the same day. Mr Gilruth says the animals looked strong and healthy when they came, and began to fatten immediately. They thrive much quicker than the Irish cattle. Mr Gilruth kept the cattle in the field during the day, allowing them to remain under cover for the rest of the time. Asked if he thought the present outbreak was one of genuine contagious pleuro Mr Gilruth said he did not think it was, and added that, in his opinion, there was no justification for the wholesale slaughter at present going on. In the course of an interview Mr Gilruth alluded to the pleuro outbreak in the year 1863. The Government regulations were not so stringent at that time as now, although the cattle were not permitted to

be brought into the town, the carcasses only being carried there after the animals had been slaughtered. The symptoms exhibited by the cattle at that time were a certain dullness and heaviness in the early stages of the diseases. As the disease developed the breathing of the animals became laboured, and they were then only able to partake of food in a liquidated form. Stimulants had to be administered to the animals before they were able to travel to the place where they were to be slaughtered. Mr Gilruth stated that at the time of the last pleuro outbreak he had occasion to put a cow into a stall where a diseased animal had been previously. The stall was not disinfected in any way yet. Although the cow was there for five or six weeks it never afterwards showed any signs of sickness. Mr Gilruth has on several occasions heard of pleuro being communicated from Ireland, but never heard of pleuro mentioned in connection with Canadian cattle. Mr Gilruth, in conclusion, repeated that he could not believe that the present outbreak was one of contagious pleuro.

MR D. J. M'WALTER, WEST MAINS OF ETHIE,

bought nine Canadian bullocks from the cargo of the Hurona. These were all splendid looking animals. They were housed in contact with other twenty Irish cattle. The animals were in the field about eight hours during the day, and under cover for the remainder of the time. They were conveyed to Arbroath on Saturday last, and slaughtered the following Sunday. The lungs were detached and sent to London so that the inspectors of the Board of Agriculture could decide whether the animals brought into contact with the Canadians were to be exempted from slaughter. Mr M'Walter yesterday afternoon had received no notice of the Board's decision. He had never heard of Canadian pleuro, but knew of several cases of pleuro amongst Irish cattle, which had taken place in certain districts in Forfarshire.

The slaughter in the Arbroath shambles last week included 31 Canadian bullocks from the farm of

MR DONALDSON, NEWTON.

Mr Donaldson had fort lately kept the animals in a field since their arrival on the farm. No suspicion could, on that account, attach to any of his other stock, and Mr Donaldson was informed that he was at liberty to set about bringing in another stock. With this latter object in view, Mr Donaldson proceeded to Forfar on Wednesday.

MR BELL, BRUNTON,

attended the Dundee sale, and bought one Canadian cow. It was kept in the field for four or five hours during the day, and was sheltered at night. The cow was four or five years old, and was a fine-looking animal. It continued to thrive ever after its arrival. The animal was killed in Arbroath on Sunday, and notice was received on Monday that the lungs of the cow had been examined and found all right. The rest of the animals on Brunton with which the cow had been brought into contact will thus be exempted from slaughter. After the receipt of the Board's decision the Canadian cow was kept in the byre steady.

The only farm in this district where the Board of Agriculture stated that pleuro had undoubtedly broken out was on the farm of

MR ESPLIN, WESTERTON, COLLISTON.

The disease broke out on this farm on the 22d ult. The cattle were immediately ordered to be killed. After this had been accomplished the Board of

Agriculture ordered the place to be disinfected. Mr Davenport visited the farm yesterday, and expressed his satisfaction with the disinfecting operations. Mr Davenport stated, however, that another week would have to elapse before Mr Esplin would be at liberty to bring in any more cattle.

Five Canadian bullocks from the farm of

MR HALL, CONDIE-ACRES,

were slaughtered in Arbroath on Sunday. The animals were out of the Morona, and commenced to thrive beautifully whenever they arrived. There are other twenty-eight animals on the farm, with which the Canadians were brought into contact and Mr Hall has received notice that, as the lungs of the slaughtered animals showed no symptoms of disease, these other cattle would not require to be slaughtered. During the several years' experience Mr Hall has had with Canadians he never had any trouble with them. Mr Hall is of opinion that there is no pleuropneumonia, but that the animals caught cold either during the passage or afterwards. Mr Hall stated that one symptom of pleuro was laboured breathing. Several years ago, on the adjacent farm of Rosebrae, one animal exhibited this symptom, and it was found dead next day. Mr Hall can also remember eight animals on the neighbouring farm of Denfield succumbing to the same disease. Mr Hall considers the compensation he received insufficient, in view of the fact that the animals were fed on oil-cake and turnips since their arrival.

THE SLAUGHTERING IN ARBROATH.

The cattle on Pitlvie and Craignill, which were slaughtered at these respective places, were examined yesterday by Mr Tait, V.S., Forfar. The eleven Canadians on the farm of East Mains of Rossie, near Montrose, were brought to Arbroath on Wednesday night and slaughtered early yesterday morning. The carcasses were afterwards examined by Mr Wallace, V.S., and Mr Davenport.

BRECHIN DISTRICT.

MR D. SOUTAR, BRECHIN,

purchased a lot of 9 Canadians at the sale at Dundee on 6th October last, part of the cargo of either the Monkseaton or Morona, but does not know which. They were a capital-looking lot when he purchased them, and continued so for some time. He took them straight home, and put them on the fields of the farm. There was a good deal of rainy weather about the time, but he took care that they did not get cold, as, although they were out all day, he took them in at night, so that it was not likely that any of them had caught cold. Although having no experience of bronchial-pneumonia or cornstalk disease, he has had some experience of pleuro, but could not say with certainty at what stage it is infectious. He thought that when his cattle were killed one of them was infected with pleuro, and called a V.S., who pronounced the same opinion. Up till now he has not known of any Canadian cattle having been affected with pleuro, and of lots of the present cargo, he did not, of course, speak generally, but of his own. As stated, he is quite satisfied of this instance, but did not say whether the disease may have been among the cargo or been infected afterwards. He has certainly known of cattle from Ireland affected with pleuro, and has had Irish cattle purchased by himself that took it.

MR SEMPLE, HAUGHS OF KINNAIRD,

bought a lot of thirteen Canadians at the sale at Dundee on 6th October, and they looked splendid when he got them. He put them on the grass and took them in at night for a week. The weather was wetish, but they were a healthy lot, although one of them was sick for a short time, but it got better, and was all right before his lot was ordered to be killed, and when they were killed he got a clean bill of health for the whole lot. Mr Semple has no experience in bronchial-pneumonia or cornstalk disease, and but little in pleuro, therefore can't speak as to the stage at which the latter disease may become infectious, but he never heard of any pleuro from Canada, and does not believe there was any in this cargo—certainly not among his lot. Mr Semple repeated that when his Canadians were killed he got a clean bill of health.

TESTIMONY OF FORFAR FARMERS.

THE SLAUGHTERING "A PIECE OF NEEDLESS EXPENSE."

Mr George Nicoll, South Mains, Forfar, purchased 38 Canadians. He bought 25 of the animals on behalf of his son, Mr John Nicoll, flesher, Forfar, and 3 on behalf of Mr Ailaryce, cattle dealer. The former were sent to the farm of West Mains of Finavon, tenanted by Mr George Batchelor. All the 38 were in excellent condition when he bought them, and those which were brought to his farm had thriven as well as any he had yet bought. On the arrival of twelve of the animals at South Mains he put them into the byre, in which it was almost impossible to catch cold. Q.—I understand, Mr Nicoll, that you deal extensively among Canadian cattle. Did you ever hear of an outbreak of pleuro amongst that class of stock? A.—Never. My experience of them is that they are as free from disease as either Irish or home cattle, and they thrive equally as well. Q.—Then as to the Irish bred animals, have you ever purchased any that were suffering from pleuro? A.—No, but I have heard cases mentioned where several of that class of stock were affected with the disease. I don't think that there is any pleuro at all in the suspected cases that have been reported, and, in my opinion, there is no necessity for the wholesale slaughtering that is taking place. Our reporter afterwards interviewed

MR GEORGE BATCHELOR, WEST MAINS OF FINAVON,

where, as we have already stated, 25 of the cattle purchased by Mr Nicoll are feeding. In reply to a question as to the present condition of the stock, Mr Batchelor said that they were very healthy, and were in every way promising animals. On the Tuesday after the sale in Dundee, on 6th October, one of the original lot of 26 showed signs of illness. Mr Nicoll, the owner, thinking that it might be pleuro, took the precaution of slaughtering the bullock, and having its lungs examined by Mr Tait, veterinary surgeon, Forfar. That gentleman certified that the animal had been suffering from a severe cold, but was entirely free from disease. He forwarded the lungs to the Board of Agriculture in London, the officials of which reported that there were no symptoms whatever of pleuro. So soon as the Canadians arrived on the farm from Dundee they were put into the cattle courts, where they were sheltered from the bad weather which prevailed in the district about the beginning of the month. All, with the exception of the animal he referred to, were sound in every respect when they arrived at his place, and were at present in as thriving a condition as any he had yet to deal with. He had read of the suspected case of pleuro in the *Courier*,

but from reading the testimonies of those qualified to pass an opinion, and conversing with others who had purchased Canadians on the same date, he was convinced that the alleged outbreak was a fallacy. So far as his recollection went, he did not remember of any cases of pleuro or bronchial-pneumonia or cornstalk disease in the district in which he resides, and he was not therefore in a position to speak as to the symptoms shown by animals suffering from these. He had frequently purchased Canadian cattle, but he never knew of one of them suffering from pleuro or any disease. He had heard, however, cases of outbreaks amongst Irish stock. In his opinion the slaughtering of the cattle sold in Dundee was a piece of needless expense.

MR WILLIAM SMITH, LUNDIE CASTLE.

Mr William Smith, Lundie Castle, has been subjected to considerable inconvenience and trouble in connection with the alleged disease. At the sale on 6th October Mr Smith purchased six Canadian bullocks, which, on arrival at the farm, were placed in a byre along with two home-bred animals. The Canadians, which formed part of the Thomson liner Hurona's cargo, were

IN EXCELLENT CONDITION

when purchased by Mr Smith, but a short time after one of them became ill. Mr Robert Black, veterinary surgeon, Loches, was called to attend the animal, and he gave it as his opinion that it was only suffering from the effects of a cold. Two home-bred animals on one of the fields of the farm seemed to have been affected in the same way, but in the course of a few days they, along with the Canadian bullock, completely recovered, and have been thriving every day since. On the 19th of last month Mr Smith received a schedule from the Board of Agriculture prohibiting him from taking in or removing any cattle to or from the farm. At that time Mr Smith had forty home-bred and Irish cattle lying out in one of the fields, and since then he has been unable to get them placed under shelter on account of the restrictions imposed by the Board. Mr Smith immediately wrote to Mr Davenport, one of the inspectors to the Board of Agriculture, pointing out this fact, and requesting to be allowed to have the cattle

KEPT IN AN OUT COURT.

The following is Mr Davenport's reply:—

Perth, 27th Oct.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter, it has been decided by the Board to have your cattle slaughtered, and someone will call on you as soon as practicable to arrange about it. Therefore, perhaps the cattle had better remain where they are.—Yours, faithfully,

F. H. DAVENPORT.

Since receiving this letter, Mr Smith has had no communication from the Board of Agriculture, or from any of the Inspectors as to what was to be done with the animals. He states that he had been put to considerable

LOSS AND INCONVENIENCE,

and not only so, but the forty home-bred animals in the field had been exposed to all weathers since the restrictions had been put on the farm. The cold, frosty nights and the wet weather, he held, were enough in themselves to cause disease amongst the animals. From the reports which have appeared in connection with the alleged outbreak, Mr Smith is of opinion that the disease is not pleuro at all, but that the Canadians said to have been affected had suffered from the same illness as his own animals—namely, a severe cold. He also thinks that the Board of Agriculture had been

A LITTLE TOO HASTY

in killing cattle on farms where no disease existed. It would have been better to have allowed the animals to remain on the farm for some time in

order that it might be ascertained if they showed any symptoms of disease. Had the Canadians affected suffered from contagious pleuro, he thought a great deal more animals would have been seized with the disease. With regard to the home-bred cow slaughtered at Parkhill, Newburgh, he did not see how the disease could have developed in the animal in so short a time as it was said to have done. Yesterday Mr Smith wrote another letter to Mr Davenport, requesting that gentleman to allow the home-bred animals to be placed in an out-house, and to have the restriction taken of the farm as soon as possible.

MR A. B. WATSON, KIRKTON OF LUNDIE.

AN AWKWARD MISTAKE.

Mr A. B. Watson, Kirkton of Lundie, bought twelve bullocks at the sale of the Hurona and Monkseaton's cargoes at Dundee on the 6th October. Ten of the Canadians were purchased by Mr Watson on behalf of Mr William Sturrock, Burnhead, Auchterhouse, to which farm they were conveyed on the evening of the day of the sale. The other two animals bought by Mr Watson were left in a field at Auchterhouse. At Burnhead the Canadians were placed into a byre by themselves, but about sixty home-bred animals in a byre adjoining will, it is supposed, be regarded as having been in contact. All the cattle have been in splendid condition from the time they were purchased till now, and none has ever shown the slightest symptoms of illness. On the 23d of last month Mr Watson was served with a schedule by the Board of Agriculture restricting him from removing any of his cattle from the farm, or bringing in more animals. This action by the Board looks somewhat ridiculous, considering the fact that none of the Canadians purchased have ever been on the farm of Lundie, and that the farm of Burnhead, to which ten of the animals were taken, has never been scheduled. Mr Watson was of opinion that the Board had acted too hurriedly in killing the Canadians on farms where no cases of disease had occurred. He thought it would have been better had they restricted the farms for the matter of six weeks, and at the end of that time, if no symptoms of disease were discovered in any of the animals, the restrictions could have been taken off. Mr Watson is extremely doubtful whether any of the cases at present reported have been contagious pleuro, and he thinks that had they been so the disease would have spread more rapidly.

MR ALEX. SIMPSON, HATTON OF NEWTYLE.

"A SHEER ABSURDITY."

Mr Alex. Simpson, Hatton of Newtyle, expressed a very pronounced opinion on the wholesale slaughter policy. At the joint sale of the cargoes of the Monkseaton and the Hurona Mr Simpson purchased nine animals—eight bullocks and a cow. On the day before the application of the Board of Agriculture veto the bullocks were removed to Mr Simpson's other farm, Hatton of Carsegay, near Forfar, among a lot which included 26 other cattle. On Wednesday the animals were valued by Mr Andrew Hutcheson, and it was arranged that they should be conveyed in floats to the Forfar shambles yesterday in order to be slaughtered. When asked for his opinion regarding the action of the Board of Agriculture, Mr Simpson characterised it as a sheer absurdity. "Had pleuro really been in the cargoes," he remarked, "we would have been only too glad to see it stamped out, but in this case what they should have done, in my opinion, was to isolate the animals at Lindores and the other farms where suspected cases existed, until they saw what was the outcome of it. My

own opinion is that the animals were not suffering from contagious pleuro at all." Questioned as to his grounds for this opinion, Mr Simpson pointed to the fact that Canada is at present declared to be free from the disease, and also cited his own experience in reference to Canadian cattle. He had purchased Canadians ever since Dundee became an open port for their landing, and for the last three years he had had between fifty and sixty Canadian cattle upon Hatton of Newtyle, and he never knew of a single animal among them being ill with any trouble. His stock generally consisted of Canadians, Irish, and home cattle, each in the proportion of one-third, and "the Yankees" he found to be as a rule the best-constituted and healthiest, although he admitted that he generally bought them older than the Irish cattle. Than those he purchased at the joint sale he never saw cattle beginning to thrive better. The weather was cold outside after they were brought to Hatton of Newtyle, and he should not have been a bit astonished if some of them had caught cold during the time he had them in the fields, but none of them were affected in that way. "Just take 1200 men," added Mr Simpson, "bring them from Manitoba and ship them at Montreal, and then turn them adrift after they have reached this country, and see how many of them will die of pleurisy! It is not remarkable, then, that a Canadian cattle beast among many should be similarly affected, but to kill twelve hundred at one swoop, as the Board of Agriculture have done, seems to me to be a stroke of action altogether unwarrantable in the circumstances." If the Board of Agriculture were logical, why not kill the whole of the 150 cattle on my two farms instead of singling out nine from the midst of them as strong and healthy-looking as the rest?"

AN INTERVIEW WITH PRINCIPAL WILLIAMS.

A representative of the *Dundee Courier* waited on Principal Williams at his Veterinary College, Edinburgh, yesterday afternoon, and sought an interview with him on the subject of the alleged pleuro-pneumonia among Canadian cattle. The Principal welcomed his interviewer in a most cordial manner, and expressed his readiness to talk on the subject. His report, he said, already expressed his views on the nature of the disease arrived at after the most careful investigation, but he would be ready to answer any questions that might be put to him.

What, asked the interviewer, are your reasons for deciding that the disease found among the Canadian cattle landed in this country recently is not pleuro-pneumonia? In 1879, said he, it was reported that pleuro-pneumonia had been discovered in a number of American cattle landed at Liverpool. At that time and on occasions since then I have examined the lungs of American and Canadian cattle, specimens of which I have now in my possession, and on each occasion I came to the conclusion that the disease with which these animals were affected was not pleuro. In December last year, in the present year two outbreaks of pleuro-pneumonia were reported at Deptford, and portions of the lungs of these animals were sent to me by Dr Wray, the American inspector at that port. I examined these specimens, which were stated by the officers of the Board of Agriculture to be affected with contagious pleuro, and I came to the same conclusion that it was the same disease as met with among American cattle landed at Liverpool in 1879, namely, broncho-pneumonia, called by the Americans cornstalk disease. My opinion was strengthened when, on 16th May last, I received specimens sent to me

by Dr Billings, the veterinary pathologist of the University of Nebraska, U.S.A., of a certified case of cornstalk disease, which are the same in appearance as those I received from Dr Wray. Besides, specimens of the Deptford lung of December last were sent to M. NoCARD, chief veterinary pathologist of France. He investigated the disease on behalf of the French Government, and arrived at the same conclusion as I did, and called it by the same name—*broncho-pneumonia catarrhalis*. He stated his belief, further, that there was little danger of infection. I may mention that M. NoCARD's letter to me, along with the report, were sent to Sir Charles Tupper, chief commissioner for Canada. I think it would be a very good thing to adopt the suggestion already made, to send specimens of the lung to M. NoCARD and Dr Billings for examination, and report.

Requested to state whether he had ever known of pleuro-pneumonia being traced to Canadian cattle, Principal Williams said—No, I have not; but in June, 1879, I received a portion of the lung of a Canadian bullock killed in Liverpool, and which is still in my possession. That specimen presented the identical conditions found in the specimen of the American cattle landed at Liverpool in the same year. The American cattle on that occasion were scheduled, but the Canadian cattle were not.

In answer to another question as to whether many animals imported from Ireland were discovered suffering from the same disease, the Principal replied—I would not say many, but there are some. The fact is that all cattle after a sea voyage, especially in stormy weather, present similar symptoms to those found in Canadian and American cattle. I feel positive, he added, that the Government is wrong so far as the individual cases are concerned, and I shall be only too glad to demonstrate it to anybody whom the Government or the public might appoint to examine our specimens.

And what, it was asked, is the difference between the two diseases?—That, being a pathological question, is not easily answered in a popular way, said he; but it may be described in this way—that conditions found in pleuro-pneumonia are absent in broncho-pneumonia, and conditions present in broncho are not found in pleuro. "I can best demonstrate it in this way," said he, and he produced sections of the lung under the microscope affected with the two diseases, as well as photographic slides and preserved specimens in bottles, including that sent to him by Dr Billings, and marked broncho. From these there were two features which could be readily marked. One was the fact that in pleuro the epithelium was intact, while in broncho it was all broken up, and the other that in pleuro the blood vessels were plugged up with coagulated blood, while in the broncho specimens the blood vessels were quite clear.

PERTSHIRE.

MEETING OF FARMERS.

The feeling against the action of the Board of Agriculture in ordering the slaughtering out of all the Canadian cattle brought by the Monkseaton and Hurona is growing from day to day. Yesterday a deputation of agriculturists waited upon Mr Whitelaw, M.P. for Perth, at his residence at Huntingtower, and requested him to telegraph to the Right Hon. Herbert Gardner, president of the Board of Agriculture. After hearing the views of the members of the deputation, Mr Whitelaw sent off the following telegram:—"Waited on to-day by

a number of prominent agriculturists in the east and north of Scotland, and requested to wire you that the universal opinion of those interested in the cattle trade is that the alleged outbreaks of pleuropneumonia among Canadian cattle ought, on no account, to be scheduled before searching inquiries. Letters follow." On Wednesday Mr Alexander Hay, of Messrs. Hay & Kyd, in company with Mr Brown, one of the Board of Agriculture's inspectors, visited the Forfar district, and made valuations on several farms, including Dumbarrow, Newton on Glamis, South Letham, and Knockenny. Preparations were made at each of these places for the immediate slaughter of the Canadian cattle. Mr Hay, along with Mr Brown, afterwards went to the farm of Woodrae, in the parish of Aberlemno, tenanted by Mr Salmond, where ten bullocks from the Monkseaton cargo were inspected. These cattle had not been in contact with other stock. The valuation having been fixed and intimated to Mr Salmond, instructions for the immediate slaughter of the "foreigners" were at once given. There is a large number of cattle on the farm, including some nice milch cows, but the condemned lot were never near the stabling.

A CATTLEMAN INTERVIEWED.

Yesterday afternoon one of our representatives visited the farm of Kinnonpark, near Methven, which is one of the six farms in Perthshire that have been scheduled by order of the Board of Agriculture in consequence of the alleged outbreak of pleuro among Canadian cattle. When our representative called at Kinnonpark the tenant, Mr. Allan, was from home. In Mr. Allan's absence our representative had an interview with the cattleman.

How many Canadian cattle have you got?

We got 16 by the first ship and 15 by the second ship.

Did the animals look well when you got them?

I have had three years' experience of Canadian cattle, and I never saw a finer lot. They are healthy beasts, and they have thrived wonderfully since they came.

Then, what is your opinion of the Canadians presently under your charge?

I tell you frankly that there are not healthier beasts in the Howe of Strathmore. They are taking on flesh well, and they are as sound as I am, and I have never had a day's sickness.

MR WM. SIMPSON, INGLISTON.

SEVERE CRITICISM OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Mr Wm. Simpson, Ingliston, was able to give some interesting information, which went to dispel the popular notion that farmers have nothing to lose from the slaughter of their herds, having regard to the compensation awarded them. Mr Simpson was the purchaser of twenty-five Canadians at the sale in Dundee on 6th October. After the embargo had been placed upon them by the Board of Agriculture, Mr Hay, the valuator, came round along with the inspector, and proceeded to fix the amount of compensation. "The data upon which they seem to go in making the valuations," said Mr Simpson, "seems to be the actual price paid for them. Mr Hay said to me, 'What would these cattle cost you?' adding that Mr Hutcheson never allowed more than £2 additional. I wanted £3 made up of £1 in respect of the resting and preparation of the cattle, £1 in respect of the rise in the price of cattle, and £1 for their month's keep. The result of a good deal of controversy was that I eventually agreed to accept the valuation proposed by Mr Hay on the distinct condition that they should not be slaughtered on the farm, but sent to the Forfar slaughterhouse. Mr

Hay assured me that the slaughtering would not disturb the other cattle, but experience taught me, and, indeed, it was only natural to expect that my feeding cattle would not have done any good after the slaughter for a month to come. Therefore, I insisted upon my point, and it was ultimately conceded. Accordingly, fourteen animals out of the twenty-five were removed to Forfar to-day (Thursday) by Mr Henry Young's traction engine, and the remaining eleven will be conveyed there to-morrow.

"What is your experience of Canadian cattle?" asked the interviewer. "Well," replied Mr Simpson, "I had Canadians for the first time last year, and they did moderately well, and this year there has been nothing the matter with them—nice, strong, healthy animals they are."

You have had considerable experience of pleuro-pneumonia, I understand? What is your opinion of the present slaughter policy?—My opinion is—and I have had pleuro or suspected pleuro several times on the place during my tenancy of more than thirty years here—that the most that should have been done would have been to put on restrictions for a time on the farm where a suspected outbreak occurred and then waited. If the malady then turned out in the opinion of the professional men to be pleuro stamp out the whole immediately. But the slaughter of the 1200 animals right away and wholesale is in my opinion utterly unwarranted. Besides, the killing-out policy, as it has been practised on this occasion, has not been calculated to stamp out the disease, assuming that contagious pleuro was actually present. If there had been any risk to the ordinary stock, it would not have been obviated, owing to the dilatoriness of the Board of Agriculture. In my own case, for example, the animals have been four weeks on the farm, and they are not all away yet."

"Of course, you will be fully cognisant of the symptoms of contagious pleuro?"—"I used to think I would know pleuro if I saw it, but, then, in the opinion of these great veterinary Professors, there are two kinds of it. I have seen cases myself in an animal killed, of the lungs adhering to the ribs, and yet no pleuro about the place. My experience is that pleuro, if the animals are killed in the first stages of the disease, is not contagious; it is in the convalescent stage that the danger arises."

"What were the circumstances in the case of the last outbreak of alleged pleuro on your place?"—"The animals affected were two stirks—Irish stirks, if I recollect aright. One of them was first killed, and after the slaughter of the other I deemed it advisable to report the case to the Local Authority. Mr Keith, the late chief constable, came and valued 19 cattle, some cows, and some fat cattle in contact, and these having been slaughtered, I received the proportion of the value. At that time I had about 80 head of cattle on the northern division of the stabling, and as these were not in contact nothing was done with respect to them. Under the present regulations the whole of these animals would have been killed."

"Do you think that the two stirks you have referred to were actually affected with contagious pleuro?"—"It is possible that the disease was not pleuro. Probably they had got cold somehow or other, but the lungs were decayed, and adhering to the ribs, and that in my time was said to be contagious pleuro."

"Do you think that is a warrantable assumption?"—"No, I do not, because I have seen cattle on this place killed, and the lungs adhering to the ribs, and no more cases. I think, if the disease had been contagious, there would have been more outbreaks."

In the course of further conversation, Mr Simp-

son emphasised his statement that he did not believe the disease on the present occasion was contagious pleuro. He pointed to the fact that the existence of pleuro in Canada had been officially denied by the Canadian Government, and added—"Canada is one of our own colonies, and we would quickly get at the actual facts if pleuro did exist. There is no analogy in this respect between Canada on the one hand, and Russia, Germany, Denmark, or any other foreign country on the other."

DEPUTATION TO MR GARDNER

Our London correspondent telegraphing last night says:—A deputation will wait upon the Minister for Agriculture to-morrow on the subject of the importation of Canadian cattle to Scotland. It is said that cattle suffering from an incipient stage of pleuro-pneumonia have been landed at Scotch ports from Canada and sold to dealers in Scotland and North of England. Some of the cattle have been traced and slaughtered. The object of the deputation, which represents the Royal Agricultural Society and other agriculturists, is to urge the Department to rescind the special regulations under which cattle from Canada are exempted from slaughter on arrival at ports in this country.

SOUNDING THE FARMERS.

Several prominent agriculturists in the county have received telegrams from Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, asking whether there would be any strong opposition offered by farmers in this district to the scheduling of Canada.

FIFESHIRE.

Mr. Barrowman, V.S., Cupar, reported, after examination of the animal slaughtered at Edenbank, Leuchars, that it was free of disease.

The farm of Lindores, Fifeshire, which was declared an affected area on 18th ult., has been declared free, the order taking effect as from Wednesday last.

CATTLE AWAITING SLAUGHTER.

On the farm of Braidstone, Meigle, tenanted by Mr. James Adam, there are twenty-four Canadian cattle which were purchased at Dundee, and which, for some reason not explained, are yet awaiting slaughter. The Board of Agriculture restrictions have been placed on the farm, but up to yesterday no intimation had been received by Mr. Adam as to the arrangements for their extermination. The delay is occasioning Mr. Adam considerable inconvenience, as he is prevented from completing his stock.

INTO THE MUDDLE.

SCOTTISH people, whether friendly or unfriendly inclined towards the present Government, will unanimously condemn the resolution adopted at Friday's Cabinet Council to stop the importation of Canadian cattle into this country. For such a resolution, it is impossible to suggest a valid reason. Mr Gardner's speech to the deputationists who waited upon him on Friday purports to be a defence of the Government's policy, but in reality it amounts to a condemnation of it. He gives, for example, statistics to show that the cattle trade with Canada entails a payment to the Colony of about two million pounds annually, and he admits that the stop-

page of the trade will affect not only the Scottish graziers, but also "poor folk in Scotland." These are surely strong reasons for not interfering with the traffic. Yet because it has been represented by the officials of the Board of Agriculture (who are contradicted in this matter by one of the best veterinary surgeons of the present day) that two animals imported from Canada have been attacked with an infectious disease Mr Gardner and his colleagues in the Government have decided to put an end to a trade which has developed almost twenty-fold in the course of a short period of ten years. Only two of the excuses given are in the least worthy of consideration. One is that Canada will not be prevented from sending fat stock to this country, and the other is that it is absolutely necessary to maintain immunity from the disease of pleuro-pneumonia. Now, it is impossible to deny that the effect of Friday's decision will be to terminate entirely the trade in Canadian cattle. Very few fat stock will be brought over to Dundee for the purpose of immediate slaughter, and the introduction of such stock would not benefit any class of the community, while it would very materially affect the pockets of Scottish farmers. The large quantities of dead meat introduced have never in any way influenced the retail prices charged by butchers. On the other hand, the butchers when provided with these supplies of meat are enabled to force the farmers to charge less money for the stock they have reared and fattened. With regard to the laudable ambition on the part of the Minister for Agriculture to keep this country free from disease, it is only necessary to point out in the first place that diseased cattle are imported regularly from Ireland, and in the second, that it has been abundantly proved that no disease whatever exists in Canada. During the ten years mentioned by Mr Gardner himself there has not been a single indisputable case of infection from cattle brought in from Canada. The Dominion has repeatedly been officially declared free from pleuro-pneumonia, and the action of Her Majesty's Government in ignoring these official declarations is, to put it mildly, extremely discourteous. By ignoring the declarations and by overlooking the teaching of ten years' experience Her Majesty's Ministers will arouse antipathy against themselves not only in Scotland but also in Canada. Unfortunately that antipathy may not be wholly confined to the Government, for in Canada it may extend to the United Kingdom itself, with the result that the loss of one of our principal dependencies will be rendered imminent. At the least the Government, as proposed by Mr

Whitelaw, M.P., should have refrained from prohibition until a full and searching inquiry into the present outbreak of alleged pleuro-pneumonia had taken place. It is certainly remarkable that in opposition to the opinions of more than forty practical agriculturists who have had possession of the cattle shipped on board the *Huron* and *Monkseaton*, and in spite of the evidence tendered by veterinary surgeons the officials of the Board of Agriculture should persist in their assumption that pleuro-pneumonia does exist. The feeling throughout Scotland is that in order to cover the original blunder the officials of the Board of Agriculture have forced the Ministry into the present muddle. No other explanation, in fact, can be conjectured, and as it stands the muddle is highly discreditable to all parties concerned.

OPPORTUNITY FOR SCOTTISH M.P.'s. SCOTTISH members of Parliament have in the present circumstances an excellent opportunity for proving their ability to protect the interests of this country. In this instance Scotland is suffering at the direct instigation of England. The determination to prohibit the landing of Canadian cattle has been arrived at because of representations from English breeders. Not a single Scotsman has ever asked the Ministry to take the course decided upon on Friday. This in itself is significant, in view of the fact that, if there had been pleuro-pneumonia, it was into this country and not into England that it was introduced. But it is more remarkable still that those who have clamoured for the restrictions now imposed are for the most part avowed protectionists—men who, if they could get their own way, would not only exclude foreign cattle, but would place a tax upon imported grain, in order that the poor by paying higher prices for the bread they eat might help to keep up the value of land. It is against these English protectionists that our Scottish members of Parliament will now be expected to do battle. In season and out of season they ought to strive for the withdrawal of the restriction yesterday imposed. If the Government would dare to impose a tax upon imported cattle, the men who yesterday waited upon Mr Gardner would offer no further opposition to the importation. Their conduct is selfish in the extreme, and, that being so, it should at once be condemned by everyone who has a voice in the management of the affairs of this country. There is still enough of patriotism in Scotland to ensure a vigorous outcry against an attempt to render it subordinate to England in dealing with its own agricultural affairs. By constant agitation the evil may

yet be remedied, and in that agitation members of Parliament, County Councillors, practical agriculturists, ploughmen, and gentlemen, as well as the many classes of "poor folk in Scotland"—to use Mr Gardner's phrase—will be expected to unite. To cities such as Dundee and Aberdeen a heavy loss will be entailed on account of the expenses incurred in the construction of special wharves. In Dundee alone a sum of almost £20,000 has been spent, and in Aberdeen the expenditure has been over £10,000. But for the precipitate action of the Government good interest would continue to be earned upon the sums thus laid out. The inhabitants of towns, therefore, have every reason to denounce the policy that is being pursued.

RESTRICTIONS ON CANADIAN CATTLE TRADE.

A HARDSHIP ON FARMERS AND "POOR FOLK."

Mr Herbert Gardner, Minister for Agriculture, received a deputation in London on Friday in order to have laid before him representations in favour of the restriction of the importation of live cattle from Canada in consequence of the alleged recent outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia in Scotland. The deputation was introduced by the Duke of Westminster, President of the Royal Agricultural Society, and consisted of representatives from the Central Chambers of Agriculture, the Shorthorn Society, the Smithfield Club, and other institutions interested in agriculture and the breeding of stock. The Duke of Westminster, in the course of his speech, pointed out the impossibility of discovering the latent symptoms of pleuro-pneumonia by inspection at the port of landing. Mr Gardner, in replying, quoted as evidence of the importance of the trade to Canada the fact that, whereas in 1881 the value of the imported cattle was £107,524, in 1891 it was £1,135,000, and had since increased to £1,771,000. This did not, however, amount to more than 2 per cent. of the aggregate meat supply of the country, although it was one of the largest items in Canadian exports to England. Any restrictions that it might be necessary to impose would not prevent Canada from sending fat stock to this country. The loss arising from such restrictions would not be distributed equally over the country. It would affect some farmers and graziers as well as poor folk in Scotland, yet, after anxiously weighing all points, and after consulting his colleagues in the Government, he had come to the conclusion that the practical immunity from disease that had been attained after so much loss must not be sacrificed, and that restrictions must be put upon the importation of live cattle from Canada. The Order had already been signed. In conclusion, he defended the action taken by the Board in connection with the outbreak in Scotland. He remarked that, although it was only on October 17th that the Board learned definitely that the animal that had died was a Canadian importation, on the following day notices had been served on the owners of no fewer than 1143 of the 1211 head of cattle imported from Canada in the two ships concerned with the outbreak. The Duke of Westminster thanked Mr Gardner, and the deputation withdrew.

A supplement to the *London Gazette* of Friday provides for the application forthwith of the order prohibiting the importation of live cattle from Canada as intimated by Mr Gardner in his reply to the deputation.

FURTHER INTERVIEWS WITH FARMERS.

MR GEORGE ROY, KIRKHIILL, FORFAR,

informed our reporter that he bought one cow which looked quite well when he purchased it, and was very healthy at present. It, with two cows purchased by Mr Alexander Deuchar, Forfar, were conveyed in the same truck from Dundee to Forfar, and were on their arrival there put together in Mr Deuchar's byre. He sent for it next morning and had it put into a stall in his byre, from which it had never since been removed.

Have you observed anything about the animal, Mr Roy, which impressed you with the belief that it was suffering from pleuro or bronchial pneumonia?—Never. There was nothing of that nature in its appearance.

At what stage is pleuro infection?—My experience is that, though not very far advanced in an animal, it may affect others in contact. Immediately symptoms appear in an animal which manifests pleuro, the best plan that can be adopted to prevent the disease from spreading is at once to slaughter the animal in which these appear. The cow I bought was a three-year-old, and, considering its age, it gave a very fair supply of milk. My impression is that the suspected cases reported in the *Courier* are not cases of pleuro, but simply of attacks of severe cold.

Have you, during your experience as a dealer amongst Canadian cattle, known of a single case of pleuro breaking out amongst them?—Never. In fact, they as a general rule thrive better and are more hardy than Irish stock. I have known cases of disease amongst Irish cattle, which seem to contract it very easily, the reason for which I am not in a position to state.

MR ALEXANDER DEUCHAR, FORFAR,

in the course of a brief interview, informed our correspondent that he purchased two Canadian cows on the 6th October. Both looked well when they came into his possession. In fact, he never bought two healthier, hardier, or better thriving animals in all his experience as a cattle dealer. One of them calved shortly after it arrived in Forfar, and the other was within two days of calving when it was slaughtered. It was utterly impossible for them to contract cold, as he put them into his byre when they arrived from Dundee. As a rule it was difficult to detect pleuro in an animal.

But would shortness of breath or severe coughing not convince you that a cow was suffering from the disease?—No; I have known an old animal to show these symptoms and be in contact with others without affecting them. These symptoms are occasionally caused by a bad cold or a lung complaint—not pleuro. I have never known or heard of any pleuro amongst Canadians, for they are generally a hardy class of animals and entirely free from such disease.

Do you prefer them to Irish cattle?—Certainly. They are superior in every way, and are preferable because they feed better, and, therefore, thrive sooner.

Mr Deuchar concluded by expressing the opinion that the supposed case of pleuro was simply one in which the animal was not suffering from that disease, but from defective lungs.

MR ANDREW OSLER, LOCH OF LILF.

The farm of Loch of Liff, which was scheduled a few weeks ago by the Board of Agriculture, is now destitute of Canadian animals. Mr Andrew Osler, the tenant, it will be remembered, purchased six Canadian bullocks, forming part of the Monkseaton's cargo, at the sale in Dundee on 6th Oct. They were placed in a byre by themselves, and during the time they were on the farm none of them evinced any signs of illness. On the 18th October Mr Osler received a notice scheduling his farm, and on Thursday afternoon, the 27th October, Inspector Dawson visited the farm, and ordered the cattle to be slaughtered, this order being carried into effect on the following day. On Monday last the Inspector sent a notice to Mr Osler declaring the farm to be free from restriction. Mr Osler believes that none of the Canadians sold at Dundee on the 6th Oct. has been affected by contagious pleuro. It was quite possible, he said, the Canadian cow killed at Parkhill had only been suffering from a severe cold. Regarding some of the animals being unable to take their food for some days, that might be due simply to indigestion, and he believed that all the Canadians landed at Dundee would be better for a dose of linseed oil when placed on the farms.

MR JOHN GRANGER, PITCUR.

Mr John Granger, Pitcur, Coupar Angus, was the purchaser of 49 cattle at the joint sale of the cargoes of the Monkseaton and the Hurona on 6th October. The animals, on being taken to Pitcur, were put into the field, and there they were slaughtered on Sunday and Monday last by a squad of butchers from Glasgow. Notwithstanding their exposure to the cold weather, none of the animals appeared to suffer, and they were all strong and healthy-looking when they were slaughtered. Mr Granger's herd was thereby reduced to 54. Asked for his opinion regarding the present slaughtering policy, Mr Granger said he had no experience of pleuro. If contagious pleuro actually did exist in the case of the cattle suspected at Parkhill and Lindores, he thought the Board of Agriculture would be justified in their policy; but, on the other hand, so far as his experience went, he had found Canadians better constituted and more satisfactory cattle than the Irish. "In fact," he added, "I have purchased them simply because 'Irishmen' had pleuro while Canadians had not."

MR A. PATTULLO, SOUTH GASK.

Mr Pattullo, South Gask, who purchased eight cattle at Dundee, said he was of opinion that the malady from which the animals suspected by the Board of Agriculture were suffering was not pleuro at all. Canadian cattle he had always found healthier than the Irish, and they had certainly paid him fully better. He had had pleuro amongst a lot of Irish cattle at Dunkenny about ten years ago. The change of climate never seemed to affect the Canadian cattle at all, and he thought it was "altogether a fraud" to declare that there was pleuro in Canada. The present scare would certainly not debar him from investing the money he had received in compensation in the purchase of more "Yankees" if he could get them.

MR T. J. GARDINER, BANCHORY.

Mr T. J. Gardiner, Banchory, Coupar Angus, in an interview, said this was the second year he had purchased Canadian cattle, and as a rule he had about ninety on his place, these having been generally bought in Glasgow. He had been very well pleased with them, and the eight he purchased in Dundee on 6th October were thriving immensely when the Board of Agriculture stepped in to

slaughter them. As to the question whether pleuro-pneumonia actually did exist in the present cases, Mr Gardiner said that, while he had no experience of pleuro himself, he knew the calibre of Canadian cattle, and he believed Principal Williams was right in his contention that the disease was broncho-pneumonia induced by exposure, and not contagious pleuro-pneumonia. Mr Gardiner said he desired to add that in his opinion the cattle should not be slaughtered on the farms, but removed to a proper slaughterhouse.

COLONEL DICKSON, PANBRIDE.

Colonel Dickson, Panbride, waited upon by our representative, said he had bought twenty-nine head of the cattle in question. On their arrival at Panbride part were put in the sheds and part in the fields, and, notwithstanding the cold, wet weather, none of them seemed to suffer from cold or any disease whatever. They seemed strong, healthy animals. The Colonel never heard of pleuro breaking out amongst Canadians, but had often known of the disease amongst Irish stock.

OFFICIAL BUTCHERY IN THE DUNDEE DISTRICT.

The stock belonging to Mr Peter M'Intyre, Denfind, have come within range of the official butchery which has become so general. Mr M'Intyre acquired 23 animals at the joint sale of the cargoes of the Monkseaton and the Hurona. These were immediately conveyed to Denfind and enclosed in a large park, where, after a few days, one of them showed signs of illness, and was treated as suffering from a severe cold. It died, and a day or two later another revealed signs of illness. A veterinary surgeon was called, and, on the animal being slaughtered, he pronounced it to have died from natural causes. The lungs were, however, forwarded to the Board of Agriculture, and, in accordance with the Order then in operation, the remaining 21 animals were valued and slaughtered. This had been scarcely accomplished when, curiously enough, Mr M'Intyre received a notice to the effect that his stock had not been suffering from pleuro, and that he was accordingly at liberty to restock. Mr M'Intyre is just recovering from a rather severe indisposition, and when our representative called on Friday at his business premises in Dundee he was unable to find him. His son, however, who has for years taken an active interest in the management of Mr M'Intyre's large business, vouchsafed the opinion that there was never anything seriously wrong with the animals. The weather at the time they were parked was cold and damp, and he firmly believed the two beasts which were killed were suffering from cold, contracted in consequence of being exposed to the full force of the severe weather experienced after they had been liberated from the heat naturally generated by a cargo of cattle on board ship. This as a matter of fact was upheld by the procedure of the Board of Agriculture, first in slaughtering the animals, then in declaring them free from disease, and afterwards in granting power to restock.

CONDEMNED IN ABERDEEN.

The *Aberdeen Journal* declares that the Government have to all appearance acted precipitately in prohibiting the importation of Canadian store cattle. The opinion of Professor Williams, supported by specific arguments, seems of more weight than the decision of the Government experts, resting only on their official infallibility. Besides the known facts harmonise with the theory that the disease was

non-infectious broncho-pneumonia, while the Government theory, assuming the importation of contagious pleuro from Canada, where the disease is not known to exist, begins and ends in mystery. The decision is not at the moment of so great importance, as the trade for this season is nearly over, but all points in dispute must be thoroughly cleared up before the time comes round when the trade in Canadian stores would in ordinary course be resumed.

FORFAR.

We understand that to-day the cattle at Knockenny and Newton of Glamis, which were purchased in Dundee on 6th October, will be conveyed to the Forfar shambles to be slaughtered. The remaining lot of eleven Canadians at Ingheston of Eassie were taken to Forfar last night and killed. Thirteen of the cattle on the farm of East Ivie were also slaughtered yesterday, and we understand that in none of the lungs of the animals were any symptoms of pleuro found.

PERTSHIRE.

Mr Whitelaw, M.P. for Perth, has sent the following letter to the President of the Board of Agriculture:—

Dear Sir,—Following my telegram to you of this date, I have the honour to lay before you the following statement in connection with the alleged outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia in the east of Scotland:—When the outbreak was first reported, doubt was expressed in many quarters as to whether the outbreak was real contagious pleuro-pneumonia or only a non-infectious illness known in America as constalk. Professor Williams, however, after the examination of the lung of one of the animals which had been attacked, declared emphatically that the disease is a contagious pleuro-pneumonia, and the whole agricultural opinion of Fife, Forfarshire, and Perthshire favours this view. Seeing that you are to receive a deputation of English agriculturists to impress on you the desirability of scheduling Canada, consternation naturally prevails among Scotch agriculturists. A representative deputation of agriculturists which waited on me this morning desired me to say that Scottish agriculturists cannot admit that English agriculturists are competent judges of Canadian store cattle and their ailments, as they have no experience of them whatever; and, further, I have to point out that the scheduling of Canada will vastly improve the prospects of English at the expense of Scottish agriculturists, and that English opinion, therefore, cannot be perfectly disinterested. All that Scottish agriculturists would humbly petition you to do is to take no steps towards stopping the Canadian trade until a full and searching inquiry into the present outbreak of alleged pleuro-pneumonia has taken place, and that you would cause such an inquiry to take place. At any rate, that you will not come to any decision until Scottish agriculturists have had time to lay their case before you.—I have the honour to be, dear Sir, yours faithfully, WILLIAM WHITELAW.

Mr Andrew Hutcheson, Dundee, on Friday visited the farm of Airdgairth, near Glencair, tenanted by Mr David Morgan, and valued seven Canadian cattle which were purchased in Dundee on 6th October. In addition to the Canadians there are 104 feeding cattle and six cows on the farm, but these have not been in contact. Subsequently, Mr Hutcheson, according to instructions, visited the farm of Baledgarno, Inchtuthil, tenanted by Mr Patrick Constable, and valued six Canadian cattle, which were bought in Dundee on 6th October. The "foreigners" are six healthy bullocks, and formed part of the Monkseaton cargo. Since they were purchased they have been in one of the parks at Rossie Priory. In spite of the unfavourable weather, these animals were healthy, and were taking on flesh rapidly. Only five home-bred stots have been in contact with them. Yesterday the 15 cattle bought by Mr Allan, Kinnonpark, near Methven, were valued, and ordered to be slaughtered to-day. There are other 16 Canadian

cattle on this farm, and the last lot bought in Dundee have been in contact with 70 other cattle. Should any trace of disease be found in any of the Canadians the whole stock will have to be slaughtered out. The opinions of a number of farmers were yesterday gleaned by one of our representatives, and they were all to the effect that not one of the Canadians had been infected with infectious pleuro.

The following communications were received on Friday by Mr Wm. D. Patriek, clerk of the County Council of Fifeshire:—

FRESH STOCK ALLOWED AT LECKIEBANK.

Station Hotel, Perth, 3d Nov., 1892.
Dear Sir,—Mr Thomas Stewart, Leckiebank Farm, Auchtermuchty, Fifeshire, having cleansed and disinfected his premises to my satisfaction, I have today given him notice to bring into his premises 60 head of cattle.—Yours faithfully,

A. STEEDMAN, Travelling Inspector,
The County Clerk of Fifeshire.

FARMS DECLARED FREE IN FIFESHIRE.

The following letter has been received:—

Alexandra Hotel, St Andrews, 3d Nov., 1892.
Sir,—I have to inform you that, having slaughtered the Canadians on the following farms, and found them healthy, I have removed the restrictions placed respectively on the farms by the Board of Agriculture:—Mr Christie, Scotseraig, Inyom; Mr Duncan, Craigfoodie, Cupar; Mr Gentle, Andrie, Crail; Mr Gilchrist, Carvenon, Anstruther; Mr Hutchison, Foston, Kirkcaldy; Mr Miller, Edside, Anstruther; Mr Toth, Tontie, Crail; Mr Wilson, Morton of Pitnilly, Kingsbarns. At Mr Downie's of Balcornie there is some doubt as to the state of one lung sent up to London, and pending the decision of the R.V. College, the place remains under the original restrictions.—I am, yours faithfully,

GERALD R. SPENCER, Capt.,
Travelling Inspector Board of Agriculture,
The Clerk of the County Council of Fifeshire.

ANIMALS TO BE SLAUGHTERED.

4 Whitehall Place, London, 3d Nov., 1892.
Pleuro-Pneumonia Act, 1890—Case No. 46.
Sir,—I beg to inform you that Captain G. Spencer, the travelling inspector of the Board of Agriculture, has this day been instructed by the Board to cause to be slaughtered the cattle named underneath, as having been exposed to the infection of pleuro-pneumonia—viz., at Mr Downie's, Balcornie, Crail, 22; Mr Toth's, Tontie, 19; Mr Duncan's, Craigfoodie, 1.—Yours faithfully,

J. T. DENNIST,
Chief Travelling Inspector,
The County Clerk of Fifeshire.

A FIFE FARM UNSCHEDULED.

Mr Christie, Scotseraig, is one of those who has already had a portion of his stock slaughtered under the order of the Board of Agriculture affecting the cattle disposed of at the sale of Canadians on 6th October. The animals were fifteen in number, and had every appearance of being in perfect health. On being taken to Scotseraig they were mixed with others of Mr Christie's herd and placed under cover. They betrayed no symptoms of illness of any kind, and, as the context shows, were in reality in good condition. Shortly after the farm had been scheduled the whole fifteen were killed and their lungs despatched to London for examination, which proved that there was no trace of pleuro whatever, the result being that the restrictions have just been removed from Scotseraig. Mr Christie had an experience of pleuro some four years ago, which may be cited here. The cattle were bought in October, and showed no sign of disease until the following April, when the ailment suddenly broke out in an acute form, and spread with so much rapidity that in a short time three out of every four of the animals died. This occurred with home-bred cattle, but, though Mr Christie has been dealing in Canadians ever since the trade commenced, he has not known of a case of the disease being imported from that country.

SCOTTISH FARMERS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

As we expected, a storm of indignation has already burst out all over Scotland against the course the Government has adopted in prohibiting the importation of Canadian cattle. Irrespective of politics, farmers have everywhere condemned a policy which has been entered upon at the instigation of a number of English protectionists. Staunch supporters of the present Government, such as Mr John Alexander, Ballindarg, have not hesitated to protest vigorously against the course of action which has received the sanction of the Cabinet. It will be observed from his statement to a *Courier* representative that Mr Alexander had addressed objections to the English Solicitor-General before the prohibition of Canadian cattle had been resolved upon. Mr Alexander rightly considered the wholesale slaughter enforced was unnecessary, and his strongly-worded communication to Mr Rigby on the matter should not fail to be productive of good in the present crisis. Mr Alexander says the Board of Agriculture is virtually at the mercy of its experts (of whom, by the way, he has not an exalted opinion), but Mr Ballingall, Dunbog, on the other hand, will not admit this as an excuse. According to Mr Ballingall, the Board of Agriculture should have given opportunities and facilities for having the lungs of the infected animals examined by independent authorities. Mr Alexander himself will no doubt be prepared to endorse this. Clearly Mr Alexander in this, as in all other matters, is prepared to take up a firm position, and his sympathies as a cattle breeder will not in any way affect his manly and patriotic desire to defeat the selfish gang of English agriculturists who are responsible for the present muddle.

DISCOURTEOUS TREATMENT OF FIFESHIRE AGRICULTURISTS.

The resolution of the Government to prohibit the importation of live cattle from Canada has come as a surprise to the great bulk of the farmers in Scotland. The result of the slaughtering on many farms during the past week has been that not the slightest trace of the disease has been found by the Board of Agriculture's examiners. The feeling which has run very high regarding the muddle made by the Board of Agriculture in regard to the official slaughter has been greatly intensified by the resolution which it is intended to put into force.

FIFESHIRE FARMERS

are naturally very indignant. Our representative saw a number in the Cupar district on Saturday, who were one and all unanimous in denouncing the

policy sought to be adopted, and it was suggested by a few of them that a vigorous protest should be made against it by every interested Scottish agriculturist. Our representative also visited Kirkcaldy corn market during Saturday afternoon, where he found it there also the general topic of conversation, and the utmost dissatisfaction was expressed at any such resolution being come to before hearing the unanimous opinion of Scottish stockowners on the question. One leading farmer suggested that the whole of the Local Authorities in Scotland, backed by the farming interest generally, should at once send representatives to a central meeting, to be called in Edinburgh or Glasgow, when some definite action could be decided on, to press their opinions on the Board of Agriculture, and to make a vigorous and, if possible, a successful protest against such a resolution being carried into effect. It would be seen in the *Courier* on Saturday that all the farms in East Fife where cattle had been slaughtered had been found healthy and declared free, with the exception of one, that of Balcombie, in regard to which Mr Patrick, county clerk, on Saturday received the undernoted letter:—

Queen's Hotel, Dundee, 4th November, 1892.

Dear Sir,—Referring to my letter of yesterday, I have to-day received telegram from the Board of Agriculture informing me that Downie's cattle proved healthy. I have, therefore, removed from Mr Downie's, Balcombie, Crail, the restrictions originally imposed upon him.—Yours faithfully,

GERALD R. SPENCER, Capt.

The Clerk, County Council of Fife-shire.

At the Local Authority meeting in Cupar, Mr Ballingall referred in strong terms to the cavalier treatment that body was receiving from the Board of Agriculture, and the Clerk was instructed to ask the Board of Agriculture that in future cases of slaughter might be early notified to the Authority, so that any neighbouring local inspectors might be called in to see the carcasses. The following letter, which was received from the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture on Saturday, will enable the public to see that Mr Ballingall's complaint is not to be in any way removed by specific information being given. This will be all the better understood when it is understood that these courteous intimations have mostly heretofore been received a day after the slaughtering has taken place:—

Board of Agriculture, 4 Whitehall Place, London, S.W., 4th November, 1892.

Sir,—Advertising your letter of the 29th ult., I am directed by the Board of Agriculture to state that in every case where instructions to slaughter cattle under the Pleuro-Pneumonia Act of 1890 are given by the Board of Agriculture to their inspectors the Local Authority of the district are informed that the order has been given as a matter of courtesy. It may sometimes happen that the slaughter follows close upon the issue of the order, but the Local Authority will remember that the execution of the Act is vested in the Board, and that it is not desirable to cause delay by waiting the arrival of any person not concerned in the slaughter.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. H. ELLIOT, Secretary.

MR JOHN BALLINGALL, DUNBOG.

Mr John Ballingall, Dunbog, who is one of the best authorities on cattle in the district, gives a very clear statement as to the effect the restriction of the importation of Canadian stock will have on the farmers and feeders of this country. He holds that so long as the Board of Agriculture declared pleuro to exist amongst Canadian cattle they could follow no other course to be consistent than what they had adopted. The restriction, he thought, would have no material effect this winter, as few cargoes could have come over to this country before the traffic ceased for the season. Should the restriction be permanent, however, it would have a

VERY INJURIOUS EFFECT.

and be very much against the interest of feeders who were dependent on them. The Canadians were quite as useful cattle as the Irish. They were found to begin to thrive immediately they were placed on the farm, whereas the Irish cattle were fully a month before they showed signs of fattening at this season of the year. Proceeding, Mr Ballingall said he was afraid the Board had taken a very erroneous view about the disease, and he thought their diagnosis of the lungs of the animals said to have been affected had landed them in error. In the first place, they had no reason to believe there was pleuro disease in Canada, which had enjoyed perfect immunity from it in the past, and the foreigners could only have contracted it from contact from a diseased animal. The probabilities were that the illness the animals had been suffering from was bronchial pneumonia affection, probably the result of a severe cold. This might have been contracted by the animals from their usage and perspiration on board the vessel when on the passage, and their being afterwards placed on the farms under altered conditions. It was

NO MATTER OF SURPRISE

that a few of the animals showed signs of lung affection. There was every reason for believing that Professor Williams' idea that the affection was bronchial pneumonia or cornstalk disease was correct. His investigation showed that under the microscope the disputed case at Deptford and the one at Newburgh were apparently identical, and the lungs, which were said to have been affected with contagious pleuro, were unmistakably different from that disease. If the restrictions imposed by the Cabinet were to be perpetual there was nothing for it but to have the cattle fattened in Canada, and bring them to this country either as dead meat or alive, and slaughter them at the port of debarkation. This would interfere very much with the traffic, and very great inconvenience would be occasioned to those in Canada, who evidently wished to send store cattle in preference to fattening the animals in that country. Continuing, Mr Ballingall said he thought it was likely that the restrictions would only be temporary until they were thoroughly satisfied with investigations made in Canada that no disease exists or had existed. In the past store stock had been relatively higher than fat stock, and left very little for feeding; and if farmers were deprived of the Canadian stores it would be likely to very

MATERIALLY AFFECT THEIR PROFITS.

If the home-bred cow slaughtered at Newburgh had been affected with pleuro, as was said to be the case, it was pleuro that was got at home, and not from the Canadian cow. There was not even the shadow of a doubt about that. About as much as the palm of his hand had been affected and showed signs of formation, and it was quite impossible that pleuro could have developed to such an extent from the 7th October to the time the animal was slaughtered about fourteen days later. The Board would be proving too much if they proved that. Concluding, Mr Ballingall said he thought the Board of Agriculture should have invited independent veterinarians' opinion, and given opportunities and facilities for having the lungs of the infected animals examined by independent authorities.

MR JOHN ALEXANDER, BALLINDARG.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH MR RIGBY, M.P.

Mr John Alexander, Ballindarg, shares the general opinion of Scottish agriculturists with regard to the policy of the Board of Agriculture in dealing with the Canadian cattle trade. In an

Interview with a *Courier* representative on Saturday, Mr Alexander stated that so strongly did he feel upon the question that on Tuesday last, in addressing a letter to Mr Rigby, through his cousin, Mr Frederick Rigby, he took the opportunity of urging the necessity for greater caution being exercised by the Board of Agriculture authorities. He pointed out to Mr Rigby that the feeling of farmers, not only in Forfarshire, but in Fifeshire, was distinctly opposed to the theory that the disease from which the suspected animals were suffering was contagious pleuro-pneumonia, and that the policy of indiscriminate slaughter had aroused a storm of indignation amongst them. Having cited Principal Williams' pronouncement that the disease was broncho-pneumonia, he suggested that in view of the division of opinion as to the precise nature of the malady, it was only reasonable that the Board of Agriculture should take some means of testing whether it was contagious pleuro or not, and pending the result of that inquiry, stay their hand in slaughtering so many valuable animals. He concluded the letter by stating that personally he was strongly convinced that an attempt was being made to get up a case for excluding Canadian cattle from this country. In writing this letter, Mr Alexander, of course, acted of his own motive, and not in his official capacity as chairman of the Forfarshire Liberal Executive, his object being simply to acquaint Mr Rigby with the actual state of feeling in the county on the subject. Mr Frederick Rigby wrote, in reply, that he recognised that the matter was one of great moment, and that he would submit the letter to the Solicitor-General immediately. In answer to a query by our representative, Mr Alexander said he had no doubt that Mr Rigby, if he had received the letter in time, had made a prompt representation on the subject to the proper quarter.

Questioned as to his own opinion regarding the nature of the disease, Mr Alexander replied—From the very first day I heard of it I never believed the disease was contagious pleuro, and I expected the matter would end in the discovery of a mare's nest. I had a strong suspicion that those English people were anxious to exclude Canadian stores, and, though I stated that in my letter only as an opinion of my own, subsequent circumstances have confirmed my conviction. Besides, I find that I am not alone in entertaining that suspicion.

What reasons have you, inquired the interviewer, for attributing this motive to English agriculturists?—The fact is, said Mr Alexander, that great numbers of the English farmers and landowners are breeders of cattle, and it is therefore in their own interests that they should seek to prohibit the importation of Canadian stores for feeding purposes. For myself, I am a breeder as well as a feeder of cattle, but I do not object to farmers being granted facilities for obtaining as many stores as they desire, provided they get good healthy animals.

And do you consider that Canadians come up to that standard?—Yes, I do. I have been a buyer of Canadian cattle myself, and I have always found them sound beasts, certainly far more so than Irish cattle. My latest purchase, comprising eighteen head, was made in Dundee in July on the Thursday preceding the Forfarshire election.

Then you think the Board of Agriculture have adopted an unbusiness policy in reference to the Canadian cattle trade?—Well, I was one of the gentlemen who had the privilege of lunching with the Minister of Agriculture on the occasion of his recent visit to Dundee, and from the impression I then formed I have no doubt that Mr Gardner did not wish to put restrictions on the Canadian cattle trade on his own initiative. If he had been

anxious to do so, I think he would have done it at once, but apparently it was not until the English deputation was announced that the decision was arrived at. The Board of Agriculture could not, of course, ignore the opinion of their own veterinary experts, and the difficulty seemed to be that, having obtained that opinion, they must needs give effect to the clause of the Act which provides that when the Government is not satisfied that the sanitary conditions of any country are such as to render the importation of cattle free from all risk, such cattle are to be slaughtered on their arrival.

Do you not consider Principal Williams' opinion of as much value as that of the Board of Agriculture experts?—I have great respect for Principal Williams, and I hold that his is undoubtedly the best opinion in the country, whatever claims may be advanced for Professor Brown. Besides, he is backed up by French and American opinion. In my judgment there is nothing to be said but in favour of his contention that the disease is not contagious pleuro, and certainly there is not a man I have met who is not dead against the opposite theory. But then, you see, although the experts of the Board of Agriculture are inferior to Principal Williams, still they are there.

Then, is it your opinion that the whole controversy ought to be allowed to rest with the verdict of the Board of Agriculture experts?—Certainly not. I am convinced that if something is not done to settle the difference of opinion between Principal Williams and the Board's experts there will be a general "row" over the subject, as I think there ought to be. The expression I used in my letter to Mr Rigby was that a "howl of indignation" had already been raised. The subject is certain to be brought before Parliament whenever it resumes, and my own idea is that before the opening of next season the restrictions will be removed.

In the course of further conversation Mr Alexander said that in his view Local Authorities ought to have facilities equal to those of the Board of Agriculture for procuring portions of the lungs of suspected animals in order that they might be submitted to Principal Williams for examination. The Fifeshire Local Authority had rendered a great service to Scottish agriculturists in being able to obtain an independent diagnosis in the present instance.

MORE SLAUGHTERING OF CATTLE.

On Saturday several butchers employed by Messrs Macdonald, Fraser, & Co., Limited, Perth, proceeded to the farm of Kinnonpark, near Methven, tenanted by Mr Wm. Allan. There were on the farm fifteen Canadian cattle, which Mr Allan had purchased in Dundee on the 6th October. The slaughtering out of these animals, which had been valued on the previous day, was at once begun, and after the carcasses had been dressed they were despatched to Glasgow in the course of the afternoon.

Ten of the Canadian cattle belonging to Mr Salmon, Woolhac, have been killed at the farm. Mr Taft, veterinary surgeon, examined the lungs of the animals, and forwarded a number of them to the Board of Agriculture, London. The cattle on the farms of Mr Annand, Newton, of Annis; and Mr Bruce, Knockenny, were also killed. The cow, belonging to Mr Roy, Kirkhill, will be conveyed to Forfar to-day (Monday) to be slaughtered. We understand that the restrictions on the farms of Mr Baxter, New Ratray, Balaigowrie; and Mr Gardner, Bauchory, Compar Angus; and Mr Granger, Pitfur, were removed on Sunday by permission of the Board of Agriculture.

THE PROHIBITION OF CANADIAN CATTLE.

It is daily becoming more evident that farmers and others are by no means inclined to tolerate the unwarrantable prohibition by the Board of Agriculture of the free importation of Canadian cattle into this country. The matter, it will be observed, was brought on Monday under the notice of the Dundee Harbour Board (which will sustain a heavy loss if the recent Order is not revoked), and the question was also discussed last night at meetings in Forfarshire called for the purpose of considering County Council affairs. Our representatives have now had interviews with the leading agriculturists in the counties of Fife, Perth, Forfar, and Kincardine, and the opinions elicited may be accepted as indicative of the feelings generally entertained on the subject that has formed the topic of conversation. It may safely be taken for granted that the indignation with the Government for having yielded to the wishes of a number of prejudiced landowners and avowed Protectionists is not confined to one or two counties, but extends over the whole of Scotland. Every Scottish newspaper of importance, whether Gladstonian or Unionist in its politics, has protested against the policy that has been adopted. In not a single instance has any attempt been made to justify that policy, though keen politicians, such as Mr Alexander, Ballindarg, have offered as an excuse for the conduct of the Ministry that they were obliged to act in accordance with the reports sent in by the Board of Agriculture's inspectors. Now the question at issue is in no sense a political one. The deputationists who waited upon Mr Gardner were Conservatives, and, therefore, he could not have granted their request because of any respect he held for their political convictions. Mr Chaplin himself is known to favour such a course as that which Mr Gardner has followed. At the same time, the statement that has been made, to the effect that the Ministry were bound to follow the advice tendered by the Board of Agriculture's experts, cannot be accepted as accurate. It is, in fact, disproved by last week's occurrences. In Friday's *Courier* it was mentioned that Mr Campbell-Bannerman had been sounding farmers in Fifeshire and Perthshire upon the effect that the scheduling of Canada was likely to have upon the agriculturists in this part of the country. There was nothing in Mr Campbell-Bannerman's telegrams to show that the members of the Government had only one course open to them. On the contrary, the sending out of the telegrams demonstrated that the Government were willing to be guided by the

preponderance of public opinion, apart altogether from the real merits of the case before them. In every instance, so far as we have been able to discover, Mr Campbell-Bannerman received an assurance that Scottish farmers did not believe the recent slaughtering of cattle was justified, and that they would stoutly oppose any interference with the free landing of animals from Canada. Apparently, however, Her Majesty's Ministers have preferred to listen to the misrepresentations of English Protectionists, and the "poor people of Scotland" have been left to fight their own battle.

THE DANGERS OF DELAY.

WHAT has now to be impressed upon the people of Scotland is that in a case of this kind delay is exceptionally dangerous. The prohibition of Canadian cattle has come at a moment more than usually favourable to the operations of the Protectionists. It is believed, apparently, that because the importation season has almost concluded agitation will be postponed, and an opportunity thus given for strengthening the hands of those who have at present the ear of the Government. Shrewd and cautious Scotsmen, however, may be depended upon to avoid the evils of procrastination. They are well aware that the red tape of Government offices can be unwound only by long and constant application. It is by seriously beginning the agitation now that the revocation of the ridiculous Order will be gained in time to proceed with next season's importations. It must be remembered that, although the season usually closes in Canada about the 21st or 23d November, the work connected with the Canadian cattle supply is still continued. Preparations are made at the end of the year for the next season's supplies. Unless the Board of Agriculture at an early date withdraw the restrictions imposed it will be impossible for cattle salesmen to make the arrangements necessary for the selection and shipping of cattle from Canada next year. Not a day, in short, can be lost with safety. If a very serious blow to the Canadian trade is to be averted, the Board of Agriculture must be forced to recall at once the prohibition issued last week. It would appear that meanwhile the chief object of those directly interested in the trade is to obtain the delay of a fortnight in the enforcement of the prohibition. Such a delay would enable cattle to be shipped from Canada up to a date which in former years has represented the end of the season, and would thus permit the present year's consignments to be completed. In fairness, so reasonable a request cannot be refused, but a concession on this point will by no means be wholly satisfac-

tory. In the interests of everybody concerned immediate and unreserved revocation of the order is absolutely necessary, and farmers, graziers, and the "poor people of Scotland" will, we doubt not, continue the agitation until this object has been attained.

FORTNIGHT'S DELAY DEMANDED.

The agitation against the recent order issued by the Board of Agriculture prohibiting the free importation of Canadian cattle after 21st November has already taken definite shape. Among those interested in the cattle trade the feeling prevails that the decision of the Board has been due to an erroneous diagnosis of the animal examined, and it is proposed to urge a thorough investigation, the result of which, it is believed, will be a revocation of the order. In the meantime the Board is being petitioned to extend the time for the landing of cattle for a fortnight, in order that the cattle boats chartered for this season might be enabled to fulfil their engagements. Messrs J. & A. Allan, of the Allan and State Lines of steamers, on Monday sent the following telegram to the President of the Board of Agriculture:—

"The season for the export of cattle from Canada will end on 21st November, by which date the last steamer will have sailed from Montreal. Arrangements for shipments are already completed, and the cattle not being fat are unsuited for immediate slaughter. We beg, therefore, you will extend the period for admitting Canadian cattle till the arrival of steamers embarking cattle on or before the 21st inst., placing the animals, if necessary, under extended observation on arrival before permitting distribution, and only slaughtering if found infected. This will avert very serious loss from ship-owners and cattle importers."

Representations to the above effect have also been made by the owners of the Thomson, Donaldson, and other lines of steamers.

The Board of Agriculture have the extension proposal under consideration, and there is a prospect that the reasonable request for a postponement of the scheduling date will be granted.

SLAUGHTER IN ROSS-SHIRE.

Our Dingwall correspondent, telegraphing on Monday, says:—A consignment of twenty cattle which were recently brought from Dundee by Mr Anderson, farmer, Menikilo, have just been slaughtered on Menikilo farm. The cattle were valued at over £15 each, and were part of the consignment of Canadian cattle landed at Dundee, and which have been ordered to be slaughtered at their several destinations.

MORE SLAUGHTERING IN PERTHSHIRE.

On Sunday the eight Canadian cattle on the farm of Ardgath, near Errol, which were purchased by Mr David Morgan, in Dundee, on 6th October, were slaughtered by order of the Board of Agriculture, and the carcasses were despatched to Glasgow yesterday.

Mr William Allan, Kinnoull, Methven, on whose farm 15 Canadians were killed on Saturday, stated to our representative on Monday that there was not the slightest trace of disease in any of the animals; and that, in his opinion, there would have been a different story to tell if the stock had been Irish.

MORE SLAUGHTERING IN ARBROATH.

Slaughtering operations have again taken place in Arbroath. By some overlook there were neglected in the slaughtering work in this district sixteen

Canadians on Mr Rodger's farm at Waulkmills. These animals were valued on Monday, and conveyed into the shambles in Arbroath last night, when the business of slaughtering them was commenced immediately.

OPINION IN CANADA.

A *Times* telegram from Ottawa says:—The scheduling of Canadian cattle by the British Government will, it is thought, lead to the development of the dead-meat trade to Great Britain, and for this reason certain dealers say that the action of England is a blessing in disguise. The consensus of opinion, however, is that Mr Gardner has acted hastily, and that in bare justice to Canada he should have postponed a decision until the Canadian side of the case had been fully heard. Some journals point significantly to the fact that the order emanates from a Gladstonian Government, which is credited with anti-colonial tendencies.

A Dalziel telegram from Ottawa says:—It is stated that the prohibition of the Canadian cattle trade will mean a loss to the Canadian farmers of \$3,000,000 as compared with 1891. Several companies, it is announced, will be formed at once for the establishment of the dead meat trade. Last year 800 lbs. of dead meat were exported to England from Canada at a cost of \$7. During the same period 25,000,000 lbs. were exported from the United States.

SCOTTISH PRESS OPINIONS.

The *Scotsman*, in commenting on the policy of the Board of Agriculture, says:—If the British Government to-day refuses to accept the assurance of the Canadian Minister of Agriculture that the Dominion is free from pleuro-pneumonia, is there any reason why they should accept it in the future? Unless our authorities undertake the inspection of cattle in Canada themselves, they are bound to take the word of the Canadian authorities, and unless this restriction is to be made perpetual they will have to take it some day. Even if the remonstrances of Scottish farmers are to be disregarded, they have the right to insist that the points which they raise should be fairly met. Their case demands the more considerate attention because what they dispute is not the policy of the Government, but the facts on which that policy is based. They maintain that the disease which has broken out among the Canadian cattle is not the much-dreaded pleuro-pneumonia, but a non-infectious disease known as bronchial-pneumonia, or cornstalk disease. Scottish agriculturists are also inclined to maintain that English agriculturists are not competent judges of Canadian cattle and their ailments, and that, as the scheduling of Canada will improve the prospects of English at the expense of Scottish agriculturists, English opinion cannot be disinterested. Their point is in some degree enforced by the fact that only one of Friday's deputation claimed any first-hand knowledge of Canadian stock, and he said that, from his knowledge of these cattle, he could not bring himself to believe in the truth of the report that contagious pleuro-pneumonia had broken out among them until he heard of the action taken by the Board of Agriculture. On the whole, however, the Scottish farmers would do best to found their case on the question of fact—namely, whether or not this outbreak was contagious pleuro-pneumonia. They have already brought definite evidence in support of their view of the disease, and they have a right to insist that such evidence should be fully

met and, if possible, rebutted by the scientific advisers of the Government.

The *North British Daily Mail* declares it is not the safe thing even for powerful English squires to reintroduce Protection, however well it may be disguised.

The *Glasgow Herald*, while admitting that the Minister of Agriculture seems to have acted on information which he was to a large extent bound to rely upon, denies that Mr Gardner has a precedent to fall back upon. When Mr Chaplin took action with respect to United States cattle he was supported by the intelligent opinion of agriculturists in all parts of the kingdom. Mr Gardner does not stand in such a position. On the contrary, the voice of Scotland is against him. All the pressure brought to bear upon him has proceeded from English farmers, who cannot be accepted as competent judges of Canadian store cattle and their ailments. Instead of talking, as they are now doing, about their cattle trade having received a death-blow, Scottish agriculturists ought to set to work in order to prove beyond all doubt that they enjoy complete immunity from pleuro. Their present evidence on the point is so far satisfactory. Let them increase it so exhaustively as to clear away the doubts that exist in the minds of the English farmers and the Department of Agriculture. If they can do this, then long before the beginning of next May the order of prohibition will have remained to the pigeon-hole from which, as many think, it should never have been drawn.

FIFESHIRE FARMERS' OPINIONS.

MR EDWARD HARLEY, PEASEHILLS.

Mr Edward Harley, of the farm of Peasehills, near Newport, is a gentleman who has had considerable experience of pleuro in connection with dairy stock. Last year he made his first purchase of Canadian cattle, and at the present time he has no fewer than seventeen of these animals on the farm. They were all as fine, healthy animals as one could wish to see. It was a great pity, he thought, that the Cabinet should have decided to prohibit the importation of live cattle from Canada. Questioned as to what his opinion was with regard to the reported outbreak of pleuro amongst the Canadians sold at Dundee on the 6th October, Mr Harley pointed out that the animal which had taken ill at Parkhill, if it had been affected with the disease, must have contracted it before leaving Canada. His impression was that, instead of

KILLING THE ANIMALS WHOLESALE,

as was being done, the affected animal or animals should be isolated in order that the others might have a chance. If the disease had been spreading and was going through the whole of the cargoes of the two vessels he would say kill the animals at once, but for one animal only to be declared to be affected—and he had heard of no more—the others ought to have been given a chance to prove whether they had contracted the disease or not. As for the home-bred cow which was killed at Parkhill, and alleged to have been suffering from pleuro, it was utterly impossible for him of experience either to think or dream of the infection having been caught from the Canadian animal. Had that been the case it would have been impossible to have even seen a single symptom of the disease for seven or eight weeks after the cow had first come in contact. As far as he could see, the Canadians were far

BETTER ANIMALS THAN THE IRISH CATTLE.

They came in fresh and in good condition, were properly fed, and not abused in the same way as the Irish stock were. If the Canadian trade was pro-

hibited it would make stock dearer, but he thought the action of the Cabinet in deciding to restrict the importation of live cattle from Canada was quite unnecessary in the present instance. Concluding, Mr Harley said he never heard of a case of pleuro having yet existed in Canada, and the stoppage of the cattle trade would, in his opinion, very materially affect the farmers and stock-raisers in Scotland.

MR JOHN INGLIS, COLLUTHIE.

Mr John Inglis, Colluthie, is one of the prominent farmers in Fifeshire. He has had Canadian cattle for many years, and has always found them to be extremely healthy animals. In regard to the alleged pleuro he holds that in no case has it yet been distinctly proved that contagious pleuro has existed amongst Canadians. It

WAS UTTERLY ABSURD,

he thought, for the Cabinet to schedule Canada as an affected country when no distinct case had been proved. They might as well schedule the whole of Ireland, a country where many cases of pleuro had been known to exist. Regarding the effect the restriction of Canadian cattle would have on this country, Mr Inglis pointed out that during the last few years the importations had been so large that there was no doubt the stoppage of the trade would tend to raise the price of store stock. At the present time store cattle were cheaper than they had ever been in this country. Were the importation of Canadians stopped the Irish rearers would reap the benefit, and the

PRICE OF IRISH CATTLE WOULD GO UP

at once. The feeders in this country could buy Canadians at prices which would leave them a very reasonable profit, considering what profit was obtained from cattle. The animals which had been arriving during the season were mostly all good sorts and very well bred. Concluding, Mr Inglis said he was one of those who did not believe in the slaughtering of cattle, and was of opinion that the Board of Agriculture had acted rather hastily in the present instance. A system of isolation might have been adopted with better advantage.

MR GEORGE WATT, KILMANY.

Mr George Watt, in the course of a conversation with our representative, said it appeared to him as strange that cornstalk disease, which appeared to be so closely connected with pleuro, should have been in existence and so prevalent in Canada, and that farmers in this country should have never heard anything about it until the present instance. He had had a good deal of experience many years ago in connection with pleuro, but he would express no opinion with regard to the alleged outbreak amongst the Canadians, as he had never seen the animals said to have been affected. So far as his judgment would lead him to believe, however, the Government had acted up till now in a proper way with regard to the alleged outbreak. Continuing, Mr Watt said he had always been led to suppose that the Dominion of Canada were clear of pleuro. If by any means there had been

TRAFFICKING WITH THE UNITED STATES,

the Canadians would thereby have rendered themselves responsible for being placed in the same position as that country. Seeing that the States were excluded for the reason of preventing the introduction of pleuro into this country, they would naturally have to place Canada on the same lines. Proceeding, Mr Watt said he thought the restriction of the importation of Canadian cattle would have a prejudicial effect upon the farmers' supplies. He did not know that it would make meat to the

consumer much dearer, as they had always the freedom to import dead meat at any time, but it would place Scotch feeders in a very unsatisfactory position, and different from what they had been accustomed to for some time. It would also raise the price of Irish cattle. The fact of these large imports of Canadian cattle into this country had had the effect of

GREATLY REDUCING THE SUPPLIES of their home-bred stock. It would be a serious matter for the northern counties of Britain were the importation of Canadians stopped, and the duty of the Government was to have the whole matter thoroughly investigated as quickly as possible. This cornstalk disease, he thought, should be brought prominently forward, and should be thoroughly discussed by those best fitted for the purpose.

FORFARSHIRE.

On Monday a *Courier* reporter interviewed a number of Forfarshire farmers at the Forfar market on the restrictions placed upon the importation of Canadian cattle by the Board of Agriculture, and which will come into operation on 21st inst. The action of the Department formed the principal topic of conversation amongst agriculturists and cattle dealers at the marts on Monday, and their universal opinion was that the Government had no justification for the step it has taken.

MR W. T. FARQUHAR OF PITSCANDLY.

Few gentlemen are in a better position to express their opinion on the subject than Mr W. T. Farquhar, jr. of Pitscandly, the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Forfarshire Local Authority. In his official capacity he has had numerous opportunities of consulting the Board of Agriculture on outbreaks of disease amongst cattle, and he has therefore a thorough knowledge of the administration of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act. In expressing his opinion of the step taken by the Board in restricting the importation of Canadian cattle into this country, he said that cattle dealers and farmers must look at the question from a patriotic standpoint, and not allow local circumstances to prejudice them too much. Assuming, for the moment, that the officials of the Department are correct in their opinion that an outbreak of pleuropneumonia did occur amongst the Canadians landed in Dundee from the Monkseaton and Hurona, he is of opinion that the Board has acted wisely in restricting the importation of that class of stock. Q.—You may go upon that assumption, but would you venture to say that the veterinary surgeons in the employ of the Board are right in condemning all the cattle brought to Dundee by the two steamers mentioned, more particularly in the face of the fact that Professor Williams, one of the most eminent authorities in the country, has distinctly said that the cases stated were not outbreaks of pleuro? A.—The Board are more or less guided by the advice of the professional gentlemen in its employ, and I would not venture to say that their opinion is infallible. At the same time I think, personally, that the Department should have more expert opinion than it has at present, as decisions seem to be left too much in the hands of one man. In short, I have no hesitation in saying that the Board has not taken sufficient pains to investigate the cases submitted and find out whether they were really outbreaks of pleuro. The Government has been wise in taking the administration of the Act out of the hands of the Local Authorities and ratepayers, I am sure, think with me. The numbers of Canadians slaughtered recently was about 450, I am led to

believe, and the compensation paid to farmers and cattle dealers I calculate at about £7000. Of course under the old system Local Authorities would not venture to slaughter in such a wholesale manner as has been the case under the late orders, but the fact that the administration has been taken in hand by a central authority has saved the ratepayers large sums of money. Questioned as to the effect that the restrictions will have upon the cattle trade, Mr Farquhar said that he gathered from the statements made to Mr Gardner, the President of the Board of Agriculture, that the import of Canadians was only 2 per cent. of the total cattle trade of the country. If this were true, and he was not prepared to dispute it, he thought it would be a pity to risk the safety of the remaining 98 per cent. of the trade by bringing such a small number of animals from Canada that were suffering from disease. In Forfar, Fife, Aberdeen, and Perth the percentage of Canadians was greater than in other counties, and this no doubt accounted for the many farmers in these places being opposed to the restrictions, and looking at it from a local point of view only. Q.—Considering the fact that the animals are cooped up in steamers in their passage to this country from Canada, and that pleuro is comparatively unknown there, is it not possible that they may contract disease on their arrival? A.—That is quite possible. I have known of outbreaks of the disease amongst Irish cattle, and, as you are doubtless aware, Dublin dairies were at one time looked upon as hotbeds of disease. Some years ago no cattle were allowed to be imported from that city, and I made investigations as to whether the Government of the day were right in closing the port. The result of these was that, whilst I could not recommend the opening of Dublin for the importation of stock into this country, the arrangements that the various railway companies there made for preventing cattle from the country coming in contact with animals in Dublin suffering from pleuro-pneumonia, or from passing through affected areas, commended themselves to me. Q.—But if the Board restricts the importation of Canadian cattle simply because of a supposed case of pleuro occurring in a cargo, why does it not act likewise in regard to Irish stock, more particularly as actual outbreaks of disease have taken place amongst them? A.—I am very reluctant to express an opinion on this, as it does not do for one occupying the position I do to refer to politics, but I think it is a question of votes. No Government nowadays can afford to offend the Irish people.

MR T. M. NICOLI, LITTLETON.

This gentleman had no hesitation in expressing his utter disbelief that any outbreak of pleuro occurred amongst the Canadians sold in Dundee on 6th October. So firmly is he convinced of the total absence of disease amongst that class of cattle that he informed our representative that if he has an opportunity to buy them between now and 21st inst., when the restrictions on the Canadian trade come into force, he will do so. The position taken up by the Board of Agriculture he holds to be untenable, and he believes that more far-reaching than is at present contemplated. He will not be surprised if the restrictions which are about to be placed upon the cattle trade of Canada will give a fillip to the movement for the absorption of that country by the United States. So unwarrantable is the action of the Department in this direction that he is strongly convinced that the officials of the Board of Agriculture are prejudiced against that trade, and have allowed themselves to be influenced too much by the views of English breeders.

MR REID, KILMUNDY,

stated that he purchased nine Canadians, which formed part of the cargo of the steamer which arrived in Dundee previous to the Monkseaton and Hurona, he thought the Fremona. One of them had an affection of the lungs shortly after they came into his hands, but it was all right now, and thriving as well as the others. Had he been disposed, he said, he might have caused a scare similar to that which prevailed at present. The cases which had caused the present excitement were not outbreaks of pleuro at all, but simply of the animals contracting a feverish cold by being exposed to the cold air after being kept in the steamer so long. In the case of Irish cattle they were put in places which were over-heated and not over well-ventilated, and when they came on shore they did not get the best of treatment from the people who purchased them, with the result that they caught colds, and were otherwise affected about the lungs. The restrictions which were about to be placed on the Canadian trade he considered to be very unfair, for the farmers who dealt in it had to a great extent neglected breeding, and would require to depend upon Irish stock.

MR JAS. SCOTT, MAINS OF BRIGTON,

also considered the action of the Board of Agriculture unwarrantable. The importation of Canadians, he pointed out, caused a depreciation in the price of home stock, to the grievance of home breeders. They naturally advocated such restrictions in order to obtain more money for their particular cattle. The ruin and substance of the Government's proceeding, he held, was protecting one class of traders to the disadvantage of another.

MESSRS REID & SMITH, LETHAM.

This firm of cattle-dealers purchased 43 of the Canadian cattle sold in Dundee on 6th Oct. They informed the *Courier* reporter that from the first they seemed "fine-keeping" animals and fattened uncommonly well. They were conveyed from Dundee to Forfar by train, and on their arrival there were travelled to the farm of Drumelune, where they were ultimately slaughtered. Twenty-nine of them were put into a field, the remainder being confined in the byres. None of them showed the slightest symptoms of disease, and in their opinion were slaughtered unnecessarily. At present they had about 500 Canadians, and all these were in a thriving and healthy condition. Mr Reid condemned the restrictions as being imposed without cause, but from this opinion his partner, Mr Smith, differed, that gentleman remarking that the restrictions should be permanent, as the Canadian trade was of no benefit to dealers.

A FORFAR VET.'S EXPERIENCE.

FOUND NO DISEASE.

One of our representatives has had an interview with Mr Henry Tait, veterinary surgeon to the Forfarshire Local Authority, regarding the suspected outbreak of pleuro. Mr Tait received our representative very cordially, and expressed his willingness to answer any question that might be put to him regarding the matter. At the outset he stated, in reply to a question, that he was not prepared to say whether the cases reported were actually outbreaks of the disease, as he had never had an opportunity of examining all the lungs of the animals slaughtered. From the fact, however, that the Professor employed by the Board of Agriculture had certified these to be affected with pleuro, he thought the Department had acted wisely in restricting the importation to this country of cattle from Canada.

But you have examined the lungs of many animals brought to Dundee by the Monkseaton and the Hurona. Have you detected in these the slightest signs of pleuro?—I have examined the lungs of no fewer than 338 Canadian cattle within the past week or two, but have not observed anything about them which would warrant me in saying that they showed signs of pleuro. At the same time, the Government, in my opinion, have taken the wisest precaution in slaughtering the animals which were in contact with those suspected, and thereby preventing the disease gaining a hold in this country.

Q.—What are the symptoms of pleuro?—It is a specific disease which would be produced by no other means than those of contagion, and is caused by the animal inhaling microbes into its lungs, emitted by the breathing of an affected animal. It varies in its development according to the stamina of the animal. Amongst some cattle it will take three weeks, amongst others six weeks, and I have known a case where it took six months to develop after the time they were brought in contact with an affected animal. Immediately the disease establishes itself in a cow or ox it becomes infective. The symptoms of pleuro are:—The animal affected refuses to take its food, is subject to short peculiar husky coughs, and has peculiar shivering in its extremities.

EXPERIENCE OF MONTROSE FARMERS.

During the last few days a number of the leading farms in the Montrose district have been the scene of slaughtering operations. In most of these cases the suspected animals, which had been purchased in Dundee on the 6th ult., were simply killed on the farm, being conveyed to the Montrose shambles for the purpose of being cleaned and dressed. The work of valuation has been throughout attended with satisfactory results, and several of the farmers have been informed that they are now at liberty to set about augmenting their stock.

MR D. PLAYFAIR, MORPHIE.

The above farmer was in possession of sixteen Canadian bullocks, part of the ill-starred cargoes of the Monkseaton and Hurona. The animals were valued on Tuesday by Mr Falconer, of the Kincardineshire Auction Company, and Mr Hill, inspector for the Board of Agriculture, the compensation awarded being accepted by Mr Playfair. In the course of a short interview which a representative of the *Courier* had with Mr Playfair on Saturday, that gentleman emphatically expressed his disbelief that the recent outbreaks were cases of genuine contagious pleuro.

Then you are of the opinion that the present outbreak is non-infectious, and therefore not at all dangerous? Mr Playfair, in reply, stated that he considered it by no means dangerous, ascribing the suspected cases to a cold brought on by the sudden change from the heated ship. He wondered they did not all take cold.

Interrogated as to the condition in which the animals arrived at Morphie, Mr Playfair said they certainly had the appearance of being fine and strong animals, but one of them had to be killed in consequence of a fracture of the ribs which it had sustained during the voyage, and which had passed unobserved at the sale.

Have you ever had any previous experience of pleuro?

Mr Playfair—I had a good deal to do with pleuro about three years ago. I then occupied the farm of Haugh of Aberuthven, near Auchterarder. Sixteen cattle were killed within twelve months, the Board

of Agriculture ordering their slaughter just as they turned ill. The disease broke out at intervals of a month or six weeks. I have read the newspaper reports on the present outbreak, and in view of my former experience I am convinced that this is not a case of genuine contagious pleuro.

Of the sixteen cattle belonging to Mr Playfair which have been slaughtered, six were out of the Monkseaton and ten out of the Hurona. The sixteen animals referred to as being slaughtered three years ago were Irish cattle. Mr Playfair has received word from the Board of Agriculture that the lungs of the animals which were slaughtered last week are all right.

MR J. SAMSON, BALWYLO,

had forty-four suspected Canadians, which were weighed last Saturday by Captain McIlwaine, inspector for the Board of Agriculture. The animals were killed on Monday and Tuesday last on the farm, and dressed in the Montrose shambles.

Mr Samson considers that the slaughtering has been rashly gone about, and states that it would have been time to kill the animals when they showed any signs of disease. The present supposed outbreak, he suspects, has originated in a cold, which it was impossible for some of the animals to escape taking.

About three years ago a number of cattle died on Mr Samson's farm from what appeared to be bronchial pneumonia. The disease manifested itself in the cows only.

Mr Samson never heard of disease from Canada before.

MR RODGER, MAINS OF DUN,

when asked for his views on the recent suspected outbreak of pleuro, promptly characterised the wholesale slaughter at present going on as a "perfect farce." He did not regard it as epidemic pleuro. Mr Rodger bought 57 bullocks from the suspected cargoes. He kept them in the fields until he received the Board's order, when he transferred them to the courts. They were valued on Monday night. Mr Dougall, farmer, Perthshire. Slaughtering was commenced on the farm on Wednesday evening, and finished on Thursday night. The animals were afterwards cleaned and dressed in the Montrose shambles. Mr Rodger states that pleuro broke out among his cows about two years ago. On that occasion three cows were killed, and a number of others were slaughtered. These were the first cows that had been affected with pleuro in Scotland. It appeared amongst the cows twelve months after bringing them to his farm, and he had no idea as to where the disease came from.

Questioned as to the alleged superiority of Canadian to Irish cattle, Mr Rodger said the former fatten twice quicker, although they eat more.

Mr Rodger thinks slaughtering would be justifiable in undoubted cases of contagious pleuro. Mr Rodger has six animals on a neighbouring field, but has not yet received liberty from the Board of Agriculture to bring them into the farm.

Mr Rodger also stated during the interview that the predominating symptom in the cases of pleuro that had come under his own notice was a great difficulty the cattle felt in breathing, while they were also unable to partake of any sort of food.

He never heard of any Canadian cattle disease, but the cows above referred to as being killed two years ago were Irish cattle.

He thought that cornstalk disease was of the nature of consumption.

A PERTSHIRE FARMER'S OPINION.

SCETICAL AND INDIGNANT.

On Monday a representative of the *Courier* interviewed several Perthshire farmers in regard to the new Order issued by the Board of Agriculture prohibiting the landing in this country of live cattle from Canada.

The first gentleman interviewed is a leading agriculturist in the Strathern district. He was, he said, quite willing to express his opinion, which he believed to be the opinion of nearly all the farmers in the county, but he did not wish his name published.

What, then, is your opinion of the new Order?

I believe it to have been instigated by one or two of those faddists who are permanently connected with the Board of Agriculture.

Do you think that the skilled advice given to the President of the Board of Agriculture was correct?

As a practical man, and as one who has read all that appeared in the newspapers as to the supposed outbreak of pleuro among Canadian cattle, I am convinced that not one of the animals which were sold in Dundee on 6th October last was suffering from pleuro.

Do you go the length of saying that the animal which has led to the general slaughtering out was not suffering from any illness of any kind?

No; I do not go that length. It may have caught a cold coming across, which, together with the fatigue occasioned by the long voyage, would put it out of condition. Cattle are just like human beings—they cannot stand fatigue without its telling upon them.

From what you say I suppose I am right in assuming that you accept the opinion of Professor Williams in preference to that of Mr Gardner's skilled advisers?

Certainly; and so would any practical man.

What effect will the new Order prohibiting the landing of live cattle from Canada have upon those who make it no inconsiderable part of their business to fatten lean beasts for the butcher?

Well, that is a wide question, and would require time to answer. Speaking from my own experience, pleuro-pneumonia has not been nearly so rife in this country since the Canadian import trade developed as it was when we were almost entirely dependent upon Ireland for our lean cattle. Up till within the last three or four years pleuro was almost always with us, and it was invariably traced to Irish store cattle. As the Canadian trade developed the Irish trade fell away, and for a very good reason. By substituting Canadian cattle for Irish we found that we had not only got rid of the pleuro pest, but that Canadians took on beef quicker and realised better prices as fat stock.

Do you think that any outside influence has been brought to bear upon the President of the Board of Agriculture so as to induce him to prohibit the landing of live cattle from Canada?

Yes, I do. The Irish people, you know, are queer folk. They may quarrel among themselves—have their 12th of July fights between Orangemen and the wearers of the green—but when they find it to their mutual advantage to combine their forces in support of a given object they are not slow in doing so. You remember the exhibition of Irish-made goods—how all classes combined to make it appear that the best manufactured goods were only to be got from Ireland?

But how does that affect the case in point?

In this way. I have a shrewd guess that Irishmen, without respect of party, have brought influence to bear upon the Board of Agriculture to have Canadian cattle blocked out, so as to make way for Irish lean stock.

And what do you think will be the result of Scotland being made dependent upon Ireland for can cattle?

Well, I have never known a case of pleuro among Canadian cattle, but when we were dependent upon Ireland, as you say, for lean stock, outbreaks of pleuro were, like bad seasons, disastrously frequent.

What in the circumstances would you suggest?

I would suggest that every legitimate influence be used, through petitions to members of Parliament sent by representative meetings of agriculturists, to have the new order rescinded.

Don't you think that the best way to effect that would be for the Local Authorities in the different counties to approach the President of the Board of Agriculture by means of a deputation?

No, sir, I don't. The County Local Authorities, so far as influence is concerned, might as well be blotted out of existence. Since the Board of Agriculture was called into existence the Local Authorities have been entirely ignored, and their only duty now is to see that Orders issued by the Board are duly posted up.

It is quite evident you have not a high opinion of the Board of Agriculture?

No, I have not. I am convinced that things were much better managed, and much more economically managed, under the County Local Authorities than they are under the Board of Agriculture in London.

May I take it that you look upon the new Order as a huge blunder?

Yon may, sir, though that is a milder term than I would apply to it.

MR W. F. BELL'S VIEWS.

Speaking at a meeting in support of his candidature for the seat at the County Council for the Eastern Division of Mains on Monday, Mr W. F. Bell, Barns of Claverhouse, referred to the pleuro scare. He was sorry, he said, to see that the Government had landed in a muddle over the Contagious Diseases Act. So long as it was debatable whether the outbreak which had occurred was pleuro or not, the drastic measures adopted by the Government ought to have been delayed for a little. He was quite at one with the policy of doing everything possible to have disease stamped out, and it was only by adopting stringent measures that they would eradicate it. At the same time, as they had an authority composed of a number of the best experts in the land taking up a certain position and a number of others taking up an opposite position, he considered that the Board should have paused before taking the serious step they had taken. It would have sufficed if the Board of Agriculture had ordered every animal which had formed part of the cargoes dealt with to be locked up at the farms to which they went for three months. In this way, little injury would have been inflicted on the owners, and by the time the three months expired they would have ascertained whether the disease had spread in any way, and clearly convinced themselves as to whether it was contagious pleuro. Under any circumstances, the locking-up process would have done away with the danger of the disease spreading, and it would have avoided the serious step which had just been taken. It had been his belief that there was more grip and backbone in the Board of Agriculture. When Mr Gardner was in Dundee he was present at the conference he attended, and he must say that it then struck him that the subject would have got more consideration than had been given to it.

A SIGNIFICANT LETTER.

ONE day last week Mr Patrick, clerk to the Fifeshire Local Authority, wrote to the Board of Agriculture requesting that a portion of the lungs of the home-bred cow recently slaughtered at Parkhill should be furnished to the Authority, in order that it might be examined by an independent expert. That request the Board of Agriculture has now refused, stating that no portion of the lung is in existence. It is also mentioned that the animal was certified to have had pleuro-pneumonia by Mr Reid, V.S., Auchtermuchty, to whom the members of the Local Authority are referred for further particulars. In two respects this communication is remarkable. It will be observed, in the first place, that nothing is said about any examination having been made of the lungs in London, and in the second place the letter amounts practically to a confession that the Board of Agriculture have no better warrant for their actions than the report submitted by a country veterinary surgeon. Hundreds of lungs have now been forwarded to London in connection with the needless slaughter of cattle that has taken place, and not a single word has emanated from the Board of Agriculture in proof of the allegation that pleuro-pneumonia has been discovered. Those who deny that pleuro-pneumonia was introduced into this country by any of the cattle on board the Hurona or Monkseaton are able to produce evidence tendered by Principal Williams, one of the leading veterinary surgeons of the day, while against his evidence the Government is able to place only a statement made by Mr Reid, Auchtermuchty. It may be that Mr Reid is in every respect an excellent surgeon, but it is preposterous to imagine that his verdict is to be accepted and that of Principal Williams rejected. Before squandering over £10,000 in the wholesale destruction of Canadian cattle, and before taking a step which would entail the ruin of a flourishing Canadian industry, the Government ought in fairness to have provided themselves with much weightier evidence than that of which they seem at this moment to be possessed.

A REMARKABLE LETTER.

The indignation of the Fifeshire farmers at the resolution of the Board of Agriculture to prohibit the importation of Canadians continues to increase, and at Cupar market on Tuesday it was the general topic of conversation. There was no meeting of the Local Authority, but the following letter was received yesterday by the County Clerk:—

Board of Agriculture, 4 Whitehall Place, London, S.W., 7th Nov., 1892.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 2d inst., I am directed by the Board of Agriculture to inform you that their officers have no portion of the lung referred to which could be sent to you. When the slaughter of the herd at

Parkhill was carried out the Board engaged the services of Mr Reid, V.S., Auchtermuchty, to make the *post-mortem* examination, and he reported that he found pleuro-pneumonia in the lungs of the home-bred animal. Mr Reid, being one of the Inspectors of the Local Authority for Fifeshire, will no doubt be very pleased to give the Local Authority a description of the appearances he observed in the deceased lung which led him to conclude that it was a case of pleuro-pneumonia.—Your obedient servant,
T. H. ELLIOT, Secretary.

FURTHER INTERVIEWS WITH FARMERS

One of our representatives had an opportunity of talking over the whole matter with a number of leading farmers on Tuesday, and without exception one and all condemn the hasty action of the Government without a more full and searching inquiry being made into the whole circumstances. In a conversation with

MR DINGWALL, RAMORNIE MILL,

an extensive farmer and member of the Local Authority, that gentleman said he considered the position the Board of Agriculture had taken up was very ill-logical, because if they were satisfied that the cases founded on were genuine pleuro why should they not at once enforce their powers? Giving an intimation that they were to schedule at a certain date was only trifling with the question, and they might very well extend that date to the time being asked for by the owners of various of the steam liners. He considered it was likely that some dubiety existed in the Board of Agriculture in regard to it. Mr Dingwall thought himself fortunate in not having any of the cattle that came across in the Monkseaton and Hurona. He was present at the sale of the stock that came in the latter vessel, and gave some bids, but he was an unsuccessful offerer. Last year he had a lot of Canadians, which did very well, and turned out to his expectation, and he had formed a good opinion of Canadian stock, and he was hopeful that any intended restrictions would be removed before next year's importations were ready. He did not take such a gloomy view of the outlook as some of his neighbours. Though the resolution to prohibit the importation were carried into effect he did not think it would at this season advance the price of store stock very much.

MR MELVILLE, BALLO MILL,

farmer and auctioneer, in a conversation with our representative said he had some experience with Canadians last year, though, fortunately for himself, he had none of the two cargoes which had become notorious. He had some experience of pleuro, but from what he had seen and read he did not consider the cases those of genuine pleuro. He was strongly of opinion that the Government should have a more thorough investigation before coming to any such decision.

Several other farmers whom our representative met gave expression to similar opinions as those given above.

MR GEORGE DUNN, NORTH KINCAPLE.

Mr George Dunn, tenant of the farm of North Kincaple, near St Andrews, and secretary of the Fifeshire Farmers' Club, is another of the many farmers in Fifeshire who hold that none of the Canadians yet imported to this country have suffered from pleuro. He attributes the illness of the home-bred cow which was slaughtered at Parkhill not to pleuro, as had been alleged, but probably to inflammation of the lungs. The Canadian cow killed on the same farm, he thought, might also have been suffering from the same illness, probably

the result of a cold caught while on the passage to this country. He had seen a portion of the lungs of one of the animals said to have been affected. This was shown by Professor Williams at Cupar on Tuesday last, and, as pointed out by the Professor, it was entirely

DIFFERENT FROM THE REAL PLEURO.

Referring to the prohibition of the live cattle trade between this country and Canada, Mr Dunn stated that were the restrictions continued for a lengthened period the Scottish farmers would very materially suffer, and would require to procure more lean stock than usual from England and Ireland. This would undoubtedly have the effect of raising the price of home-bred stock. The Canadian cattle were, he thought, equally as good animals as the Irish were. Concluding, Mr Dunn said his belief was that the Cabinet had acted hastily in deciding to stop the trade immediately. It would have been better had they waited until it was clearly proved if there were any cases of pleuro amongst Canadians or not. This could have been done either by inoculation or by adopting some system of isolation.

MR JAMES SYME, LEUCHARS CASTLE.

Mr James Syme, Leuchars Castle, is of opinion that the Government have acted wisely in the present instance in stopping the importation of Canadians in the meantime. The slaughtering of the whole of the animals disposed of at the sale on 6th October was quite right in his estimation. He, however, thinks the Government must have had some

FURTHER INFORMATION

with regard to the existence of pleuro amongst the Canadians, other than what was generally known, before they would have decided on restricting the trade. Were the restriction to be kept on for a considerable time home store cattle would be difficult to get, and the prices for such would be raised considerably. Previous to Canadian cattle being introduced into Scotland, home stores were very dear, but a short time after the introduction of the "strangers" prices were considerably lowered. At the present time he held they could buy Canadian cattle cheaper than home-breds, but they generally sold at less value than the home cattle, and his experience was that the profits from both classes were about equal.

MR WILLIAM GENTLE, AIRDRIE, ANSTRUTHER.

In the Anstruther district several farmers who purchased Canadians at the sale in Dundee on the 6th October are strongly denouncing the action of the Board of Agriculture in slaughtering the whole of the animals. Mr William Gentle, who is the tenant of Airdrie farm, purchased twelve animals at the sale on Monday last week. All these were slaughtered by orders of the Board of Agriculture. They were all

GOOD, HEALTHY ANIMALS,

and not one of them showed the least signs of illness. He is of the general opinion that no pleuro has yet been discovered to have existed amongst Canadian stock. Regarding the Canadian cow killed at Parkhill, Mr Gentle said he had seen it on the day of the sale in Dundee. "It was an and June beast to begin with," he said, "and should have been dead ten years ago. The lungs or something had to give way, or else it would have lived for ever." Proceeding, he said he was of opinion that the Englishmen wanted the cattle trade between this country and Canada

ABOLISHED ALTOGETHER

in order that they might reap the benefit. If that were done, and he saw no reason why it should be,

the price of home stores would immediately become dearer. The farmers could buy the Canadians considerably cheaper than the other cattle, and his experience of the foreigners he had had last year was that they paid him fully as well as the Irish animals did. If it had not been for the introduction of Canadian stores into this country, home stores would at the present time have been at a ransom.

MR McLAREN, DEARACHIE,

who was yesterday interviewed by a *Courier* representative, said that he purchased ten Canadians off the Monkseat. He never saw better-looking or more thriving animals, and they promised in all respects to early become fat for the market. He conveyed them by train from Dundee to Forfar, and from thence travelled them to his farm. On their arrival there he put them into a park, where they remained till his place was scheduled. He had purchased many Canadians in his time, but never found any pleuro amongst them. He had known, however, of disease breaking out amongst Irish stock. As they were difficult to sell about this time of year, and were knocked about very much, they were very susceptible to contracting disease. Canadians as a rule fattened quickly, whereas he had known of Irish cattle become worse instead of improving. He was of opinion that had the "caper" of the Board of Agriculture in restricting the importation of Canadians not come into force at this time Irish cattle would become unsaleable. This was not his individual opinion, but that of many other cattle-dealers and farmers. In regard to the suspected outbreaks of pleuro amongst the cargoes of the Monkseat and Hurona, Mr McLaren remarked that they could not prevent one or two animals in such a large number going slightly wrong in their lungs, but it did not follow that this was caused by pleuro. He expressed his firm belief that there was no cause whatever for the wholesale slaughter of the Canadians.

ELGIN COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE SLAUGHTER POLICY.

At a meeting of the Contagious Diseases Committee of the Elgin County Council on Monday, letters from the travelling inspector of the Board of Agriculture were submitted with regard to the killing of Canadian cattle at Calesmill and Spynie, which had been in the steamer with those alleged to have been infected with pleuro-pneumonia. The lungs have been forwarded for inspection, and a letter was received stating that none of the animals were affected with the disease, and authority was given to the parties that they were at liberty to take in stock again. The Clerk stated that he gathered from the inspector that the slaughtering of the 1200 or 1300 cattle would cost the country some £7000 or £8000.

THE FEELING IN CANADA.

A VETERINARY EXPERT'S OPINION.

"A FAKE PURE AND SIMPLE."

Advices from Canada to hand indicate the general feeling prevailing throughout the Dominion in regard to the pleuro scare prior to the prohibition, and the confidence with which cattle traders anticipated that the decision of the Board of Agriculture would be against the theory of contagious pleuro-pneumonia.

The *Toronto Empire* of October 27 says:—There seems to be little doubt but that the reports

which are coming from London in regard to contagious pleuro-pneumonia in Canadian cattle are in error. Yesterday a number of Toronto's most prominent cattle-dealers and veterinary surgeons were seen, and all agreed that the contagious form of the disease was utterly unknown in Canada. Pneumonia simple, of course, existed, but that was neither dangerous nor infectious. The general opinion was that when the supposed cases were examined by the veterinaries of the Privy Council it would be found that a mistake had been made. Dr Andrew Smith, of the Ontario Veterinary College, about voices the ideas of the cattlemen. "I have never known," said he, "and never even heard of a case of contagious pleuro-pneumonia in Canada, except when a few isolated cattle which were shipped from Scotland were in quarantine at Quebec. These, of course, were killed. Last summer I went through to Victoria, and the cattle were all in a splendidly healthy condition. With regard to the cattle at Dundee, I have no doubt whatever that when the royal veterinaries examine the suspected animals they will declare them untainted so far as contagious pleuro-pneumonia is concerned."

Another press comment says:—The trade has been treated to their annual pleuro pneumonia scare, but the English agriculturist has evidently a weaker case this time than he had last year, and will not be any more successful than he was then in proving that this dreaded disease exists in Canada. The stories which are being published about this latest scare are more nonsensical than usual. The old story about American cattle being allowed into Canada is again revived and brought into the discussion of the matter. None of the trade here have heard anything about the matter, and the whole story is looked upon as a fake pure and simple.

The *Empire*, in another reference to the pleuro scare, says:—This most important subject to the Canadian farmer and cattle dealer was much discussed on the market, and, while a few cattlemen were disposed to take a gloomy view of the outcome of the "scare," the majority were confident that Canada would come out on top. There is no doubt that Canada's strict quarantine against States cattle in the north-west will prove to be of incalculable value to her now, for it is a well-known fact that she is free from this dreaded cattle disease now, and has been for some years past. On this fact local shippers are firm in their belief that no discrimination will be made against Canadian cattle in Great Britain.

PROFESSOR WALLACE'S PROTEST

CONSIDERABLE value attaches to the letter which appeared in *Times* on Wednesday from the pen of Mr Robert Wallace, Professor of Agriculture and Rural Economy in the Edinburgh University. In that letter a strong protest is offered against the exclusion of Canadian store cattle from this country. Professor Wallace is able not only to describe the symptoms of broncho-pneumonia from his own observation and experience, but also to state the result of an examination of part of the lungs of one of the animals recently certified as having suffered from pleuro. In a few sentences he shows how easily broncho-pneumonia may be mistaken for the fatal disease so much dreaded by farmers. That it was so mistaken in the present instance

there can no longer be any doubt. Like that of Principal Williams, the finding given by Professor Wallace is distinctly against the existence of pleuro. "I had no difficulty," the Professor says, "in recognising that the pathological appearances presented were identical with those of the cornstalk disease." Now, the clear duty of the Board of Agriculture is to test this evidence by submitting the lungs in question to an independent examination. The officials of the Board must know what has become of the lungs, and they ought to be compelled either to produce them or, if they have been destroyed, to give a detailed description of the appearances that led them to assume the existence of pleuro-pneumonia. It will be noted that Professor Wallace is not altogether favourable to importation, and it is very fact renders his statement all the more valuable. As an agricultural enthusiast it is natural that his sympathies should lean towards the owners of pedigree herds, but at the same time the course of legislation cannot be permitted to favour these owners at the expense of the large majority of the people. Our latest information is to the effect that the time allowed for the free landing of Canadian cattle is not likely to be extended. In the circumstances it is more necessary than before to carry on the agitation against the unjust restrictions that have been imposed.

PRINCIPAL WILLIAMS' OPINION CORROBORATED.

"A MEANINGLESS INJUSTICE."

THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN PLEURO AND "CORNSTALK DISEASE."

The *Times* of Wednesday publishes the following letter from Professor R. Wallace, Agricultural Department, Edinburgh University:—

Sir.—The exclusion of store cattle from Canada is an important action, the full significance of which is not dreamt of, far less understood, by the great majority of people in this country. It has been brought about as the result of what is supposed to have been an outbreak in Fife among Canadian cattle of contagious pleuro-pneumonia, and, had there been any substantial ground to believe that the supposition was correct, I should not have lifted my voice against it. A portion of the lungs of the affected animal was sent to Principal Williams and Professor W. O. Williams, of the New Veterinary College, Edinburgh, and naked-eye and microscopic examination convinced those experts that broncho-pneumonia (the well-known "cornstalk" disease of America) had been

MISTAKEN FOR PLEURO PNEUMONIA

contagiosa. I have subsequently examined the lungs and microscopic sections made from them, and I had no difficulty in recognising that the pathological appearances presented were identical with those of the corn-stalk disease, which I had the opportunity of seeing in Washington in 1890, by the courtesy of Dr D. E. Salmon, the distinguished chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States. The difference in the *post-mortem* appearances and

in the actual seats of the two diseases makes it extremely unlikely for any one versed in morbid anatomy to mistake the one for the other. In pleuro pneumonia contagiosa the true seat of the disease is not in the bronchial tubes, although the smaller of these become gorged with an inflammatory coagulated exudate.

BRONCHO-PNEUMONIA,

not unknown in this country, is not a "specific" disease like pleuro-pneumonia contagiosa, but one, which originates spontaneously when animals are exposed to cold and wet, especially after being heated, as cattle are during transit by rail and sea. It may fitly be compared with influenza in the human species—not of the recent epidemic type, but of the old and familiar form of a severe cold. It is termed cornstalk disease in America because it appears in autumn, when the corn stalks are past their best and beginning to decay. The true seat of the disease in broncho-pneumonia is the air passages, large and small. Although the lung-parenchyma, through which the multitudinous ramifications of the air tubes pass, naturally become congested, it is not subject to such changes as are found in a case of pleuro-pneumonia contagiosa. It is

VERY DIFFERENT WITH THE BRONCHIAL TUBES, more especially the smaller of them. The columnar cells forming the epithelial lining of the air passages desquamate, or, in common language, peeling off, indicates the seat of the disease. As the alteration of structure does not extend to the blood vessels, nature may in time repair the injury, if death be not induced at the acute stage of the disorder. Not only is the fibrinous exudate of pleuro-pneumonia absent in the air passages, but pus and degraded epithelial debris take its place, and are expelled from the lungs by the act of coughing in a manner corresponding to expectoration in a human being. The differences described are readily determined by the aid of a microscope, but there is a plainly visible characteristic difference in

THE POST-MORTEM APPEARANCES

in the two diseases, which, under ordinary circumstances is sufficient to guide the observant practitioner. The situation, as it is now raised, is not one between the British farmer and the Canadian exporter, neither is it a political question. It is an Imperial question, involving the relationship with one of our most important and most loyal colonies, Canada, conscious of her freedom from the fell disease, pleuro-pneumonia—a proud position which she has creditably held for years—cannot fail to smart under the injury about to be done to one of the industries which she fondly fosters. I am no advocate of the free importation of "store" cattle into this country. On the contrary, I believe

A MISTAKE WAS MADE

when it was determined to admit this class of animal from any part, so fraught must it always be with danger to our valuable pedigree herds; but duty will not permit me to stand aside and observe without protesting against what appears to be a meaningless injustice to a section of the agricultural community. The farmer has a sufficient number of unseen difficulties to contend with without adding another cause of uneasiness and uncertainty as to the source from which he may or may not be permitted to draw his supply of store cattle.

THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE EXPERTS NOT INFALLIBLE.

The *North British Agriculturist*, in commenting on the action of the Board of Agriculture in reference to the Canadian cattle trade, says:—"It is not surprising that Scotch stock-owners are not

satisfied as to this being a case of pleuro at all. They have long since ceased to place implicit trust on the dicta of Professor Brown, whom they regard as the real author of the absurd wholesale scheduling system which was a gross outrage on the intelligence of the country. As for Professor Cope, the chief veterinary inspector of the Board, the colossal and most humiliating mistake which he made in connection with the 'Maceashi Scandal' last year, was quite enough to show that he was a long way from being infallible."

GLASGOW AUTHORITIES AND THE RESTRICTIONS.

A special meeting of the Local Authority was held in City Chambers on Wednesday to consider the Order of the Board of Agriculture causing all Canadian cattle arriving after the 21st inst. to be slaughtered immediately on being landed. In view of the 21st being the closing day of the shipping season, the Local Authority resolved to approach the Board of Agriculture and ask that the restriction should not be insisted on in the case of the cattle leaving Canada up till the 21st, which would arrive in Glasgow a fortnight later.

FIFESHIRE.

Continuing his inquiries in eliciting the opinions of the Fifeshire farmers regarding the present pleuro scare, one of our representatives visited the East Neuk of Fife on Wednesday. Proceeding to the extensive farm of

BALCOMBIE,

about a mile and a half beyond Crail, and close to the extreme eastern boundary of the county, our representative unfortunately found Mr Downie, the tenant—who is one of the best farmers in the district—was from home. He found, however, in the foreman of the farm, Mr Robert Smith, a very intelligent man, who was anxious to answer to the best of his ability any inquiries made of him. Mr Downie, he said, bought twenty-two cattle of the Monkseat and Hurona cargoes which were disposed of at Dundee on 6th October. They were trucked to Crail Station, and driven to the farm the day following. They were healthy-looking animals, and bore no traces of any disease, and were not even the least affected with cold. They were beginning to take on flesh just before slaughter. The whole of them were slaughtered by Dundee butchers last Tuesday and Wednesday, and despatched to the dead meat market.

"Have you had any experience of pleuro?"

"Yes, on several occasions on other farms, and I know the symptoms well, and the appearances it presents."

"Did you consider the lungs of the animals slaughtered in a healthy state?"

"Certainly; every one of them."

"But there was one of them the Inspector seemed to have doubts about which was sent to London?"

"Oh, yes, that was one on which there was a black mark, which I think was caused by a stroke from a pitchfork by some of the men before it was killed."

"With your experience do you consider the present outcry about this case at Parkhill being a genuine case of pleuro-pneumonia to be correct, and that alone a reason for killing the whole of the two cargoes?"

"No, I do not. I have had a good deal of experience with Canadians. I consider the diagnosis by Professor Williams to be right. Last year Mr Downie had two animals which contracted a severe cold while coming across the Atlantic, but, after a

few doses of treacle and oil, they shortly came all right. I am quite sure an animal showing these symptoms of cold on occasions such as the present would be put down as suffering from pleuro-pneumonia, as the inspectors seem to have lost their heads. Mr Downie has had a great many Canadians for the last three years, and prefers them to Irish stock. He is feeding a good many just now, forty of which he purchased a few months ago, and they were all doing very well. Mr Downie naturally feels very indignant at such an uncalculated slaughter of his cattle. He would have no hesitation in filling the empty stalls caused by the slaughter with Canadians, as he has found them always to do well with him."

CARVENOM CATTLEMAN'S OPINION.

Proceeding next to Carvenom, an extensive farm about three miles from Anstruther, our representative missed seeing Mr Gilchrist, the farmer, who was also from home. Seeking out the cattleman, named William Robertson, our representative had a long chat over the appearance of the Canadians on the farm, which formed part of the Monkseat and Hurona cargoes. Mr Gilchrist's purchase consisted of ten animals, which came by rail from Dundee to Anstruther, and were at once driven home to Carvenom, and they looked a lot of fine healthy animals. One of them had a small lump on its side, caused by a crush in the ship coming over, but it was reduced by applications of hot water in a few days. Robertson said he had seen pleuro-pneumonia on other farms where he had been employed. The Canadians that came to Carvenom were all healthy, and at once took to their feeding, and were thriving well before the slaughter order was enforced. They were slaughtered on the farm on Tuesday of last week. He could not discover the slightest trace of any of them being affected with any disease. He was inclined to the belief that this cry of pleuro-pneumonia was all nonsense, and it was more than likely that the diagnosis of the Board of Agriculture's examiner was wrong, and that it was very possible that the ailment was only bronchopneumonia, as insisted on by Professor Williams. He had seen many cases of cattle being ill from having contracted severe cold, but the symptoms were quite different from that of real pleuro-pneumonia. To satisfy his curiosity, he cooked a part of one of the lungs of the slaughtered animals, and found it fresh and firm. His employer felt very much the annoyance caused him by the unmeaning slaughter of his cattle, which gave every promise of turning out good animals.

PERTHSHIRE.

FARMERS DENOUNCE NEW PROHIBITORY ORDER.

On Wednesday our representative called upon several farmers in the Strathern district with the view of eliciting their opinions with regard to the new Order issued by the Board of Agriculture prohibiting the transmission to any part of the country of live cattle imported from Canada. The first gentleman our representative visited was

MR ROBERT GARDINER, HENHILL.

Mr Gardiner is not only tenant of Henhill, on which for many years has been held the annual show of the Central Agricultural Society, of which he has for long been the energetic secretary, but he is also proprietor of the estate of Kottearns. Besides being a County Councillor, he is likewise a member, and a very active member, of the Perthshire Local Authority. When the object of the visit was made known to him, Mr Gardiner stated

that he had no knowledge of Canadian cattle, never having had any among his stock. He could not say what effect the new Order would have upon the cattle trade in this country. He was, he said, a Free Trader, and he was in favour of imposing a tax upon cattle imported from Canada. Is not that, he was asked, something like the M'Kinley system of protection? Well, he added, that is my opinion. Questioned as to the advisability of excluding live cattle from Canada, Mr Gardiner said that it pleuro had been found among the animals that had recently been imported from Canada, he saw nothing wrong in the course taken by the Board of Agriculture.

The next farmer called upon was

MR JOHN A. M'CORKINDALE, INNERDUNNING.

Mr M'Corkindale was of opinion that the Board of Agriculture had made a great mistake in ordering the slaughtering out of all the cattle purchased in Dundee on 6th October. He had had some experience of Canadian cattle. A couple of years ago he had six. Two of them became ill, one suffering from lung disease, and the other from a stommen complaint. One got better and the other died. Since then he had had no more Canadians. He was of opinion that the action of the Board of Agriculture would prove extremely hurtful to the feeders of stock.

MR M'INROY, BALDINNIES, DUNNING,

was afterwards called upon. In answer to questions, Mr M'Inroy said he objected altogether to the slaughtering that had been going. It had never been proved to his satisfaction, or to the satisfaction of any farmer with whom he had conversed on the subject, that pleuro had been found among the Canadian cattle. He had in all 72 cattle on his farm. Of these 20 were Canadians, which he had bought in Glasgow. These cattle, he said, were the healthiest animals he ever had, only, he added, they required a deal of feeding. He had also several Irish beasts, but they would not stand comparison with the Canadians. He had had seven or eight years' experience of Canadian cattle, which he preferred far before Irish cattle. He had never had disease among his Canadian stock. He was of opinion that the new Order was dead against the interests of the feeders of stock.

MR A. HUTCHESON'S VIEWS.

Last night Mr Andrew Hutcheson, vice-chairman of the Perth County Council, had a meeting with his constituents at Inchture. Discussing the pleuro scare, he remarked that he had acted as valuator under the Board of Agriculture. He said he had not seen the lungs of any of the animals, but he was not convinced in his own mind that it had been proved that the disease was genuine pleuro, and he thought the Board of Agriculture ought to have satisfied the public mind on that point. He did not think that when the Board of Agriculture obtained the lungs of a suspected beast the verdict of the Board alone should be given. There ought, he held, to be a consensus of the best veterinary opinion as to whether the animal in such circumstances was suffering from contagious pleuro. If that had been done they would have been satisfied. It had been said the other day by the Board that the lung of the animal first suspected in connection with the present scare was not in existence. He did not see why that should be. It should have been preserved in order to give the

public reasons for the ground that the Board had taken up. Having remarked that the Inspectors under the Board of Agriculture, although the farmers did not care about them coming about their farms, were courteous gentlemen, and had to execute the orders they received. Mr Hutcheson said he should have liked the Board of Agriculture to have tried inoculation in the present instance. Mr D. Constable, V.S., and himself knew how successful they were with inoculation in Perthshire before the slaughter order was instituted. He did not wish the Board of Agriculture to stop slaughtering and begin inoculation, but he wished them to take the lungs of a suspected beast and inoculate 5 or 6 young animals with the virus, and see if they got the same results as he had. The Board of Agriculture said that inoculation was not valuable and proved nothing, but those who had seen it in practice some years ago knew that the inoculation of animals from others suffering from pleuro always produced a certain effect. If that effect were produced it would have given satisfaction in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred as to whether they had the genuine disease. The Board of Agriculture, he held, ought to have given them satisfaction before destroying such a trade as the Canadian trade in this country. Some farmers said that the importation of Canadian cattle was operating against their interests, but he would say that if Canadian cattle were to be imported fat into this country for compulsory slaughter in the same manner as was done with those from the United States both the feeding and the breeding interests of the country would become most unremunerative. (Applause.)

"THE STRENGTH OF AN UNCERTAINTY."

MR GARDNER MUST MEET PRINCIPAL WILLIAMS' CASE.

The London *Daily Chronicle*, in an article dealing with the Canadian cattle trade prohibition, asks the pertinent question—"Is it wise on the strength of an uncertainty to issue an order striking a cruel blow at the interests of a loyal colony, at the business of our own harassed farmers who import 'store' cattle for fattening, and at the British consumer, who, like his ancestors, according to Shakespeare, has always been a 'shrewd eater of beef'?" "The gravest doubt," continues the *Chronicle*, "is now cast on the soundness of the opinion on which Mr Gardner has acted. It is impossible for us to ignore the opinion of two of the most distinguished veterinary experts in the country, namely, Principal Williams and his namesake, Professor Williams, both of the New Veterinary College of Edinburgh. They base their opinion on microscopic and naked-eye examination of the lungs of the affected animal, and that opinion is that the malady which killed it is nothing more serious than the common 'cornstalk disease' of America, which is never absent from the country at certain seasons of the year. It appears regularly in the autumn, when the cornstalks are beginning to decay. It is not a contagious epizootic like pleuro-pneumonia. Animals that are exposed to chilling damp after being heated are all liable to be affected by it, and as the seat of the malady is the air passages and bronchial tubes—not the 'parenchyma' or tissue through which they pass—we may fairly say that in cattle it corresponds to a bad cold in the human subject. We hope Mr Gardner will call on his official veterinary advisers to meet the case which the Edinburgh specialists make against them."

FORFARSHIRE.

MR DAVID SMITH, MURROES.

AN ADVOCATE OF FREE TRADE.

One of the largest buyers of cattle in Forfarshire is Mr David Smith, Murroes. In a talk with one of our representatives Mr Smith remarked that the importation of Canadians to this country should not have been stopped at all. Proceeding, he said he did not think the Government was forced to their decision by the Englishmen. It was the

FARMERS HERE WHO COMPLAINED.

Mr Guild had informed the Board that he had pleuro on 1st form, and had it not been for that gentleman's efforts doing so there would never have been a decision. He thought the Canadians had been of as much benefit to the consumers as to the feeders. Since the importation of Canadian cattle and United States cattle was commenced—the latter as dead meat—beef had fallen in price quite 15s per ewt., or about 13d per lb. There was no question whatever but that the importation of Canadian and United States cattle helped to reduce the price of butcher meat. It was likely that if the restriction was enforced for a lengthened period the price of both lean and fat cattle would go up at home. If the Canadian animals had to be killed before leaving Canada or on debarkation they would not realise so much as they would if they were allowed to be taken to this country alive. With regard to the alleged pleuro, Mr Smith said he had

NEVER SEEN CANADIAN CATTLE AFFECTED

by that disease, although he had seen several of them unhealthy. He thought, however, that disease examinations should be done away with altogether, every man made to stand his own loss. Over years ago, when they had disease in this country, every person had to stand his own loss, and if a man was found selling diseased stock in open market he was fined, but no further restrictions were applied than that the farmer had to keep his animals clear from those on other farms until he had a clean bill of health. Were that system adopted just now it would save the country a great deal of expense. Concluding, Mr Smith said he would take in both Canadian and United States cattle. "Let us have free trade," was his observation.

MR JOHN KEITH, HILLSIDE.

Mr John Keith, the tenant of the farm of Hillside of Balgay, in the course of a talk with one of our representatives yesterday, said he would not have objected to the killing of the cattle if they had done it in the right way. Although the Canadians and home-bred animals had in many instances been in the same byres together, the Board only slaughtered the foreigners and allowed the home-bred animals to remain. He is very doubtful if any of the cases yet reported have been contagious pleuro at all, and thinks the Government have made a great mistake in acting so hurriedly as they have done. Mr Keith is also of opinion that the Government have been greatly

INFLUENCED TO STOP THE CANADIAN TRADE

by English breeders, who will benefit to a considerable extent were that done. Prices of Irish stores would in all probability also be considerably raised. Proceeding, Mr Keith said this slaughtering of Canadian cattle at the present time was affording the Scotch farmers a fine opportunity of getting rid of their bad animals. It was his opinion that at some of the farms where the Inspector called the worst of the animals on the steading were pointed out to him as being those which were purchased at

the sale in Dundee on 6th October, and better prices were in all probability secured for the animals than if they had been put in open market.

MR GEORGE JACK, MENZIES HILL.

The prohibition of the importation of live Canadian cattle to this country is also strongly condemned by Mr George Jack, Menzies Hill. The Government had been far too hasty in the present instance, and instead of killing the whole of the Canadians sold at Dundee they might have adopted a system of isolation to much better advantage. Proceeding, Mr Jack said the restriction would most certainly increase the price of store cattle. The drovers of late had only been getting from £4 to £5 for small stirks, and could hardly make a living, but should the restriction on Canadians be continued for a lengthened period the prices might rise to those which ruled before the introduction of Canadians to this country, when stirks brought from £8 to £10 each. Continuing, Mr Jack said he was

NOT A GREAT BELIEVER

in Yankee cattle. Although they were undoubtedly bought big at the money, they had also to be sold big at the money. He, however, thought the home cattle brought the biggest price. Regarding the application made to the Board of Agriculture by the Fife-shire Local Authority to secure the lung of one of the animals said to be affected at Parkhill, Mr Jack said it seemed somewhat strange that the Board were not able to grant the request. It was a very serious matter, and had the Board destroyed the lung it showed great carelessness on their part.

MR JOHN SMITH, LUNDIE CASTLE.

Mr John Smith, Lundie Castle, who was on Saturday last relieved of the Canadian cattle he purchased at Dundee on the 6th October, says that of all the cattle killed during the past two or three weeks there had not been but one animal which had been found to have in the least degree shown any symptoms of pleuro. He thought it was ridiculous to stop the importation of cattle to this country, considering that pleuro had never been proved to exist amongst Canadians. The Government, he was of opinion, had been led to their decision by the breeders of cattle in England, who were unable to obtain so good prices for their stock as they would otherwise do if the Canadian trade was abolished. Were the importation stopped for a lengthened time it would tend to

MAKES LEAN CATTLE TOO DEAR

in proportion to what they would receive for fat animals, and the feeder would be put in a position that he would receive next to nothing for feeding the stores. At the present moment he thought Irish cattle were cheaper than Americans, but if the trade between Canada and this country was stopped the price of Irish stores would go up to such an extent that the feeder would have nothing for the keep of the animals. Proceeding, Mr Smith said he thought it was a strange thing that the Board of Agriculture could not have given to the Fife-shire Local Authority a piece of the lung of the animal said to have been affected at Parkhill. When he read of that in the papers it looked to him as if the Board were not sure if the case was really pleuro. If it was contagious pleuro they had no need, in his opinion, to be afraid to produce the lung asked for.

MR A. B. WATSON, KIRKTON OF LUNDIE.

Mr A. B. Watson, Kirkton of Lundie, who was interviewed yesterday, stated that only two years ago pleuro was supposed to have been discovered amongst Canadians landed at Dundee by the City

of Lincoln. At that time a number of the animals on Mr Peter Fenton's farm at Dronley were slaughtered. Proceeding, Mr Watson asked why it was that Mr Gardner, the present Minister of Agriculture, said just now that

HE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE

but to apply the Act of 1878, and prohibit the importation of Canadians, when Mr Chaplin, the Minister of Agriculture under the last Government, did not do it two years ago? He thought the Government in the present instance had been led to their decision by the influential deputation which waited upon Mr Gardner. That gentleman was a weak Minister of Agriculture, or else he would not have listened to the views of these Englishmen before he had considered a little. Mr Gardner should not have stopped the importation of cattle from Canada before he had heard the Scotch feelers' opinions, and before he had been thoroughly satisfied, and had

SECURED CONCLUSIVE PROOF

that this was contagious pleuro. Proceeding, Mr Watson said he had fed over 100 Canadians last year and about 50 during previous winters, and he had never known one Canadian sto to be suffering from a sore head. There would have been far more complaints amongst Irish cattle. His impression was that, if they did not open the ports and allow the importation of live stock before next August, store cattle would be made considerably dearer, and at the same time it would help the rears of home cattle in the glen districts to secure better prices for their cattle.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD LOST,

in his opinion, £1000 or £5000 by the slaughtering of Canadians at the present time. From what they were giving farmers for the cattle the Government were, he believed, losing £4 or £5 on every carcass. Concluding, Mr Watson said they would have great difficulty in getting home cattle to supply the wants of those in this country were the trade not continued with Canada, but he firmly believed that the restrictions would be taken off before next autumn.

MR PETER FENTON, DRONLEY.

Mr Peter Fenton, of the farm of Dronley, also holds that no contagious disease has yet been found to exist amongst Canadians, and were there another cargo of Canadians coming to Dundee this season he would have no hesitation in buying the first lot. He thinks it has been greatly owing to the

ACTION OF THE ENGLISH BREEDERS

that the restriction had been enforced, and no Scotchman had been consulted in the matter at all. Irish cattle, he thought, had been cheaper than Canadians this season. Canadians had been far too dear, and they had to be sold from 4s to 6s per cwt., live weight, cheaper than home cattle, thereby diminishing the profits. Should the restriction of the trade be continued, Scotch farmers would have to rear a certain proportion of their own cattle as they did in former years. Proceeding, he said he never saw any signs of pleuro on any of the animals he purchased at the sale of the City of Lincoln's cargo about two years ago, and the animals were killed to no purpose. The agitation at the present time was somewhat similar, and he firmly believed that no case of contagious pleuro amongst Canadians had yet existed.

MR WILLIAM FENTON, TEMPLETON.

The opinion of Mr William Fenton, Templeton, is to the effect that the stoppage of the Canadian cattle trade at the present juncture would be a very great mistake. He does not think there has

been any pleuro amongst Canadians in this country at all. Perhaps the home-bred cow slaughtered at Parkhill had suffered from pleuro, but the disease could not have been contracted from the Canadian cow, as pleuro took from live to six weeks to develop. Proceeding, Mr Fenton said there was far more chance of getting

PLEURO FROM IRELAND

than from Canada, because it had been proved over and over again that the disease existed in Ireland. Were the restriction of Canadians enforced, home store cattle would get dearer, and profits to farmers would thereby be diminished. His experience was that Irish cattle always sold best, but Canadian cattle fattened quicker. Concluding, he said it was somewhat strange that Irish cattle were more hatched about in coming to this country than what Canadians were.

PERTHSHIRE.

On Wednesday a representative of the *Courier* interviewed a number of Perthshire farmers in regard to the Order issued by the Board of Agriculture prohibiting the landing of live cattle from Canada.

MR MORGAN, JUNIOR, ARDGAITH,

said the new Order was a consensual thing altogether. He did not think that any of the Canadians had been affected with pleuro. The new promissory Order would have a serious effect upon feeders of cattle.

MR THOS. T. GALLOWAY, CAIRNIE, GLENCARSE,

is of opinion that the new Order is quite unjustifiable. If it had been clearly proved that any of the Canadians was suffering from pleuro the action of the Board would have been quite right, but that had not yet been shown.

MR ARCHIBALD BRUCE, PRIORLAND,

does not think there was pleuro among the Canadian cattle.

MR WM. MILLER, OVER KINFAUNS,

considers the action of the Board of Agriculture to be very rash. The Board ought to have been satisfied before prohibiting the importation of live cattle from Canada that those that had recently been imported were suffering from pleuro. That had not been proved.

MR FAIRWEATHER, CLASHBENNY, ERROL,

said the new Order was a fair haver altogether. It was against the best interests of feeders.

MR WILLIAM TOD, MAINS OF GORTHY,

is of opinion that there might have been some of the Canadian cattle which were not sound in the lungs, but that would apply to all the cattle in the country. He thinks the wholesale slaughtering out has entailed a useless expenditure upon the country, and that the Board of Agriculture has committed a great mistake in issuing the new Order.

MR PETER JACK, TAYFIELD, GLENCARSE, said the Board of Agriculture had dealt a serious blow at those who fed lean stock. Their action was quite unjustifiable, as it had not been shown that pleuro had been among the Canadian cattle.

MR WILLIAM MILLER, JUN., KILSPINDIE, intimated that he was entirely opposed to the new Order.

MR JOHN WATSON, SANDYHALL,

said there was no pleuro among the Canadian cattle. It was a gross mistake to slaughter out the cattle, as there was no pleuro amongst them. To prohibit the landing of live cattle from Canada would, in his opinion, entail great loss upon the feeders of stock.

CROWN LAW OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE.

A London correspondent of the *Edinburgh Evening News* says:—Scotland has such special interest in the embargo placed by the Board of Agriculture on the importation of Canadian cattle that it may be well to state authoritatively that, however much Mr Gardiner's sympathies were against restrictions, he was finally advised by the law officers of the Crown that the Act compelled him to interfere. This legal opinion was only obtained after Sir Charles Tupper had specially impressed Mr Gardiner with his assurance regarding the non-existence of pleuro-pneumonia in the Dominion, and also after Sir John Albot, the Canadian Premier, and Sir Charles had been received in conference by a Committee of the Cabinet. Up to the last moment both Mr Gardiner and the Cabinet thought the imposition of restrictions might be found unnecessary.

ANOTHER COMPLAINT AGAINST THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

The *Meat Trades Journal* has the following comment on the policy of the Board of Agriculture with reference to the Canadian cattle trade:—While we are as anxious as the most interested Royal Society member in keeping our native stock free from "imported" disease, we cannot help thinking that Mr Gardner has given way much too readily to the deputationists who waited upon him. He allowed himself to be influenced by men who know nothing whatever of Canadian store cattle, who were not immediately interested in the alleged outbreak, except that the said cattle when finished entered into competition with their own native fat stock. Even waiving this Protectionist view, the evidence of scientists and practical men was not conclusive by any means that the disease was a contagious one, and the strong protestations of the Canadian Government, as well as the farmers of Fifeshire and Forfarshire, went for nothing. Fortunately, the scheduling occurs at a time when a minimum of loss and inconvenience may be reckoned upon, and no doubt before the opening of next season Canada will be restored to the position of a free and favoured country.

WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER IN THE CARSE.

As indicated in yesterday's *Courier*, the Board of Agriculture have now taken a further step in connection with the pleuro scare. The animals landed by the Hurona and the Monkseaton have now all been slaughtered, and it was considered that the matter, so far as slaughtering was concerned, was at an end. At the same time it was known that, in ordinary circumstances, many other cattle must have been in contact with those forming part of the cargoes of the steamers mentioned, and it was considered by many that the Board, if they believed they had really detected pleuro, would, in order to preserve their consistency, have dealt with all the cattle which had been in contact. Until the last day or two, however, there was no move in this direction. About a week ago seven animals

which had been landed either from the Monkseaton or the Hurona, and which had been purchased by Mr Wm. Morgan, Ardgaith, Carse of Gowrie, were slaughtered, and the Board of Agriculture, having now ascertained that the remainder of the stock on the farm, numbering 103, had been housed under the same roof, have decided to have these killed. Of the 103 animals 21 are Canadians, purchased about three months ago, 46 are home-breeds, and the remainder are Irish cattle. They are stated to be in excellent condition, 97 of them being strong healthy bullocks, while the remaining 6 are cows. The cattle were yesterday valued on behalf of the Board of Agriculture by Mr A. Hutcheson, Dundee, and it is stated that the valuation amounts to about £2000. The work of slaughtering this large herd will be commenced to-day.

FORFARSHIRE.**MR J. NICOLL, SHIELHILL.**

Mr J. Nicoll, of the farm of Shielhill, has purchased numerous lots of Canadians. Last year he had upwards of 50 Yankies on his farm, and during the past season he has also had a goodly number of store animals. In his opinion

CANADIANS THRIVE MUCH BETTER

than Irish cattle, and the profits to be derived from them are at least one-fifth better than that to be secured from Irish stores. Regarding the pleuro scare, he firmly believed that up to the present time no pleuro had been proved to have existed amongst Canadians. He did not think pleuro could have even developed in the Canadian cow at Parkhill from the time it left America to the time it was slaughtered; and, as to the home-bred animal, it could not, under the circumstances, have been affected by the Canadian cow. The prohibition of the Canadian cattle trade by the Board was, in his opinion, very unwarrantable, and the Board of Agriculture should have gone properly into the merits of the case before the restriction was enforced. It was pretty correctly understood that it was the English breeders who had been at the bottom of having the trade stopped. Where the restriction continued it would have a

VERY DAMAGING EFFECT,

and would give the agriculturists in the district considerable inconvenience. Spaking for himself, it would reduce his income considerably. He had always found the Canadians to begin to rest and feed far quicker than Irish cattle. He firmly believed that it would be difficult for farmers in this country to obtain lean cattle for pasture were the Canadians to be restricted for a lengthened period. The prices for home cattle would also be naturally raised. Action, he thought, should immediately be taken by Scottish farmers to

PETITION THE GOVERNMENT

to have the restrictions removed, as without some pressure being brought to bear at once great difficulty would be experienced were the matter allowed to stand for a time. Preceding, he said his opinion was that the Board of Agriculture wanted to shirk or shelve the question when they refused the Local Authority of Fifeshire a portion of the lung of the animal said to have been effected at Parkhill. The fact of their refusing to give a portion of the lung of the cow which was in contact with the "Yankie" led him to suspect that the Board did not want to give any information beyond what suited themselves. If the Board prevented independent authorities from examining the lung any party would come to the conclusion that they were afraid to allow of an examination being made in case of exposure. Continuing, Mr Nicoll said.

IT SHOWED GROSS INSANITY

on the part of the officials to destroy all the Canadians disposed of at the sale in Dundee on 6th October. The cattle had been spread over a large number of farms, and had come in contact with numerous home bred and other animals, but, notwithstanding that, the Board only slaughtered the Americans, and left all the home-bred animals and others untouched, although these had been in contact. That, he thought, was a piece of reptileism. When the Board of Agriculture suspected any of the animals, what they should have done should have been to isolate the ones affected for a time, until they saw if the disease developed, or else tried a system of inoculation.

MR J. JOHNSTONE, LEYSHADE.

With regard to the alleged pleuro disease amongst Canadian cattle, Mr John Johnstone of Leyshade is also of the general opinion that no case of pleuro has up to the present time been proved to exist in any of these animals. His opinion is, however, that the farmers in this country would have been better had they not seen Canadian cattle at all, as the importation of these animals was very injurious to the rearers of young stock in this country. Should the restriction be continued, farmers would then be compelled to rear their own stock, and he thought they could get

BETTER PRICES

for the animals and better quality. For a time the prices of Irish cattle would undoubtedly go up, but as soon as it would pay him the Scottish farmer would rear all his own stock. Mr Johnstone, proceeding, said that notwithstanding the opinion he had expressed he thought the Board of Agriculture were carrying the matter to too great an extent in the present instance, and he held that there should be far more power left in the hands of the local authorities. He thought the Government had been led to their decision in restricting the trade owing to the representation made to them by the English rearers of stock. There was no necessity, he believed, for restrictions being made at all. The Board might have tried a

A SYSTEM OF INOCULATION

in the present instance. He had pleuro some years ago on his farm, and at the time all the animals were inoculated. Some of them had been so much affected by the disease that they died, but so soon as the inoculation took effect on the rest of the stock no more deaths occurred. Had inoculation been tried by the Board it would not have been half the expense to the country as the action they had at present taken.

CAPTAIN CLAYHILLS HENDERSON
ON THE QUESTION.ATTACK ON THE MEMBER FOR
FORFARSHIRE.

Captain Clayhills Henderson, chairman of the Dundee District of the Forfar County Council, speaking at Liff on Saturday evening, made a very spirited statement in reference to what he termed the indiscriminate and purposeless slaughter of between £6000 and £8000 worth of cattle in the county of Forfar. If they read their newspapers, and he fancied they did, they would have noticed the utterly merciless, indiscriminate, and foolish slaughter of cattle which had been proceeding, to the ruin of the tenant farmers of Scotland, more particularly those of Forfar, Fife, Kincardine, and the neighbouring counties, whose pride it was to send to the London market the best, prime Scotch beef. (Applause.) These men had

expended a life-long interest, and had applied their brains to producing something in this line, which could not be beat, and which brought in London 1d and 2d per lb. more than anything from other quarters. (Applause.) For some reason which no man could make out, these beasts had been slaughtered with the most ruthless manner, and so far as he could conceive, there was only one man responsible for the slaughter in this district, viz., Mr Brown. He was the veterinary expert, who advised the Board of Agriculture; who advised Mr Gardner, a man in the South of England—400 miles away from them, and who does not care that for us (here giving a snap of his fingers). As against these, they had the evidence of a man

NOT UNKNOWN TO FAME,

Professor Wallace, lecturer on agriculture and veterinary science in the University of Edinburgh. That University, he ventured to say, supplied to the world the very best men they had in veterinary science. They had also the opinion of Professor Williams, of the Veterinary College, Edinburgh, than whom there was not in the world a man better able to give a reliable opinion as to the diseases affecting cattle. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) More than that, they had the evidence of Principal Owen Williams, Edinburgh, and were these men, he asked them, to sacrifice their future, and their credit past and prospective as professional men, by telling them the Board of Agriculture was wrong, and that this was not pleuro if it was? These men were respected and known not only in this country but abroad, wherever veterinary science was practised, and he knew they would not run that risk. He had intimate relations with Professor Williams, as an official of the Highland and Agricultural Society, and although the Professor had many a time decided against him, he was a man for whom he had the most perfect respect, and in whom he had the most implicit trust. The three men he had mentioned were far far above any word that could be said against them. Yet they had to submit to the word of one man 400 miles away from them, and who knew nothing about the facts—who declined above everything to let them see one atom of the lung said to have been affected by pleuro. (Applause.) From that they might judge for themselves. ("Hear, hear," and applause.)

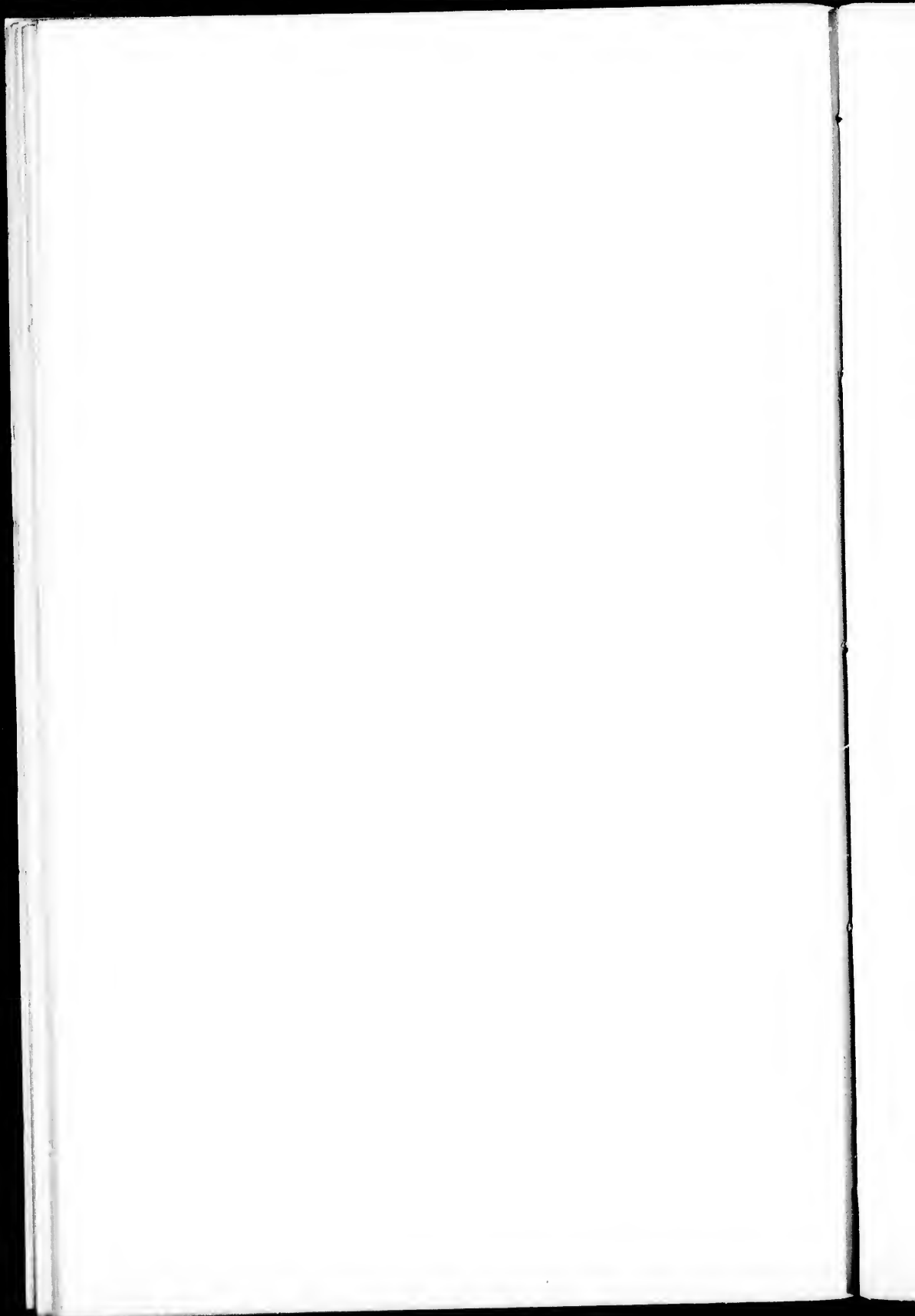
THE DAY HAD GONE

when they could have had some one to help them. They might have had a good man, a thoroughly business man. (A Voice—"Barclay.") "I beg your pardon, sir," said the Captain. The party answered—"We would have been better with Barclay to help us." Proceeding, the Captain advised his interruptor to leave Mr Barclay alone, remarking he was as straight as a die and a business man instead of a carpet bag, bagging bag. (Laughter.) At all events, he continued, there was one thing the Member for Forfarshire—he forgot his name—(laughter)—had not helped them, and more than that, would not help them, and he could not not help them, because he knew nothing about it. (Laughter and applause.) Scotland was now scheduled and Canada was scheduled, and had they considered what the restriction on the importation of Canadian cattle meant? He would tell them what it meant. It meant that their tenant farmers could not pay their rent, and he would tell them this much more, that they, the ploughmen, would have their wages reduced, because their tenant farmers, their employers, would be ground down by an authority knowing nothing about the real issue; by a man who, simply by a scratch of the pen—in defiance of the authority of the greatest experts on

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pleuro-pneumonia—defied Scotland. It was a wider question than that. It affected the whole country, and the supply of food to the working men in their cities, and he could not help regretting having to say that the member for Forfarshire had not said one word, had not helped them, but had held his tongue; and had kept the whole of his proceedings in his carpet bag. (Great laughter and applause.)

THE ALLEGED PLEURO AT ARDGAITH.

WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER OF THE STOCK.

On Saturday forenoon the work of slaughtering the cattle on the farm of Ardgait, tenanted by Mr William Morgan, was commenced. The farm is situated about two miles east of Glencarse, and before action was taken by the Board of Agriculture no fewer than 110 cattle were housed on the steadings. The circumstances which have led to this

WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER

may be briefly summarised. Mr Morgan on the 6th October attended the sale of the Hurona and Monkseatons' cargoes at Dundee, and purchased seven bullocks. These were conveyed to Ardgait and housed in a byre at the west end of the steadings along with a number of Canadian purchased some time previously, and five Irish cattle. South of this, and separated by a stone wall, is another byre, where six home-bred cows were kept. Adjoining on the east is a cattle court which contained 22 Irish animals, and in another large byre were 20 Canadians and 20 Irish cattle. The remainder of the stock, numbering 31, was housed in another cattle court separated from the large byre by a stone wall. Access could be had to all the byres and cattle courts through doorways in the partition walls separating the one place from the other. Following on the decision of the Board of Agriculture to

KILL ALL THE CANADIANS.

landed by the steamers Monkseaton and Hurona, Inspector Davenport visited Ardgait, and made arrangements for having the seven animals which Mr Morgan purchased slaughtered. This was carried into effect on Sunday, 6th November, and the lungs of the animals were afterwards inspected by Mr Constable, veterinary surgeon, Inchtuthie, and the local inspector for the district. It is stated that, with one exception, the lungs of all the animals were in a normal condition. In one case, however, the lungs had a hard and knotty appearance, and they were in consequence despatched to London. It has now been declared by the Board of Agriculture that the animal in question

HAD BEEN SUFFERING FROM PLEURO.

In consequence of this intimation was received that as the remainder of the stock, to the number of 103, had been in contact they would have to be slaughtered. On Saturday morning five butchers from Dundee arrived at the farm to overtake the work. The slaughtering was begun about ten o'clock in the forenoon in a straw barn, the Canadians being despatched first. The

GRUESOME WORK

was carried on without intermission until Sunday morning, and by that time between forty and fifty

animals had been killed and dressed. The carcasses were hung from the beams in the shed, and in every case the lungs were allowed to remain in the animals. The butchers who slaughtered the cattle remarked on their fine, healthy appearance, and asserted that there was no sign of disease in any of the carcasses. It is expected that the whole of the stock will be killed by to-night. Yesterday Inspector Gordon and Mr Constable, the local inspector, visited the farm and examined the carcasses, previous to their being despatched to the dead meat markets. With regard to the alleged case of pleuro, the grievance and cattleman on the farm state that all the animals appeared to have been in excellent condition, and ate their food well. Not one of them, in their opinion, showed any symptoms of illness.

MR STEWART LINDSAY'S OPINION.

Speaking on Friday night in the Good Templar Hall, Kirriemuir, as candidate for the Forfar County Council, Mr Stewart Lindsay spoke, among other subjects, on the pleuro scare. He was of opinion that the action of the Government was precipitate and ill-advised, and that the indiscriminate slaughter of cattle at the expense of the Exchequer was unnecessary. At the conclusion Mr Rough, Longbank, moved that Mr Lindsay was a fit and proper person to represent the Division in the County Council. Mr Edwards, Kinnordy, seconded, and the motion was agreed to. A large number of names were enrolled as members of Committee.

MORE BLUNDERING BY MR GARDNER.

The *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch* of Saturday again condemns the Board of Agriculture for the policy it has followed in prohibiting the free landing of Canadian cattle. Mr Herbert Gardner, in his new rôle of "Scottish Representative on the Board of Agriculture," has taken another opportunity of flouting Scottish sentiment and feeling in a most extraordinary way. A Sub-Commissioner on Labour had to be appointed for Scotland in room of Mr G. R. Gillespie, who died a few weeks ago. Seeing that Scotsmen have long led the van in agricultural progress, a prominent Scottish agriculturist, intimately acquainted with agricultural affairs in Scotland, should unquestionably have been appointed to the post, and nothing less than that would satisfy Scotsmen on the subject. But instead of this, this Scottish Representative on the Board of Agriculture has selected for the post a Mr R. H. Pringle, a cross-bred Irishman, who knows nothing whatever of Scottish affairs. This appointment may be a sop to the Irish Cerberus, but it is a gross insult to the agricultural intelligence of Scotland.

ENGLISH FARMERS DEMAND PROTECTION.

One of the largest and most representative gatherings of farmers that ever assembled in North Nottinghamshire took place at Retford on Saturday, when it was resolved that "our fiscal arrangements and system of free imports are detrimental to the agricultural interests of this country, and that an association of landowners, farmers, and labourers be formed to urge an alteration." Delegates were appointed to attend the conference in London next month.

