

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

[From our Chicago Correspondent.]

The American Horse Association of Chicago held its first annual exhibition at the Exposition Building, and the display of horse flesh was, without exception, the greatest that has yet been held on the continent. As is generally understood, the horsemen who have hitherto held their meetings as a part of the Annual Fat Stock Show, wanted more room, and last fall the leading horse owners of Chicago, mostly gentlemen of wealth, formally organized an association for the exclusive purpose of showing horses.

The move was considered an unfortunate one by those who were interested in the welfare of the American Fat Stock Show, as they thought the withdrawal of the great horse feature would greatly diminish popular interest in the show, and so cut down gate receipts as to seriously cripple the finances of the enterprise. Quite a protest was made against the formation of the "Gentlemen's Horse Association" at the time, and the latter not caring to antagonize the fat stock show offered to pay the rent of the building during the entire period of the two shows. This was equivalent to a guarantee of \$1,500 to the fat stock show, and so the matter stands.

The magnitude of the horse show alone is convincing proof that the two exhibitions were wisely separated, as it was not possible to give the horses and the cattle all of the space and attention each needed at the same time. It looks now as if we should drift into specialties, even in the matter of live stock exhibits. Perhaps the time will come when there will be the annual horse show, followed by the annual cattle show, the annual swine show, the annual sheep show, and so on.

With proper and permanent buildings and grounds, however, it looks as if it would be better to combine the entire live stock and kindred industries, with accessories and appliances, etc., under one great comprehensive management, and call it the American Live Stock Exposition.

The show was a great success financially, closing with about \$10,000 on the profit side of the ledger. The expenses of the show were between \$55,000 and \$60,000.

STOCK YARD NOTES.

Stock yard prices for prime cattle have lately been high. D. P. Keller, of Macon, Ill., got \$5.25 for a dozen head of choice three-year-old grade Angus steers. They were the get of a \$1,000 bull bought in Chicago six years ago. J. B. Keller, of Taylorville, Ill., marketed 37 three-year-old Shorthorns, 1,761 lbs. average, at \$5.35. The latter by the way were dehorned. T. W. Harvey, of Thurlington, Neb., marketed 95 head of 1,686-lb. of Shorthorn, Angus and West Highland cattle, in one lot, at \$5.20. David Welling, of Adair, Ill., marketed 20 head of 1,646-lb. cattle at \$5.25.

Joseph Gould, the cattle exporter, has removed his family from Oshawa, Ont., to Boston, but he expects to spend much of his time in Chicago buying cattle.

L. E. Montgomery, of Springfield, Ill., an old cattleman, is trying his hand at exporting live cattle to London. He recently paid \$5.20 to \$5.25 in Chicago.

Handled with Gloves.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate:—

DEAR SIR,—In your August issue we found five columns relating to Holstein cattle, apparently well written and unusually strong on Holstein supremacy; in fact, we never got such a shock from any class of cattlemen as we have received from them, for the weakest-minded person in our Dominion, after reading them (the Holstein papers), would have looked with pleasure and some pride at the fine display they (the Holsteins) would undoubtedly make at the trial to come off inside of a month afterwards, viz., September, for the prize the Editor so generously and, to our mind, very practically offered. We all know the result. It was looked forward to with pleasure and hope by many of your readers, and the result compels us to say those men have no faith in what they preach. A little chap sitting by our side, after hearing Mr. Stevenson's concluding remarks read, advising the Holstein men to do their utmost to place them where they should be, remarked: "Well, I would send them back to Holland." All the crowd (numbering eight) vociferously answered, "Right; put them on the Oxenholm and send them back, sooner the better for Ontario." If their supremacy is so undoubted it is strange that English and Scotchmen, that simply overran Holland, never saw their highly lauded usefulness. Mr. Editor, we can stand this no longer, and tell the Holstein breeders of Canada to come out or hold their tongue forever. If Shorthorn men had acted thus, why, you could not find a place in your paper for anything but cuts and jibes at us poor Shorthorn fellows, who can't get our cows to raise their own calves. Holstein gentlemen! when it will pay us better to produce milk than beef we will do it, and can do it without a Holstein or any other cross; certainly not a Holstein cross. What Britain has not got in the shape of useful cattle is not worth getting, and we are not afraid to tell it in Holland, if need be.

Yours truly, STOCKMAN.

[We can assure "Stockman" no one was more disappointed than the Editor because the Holsteins did not compete for the "ADVOCATE Plate." As far as the space occupied in the August number by "Holstein papers" is concerned, we may say the FARMER'S ADVOCATE desires to give every class of breeders an equal chance to bring their respective favorites to the notice of the public. In such cases we do not hold ourselves responsible for the statements of our correspondents, but give them to our readers as the views of intelligent and respectable citizens. Such views, if properly read and considered, always teach valuable lessons of one kind or another. The very fact that the Holsteins did not compete for this prize, either through their association or by private enterprise, has brought out a great deal of adverse criticism throughout the country. Perhaps the "Holstein breeders" will explain matters to the satisfaction of our readers. As the same prize is offered next year let us hope they will then compete. While we direct so much attention to the Holsteins, should we not enquire why the Shorthorn men did not show up? Also, why were not some of the other breeds represented? Some objected to certain clauses in the rules; we invited all such to correspond with Prof. Jas. Robertson, O. A. C., Guelph, Ont., regarding any objections they may entertain. We desire to have these rules so framed that there will be no room for objections next fall, and hope to see a strong competition.]

Pigs and Pigs.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate:—

Sir,—I should not have replied to Mr. Snell's article in your November number, on the above, had he not seen fit to drag me into the controversy.

True, he does not mention me by name, but as I am the only pork packer who has imported and is breeding the improved large Yorkshires, he cannot mean any one else. I shall leave Mr. Green to reply to the question, whether the Yorkshires are good feeders, if they make good use of their food, and whether they are a pure breed, and confine myself to the question of the relative merits of the two as regards the fatness of the carcass, or in other words, suitability for a bacon curer's pig. I am a native of the royal county (Berkshire), where our family has been engaged in bacon curing for generations. The Berkshires were my especial favorites, and I used to look forward to the time when I should be able to engage in the enterprise of importing and breeding them, and it was with great regret that I was compelled by the inexorable demand for lean bacon and hams to go in for the improved large Yorkshires. Job says: "O that mine adversary had written a book." Mr. Snell has done so, I am glad of it.

I presume he will not deny that in the great improvement on the native hogs that has taken place in the last twenty-five years the Berkshires have had a larger share than any other breed, hence, as the great majority of Canadian hogs are too fat, it follows that the Berkshires, as a breed, are too fat for the public taste, which, as I have stated in former communications, has completely changed.

Forty years ago I sold bacon with the fat four to six inches thick, from which all the lean had been cut away and sold fresh. To day these same consumers, laboring men, would not take it as a gift, they insist on having lean, mild cured meat. What is lean? is it not muscle? and is it not a fact that certain breeds of animals are more muscular than others? What is said of Southdowns in the same ADVOCATE as Mr. Snell's article? "No matter how a Southdown is fed the carcass will always be composed very largely of lean meat of the best quality." I contend that the Yorkshires excel in this respect all other breeds of swine, hence they are fast displacing Berkshires in England, Ireland, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, the great bacon producing countries. Mr. Snell condemns himself out of his own mouth, he claims that his favorites will produce a larger proportion of lean meat more uniformly mixed with the fat than any other breed; and again he says, "it is well known that the flesh of the Berkshire is more marbled with the lean meat than that of the white hogs." This is an Irishism, for flesh is lean meat, and every one who is conversant with the meat business understands that marbled meat consists in the lean meat, that is, flesh having veins or streaks of fat running through it, and is a sure indication of thorough ripeness, a condition very desirable in a bullock but lessening the value of a fat pig. No stronger evidence could be given as to the aptitude of the Berkshire for laying on fat. In this connection I would say that the premium hog to day for bacon and hams in demand at high prices should not have more than one inch of fat down the back in any part from head to tail. Such meat as twenty years ago we used to