

a temperature considerably lower than the ordinary form of the West European mulberry. It sometimes kills back a little at the tips. It is always late in starting its leaves in spring, and is one of the first trees injured by autumn frosts, but during its season of growth it is well clothed by an abundance of handsome green foliage. One of the peculiarities of this tree is that it is difficult to find two leaves on the same tree exactly alike—all gradations from the entire leaf to the most beautiful cut-leaf forms may be found. The fruit of the Russian mulberry varies a great deal. I have seen trees which bore fruit of very fair quality. As a rule the fruit is worthless. It usually produces very abundantly. Whenever a tree is found producing fruit of good quality, it should be propagated by budding or grafting. JOHN CRAIG, Central Experimental Farm, Horticulturist.]

PRUNING RASPBERRIES. S. R., Palmyra, Ont.:—"Should raspberry canes be cut back in the autumn, or should this work be done in spring early?"

[The question of whether it is desirable to cut back raspberries in the autumn in addition to removing the old wood is one that can only be answered by the individual grower himself, and is dependent upon the climatic conditions which obtain in the locality wherein he resides. If the canes are likely to be injured by winter, then I would unhesitatingly advise postponing pruning till spring, when all the injured wood might be removed with the other necessary pruning. In sections where the canes do not suffer from winter killing I think it is a saving of time and a non-injurious practice to do this pruning late in the fall, when the wood has thoroughly ripened after growth has ceased. J. C.]

SALTING COWS. A YOUNG SUBSCRIBER, Wellington Co., Ont.:—"Would some one please tell me through your valuable paper the best method of salting cows, and how much to a milk cow? Should dry cows and fattening cattle get the same? I give ours about one-half tablespoonful every day in their feed."

[We do not think that cows, if they had access to salt at will, would take more than you are giving—probably not as much, but it is the practice of many good feeders to sprinkle a little salt on the feed every day. Milking cows should have more than fattening cattle, as it induces them to drink more water, which tends to increase the flow of milk; but the quantity of salt given should be less in cold weather, and cows should not be allowed to remain outdoors many minutes after drinking, as there is danger of their getting chilled, which will check the milk flow. Placing a lump of rock salt in the manger is recommended by many feeders, especially for fattening cattle, dry cows, and young stock.]

BOOK ON BEE-KEEPING. HIRAM CASSELMAN, Starmont Co., Ont.:—"What is the best work on bee-keeping?" [For the average bee-keeper or beginner probably Langstroth on "The Hive and Honey Bee," published by Chas. Dadant & Son. For sale by G. W. York & Co., 118 Michigan St., Chicago, Ill.]

MARKETS.

Toronto Markets.

Owing to the removal of quarantine against cattle going to the United States there was a better trade done to-day. In preparation for the event there are 25 carloads of butchers' cattle and stockers ready to be sent across the line.

Receipts of stock at this market last week, 2,988 cattle, 726 sheep, 2,339 hogs. The market is certainly in better shape than for a considerable time, prices advancing all round.

Export Cattle.—Trade quiet. There were not many on offer. Quality very poor. Prices ranged from 3c. to 3 1/2c. rising to 4c. for anything choice. Quite a number of the Buffalo buyers were on the market, and indications point to an increased demand in the near future.

Butchers' Cattle.—Prices did not advance materially, ruling 3 1/2c. per cwt. to 3c. One pair of heifers and steers, averaging 1,000 lbs., sold for \$3. Top price was 3 1/2c. for choice. While secondary and common cattle were very little changed, prices were firmer all round; the market well cleared by noon. We have had very brisk markets for the last two weeks; outside buyers were present from Buffalo, Montreal, Hamilton, St. Catharines and many other places.

Bulls.—Prices were easier owing to poor quality. Best price 3 1/2c. per lb. for choice shipping bulls; 3c. may be quoted as ruling price. Supply about equal to demand.

Stockers and Feeders.—Feeders for Buffalo sold at \$2.30 to \$2.75 per cwt. Light stockers \$2.50 to \$2.65, some choice quality fetched \$3. Demand active and likely to continue; 12 carloads left here on Saturday and are reported as being transhipped west to Wilmington, Ohio. American buyers say they are able to take any quantity of cattle for fattening purposes.

Sheep and Lambs.—Export sheep quiet, 3c. per lb. Lambs at 4 1/2c. per lb. Sheep \$3 to \$3.50 per head. Bucks 2c., hard to sell, not wanted. The supply of sheep and lambs, though small, was sufficient.

Cattle.—Offerings light; prices advanced, \$4 to \$8 each. Choice veals wanted at once; prospects are good for very active demand and \$7 to \$8 can be depended upon.

Milk Cows were in fair demand, all sold early; quotations \$25 to \$45; good milkers will sell readily. Stocks wanted.

Hogs.—The offerings were light; market firm on good demand and an advance was ordered, 4c. up to 4 1/2c. per lb. for choice bacon hogs weighed off cars. Singers were firm at \$4.50 per 100 lb. Thick fat, \$3.50 to \$3.60 per cwt.; in good demand at these prices. Sows quiet at 3c. per lb.; stags at 2c. per lb. Receipts are 2,000 head more than the same month last year, and demand good; prospects of a further increase.

Butter.—Receipts free; quality coming not good; creamery keeps in fair demand in tubs at 18c. to 19c. Dairy rolls, strictly choice, 12c. to 13c. per lb.

Cheese.—Demand active; prices firm; summer make here quoted at 10c. to 10 1/2c. per lb., late makes at 11c. to 11 1/2c. per lb.; no stocks on hand.

Eggs.—Tone steady; trade fair; strictly new laid 16c. to 18c. per doz.; held fresh, 14c. to 16c. per doz.

Grain Market.—Very small delivery on the street market; roads poor. One load of wheat at 82c., white. No. 1 Manitoba hard reported 92c. at Toronto; 100 bush. of goose wheat sold at 64c. to 64 1/2c.

Oats.—One load of oats at 23 1/2c. per bush. Peas.—11c. to 12 1/2c. per bush. Barley.—150 bush. of barley sold at 29 1/2c. Hay.—Only four loads of hay daily, sold slowly at \$12 to \$13.50 per ton. Straw.—About two loads of straw per day, sold at \$7 to \$8 per ton. Dressed Hogs.—Packers are not anxious buyers; deliveries not large; car lots quoted at \$5.; on the street in farmers' loads, \$1.50 to \$2.50, according to quality for choice. Hides.—Market about firm and steady. Calfskins are unchanged, but sheepskins are 5c. higher. Hides—No. 1 green, 6 1/2c.; steers, 7c. per lb. Skins—Calfskins, No. 1 green, 6c. to 7c. per lb.; sheepskins, 90c. to \$1 each, the latter price for choice. Wools are dull; fleeces comings, 31c. to 32c.; tub-washed fleeces, 20c. to 21 1/2c. per lb.; extras, 23c. Toronto, February 11th.

Montreal Markets.

Cattle.—The heavy offerings during the past two weeks, mostly of poor, trashy stock, have forced prices lower for this quality. Good stock, on the contrary, has been a trifle better in price, but the heavy supplies of dead meat on the market have prevented anything like real good prices being paid. On today's market (Feb. 8th) some improvement was noted in the quality of stock offered, which may be partly accounted for in the amount of stock taken on to Montreal. If the quarantine's absence tends in this way to relieve our markets of poor quality beef it will indeed be a boon. Some fairish stock sold last week as low as 1c. per lb., fair cattle making from 2c. to 2 1/2c. per lb., good to choice 3c. to 3 1/2c. Only a nominal demand for export stock.

Sheep and Lambs.—The active demand noted in our last report has been steadily maintained, and it would not be surprising to see prices a shade stiffer in the very near future. There does not seem to be an overabundance of good lambs to come forward. Sheep and lambs, mixed, for tops, make 3 1/2c. per lb. to a shade over; lambs, 4c. to 4 1/2c. per lb.

Cattle.—Good sized calves, 100 lbs. and upwards, make about \$10 each; under this weight all the way down to \$2 each. Not very plentiful.

Hides and Skins.—There has been no change of moment in this market, but it would be surprising if in the immediate future values did not make a move upward in harmony with the Chicago markets, which are firm. Butchers are being paid 7c., 6c., 5c. per lb. for greensalted hides, heavy and light, for Nos. 1, 2, and 3; calf skins, No. 1, 7c. per lb.; No. 2, 5c. per lb.; lamb skins 90c. each.

DRESSED MEATS.

Hogs.—The market is glutted with heavy hogs, and a decline of about 10c. per cwt. has taken place within the week, a drop of 25c. per cwt. since last week. Car lots selling down to \$1.40 to \$1.50 for thick fats freshly killed. The nice light bright bacon hog is, however, in good demand, and firmer prices have been obtained this week for this class, car lots making \$5.40 to \$5.50 per cwt., and as much as 6c. per lb. being obtained in small lots for something fancy.

Beef.—There is also a superabundant supply of beef, and shippers have in some instances been compelled to pay storage. The quality is good, but prices are low; fronts (quarters), 2c. to 3c. per lb., hinds, 3c. to 5c. per lb.

Lambs.—The fall-out of the estimated offerings are in sight and only reach about 2,000 carcasses, as against 6,000 to 8,000 for the same period last year, and these are in the hands of about three people. In car lots nothing higher has yet been paid than the 6c. previously quoted; 7c. for small lots to 7 1/2c. for single carcasses.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.) Following are the current and comparative prices for the various grades of live stock:—

Table with columns: CATTLE, Range of Prices, Present, Top prices, 1896, 1895. Rows include 1500 lbs. up, 1200 to 1500, 1050 to 1200, 900 to 1050, Stillers, Stks. and F., Fat cows and heifers, Canning cows, Bulls, Calves, Texas steers, Texas C. & H., Hogs, Mixed, Heavy, Light, Pigs, SHEEP, Natives, Western, Lambs.

Chicago received 189,199 only last month, being the smallest January receipts of cattle since 1887.

Combined receipts at Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha and St. Louis for January, 1897, with comparisons:

Table with columns: City, Cattle, Hogs, Sheep. Rows include Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha, St. Louis for January 1897, 1896, 1895, 1894, 1893, 1892.

On the theory that the next Secretary of Agriculture will be unfavorable to the Mexican cattle trade there are now quite a number of buyers and speculators in that class of cattle in Mexico making extensive purchases, and it is expected that 100,000 head of cattle will cross the boundary line before the fourth of March, but, as some one says, that number would only make two weeks' average at Chicago.

Did you ever see so large a proportion of common cattle at this season of the year? This is the question old-time cattlemen are asking one another.

A cattle feeder says: "It has been one of the hardest winters to keep cattle on feed I ever saw. In Nebraska we have had hard work keeping the cattle on feed owing to the rapidly alternating warm and cold weather, with rain, wind, sleet and extreme cold all within a week."

"I don't think this cattle are coming on account of money matters," said a cattle salesman, "but simply because they are asking a little money. Farmers went to the extreme of holding too long last year, and are going to the other extreme this year."

The Standard Cattle Company had in 84 fether Western heifers averaging 1,202 lbs., which sold at \$4.

C. W. McMillan, of McMillan Bros., cattle exporters, of Westbourne, Manitoba, was among the visitors. He was looking up the Chicago and Boston export cattle business.

Morris was the largest exporter of cattle from Boston last year. He shipped 56,764 head, Swift 46,492, and Hatha way 30,081. The Hammond Company shipped 204,312 quarters of beef, and Swift 267,678 quarters.

A. Edelmuth, vice-president of the United Dressed Beef Co., died at New York. He was an old-time New York butcher. Last month's receipts of sheep were the smallest January

receipts since 1893, being 272,960 head. Exporters are bringing 130-lb. Western fed sheep here at about \$3.75. It is reported that there are 300,000 sheep now on feed along the Union Pacific Railroad, and over 500,000 in the State of Nebraska. There is a disposition to push sheep forward as fast as they are ready, for feeders, as a rule, are not very bullish on the situation. At Ft. Collins, 300,000 lambs are feeding.

An Iowa man says corn is abundant, but of poor quality, there being a great deal of soft grain. The late rains kept it soft and growing too long. However, while it is not first class stock feed, there is plenty of it, and it makes fine fuel. A majority of the farmers in that State are using it for cooking and heating purposes.

Comparative prices for meats, tallow, etc., now and a year ago, show as follows:

Table with columns: 1897, 1896. Rows include Clear Pork, Mess Pork, Family Pork, Prime Contract, Lard, Green Meats, Pickled Meats, Dry Salted Meats, Smoked Meats, Beef Products, Tallow and Grease.

At a combination horse sale at the Union Stock Yards here, the nine-year-old Crown stallion, Steel Prince, 2074, was knocked down to Adam Macchattie, Glasgow, Scotland, for \$1,000. Wilksward, 2184, one of the best sires of Onward, out of the great brood mare, Lulu Harold, by Harold, was knocked down to a foreign buyer on a bid of \$1,500, for exportation to Belgium. Attractions fit for the show-ring were the handsome, fast-stepping youngsters negotiated by the Cator Stock Farm, Joliet, Ill., the leading star of the lot being Irma Cosack, which brought \$780. In attendance and general average of prices the sale developed marked improvement over last year's results. Many of the consignments were yearlings and two-year-olds that sold around \$40 to \$250. Speed was in good demand, and the road and track horses were negotiated at \$150 to \$1,500. The highest price scored, \$400, in the closing out sale of jacks and jennets, property of Holt & Graham, Frankfort, Ky., at Union Stock Yards, was for the Duke of Glenwater.

A dealer says there are 10,000 horses on feed in the East, and until this surplus is worked off trade will remain dull. The 763,904 hogs received here last month averaged 24 lbs., against 254 lbs. in December, 1896; 223 lbs. for January, 1896, and 251 lbs. for January, 1894.

The hog dealers are still very much puzzled over the prospects for hog supplies. They cannot understand why hogs do not show up more numerous and of better quality, when there is so much corn being consumed in the cook stoves.

Buffalo Markets.

Cattle.—Receipts, 90 cars natives, 40 cars Canada. The market on good cattle of all descriptions was strong and higher, one load of choice Ohio Polled Angus cattle selling at \$5.50. There were a few loads of good exporters and shippers' stock that sold full strong 10c. higher than last Monday. Good light butcher steers also sold strong, but the commonish kinds sold, if anything, a little easier. Good cows and good heifers steady; common kinds slow and drabby.

Stockers and Feeders.—The Canadian kinds, if good quality, strong; the common kinds, however, did not sell any better than last week, and were at a rule drabby. Michigan stockers and feeders, however, sold, if anything, a little easier, as Canadian are preferred. Bulls, both export, butcher, and sausage, about steady. Stock bulls, however, in light demand and hard to sell at easier prices. Milch cows and springers in fairly liberal supply. There was a pretty good demand for them, and values on the good fresh cows steady to strong. The light yearlings and the common kinds of fresh cows did not sell as well as last week. Choice to fancy fresh cows seem to be wanted at good strong prices at present. Veal calves steady to strong; tops about \$7.25, with the good to choice kinds selling from \$6.50 to \$7. The market on this commodity was pretty well supplied at the close, with prospects only fair.

Hogs.—Receipts, 90 cars; market steady to strong. Extreme heavy hogs sold about 10c. higher, though the York weights and pigs did not show any improvement over last Saturday's prices. In the West, however, the feeling was firm, with values a shade higher, and the general condition of the trade looks strong. We may not get any material advance, but there is every indication that we will not get any lower prices. Extreme heavy hogs, \$3.00; medium weights and mixed, \$3.65; Yorkers, \$3.70; pigs, \$3.50 to \$3.70.

Sheep and Lambs.—Our sales of lambs to-day at \$5.40 were the extreme top. Receipts, 90 cars. Market on lambs for about an hour early in the morning was strong, with best grades selling \$5.30 to \$5.40. It did not last long, however, and good lambs soon settled down on the basis of \$5.25, with the market generally easy at that. The order trade was soon supplied and the market closed full easy, with some late arrivals, which were wet owing to the snow and rain, unsold at the close. The heavy lambs continue to be in best demand and bring the outside prices. Your special attention is called to this fact. Prime grades, 80 lbs. and upwards, selling from \$5.25 to \$5.40, with only a few at the latter price; fair to good kinds, 70 to 80 lbs. average, from \$5 to \$5.15; and the culls and common from \$3.75 to \$4.25.

Sheep sold generally strong and were wanted; the offerings to-day were mostly lambs. There was considerable inquiry for export grades, which, by the way, were in light supply also. Choice grades sold from \$4.25 to \$4.50; butcher sheep, choice to prime, from \$3.80 to \$4, with the fair to good kinds from \$3.25 to \$3.50, and the culls and common from \$2.25 to \$3.

Monday, Feb. 8th.

Montreal Horse Market.

There has been a decided improvement in this market during the past two weeks, and anything good or suitable for export is early picked up. Good prices have been paid for the right sort, as high as \$145 being paid for an extra draft. The range is from \$80 to \$110, and even \$120 each for good chunks and drafts.