

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

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Circulate the Advocate.

If you have a neighbor or friend engaged in any branch of farming, you will do us a favor and render him a good service by calling his attention to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and sending us his address for a sample copy, which we will mail without charge. A new and useful feature is the "Farmers' Institute Department," in which we are giving "the cream," so to speak, of what has been gathered at the Ontario meetings last month. Persons subscribing at once will thus receive, while fresh, a concise and valuable record of what has been said on a wide range of farm topics, by practical and successful men. We are also devoting a good deal of space to the various conventions held, in addition to all our regular standard departments.

STOCK.

Chatty Stock Letter from the States.
(FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.)

Top prices: Native beef steers, \$5.50; heavy hogs, \$4.50; light hogs, \$4.15; export sheep, \$4.00; lambs, \$4.00. Compared with two weeks ago these prices show a slight decline in cattle: 20 cents decline on heavy hogs; 10 cents on light; steady on sheep and lambs. At the corresponding time last year best cattle sold at \$5.00; heavy hogs, \$5.65; light hogs, \$5.55; sheep, \$4.00; lambs, \$4.85.

Texas cattle form quite a fair proportion of the offerings, and sell at \$3.25 @ \$4.25, mainly at \$3.75 @ \$4.00 for cottonseed-meal-fed stock, being a little higher than a year ago.

The market for native butcher cows and canning stock has been very high of late, as there has been a scarcity of that kind of stock, and a very good demand for it. A carload of fancy 1,200-pound spayed heifers recently sold at \$4.50, when fat export steers were selling for only a quarter more, but these were, of course, far and away above the average. By the way, there is a very foolish custom in this country of underrating the value of heifers. It has been shown by competent tests that a spayed heifer, other things being equal, will make as much good beef as a steer, but there is usually a difference made on the hoof of 50 cents to \$1.00 per 100 pounds.

The French papers are talking about American wheat, which is dutiable in that country, getting in in the form of beef on the hoof. In other words, they estimate that since wheat feeding has been so generally developed in the United States, many millions of bushels have found their way into France in the manner stated. As a matter of fact, comparatively little wheat has been fed to cattle; where farmers have not had the corn, they have either bought cottonseed-meal or sold their young cattle to the butcher. The hog feeders and sheep men have used wheat quite largely, though the freezing weather has put a stop to slop feeding on the average farm.

A Dakota feeder says wheat feeding, even for hogs, is not a success in that country, but it must be that there are some good reasons not stated why he and his neighbors have made an utter failure of it.

Mr. Cannon, of the firm of Cannon Bros., Pear-sall, Texas, says: Ranchmen expect better prices, and at present steers are selling at \$20, and cows at \$10 per head, or \$2 to \$3 higher than a year ago.

Armour bought nearly 6,000 packing hogs one day recently that averaged 234 pounds, and cost \$4.15, the lowest in nearly three years, or since March, 1892.

The hogs coming are of very good quality, though they are largely of light and medium weights.

Both packers and shippers bought 380 to 430-pound hogs as high as \$4.45.

A load of Texas hogs, averaging 195 pounds, sold in Kansas City at \$3.60.

Iowa packers are buying some hogs in Omaha.

Omaha received 41,888 hogs for the week ended the 19th, which averaged 195 pounds. Receipts a year ago, 26,631, and two years ago, 30,078. Average last January, 250 pounds. Hogs received thus far this month, 116,000, or 43,000 more than a year ago.

Arrival of hogs at Kansas City thus far this year show 47,000 increase compared with a year ago.

Thus far this year St. Louis received an increase of about 3,000 compared with a year ago.

The hog crop is not as short as country men have been talking.

From the best information at hand it appears that the crop of fat cattle is short, and the supply of hogs is larger than generally expected.

The efforts to get Congress to rectify some of the glaring inconsistencies in the new tariff law have thus far been unsuccessful. The cattle men have been especially anxious to get the discrimination against German beet sugar removed, as it rests on the live stock industry of this country, but there is little prospect of getting anything done at the present session.

A Liverpool correspondent, speaking of the attempt of the U. S. cattle and beef shippers to change certain customs of the trade there, says:—"At the present time live cattle shippers have been forcing the carrying of small numbers at unremunerative rates, while the dead meat shippers have been sending only short quantities of beef in the face of a rising market. This combination is taken to be an organization to control the retail trade here, but the immense supplies of cattle in River Plate are only prevented from being brought here by the high freight asked. There was also large supplies in Australia, which will in the near future be brought over here in chilling-rooms, so that it will be seen we are some distance from being entirely dependent on American supplies."

Earl Cowper, of England, has offered to place a farm of nearly three hundred acres, with a residence and buildings, at the disposal of the Herts County Council (of which he is chairman), rent free, for the purpose of providing practical instruction in agriculture, on condition that the Council stock the farm and work it. His Lordship will also erect a laboratory and the necessary dormitories. A sub-committee of practical agriculturists has been appointed to consider His Lordship's offer, and report to the Council upon it.

Milk Fever.

BY D. A.

This trouble is misnamed; it ought to be milk chill. Everything about it points to extreme chill. The body, ears and horns become very cold, and where the fever comes in we could never find. There is not even a moderate relapse to warmth, unless brought about by measures adopted by the attendant. Seeing that this is the case, we have got some tangible hold on it, and can, in most cases, so guide matters that the patient may be helped through the ordeal, if not kept free from it altogether. The writer has had several cases of it in pure-bred Shorthorns, and I can safely say that our best remedy, easiest and most reliable every way, is milking before calving, assisted by a rather spare diet. In cases where the animal has been prostrated and with careful treatment been carried through, to prevent an attack at the next calving, milking alone will not suffice. We have had cows badly prostrated the second time, after most careful attention to milking ten days before calving. The bowels, even on luxurious grass, will become deranged as the time for parturition draws nigh, and this must be attended to. Nothing in our experience is equal to a dose of black molasses for this. And, right here, we may say that a quart of black molasses is the finest remedy for impaction, in cases where "loss of cud" (unable to ruminate) happens in any cattle. We have had cows off their feet for hours at the second attack, even when thus treated, but always save them. The third attack, if managed in this way, was very slight.

To have such an animal in high condition would be unwise, but the animal can be in condition good enough to do her best when danger is past. For a cow in high condition at calving, being a good milker and liable to milk chill, as I wish to call it, or one that has had an attack, a starvation diet for eight or ten days previous is a wise precaution, even if milked, but it is not a positive prevention. However, I would not now fear almost any kind of condition, for we have brought several through the ordeal, and made a light attack of several cases that might have proved fatal if not thus treated.

Should any one find their cow showing a slight stagger while standing or walking, the second, third or fourth day after calving, they will have to look alive and provide a warm, comfortable place, well littered with straw. Give the animal a good dose of salts, one to one and a-half pounds. Salts are quicker than molasses, but if the bowels are in their natural condition I prefer the molasses; they do their work complete, while salts will often make a passage through the bowels and not remove a quarter of what is wanted. Blanket the animal well, neck and body; that is what is wanted; get the flat-irons on the stove and iron the cow all over on the blanket; have the irons hot and iron well on both sides of the spine (with us a post-mortem showed the spine most effected). Keep at it and you will save your cow. We have done it for twenty-four hours, and very good judges would not give us a dollar for our hundred-dollar cow. The same cow has had five calves since. A celebrated Jersey breeder buries them up in the hot horse-manure pile. A very good way, if one has the pile hot enough and big enough. We have kept cold, wet cloths on the head, but could never see any benefit. We do not believe that anything fed previous to calving will prove a remedy further than to keep the bowels regular, and the trouble will come when the bowels are in good order. The standard prevention and remedy is to milk.

Shipment of Live Cattle from Australia.

A meeting of persons interested in the meat and stock export trade has been held in Sydney, at the suggestion of the Minister of Agriculture for New South Wales, to consider whether it will pay to ship fat cattle to England. Mr. Alexander Bruce, the chief inspector of stock, presided. Mr. C. Taylor, secretary of Messrs. Geedes, Birt & Co., stated that the account sales of twenty cattle sent by the "Maori King" showed that they had realized £14 or £15 a head in London, and that it was reported that eighteen animals shipped per "Port Pirie" had realized £18 per head. Letters received from London stated that the cattle exported ought to be ripe four-year-old bullocks and fat. Messrs. Potter & Co., of London, wrote that the store cattle ex "Maori King" did not fatten on the voyage, and that they did not care to be interested in shipments where cattle had to be sent between decks because of the difficulty of ventilation. After a careful inquiry, they believed that the cost per head would be from £13 to £14, exclusive of 15s., the London charges. Mr. R. T. Keys, of Bengalla, Muswellbrook, expressed his firm conviction that, in view of the failure of the freezing of cattle, the only outlook for the Australian grazer was to send live stock to London. He was satisfied that it could be done, and he had, with other residents in the Hunter River district, tried to induce the Queensland people to join in shipping 900 head, but much apathy had been shown in the matter. Mr. F. B. Birt stated that even with specially-equipped steamers, the cost of a shipment to England would be about £8 a head, and that therefore it was felt that the trade would have to be served by the present ocean "tramp" steamers. It was then resolved to form a committee to report on the subject, and secure the co-operation of the pastoralists in the movement.—[Agricultural Gazette.]