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# United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY—Circular No. 37.

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## PRELIMINARY REPORT ON ARGENTINA AS A MARKET FOR PURE-BRED CATTLE FROM THE UNITED STATES.

The ports of Argentina have been opened for the admission of live stock from the United Kingdom and to those countries whose ports are open to live stock from Great Britain, provided that pleuropneumonia, foot-and-mouth disease, glanders, and sheep pox have not existed for six months past and that rinderpest has not existed for two years previous to the date of any shipment of live stock. This information was announced by the Department of Agriculture through the press on February 26, 1902.

Hon. William P. Lord, United States Minister at Buenos Aires, and Sir William A. C. Barrington, the British Minister, have been endeavoring for a long time to persuade the Argentine Government to annul its decree of May 8, 1901, which prohibited the importation of live stock from Great Britain and those countries whose ports were open to the admission of live stock from Great Britain. When the Argentine Government became fully convinced that foot-and-mouth disease did not exist in Great Britain, the Minister of Foreign Relations, Doctor Don Amancio Alcorta, issued the following decree:

Buenos Aires, *February 17, 1902.*

The Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of his Britannic Majesty having communicated to the Government that since the 11th of April last there has not been denounced a case of apthous fever amongst the live stock of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and that on the 1st of June the points that were considered infected have been declared exempt, and

Considering—

1. That, in such conditions, live stock proceeding from the United Kingdom which shall be introduced into the Argentine Republic can not be the means of contagion.

2. That in case the apthous fever should appear in the United Kingdom, the Argentine Government has always the recourse to prohibit anew the importation in conformity with the regulations in force which fully authorize the Government for the sanitary defense of live stock.

The Vice-President of the Republic in the exercise of the Executive Power in General Cabinet Council,

Decreases—

ART. 1. The prohibition to import live stock, established by the decree of the 6th instant, is hereby annulled in what refers to the importation from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and to the countries whose

importation has been prohibited on account of having their ports open to the importations from the United Kingdom.

ART. 2. The importation will be verified in accordance with law No. 3959 and the regulations of animal sanitary police of the 15th instant.

ART. 3. Let it be communicated, published, and inserted in the National Registry.

QUIRNO COSTA,  
W. ESCALANTE,  
MARCO AVELLANEDA,  
A. ALCORTA,  
J. V. GONZALEZ,  
PABLO RICCHERI,  
EMILIO CIVIT.

As the ports of Argentina had been closed against the United States because this country admitted cattle from Great Britain, the decree raised the prohibitive quarantine against us as well as Great Britain. This fact is so stated in an official communication from Minister Alcorta under date of February 18, 1902, to Hon. Wm. P. Lord.

Previous to the Argentine decree of May 8, 1901, the Department of Agriculture was making initiatory efforts towards the opening of a market in Argentina for the purebred live stock of this country. The raising of the prohibitive quarantine makes it possible to resume this work. The Department has already sent to Argentina Mr. Frank W. Bicknell, Special Agent and Agricultural Explorer, to make full investigation of the conditions which obtain in that country for the benefit of the stock raisers of this country. The following communication is the substance of a brief preliminary report which he has forwarded to the Department from Buenos Aires. It shows what kind of animals are in demand in Argentina and what is required in the way of quarantine and charges against cattle arriving at the ports of that country :

The breeders here are in need of bulls, and these they must have from abroad. The English breeders are prepared to take advantage of the requirements of the breeders of Argentina, and a goodly number of bulls will be shipped from England at once; in fact, some have already been sent. The English understand this market and regard it as peculiarly their own, and they will strive in every way to hold it. Consequently, they may be expected to offer at the sales here this year many animals in the hope that the needs of the breeders will enable them to sell everything. At the same time some of the best informed importers will not bring many cattle this year. The reason which they give is that the market is likely to be crowded and that the prevailing hard times will keep the prices down. This is the judgment of some of the auctioneers, but the idea is always coupled with the statement that any animal of great merit will always bring a good price. There is undoubtedly an opportunity here to sell some fine young bulls from the United States, but they must be of the very highest quality and be selected with special reference to the needs of this market. To send animals of any other character will be a waste of money. The tiptop of the best herds will be none too good for the breeders of Argentina, who will be found able and willing to pay all the animals are worth. The cattle which may come from the United States will encounter fierce competition and must pass the most critical examination, and it is certain that they will be attacked by the representatives of English cattle.

The Shorthorns are in command of the situation in Argentina. They are more than ten to one when compared with any other breed. Cattle men know what this means. It is much easier to sell a Shorthorn bull than one of any other breed. Still, Hereford and Aberdeen-Angus are gaining ground here, and a thoroughly good bull of either breed—one that would command attention at once because of his merits—would bring a big price in this market. The breeders here have a great admiration for what has been accomplished with the Aberdeen-Angus in the United States. It is said that a number of the largest breeders of Shorthorns in Argentina would be glad to sell their Shorthorns and hereafter breed Hereford and Aberdeen-Angus.

The commission which was recently appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture to report upon live stock have just published their conclusions, in which they express it as their opinion that the Shorthorns, except on a good pasturage and in a temperate climate, are too delicate and too thin-hided for the inferior pasturages and extremes of temperature of Argentina. They say of the Herefords that they are better foragers, better breeders, more healthy, and exceptionally free from tuberculosis, and that the thickness of their skins enables them to better stand the extremes of temperature without shelter. Senor Tidblom, probably the best authority on live stock in Argentina, is a strong advocate of the Herefords and Aberdeen-Angus for this country. It would appear, therefore, that cattle of any of these breeds are likely to find admirers in the Argentine market.

It would probably be unwise for the breeders of the United States to send a large shipment of animals to Argentina at first. The present is not a good year, owing to hard times here. The better plan would be to send a few here as representatives of the breed and the country. When it is demonstrated that the United States can send purebred animals which are as good or possibly better than English animals, it will then be time to send them in larger numbers.

It would be useless to attempt the introduction of dairy breeds at this time, as the country is not yet ready for them. The dairy business is in its infancy here. Cream and butter are high in price. The two big companies which control the dairy business in Buenos Aires are young and are just introducing modern methods. Generally speaking, cattle are raised here for beef only, and the breeders are thinking of beef only when they buy bulls.

Bulls sent here should be from 1½ years to 3 years old, the best age being about 2 years. The roan Shorthorns seem to be the preferred kind. Cows and heifers should not be brought to this market this year. Though young bulls are preferred, there are breeders here who will pay extraordinary prices for exceptional animals 4 or 5 years old. A fine bull which meets the requirements of the breeders of this market will bring as big a price here as in any market of the world where pedigreed stock is sold.

The great sales in this city are from the last of August to the end of October, but some sales are held elsewhere. A good bull will bring from \$2,000 to \$12,000 Argentina paper money (the Argentina paper dollar is worth about 44 cents or, after change is paid, 42 cents United States gold). Bulls that would sell for less than the lower figure or even less than \$3,000 should not be brought here, as it would not pay.

At present there are no regular tariff rates for shipments of live stock from New York to this port. The business is in the hands of four English lines, which make rates to suit themselves. The rates from New York will probably be about the same as from England until we have shipping of our own, when the rates should be less. The rates from England are £10 10s. (\$51.25) per head, plus 10 per cent for cattle; this includes fitting of stalls, some of which are padded with straw. Stalls in which fine animals are shipped should always be padded, else animals will arrive at their destination in such a condition that a large percentage will be cut off the selling price. Fodder is extra and must be supplied by the shipper. If an exceptionally large amount of fodder is shipped, a charge of 15s. (\$3.60) per ton for the excess is charged. It is necessary to arrange for an abundance of fresh water, not only for drinking purposes, but also for washing the animals, particularly while crossing the tropics. Salt and coal dust spoil the appearance of the animals. Green food for the hottest days brought from home is recommended. Skillful attendants must be provided—men who know how to care for valuable animals. It will be better if the owner, or some one representing the owners who may unite in such experiments, comes with the animals. In fact, it is necessary for the success of the business. The passage of the attendant is free if the freight amounts to £60 (\$293.19); otherwise they charge £5 (\$24.43) for passage. The freight of horses is £15 15s.

(\$76.90), plus 10 per cent per head. On sheep it is £2 2s. (\$10.25), plus 10 per cent per head, and on hogs £4 4s. (\$20.50), plus 10 per cent per head.

The usual length of passage from New York to Buenos Aires is twenty-five to twenty-eight days, though it is often longer.

Upon arrival at this port, the animals are required to undergo a quarantine of forty days, during which time the owner or those in charge during the voyage will not have access to the animals. In order to secure admission to this port, the animals must be accompanied by a certificate from the Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture, stating that on the date of embarkation there was no contagious pleuropneumonia, foot-and-mouth disease, glanders, or sheep pox in the country, nor has there been for the last preceding six months; also, that rinderpest does not exist in the country and has not for two years previous. These certificates are examined and signed by the Argentine consul at the port of shipment. At the expiration of quarantine of forty days at this port, cattle are subjected to tuberculin test and horses and asses to the test for glanders. Any animal having either disease will be destroyed without right of indemnity. All pedigreed stock will be admitted free of duty, and no charge will be made for an official inspection. An itemized statement of the charges which are made is as follows:

At the landing stage, or embarcadero:	
Unloading cattle or horses, per head .....	\$2.00
Unloading sheep, per head .....	.50
Feed (hay, maize, and bran) per diem per head:	
Cattle and horses .....	1.50
Cattle and horses, with oil cake and oats .....	2.00
Sheep (hay, maize, and bran), per head .....	.40
Entrance and crane fee (Government tax on landing stage):	
Cattle and horses, gold .....	.05
Sheep, gold .....	.01
Clearing at the custom-house:	
Stamps for clearing, \$1 per \$1,000 declared value.	
Stamps for documents, \$6.75 (paper) on each consignment.	
Fee of custom-house broker, from \$10 to \$25, according to shipment.	
At the auction house:	
Feed (hay, maize, bran, and oil cake), per diem:	
Cattle and horses, per head .....	2.00
Sheep, per head .....	.50
Driving from landing-stage pens to auction mart:	
Cattle and horses, per head .....	1.50
Cartage of cattle, according to number of animals, as may be arranged:	
Cartage of sheep, per cart .....	2.00
Receiving animals and delivery at auction mart is gratis.	

All reference to money, where gold is not specified, is in Argentina paper money, which will cost the foreigner at this time about 44 cents, United States money, to the dollar.

The duration of the quarantine is left to the Director of Agricultura y Ganaderia (agriculture and cattle breeding), Senor Ronaldo Tidblom, and he has fixed the time at forty days for cattle, fifteen days for sheep and pigs, and eight days for horses.

D. E. SALMON,  
*Chief of Bureau.*

Hon. JAMES WILSON,  
*Secretary of Agriculture.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., *April 26, 1902.*