

### Stock.

#### The Cyldesdale Stallion Show.

This exhibition was held in the drill shed at Toronto on the 15th of last month. The animals exhibited were of fine quality and the prizes were keenly competed for. With one exception, all the horses present were imported stock, a number of them having been prize winners in their native country. The winner of the sweepstakes and 1st prize in the class foaled in '85, "Granit City," the property of R. Beith & Co., is a very superior animal, having won several first prizes before his importation to Canada.

Although the exhibition was well patronized, yet many prominent breeders were prevented from attending on account of the heavy snow storm that had taken place just before the exhibition.

Great credit reflects upon the Board of Management for the manner in which they conducted this exhibition. Each animal as it entered the ring was numbered to correspond to a number in a catalogue, which gave the horse's name, age, pedigree and owner, thereby enabling each spectator to know all the particulars about each horse in the ring, which would have been impossible without such a plan. Another very useful feature could still be added, viz., placing the numbers of the prize winners in their order on a pole inside the ring, in such a manner that all spectators could easily see them. This practice is followed at some of the European exhibitions and is much preferable to simply calling out the prizes as generally practised here.

The want of a proper building in which to hold exhibitions similar to the above, and in which the various agricultural meetings could be held, has been felt for a long time. What is wanted is a building affording ample seating accommodation for the above meetings, having a covered enclosure in which to hold the exhibitions, and in or about which stabling for the stock would be provided. At the present, exhibitors have to provide for their stock at the various hotels, which is very inconvenient, both for them and the visitors who intend to examine the stock closer. Steps have been taken in this direction, but without definite results. It is hoped, however, that better accommodation will be provided in the future.

#### Chatty Letter from the States.

[From our Chicago Correspondent.]

The extensive railway strikes have caused much uneasiness and uncertainty in trade. For some time past the railways in the west have been fighting and cutting rates among themselves; and during the past month the strike of the engineers on some of the principal roads has put traffic in bad condition. Since a Presidential year in the States is usually a bad one for business, the tradesmen are hoping that we shall not have another year of strikes as well.

By the way, what has been gained by all of these great labor strikes? Both sides have lost heavily in time and money, and of course the capitalists are the ones best prepared to stand losses.

Each of the leading parties is opposed to any change which may give the wool growers of the States a few years more of grace.

The sheep men declare that if Australian wools are admitted free, it will be no use for them to

think of raising wool; and they also claim that there will be little or no profit in raising sheep merely for mutton. However, the mutton business has been most profitable this year. During the past month many thousand head of far western corn-fed sheep, averaging 120 @ 140 lbs., have been sold at \$5.69 to \$6.10. Desirable 70 to 77 lb. Texas muttons have sold at \$4.75 @ \$5.25; and all in all, sheep have been selling decidedly higher than any other kind of stock.

The sheep raisers are making a desperate struggle to keep Congress from placing wool on the free list, and are making a big effort to have the high war tariff of 1867 restored. They are probably asking for the latter on the principle that people go into damage suits, placing their claims high enough so they will still be large after being cut down. In regard to the removal of all duties on foreign wools, there is a great difference of opinion. The free traders are in favor of putting wool on the free list, because they calculate that that branch of industry will offer the least political resistance. The fact, however, that a strong pressure is being brought to bear by the wool men, coupled with the fact that a large faction in many of the Texas cattle and sheep marketed here this winter have been fed on prickly pear, cotton-seed meal, and a variety of other kinds of natural and spontaneous growth in that region. Cattle and sheep fattening on what they call "solol," prickly pear, cotton-seed, etc., have sold in this market right along with corn-fed stock. It is only in the past year that Texans have learned to use these articles of native and spontaneous growth, and since corn is hard to raise there, except in certain localities, these new kinds of feed will greatly increase the meal producing power of the southwest.

The recent sale of Hereford cattle at Dexter Park, by the Iowa Hereford Cattle Co. and Harry Yeld, resulted in an average of about \$100 per head for six cows and twenty-four young bulls. The prices were considered very low, but the conditions were unfavorable. The cattle were mostly too young for breeding, and it was several months before grass. Cattle men were not feeling very buoyant over prospects for beef cattle, and these particular animals were in rather rough order. There is, however, an unmistakably better feeling in the market for fine cattle.

Prices for hogs have been remarkably unvarying for two or three months, ranging at \$5.25 @ \$5.60 for average weights of 250 to 400 lbs., and \$5.00 @ \$5.40 for pigs weighing 140 to 200 lbs. The demand for meats of all kinds has never been stronger or more reliable than it has been this spring.

Cattle feeders, however, have nearly all lost money—though a few careful and thorough feeders have made money, even when prices were lowest.

The demoralized state of railway affairs making freights very low, and the great scarcity of feed throughout the feeding sections, have kept the markets full of unfinished cattle; but the silver lining to that dark cloud is beginning to show itself, and cattle men are getting more hopeful.

In one of our exchanges a writer on breaking in colts stated that when they became unmanageable while in harness, a good plan was to get a stick, forked at one end, and a hole, large enough to admit the "belly band," mortised in the other. By tying the ends of the forks to the bit (one end to each ring) and passing the "belly band" through the hole at the other end, the colt could be easily controlled.

#### Revival of the Discussions on Bull "Rogers."

The discussions and investigations concerning the bull "Rogers," which occupied so much time and attention last year, are not set at rest yet. They were revived this year by W. C. Pottit, of Burlington, notifying the Dominion Shorthorn Association that he intended to test whether the actions of that society would be supported by the law. This notice caused considerable discussion, and induced the Association to express their hope that such evidence might yet be found which would enable the Revising Committee, in which they had entire confidence, to accept the bull "Rogers." If their hopes are realized a large number of Shorthorns which are now nothing but grades will again be elevated to the standard of thoroughbreds.

#### Balking Horses.

A horse is said to possess the vice of balking if it disobeys the command of its master: that is, when it is told to proceed it will either pay no heed to it, or, what is more frequently the case, instead of going forward it backs up. High-spirited horses that observe and remember what goes on around them are most liable to become balky. This vice is a habit that is acquired by external influences. Its causes are various and manifold, but can generally be traced back to improper management on the part of the driver. For instance, overloading a horse and then whipping it to start the load, is one of the most fruitful causes of a balky horse. But apart from any influence of the driver, a horse may become balky when accustomed to work with a mate possessing this vice. Balkiness is sometimes thought to be inherited from some ancestor, but this is only in so far true as the high temperament of that ancestor is transmitted to the offspring; and no matter whether that ancestor was balky or not, his progeny is more liable to become so than the descendants of a horse not endowed with this high temperament.

A horse is, as a general rule, easier made balky than cured, especially if the same driver that was the cause of his becoming balky attempts the cure. However, with proper and judicious treatment, almost all balkers can be broken from this habit.

Balkiness having a variety of causes, and the different horses possessed with this vice acting somewhat differently, no fixed rules can be given that will apply in each and every case; but there are some fundamental rules on which successful management can be based. These are:—Never lose your temper or let the horse see that he is inconveniencing you. Always be kind, but firm, petting the beast if he has obeyed your order, and giving your commands in a concise and distinct manner. Do not let the horse know that he has power to carry out his own will; therefore, if you cannot carry out your own point make it appear as if your will coincided with his, and make him obey that. Prevent him as much as possible from becoming excited. Try to make him forget that he is balking, and if he is balking make his position as uncomfortable as possible without letting him know that you are the direct cause of it, thereby giving him to understand that the discomfort he feels is a direct cause of his unwillingness to obey your commands. Sometimes a good sound thrashing is very beneficial, but in some individuals it is of no use.

A large number of horses balk after enjoying