

Chatty Letter from the States.

The movement of distillery cattle is not very large now. A heavy crop has been marketed, and there will be a liberal supply for August and early September, but as a rule these cattle are forwarded in such a way as not to glut the markets at any one time. In the main the sloped cattle are owned by experienced men who watch the market very closely. Then, again, they are often fed at points so convenient that they can be marketed in a day's notice. Prices lately ruling, \$5 to \$5.90 for 1,000 to 1,440 lb. beeves, and \$4 to \$4.40 for bulls.

There were two important features in the heavy marketing of cattle at all points a year ago. The drought forced many owners to ship whether they would or no, and the President's

abundant for some time to come, and the margin between poor and prime cattle is likely to become wider. The practice of fattening yearling cattle for market is growing in favor. It is only at exceptional times that good fat yearlings are not in strong demand at good, fair prices. There is one danger in the early maturity idea. Feeders do not always realize that only the fat, good conditioned young things are really saleable. Highly bred, but poorly fed young cattle, are worth little, if any more, to the butcher than poorly fed scrubs.

Monday, July 13, Chicago received 19,977 head of cattle and 1,150 calves. The cattle included about 6,000 Texans and 7,000 native cows. The largest run on record was 24,036 cattle, which arrived January 12th last.

The hog market has been very good of late. No extravagant prices, but a good, healthy trade

Hawkhurst Shropshires.

The accompanying illustration is taken from a photograph from life, representing a group of Shropshire shearing ewes, the lot being part of an importation of seventy just arrived to replenish the ranks thinned out by the numerous sales recently made from this flock.

Mr. Hawkshaw selected these in person, and accompanied them to their present quarters, where they now await any visitors who may wish to inspect them. Specimens from the flocks of Mr. R. Bach, Craven Arms, Salop; Mr. E. Hughes, Hereford; Mrs. Bromly, Salop, Shropshire; Mr. Napper, Loughcrew, Ireland; Mr. Blakeley Wootten, Salop. These consist chiefly of shearing ewes, while a grand two shear ram from the flock of Mr. Richard Bach was also included. With the lately arrived addition the flock now numbers 175 head, large size and high



A GROUP OF SHEARLING SHROPSHIRE, THE PROPERTY OF MR. W. S. HAWKSHAW, GLANWORTH, ONT.

order, clearing the "Cherokee strip," threw upon the market many thousands of cattle not ready for market. There may be a drought this summer or fall, but so far there are no indications of it. On the contrary, the rainfall has been rather too heavy. However, an abundance of feed is fairly assured, and there seems to be no section where forced marketing of cattle has been the rule this year.

There is a fairly healthy feeling in the foreign cattle trade, though the exporters of live cattle are not at all disposed to do a make or break volume of business. Prices abroad are only $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to 1 c. higher in London than a year ago, while the cost of cattle here is fully 1 c. per lb. more. To offset this ocean rates are \$6 to \$7.50 per head cheaper. The exporters do not deny that they are making a little money, but the best evidence that the trade is not always a bonanza is the fact that many of the shippers are doing less business than last year. Indications are, however, that good cattle will be not any too

at \$1.25 per 100 lbs. advance over a year ago. Hog raisers are not complaining.

The important statement is made by reliable authorities that trichinosis would never appear in hog meat if the hogs were never allowed to eat decayed animal matter. Bury the dead animals. They are worth more for a fertilizer than for hog food. It is surprising that so many people still cling to the old idea that nothing is too foul for a hog to eat or drink. There has lately been a very wide range of prices for hogs. Choice 160 to 260 lb. hogs sold at \$5.25 when sellers found it hard work to get \$4.50 for fat 300 lb. brood sows.

In Manitoba June and July have been wet—exceedingly favorable for vegetation. Old timers say that there will be no danger of frost this year.

Most favorable reports come to us of the crop prospects in Manitoba this year. Hundreds of farm hands are wanted, and wages will be high. Excursions for "harvest hands" will be run on August 4th on C. P. R. line.

quality having been the prominent features borne in mind in selecting for this flock. This season's lambs are exceptionally large and fine, particularly the ram lambs. These and 100 imported ewes to choose from should satisfy those wanting sheep of this breeding.

Since 1889 eighteen travelling dairy schools, attended by 450 students, chiefly farmers' wives and daughters, of whom 348 took a full course of instruction, have been organized under the Bath and West of England Society. The British dairyman is on the move.

Mr. John Q. Sumner, of Morris, writes us as follows:—"I am well pleased with your paper, and consider it the best agricultural publication in Canada. It is always brim full of trustworthy information, and your advertising space is not filled up with patent trash."

James W. Shanks met with a serious loss by the death of his thoroughbred Shorthorn bull. A *post mortem* by the district veterinary, McNaught, revealed a nail in his lungs. It is supposed he swallowed the nail and it worked through the stomach penetrating his lung and causing a large abscess to form.