

Trial of Insecticides.

The following conclusions have been arrived at by Prof. Riley, Entomologist of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, after repeated experiments:

THE CABBAGE WORM.—The only remedy which proved distinctly effectual was pyrethrum powder, a mixture of one part of the powder to three parts of flour dusted on the plants with Woodason's bellows, introducing the mixture thoroughly among leaves and eaten cavities. Fully three-fourths of the larvæ were killed. The strength of the pyrethrum had been preserved in a closely corked jar.

ANTS, which had excavated burrows, were repelled with a tablespoonful of 1 part of carbolic acid in 60 of water, but with a solution half as strong the remedy failed. Tar water partly succeeded; copperas water and ammonia water produced no effect.

FOR POTATO BEETLES, tar lime appears to have been quite successful. It was composed of half an ounce of tar to one pound of powdered gas lime. It appears to have thoroughly cleaned the plants of the beetles. No Paris green had come near them. If this remedy proves always as effectual, it may be used by those who are afraid of Paris green on potatoes.

Seasonable Hints for Amateur Fruit Growers.

RASPBERRIES.—There are two important kinds of raspberries, one is the red and the other the black. The latter is frequently called Black Caps. The red raspberry is propagated by suckers or root cuttings, and the Black Caps are multiplied by the tops of the canes or branches turning down to the ground and taking root. The raspberry may be pruned either in fall or in summer. The summer pruning is, however, much the better method, and the fall pruning should only be done when the summer pruning, or pinching back, has been neglected. The fall pruning consists in cutting back the young canes to two or four feet, according to the strength of the cane, and removing the old canes that have borne fruit. In the summer pruning three or four canes are allowed to grow near the parent plant to bare fruit the next season. All the rest of the suckers have to be removed when quite young, as they weaken the plant more than weeds would do. Pinch back the tops of the reserved canes when they are about two to three feet high. This strengthens the plant and causes it to send out side shoots or branches. These are again pinched back when about a foot long. When the raspberry has been so pruned it requires no stakes or wires to support it.

STRAWBERRIES.—When strong plants are desired on a bed newly planted out, it is necessary to pinch out all the blossoms as soon as they appear. This is especially necessary when matted rows are intended to be grown, for all the energies of the plant are then required to produce strong plants to fill up the spaces.

CURRENTS AND GOOSEBERRIES.—The best method for pruning these bushes is very similar to that of the apple and pear. The stem of these bushes should be very short. Two or three inches from the surface of the soil it should divide into three or four branches, and these should again divide into two about three or four inches from the trunk or stem.

All the fruits should be kept free from weeds and should be thoroughly cultivated. This increases both the quality and quantity of the fruits.

Stock.**A Chatty Letter from the States.**

[From our Chicago Correspondent.]

The railroads are making the Inter-State Commerce Bill as obnoxious as they can. As some one aptly puts it, "they are trying to make the new law commit suicide." Instead of reducing the short haul rates, they are raising the long haul rates to such an extent as to seriously interfere with business. One of the main provisions of the law is that all charges must be reasonable and just, and the commissioners have not had time to get to this clause yet.

Through the action of the Grand Trunk Railway, dressed mutton, from Chicago to New York, is now carried at 65c. per cwt., the same as beef, the old rate being 90c. No one could ever see the equity in charging more for hauling mutton than beef.

The latest scheme of some of the Colorado and Wyoming ranchmen is to form a gigantic combination by which they will slaughter and market their own cattle through their own agents. The plans of the concern are not yet fully known, but one of the largest slaughterers in Chicago is to devote his plant to the uses of this "American Cattle Trust," as it is called. The affair is looked upon as a gigantic monopoly, one on the plan of the notorious "Cotton Trust," and one that may become as dangerous as the oil monopoly.

Mr. T. Crawford was here recently and bought a boat load of cattle for England, at \$4.60@\$5. He was attracted hither by the abundance and comparatively low prices of good cattle.

Lately the prices for cattle in London have been about 4c. per lb. lower than a year ago. Prices at Chicago are 3c. to 4c. per lb. lower than last year.

Goldsmith, the live cattle exporter, recently bought, in Chicago, 90 head of 1,337-lb. cattle, at \$4.25. They were rather light, but surely ought to make money at that price.

An Illinois feeder brought to market two cars of choice, high-grade, Shorthorn heaves, averaging 1,597 lbs., which sold at \$4.75, while fat, little steers, averaging 300 to 500 lbs. less, sold within 20c. of that price. The feeder who has always taken a pride in making prime, heavy heaves, remarked that he guessed he'd go home and hereafter raise "little scrubs," as he called them.

Since the diminution of the live cattle export trade, and the bulk of the American cattle go to England in refrigerators, there is much less demand for heavy cattle than there used to be. When it used to cost no more to ship a 1,600-lb. steer than one which weighed 300 lbs. less, and there were but few feeders producing these ripe, heavy cattle, there was a high premium on all that came to market. Now, it is very common to see hundreds of big cattle here every day—cattle that would have been deemed fit for a fat stock show 8 or 10 years ago. Then tallow was worth considerable, and now it is not worth as much as the beef. There is more risk in handling big cattle than little ones, and so the big, heavy cattle are growing into disfavor more than ever.

A well informed cattleman, who for many years was a butcher in London, declares that the Londoners never did care for extremely heavy cattle, except at the Christmas holidays; that Americans came to think big cattle were wanted

abroad simply because exporters had to pay freight by the head or stall room, and, of course, wanted to get as much weight as possible.

There has been an immense over-production of cattle in the States and Territories.

Notwithstanding the enormous losses of cattle in Montana last winter, it is said that Territory will turn off more heaves this year than last, as the winter losses were among cows and calves and bulls, and more beef cattle were held over from last year than usual, on account of low prices last fall.

Texas has lately been sending cattle into Chicago at a lively rate, selling partly corn-fed stock at \$3.75@\$4.50, and grasses at \$3@\$3.50. One big shipment of 300 to 400-lb. Texas yearling "runts" from the Gulf coast sold here at \$5.40 per head, not enough to more than pay freight. They would have been fine for grazing, but as they were covered with ticks they probably would have communicated fever to other cattle.

During May hogs sold at \$4.50@\$5.50, or about 80c. higher than last year. The spring and summer crop of hogs is larger than expected, as prices have been good and the weather for fattening was never more favorable. It is astonishing how the farmers take care of the pigs when prices are good.

Owing to heavy losses of bulls on the range last winter and the somewhat more encouraging outlook for the business this spring, there is an improved demand for choice breeding stock at low prices. Many ranchmen, however, seem to think that it will pay them better to decrease than to increase production, and are not as anxious to buy bulls as they were five years ago. The spaying knife is being used very freely on the ranges among the heifers, while cows are being fattened and marketed at a rapid rate. Ranchmen seem to have become convinced of the error of the old theory that babies were coming faster than calves, and are evidently disposed to give the babies a chance to catch up.

Horses that should be Rejected.

Rules have been issued for the guidance of those who select horses for cavalry purposes in the Imperial army. There being an active demand for Canadian horses for the English army, these rules will be of great interest to our farmers, not only in the breeding of horses for such purposes, but also for various other demands. The following are the rules above mentioned:

1. Size.—Four-year-olds, i. e., three off after October 1st, should not be less than 15 hands 0½ inch nor exceed 15.1½ for light cavalry.

For medium they should not be less than 15.1 nor over 15.2.

For heavy cavalry not less than 15.2 nor over 15.3½.

N. B.—In measuring a horse or judging of his height and size by sight, take care that he stands on a level with yourself. Dealers generally stand a horse, if undersized, on higher ground, or if over size, on lower ground than the intending purchaser.

2. Want of a fair amount of breeding should be an absolute bar.

3. Reject a horse with a big coarse head.

4. Reject a horse with a small sunken eye. They are generally obstinate and sulky.

5. Reject a horse of a color light of the sort.

6. Reject a horse with a long slack back. It will not carry weight.

7. Reject a horse with a hollow back. The formation is weak.

8. Reject a horse with flat sides. They will not do work or look well.

9. Reject a horse with a slack loin, i. e., undue length between the last ribs and hind quar-