

1866

FORTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

1912

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME JOURNAL

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT, 1875

VOL. XLVII

WINNIPEG, CANADA, JULY 24, 1912

NO. 1036

The Dreaded Cattle Plague (OUR ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE)

The live stock interests of the country have received a severe blow by the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in a shipment of cattle received from Ireland at the port of Liverpool. The disease was discovered in the carcasses of several cattle slaughtered at the abattoir. These cattle were part of a consignment from Ireland, and unfortunately the rest of the cattle had been sold and distributed in various sections of the country, so there is a probability of the disease being spread over a wide area. A large staff of inspectors are at work tracing these shipments. Already animals have been found affected at Wakefield, in several places in Northumberland and Durham, at Leicester, near Carlisle, and suspected cases are reported in several other places.

It is probable that the diseased cattle came from a farm at Swords, Co. Dublin, as 24 head on the farm have been found affected.

Farmers are seriously alarmed, and all recognize the possibility of a dread ravage. Drastic measures have been taken by the agricultural departments both in Great Britain and Ireland. In many districts the movement of cattle has been prohibited, and all the great cattle markets in the North of England are closed. No Irish cattle may be landed in Great Britain. These precautions will involve heavy loss both to Irish farmers who sell £15,000,000 worth of cattle in Great Britain annually, and on British farmers who are precluded from moving their stock. The Irish cattle shipping season was just at its height--the shipments last week-end alone totalling 50,000 head of all kinds.

The immediate effect of the outbreak has been an increase in the price of beef of from 1d. to 2d. per pound, and for home-killed, famine prices will soon prevail in the larger cities. Another effect will be a boom in chilled and frozen meat, with higher prices--in fact quotations are already distinctly higher for the better qualities.

The outbreak is an extremely unfortunate occurrence for the Royal Agricultural Show at Doncaster, as the Board of Agriculture has forbidden the attendance of cattle, sheep, pigs, and goats. The bulk of the stock had already arrived on the show grounds, as the order was only issued on the day preceding the opening of the show. With the order came the warning that if the

stock were not shipped home at once it might be held indefinitely at Doncaster, as it was possible that a national embargo against moving stock might have to be issued. Dire dismay and confusion reigned in the show yard, and stock with which owners hoped to win the honors of the country's greatest show was quickly prepared for return. Heavy losses have been incurred. It is proposed to go on with the show hardly any other course was possible at the last moment but only horses, poultry, and implements will be displayed.

The Board of Agriculture have issued a statement in which they declare that they are conscious of the unprecedented character of the restrictions, and the big loss entailed on all concerned, but they had no alternative. The situation is so very serious that the embargo is the lesser of two evils.

On two previous occasions the Royal Show has suffered from the ravages of foot-and-mouth disease. In 1862 the disease broke out in the show yard at Battersea, and in 1866 the show was abandoned on account of the prevalence of the disease. Whether the drastic steps taken will prevent the further spread of the disease no one can tell, and the next few days will be fateful ones for British live stock interests.

F. DEWHIRST

1866

FORTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

1912

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME JOURNAL

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT, 1876

VOL. XLVII

WINNIPEG, CANADA, JULY 31, 1912

NO. 1036

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (OUR ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE)

Not since the days of the great cattle plague has the agricultural industry of the country been so upset. The dreaded foot-and-mouth disease has spread in a most alarming manner, and loss and hardship have been caused to all classes of the community. About 40 outbreaks have occurred up to date (July 9) in many sections of the North, and drastic regulations are in force regarding the movements of cattle, sheep, and pigs. An outbreak in Surrey has brought the great London area within the zone of infection, and the great metropolitan cattle market has been closed.

The Board of Agriculture allows cattle to be brought from certain districts in Ireland to Glasgow, Liverpool, and Bristol, but they must be slaughtered at once at the port of landing. The need of meat was so pressing in several of the large cities under embargo that cattle from non-infected districts are allowed to go in for immediate slaughter. Cattle and farm sales have been effectively stopped over a large section of England, and the agricultural shows deprived of the exhibits of cattle, sheep, and pigs. The public and the farmers are acquiescing with as good grace as they can command to the severe restrictions imposed by the Board of Agriculture, but they realize that the disease must be stamped out; there can be no half-measures.

Irish farmers are the greatest sufferers so far as the shipments from Ireland are on an enormous scale. Last year we imported from Ireland 269,527 head of fat cattle, 325,583 store cattle, 42,755 milch COWS, 21,703 springers, and 26,471 calves. We also received 654,197 sheep, and 342,340 pigs, and last year was lower in numbers than usual. Now a big share of this trade is suspended in the busiest part of the shipping season.

An attempt was made during a debate in the House of Commons to prove negligence on the part of the Irish Department of Agriculture, because that department had no knowledge of the presence of foot-and-mouth disease in Ireland till their attention was drawn by the English board. The claim was even made that the Irish department did know of the presence of the disease, but had kept the matter secret! Mr. Russell, head of the department, strongly denied the charge, and told of the steps he had taken, and maintained that the Irish department had done its duty.

So far as is known, all the infected animals came from Ireland. Scotland has so far a clear bill of health in regard to foot-and-mouth disease, and great precautions are being taken to prevent its entry.

In England pure-bred stock sales are being postponed in all directions, and shows to be held in the immediate future have abandoned the cattle, sheep and pig sections. At the Highland show at Cupar all the usual classes of stock will be shown, but entries will be confined to Scotland and no Scottish stock that has been recently in England may be entered.

With regard to the shows, great as has been the loss caused by the dropping of the cattle, sheep and pig sections, and the consequent dislocation of trade, the feeling is general that the course is a wise one. If they were shown, great risk would be involved and the disease might spread to such an extent that the whole country would be involved, and incalculable loss result.

F. DEWHIRST

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME JOURNAL

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT, 1875

VOL. XLVII

WINNIPEG, CANADA, AUGUST 7, 1912

NO. 1037

Foot-and-Mouth Disease Under Control (OUR ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE)

The widespread outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease is still the most important agricultural topic in Britain. The stringent regulations enforced by the government appear to have checked the spread of the disease to districts other than those already reported, and few new cases are reported from the districts already scheduled. Another case has occurred at Swords, in Ireland, on a farm adjoining the one where the instant outbreak took place, and cases are reported on three farms in Northumberland.

Deplorable as the loss has been, a good deal of satisfaction is expressed at the way the Board of Agriculture have met the problem, and farmers are hopeful that the disease will soon be eradicated entirely. Cattle and sheep from districts free from disease are now allowed to enter the large cities, but they must be killed within four days of arrival. Inspection of all meat is very stringent.

Irish members of parliament are calling very urgently for the lessening of the restrictions on the admission of stock from Ireland, but there is a certain amount of suspicion attaching to Irish methods at present—whether justified or not. It is claimed that a good deal of laxity exists in Ireland in regard to inspection.

Sir Ailwyn Fellowes, who was chairman of the recent Committee on Foot-and-Mouth Disease, speaking at the Peterborough Show, said "what an extraordinary thing it was that this disease should have broken out within 19 days after our ports had been opened the last three times." He said no more, except that it was a very extraordinary coincidence. Others are not so cautious in their expressions, and say quite freely that coincidence will not explain, but proof of criminality is difficult to set. Meanwhile the county and other shows are deprived of most of their entries, and have become simply shows of horses and produce.

Fat cattle are in good demand with prices higher. Prices at last Preston market were for best beef 8.5d. and second quality, 7/5d. to 8d.: lambs, 8.5d., to 9.5d., sheep 5d. to 6.5d., and calves, 7d. These prices are a fair average of the leading markets. Very few store cattle are being

offered, and in view of the general uncertainty the demand is poor. There is a capital demand for good milk cows.

SHOW AT PETERBOROUGH

In spite of the absence of cattle, sheep, and pigs, the Peterborough show was a good one. Horses are the great feature in any year especially the Shires and Hunters, and the Shires especially were particularly strong this year. While all the classes were of generally high quality the best of all was for mares and fillies, of any age. The first place went to the London champion, Sir A. Nicholson's grand nine-year-old mare, "Pailton Sorais." She was in wonderful condition. The well-known "Lorna Doone" owned by Messrs. Whitley, had to be content with second place. The Shire horse medal and championship went to "Pailton Sorais," and the reserve to "Lorna Doone." The show was favored with fine weather, but the attendance was poorer than usual.

SIX MONTHS' LIVE STOCK SALES

Although the export trade in live stock is decidedly hampered at present the record of the first six months of 1912 is satisfactory. The total value was £806,106 an increase of 8.23 per cent. on last year. Horses exported numbered 31,055, valued at £600,327. Belgium and Holland were the best customers, but they buy mostly low priced horses.

Of cattle, 1,605 were sent out during the half year. This was an increase of no fewer than 34.98 per cent. over the first half of 1911. The United States took 526 head at an average value of over £34, The Argentine bought 203 at an average of almost £150. Canada imported 160 at an average of £83.

Recent demand for sheep has been small, and only 853 were exported, a big falling off from recent years, and the value was much less than usual, being just under £9 on the average. Your breeders during the half year took only 21 head of the extremely low average value of £2.7s 7d. (\$12,00) per head. The call for pigs was good. but again the average value was rather low at £10. Exporters were counting on an excellent July trade, but the closed ports have played havoc. All concerned are hoping that the embargo may soon be removed, but severe losses have already been incurred.

1866

FORTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

1912

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME JOURNAL

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT, 1875

VOL XLVII

WINNIPEG, CANADA, AUGUST 28, 1912

NO. 1040

Nature and History of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

For many years no occurrence has so adversely affected the live stock world as the late outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Great Britain and Ireland. Though happily free from its ravages for so long a period, Canada is intensively concerned in the situation created, not only because of its effect upon trade, but because of the peril arising from the extremely contagious nature of the ailment, which is otherwise known as Aphthous Fever, Epizootic Aphtha, and Exzema Epizootica. It is a virulent, contagious and inoculable malady of animals, characterized by initial fever, followed by the formation of vesicles or blisters on the tongue, palate and lips, some times in the nostrils, fourth stomach and intestine of cattle, and on parts of the body where the skin is thin, as on the udder and teats, between the claws, on the heels, coronet and paster. The disease begins suddenly and spreads very rapidly. A rise of temperature precedes the vesicular eruption, which is accompanied by salivation and a peculiar "smacking of the lips." The vesicles gradually enlarge and eventually break, exposing a red, raw patch, which is very sensitive. The animal cannot feed so well as usual, suffers much pain and inconvenience, loses condition, and, if a milk yielding creature, gives less milk; or, if pregnant, may abort. More or less lameness is a constant symptom, and sometimes the feet become very much diseased, and the animal is so crippled that it has to be destroyed. It is often fatal to young animals. It is transmitted by the saliva and the discharges from the vesicles, though all the secretions and excretions are doubtless infective, as well as all articles and places soiled by them. The disease can be produced by injecting the saliva, or the lymph of the vesicles, into the blood of the peritoneal cavity.

If we were to judge, observes a writer in the new Encyclopaedia Britannica, by the somewhat vague descriptions of different disorders by Greek and Roman writers, this disease has been a European malady for more than 2,000 years. But no reliance can be placed on this evidence and it is not until we reach the 17th and 18th centuries that we find trustworthy proof of its presence, when it was reported as frequently prevailing extensively in Germany, Italy and France. During the 19th century, owing to the vastly extended commercial relations between civilized countries, it has, like the lung plague, become widely diffused. In the Old World its effects are now experienced from the Caspian Sea to the Atlantic Ocean. Hungary, Lower Austria, Bohemia, Saxony and Prussia were invaded in 1834. Cattle in the Vosges and in Switzerland were attacked in 1837, and the disease, extending to France, Belgium and Holland, reached England in 1839,

and quickly spread over the three kingdoms. At this time the importation of foreign animals into England was prohibited, and it was supposed that the infection must have been introduced by surplus stores, probably sheep which had not been consumed during the ship's voyage. This invasion was followed at intervals by eleven outbreaks and since 1902 Great Britain has been free of foot-and-mouth disease. From the observations of the best authorities, it would appear to be an altogether exotic malady in the west of Europe, always invading it from the east, at least, this has been the course noted in all the principal invasions. It was introduced into Denmark in 1841, and the United States of America in 1870 from Canada, where it had been carried by diseased cattle from England. It rapidly extended through cattle traffic from the state first invaded to adjoining states, but was eventually extinguished, and does not now appear to be known in North America. It was twice introduced into Australia in 1872, but was stamped out on each occasion. It appears to be well known in India, Ceylon, Burma and the Straits Settlements. In 1870 it was introduced into the Andaman Islands by cattle imported from Calcutta, where it was then prevailing, and in the same year it appeared in South America. In South Africa it is frequently epizootic, causing great inconvenience owing to the bullocks used for draft purposes becoming unfit for work. These cattle also spread the contagion. It is not improbable that it also prevails in Central Africa, as Schweinfurt alludes to the cattle of the Dinkas suffering from a disease of the kind.

Though not usually a fatal malady, except in very young animals, or when malignant, yet it is a most serious scourge. In one year (1892) in Germany, it attacked 150,929 farms, with an estimated loss to the owners of 7,500,000 sterling. It is transmissible to nearly all domestic animals, but its ravages are most severe among cattle, sheep, goats, and swine. Human beings are also liable to infection. The treatment of affected animals comprises a laxative diet, with salines, and the application of antiseptics and astringents to the sores. The preventive measures recommended are, isolation of the diseased animals, boiling the milk before use, and thorough disinfection of all places and substances which are capable of conveying the infection, together with the deep burying or burning of diseased carcasses.

1866

FORTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

1912

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME JOURNAL

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT, 1875

VOL. XLVII

WINNIPEG, CANADA, NOVEMBER 27, 1912

NO. 1153

A Parliamentary storm has been raging around Mr. Runciman on account of the embargo against the shipment of Irish cattle to England. Irish members were successful in getting the embargo lifted from the non-infected areas on condition that the cattle were killed at the port of landing. English breeders raised strong objections claiming great danger to British herds, and instancing the severity of the Irish restrictions in the case of English outbreaks of disease. The protest was not acted upon and Irish cattle are being shipped. There has been another outbreak of foot and mouth disease near Mullingar in Ireland. The disease seems to have been suppressed in England. The country is gradually being freed from restrictions of movement. The whole county of Lancaster is now free. The epidemic has proved a costly one to breeders and the country but has benefited many dealers owing to higher prices.

A feature of our markets at the moment is the great demand for dairy cows, and freshly calved cows easily sell at from \$100 to \$125. Beef is also remunerative, while pork sells exceedingly well. All bacon and ham is selling at good prices, while the call for mutton is fairly good. Dairy products are dear, while fresh eggs are scarce, in fact almost unobtainable. The cost of food to the consumer is decidedly high, still few complaints are heard, though there is a great outcry at many Continental centres and a strong demand for the removal of protective duties.

Employment is good in Britain, only about two per cent of trade unions report unemployment, and this is regarded as a minimum for a great industrial country. Altogether the country is on the crest of a wave of prosperity, employment excellent, and exports and imports on the largest scale yet reached, and, of course, farmers are sharing in the good times. The only cloud is the great war struggle in the Balkans between Turkey and the allied states.

F. DEWHIRST