

Upon the subject of seed for planting, he remarks:—"Whether it is best for farmers and gardeners to save their own seed or make yearly purchases, depends very much on circumstances, or rather upon the particular kinds of seeds in question and the manner of saving them. Seed raising is a business which requires skill in culture, and great discriminating knowledge, which can only be acquired by observation and practice. It is one of the great arts of seed raising to keep varieties true to their descriptive peculiarities." As an example he specifies the cabbage; and remarks that it is now held that cabbage seed raised near the sea coast is always better than that raised inland. Varieties must always be grown very widely apart for seed, for so far as seed can fly there is danger in crossing with other and inferior kinds. Climate, he says, has also much to do with seed saving. When seeds are grown in a climate unsuited to their maturity, they will perpetuate a weak progeny. For example: The oat plant requires a cool, moist climate for perfect development; hence seeds grown in a warm, dry climate are inferior. It is the best economy to procure seeds from the best localities, for no efforts towards acclimation will prove of any value. He added that the most common mistakes in sowing are those of covering seeds too deeply with soil, and negligence in firming the surface after the seeds are sown; rolling the surface after seeding is one of the most important points in seeding.

LOTUS.

Chatty Letter from the States.

[FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.]

Prices for meat animals are good for the producer. Surely no one can complain of current prices for good fat cattle, hogs and sheep. Supplies of hogs in marketable condition are small as compared with one year ago. The hogs are being marketed at a much younger age, and have, as a rule, had much less solid feed than in ordinary years. To illustrate:—The 550,000 hogs received at Chicago during January averaged 20 pounds per head less than during the corresponding time last year. Thus it will be seen that the difference in weight estimating a hog to weigh 250 pounds, shows a further decrease, equivalent to 44,000 hogs. In other words, while there were 550,000 hogs received in January, 1884, they did not amount to more than 500,000 of such hogs as were received in January, 1883.

Receipts of cattle are larger than last year, and receipts of sheep at Chicago during January were 103,119 head, being the most ever received in a month before. The growth of the sheep industry in the west is quite marvellous, and the consumption of mutton on the continent is perceptibly on the increase.

Below is a statement of comparative prices at Chicago for the various grades of stock at the present time:—

Description.	1884.	1883.
Steers, av. 1,500 lbs. and up....	\$6.80@7.30	\$5.80@6.25
" 1,350 to 1,500 lbs....	6.00@ 6.90	5.35@ 6.00
" 1,200 to 1,350 lbs....	5.50@ 6.45	5.00@ 5.75
" 950 to 1,150 lbs....	4.90@ 5.85	4.50@ 5.20
Store cattle	3.75@ 5.50	3.00@ 4.70
Packing and shipping hogs....	7.00@ 7.75	6.80@ 7.35
Light hogs	6.50@ 7.00	6.00@ 6.85
Rough packing hogs	6.60@ 7.00	6.10@ 7.75
Good to choice sheep	5.25@ 6.15	5.25@ 6.15
Common to fair sheep	3.50@ 4.75	3.25@ 4.75

It is a remarkable fact that, while the average yield of lard this winter has been very

small in comparison with ordinary years, the advance in prices of provisions during the last three months has shown about 50 per cent. on meats, and only 24 per cent. on lard. This is rather anomalous, but is accounted for by the fact that the consumption of lard has greatly decreased. This is owing, no doubt, to the fuss that was made last summer about the adulteration of lard with cotton seed oil, tallow, etc. None of the charges were substantiated by the board of investigation, but it is evident that the public did not have much faith in the honesty of the investigation. At any rate the people are not using so much lard, and that product, though shorter than any other, has advanced least of any. A great many people buy leaf lard and do their own rendering.

The speculators, or "scalpers," as they are called in the Chicago hog market, are a very numerous class, and have come to be a very great power in the market of late. They come in competition with the packers. For instance, the packers seldom make purchases until they get the reports from the Board of Trade, and the "scalpers" usually go into the market and buy the bulk of the offerings before the packers' buyers receive their orders. Thus the "scalpers" are, in a measure, prepared to dictate terms. The packers have signed an agreement not to buy from them, though this is hard to avoid, because nearly all of the speculators handle their purchases through regular commission houses, and the packers cannot easily tell whether the hogs are being sold directly on country account or not. The huge packing firm of Armour & Co. has decided to go into the hog market and buy and sell the same as the speculators, and thus try to crowd them out. This, however, will be difficult to do, if not impossible.

The dressed meat business grows in volume and popularity. One day recently the two best lots of cattle on the market sold to go to New York. These were 16 head of 1,538 pound steers, which sold at \$7.20, and 21 steers 1,604 pounds, which sold at \$7.30. The former were shipped in the old fashioned way by Isaac Waixel, and the latter were slaughtered by Armour, and sent east in refrigerators. Now the question is: Which lot of beef will be in the best condition when they reach the consumers, a thousand miles away? Armour, Swift and Nelson Morris are also slaughtering and shipping sheep in that way.

There is a movement on foot looking to the extension of the quarantine time from ninety to one hundred and eighty days. This is based on the claim that the present time is not long enough to thoroughly insure against importing disease in cattle from England. Then, too, there is something of a spirit of retaliation in it, and a desire to work to the interests of the few American breeders who have large fine stock breeding farms. Laying aside all questions of disease, it would be a great drawback to the general fine stock interests of the country, and as a measure of retaliation, would be like one's biting his nose off to spite his face. A few home breeders would be benefited, but it would be at the expense of the many. There is some talk of monopoly in certain kinds of stock now, and if a further embargo was placed upon the importation of fine breeding

stock, there might be true grounds for such talk. Many breeders, of course, are in favor of lengthening the quarantine time, but it is the candid opinion of those who ought to know that the present time is ample, and it is more than likely that the present talk will amount to nothing more.

The western demand for improved breeding stock is very strong, and is growing more active as the spring time approaches. The black Polled breeds continue in high favor, though there is not so much "fever" in the demand, and buyers are inclined to be a little more careful to see what they are buying, before they put down their good money simply because an animal is black and hornless. The red Polled cattle are gaining in favor, chiefly through the efforts of Gen. L. F. Ross, of Iowa City, Iowa. By the way, breeders of Duroc, Jersey Red, Red Berkshire swine, as they have been variously called, have made a compromise on the name of "Duroc Jersey." Now if the breeders of Holstein or Dutch Friesian cattle and Polled-Angus, or Aberdeen-Angus, or Scotch Polled cattle, could strike a compromise and have a uniform name, it would be a good thing. As it is, breeders call the same cattle by the various names, according as the notion strikes them.

It is the opinion of A. B. Allen, the well-known live stock writer, that the horns should be bred off of rams. Why are horns any more useful on sheep than on cattle?

The question of passing national laws for the suppression of contagious stock diseases has been a vexed one. The most ardent supporters of the measure to have a national law were the cattlemen of the far west. The men of the south-west opposed the measure because it looked like a scheme of the northern men to shut the Texas cattle out of market at the only time of the year when they can come, on the ground of Spanish fever. Others claimed that the Bill should not be so sweeping when there was no disease west of the Alleghany mountains, claiming that it was making places for an army of "cranky cow doctors," whose interest, of course, it would be to keep enough to do to draw the regular salary.

Tree Planting.

With reference to our editorial upon this subject, page 4, in January last, we have been asked by several parties what right of ownership has the planter of trees when grown on the public highway; we therefore extract the following from the Act of Parliament:—

By 46 Vict., cap. 26, sec. 4, sub-sec. 4, passed on 1st February, 1883, it is enacted, "That every tree now growing on either side of any highway in this Province shall upon, from and after the passing of this act, be deemed to be the property of the owner of the land adjacent to such highway and nearest to such tree, shrub or sapling."

If you have fruit or vegetables in your cellar, keep close watch of them and remove all that are decayed. Too great care cannot be taken to keep the cellar clean and the air pure. Keep the cellar light and well ventilated by some method. This is all the more necessary if your sleeping rooms are on the ground floor.