

Stock.

A Chatty Letter from the States.

BY OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.

As predicted in last month's letter, the cattle which were in the Indian Territory illegally, and were ordered to be removed, have all been taken out without any serious disturbance.

There were no bad effects felt in the cattle market on account of the enforced removal. This illustrates how alleged impossibilities can sometimes be overcome. Large delegations of cattlemen went to Washington and labored with the President to have him change his order, but when they found they had to go they seemed to forget their arguments, and proceeded to go.

Some very good fat cattle are coming this fall from the western ranges, but there are more than usual of the thin and medium fleshed kinds. To illustrate, one day, good framed, well bred western rangers, averaging 1150 lbs., sold at \$3.50, while on the same day, in an adjoining pen, a lot of fat 1150 to 1269 lb. cattle sold at \$4.50 to \$5. There has been much disappointment in the west this year about the failure of cattle on crowded ranges to get fat. It seems that the large increase of owners on the plains within the past year or so has been detrimental to the general good. The ranges have been crowded, and as owners seldom agree upon a time to gather their herds, the cattle are kept in almost constant motion, and do not have time to accumulate fat. For instance, there are a dozen brands of cattle on one range. Part of the owners want to market their herds early, some in the middle of the season, and others wish to hold until late, and accumulate upon their cattle as much fat as possible. The result is that as one man's cattle cannot be gathered without disturbing all, the cattle are being worried in the round-ups when they should be allowed to peacefully take on flesh.

So long as the cattle in the west are compelled to run on unfenced government lands, this growing evil cannot be obviated. The most land that cattlemen can legally acquire from the government is 480 acres, and as it requires about 8 to 10 acres for an animal's annual subsistence, this amount of land is a mere drop in the bucket for a big cattle company. The President lately issued a very positive order, demanding the removal of all fences from government lands; there is now no way of obviating the commingling of various brands.

As the laws now stand the cattlemen of the west are looked upon as mere intruders and usurpers, and seem to have no rights which the government or individuals are bound to respect. If a squatter takes a notion to settle in the middle of a big cattle range, he can do so, and the cattlemen are obliged to yield. In this way there is a large amount of black-mailing business done by unprincipled men who go far out of their way to harass the stockmen.

The so-called hog cholera or swine plague was never so prevalent in the States as it is this year. There seems to be almost an epidemic in parts of the west. It is a notable fact that while last year the disorder was confined largely to the middle States, it is this year most prevalent in the west, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri,

Kansas and Nebraska. There has been a sentiment that such disorders could not flourish in the clarified atmosphere of the west, but this pet theory is effectually exploded.

Whatever this hog cholera is, it attacks pigs and shoats chiefly, and thousands have been swept away this year. One dealer, disposed to see good in all things, thinks that if there was not something to thin out the young hogs, they "would not be worth one cent a pound in the market." This is on the theory that there would be an overproduction if all of the pigs were successfully raised.

There is evidently something radically wrong in the treatment of growing and fattening hogs. They are not so finely bred, as a rule, as to have weakened constitutions, and the fault must be in the feeding. Pigs are forced on rich heating food almost from birth, and thousands of them are raised without ever having an opportunity to taste pure water. This notion that pigs will eat or drink anything and thrive is a mistaken one.

The late Illinois State Fair was a financial success. This, in view of the fact that the Wisconsin and Iowa exhibits were financial failures, owing to bad weather, is gratifying to the Illinois Board.

The display of live stock was a very creditable one; but the management, evidently tired of the usual wrangling and complaining, did not have any grand sweepstakes in which the different breeds would appear in the same ring. After all, it may be a pretty good plan to let each breed stand on its own merits. In nearly every case where the Herefords and Shorthorns come into direct competition the judgment is biased according to the personal predilections of the judges. Every intelligent man has his fancy, and it is mighty hard for a man who personally prefers Shorthorns to see any superiority in other breeds, and *vice versa*.

There is more sickness among pigs this year than last, and it is chiefly in Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska, while last year it was confined largely to Indiana, Michigan and Ohio, says the "Drover's Journal." There is no epidemic of the so-called hog cholera, and the health of the hogs in the country, taking the crop as a whole, is very good. There is something very peculiar about this disorder, which our best veterinarians do not seem to understand. The fact is, if our Bureau of Animal Industry folks who have been making such foolish blunders in trying to find diseases among cattle, would address themselves to this very important matter, they might be doing the country some good instead of injury, as they have done.

It is always a good thing for every farmer's household to have at hand a supply of liniment to be used in case of bruises or injuries, says the "Germantown Telegraph." The following recipe is for a liniment that under ordinary circumstances is warranted to be valuable for beast or man. It is beneficial in case of rheumatism, sprains, swellings, and stiff joints in the human family, and for fistula, poll-evil, sweeney, etc., in animals: Oil of cedar, 2 ounces; aqua ammonia, 3 ounces; oil of hemlock, 2 ounces; spirits turpentine, 1 ounce; oil of cloves, 1 ounce; oil of tar, 1 ounce; spirits camphor, 2 ounces; oil sassafras, 2 ounces. Apply to affected parts.

Garden and Orchard.

Various Notes on Small Fruits.

BY W. W. HILBORN.

Another season has proved the Shaffer's Colossal the most valuable raspberry for the amateur, where only one variety is planted. It is perfectly hardy, most productive of any, and continues in bearing for a longer season than any other sort, but it is too dark in color for a good market sort.

The Worden grape is now attracting more attention than any other black variety. It is about a week earlier than the Concord, with larger cluster and berry, of somewhat better quality, and well worthy of a place in every garden, no matter how small.

This month is the time to plant currants, gooseberries, blackberries, raspberries and grapes. Farmers have more time to plant small fruits in the fall than in the spring, and if planted any time before the ground freezes, and a little mound of earth drawn up around each plant, and taken away again in spring, the plants will go through the winter without injury, and make a much better growth the first season. Plant well tested varieties. Most of the new varieties sold at high prices are not as good as many of the old standard sorts, and cost much more.

The following varieties are very reliable, and can be planted with the assurance that if any sorts can be grown, these will succeed: CURRANTS, red—Raby Castle, Victoria and Fay's Prolific. Black—Lee's Prolific and Black Naples. White—White Grape. GOOSEBERRIES—Houghton, Downing and Smith's Improved. BLACKBERRIES—Snyder. RASPBERRIES, red—Turner and Cuthbert. Purple—Shaffer's Colossal. Black—Tyler and Gregg. Yellow—Caroline. GRAPES, black—Worden and Concord. Red—Delaware and Rodger's No. 9. White—Niagara, Lady and Jessica.

THE AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The twentieth biennial meeting of this society was held at Grand Rapids, Mich., Sept. 9th, 10th and 11th. The attendance was large, consisting of many of the most distinguished horticulturists from all parts of the Union. It was no doubt one of the best meetings ever held on this continent. The show of fruit was in a separate hall. Among the most notable displays of fruit were 100 plates of pears by President Marshal P. Wilder; 140 varieties of pears by Ellwanger & Barry; 100 plates wild fruits, nuts, etc., indigenous to Michigan, by Prof. Bailey, of Lansing. A number of plates of apples were on the table in perfect condition, after having been kept in cold storage two years. There was also a very interesting display of Southern fruits.

Many new varieties of grapes were on exhibition. Perhaps the most promising for our Canadian climate was the Ulster Prolific, being a cross of the Catawba and a variety of the wild grape of the woods, of much better quality than the Concord; berry about same size; cluster not quite so large; color, very dark purple. From all the information I could gather, I think it the most worthy of trial of any variety on exhibition for our climate. Michigan made a grand display of over one thousand plates of fruit.