

more shrinkage to them, and also that the flesh of an animal that had been tied up during the fattening period could not be as healthy as that of the others. This last argument is hardly to be gain said even now, but the first is completely exploded, for it has been demonstrated time and again that stall fed cattle will dress right up to the others and occasionally do better. Some of Chicago's best beeves this year came off of slops.

Col. John D. Gillett, of Elkhart, Logan Co., Ill., is now making a business of disposing of his Shorthorn beeves before they are more than three years old. A few days ago he was at Chicago with 173 head, and Kenyon & Smith had in 150 head, making in all 323 high grade Shorthorns from the same locality, which were said to be the finest lot, considering numbers, that has been seen in the pens in many a day. They went to Baltimore, thence to England on owners' account.

Great changes are taking place in the cattle trade on account of the refrigerator business. Under the new regime, the trade is being less and less controlled in the east. Many seaboard butchers who formerly got their supplies from home slaughter houses, now receive all their meat in refrigerators from the west, after having been slaughtered about thirty-six hours. Of course any body knows that the meat is in vastly superior condition to what it would be if sent a thousand or more miles on foot. Dressed meat enterprises are springing into life in various quarters, and even Chicago, with the great prestige which she has gained in the trade, is certain to yield a good deal of her meat business to cities further west, and nearer the centre of the cattle growing fields, sooner or later. The nearer the slaughter houses are to the grazing grounds the better. Of course there can be no reasonable doubt that Chicago will long and perhaps always maintain her position as the chief distributing centre, because of her unequalled facilities for utilizing every particle of offal, which cannot be done in the far west. Recently there has been a large dressed meat enterprise put on foot in Texas. It is located at Victoria, and several others are projected for that State.

Mutton raising is something that is sadly in need of more attention on this continent. Only last week there was an order for eight hundred export sheep on the Chicago market, which could not be filled because of the poor quality of the offerings. There are sheep enough and too many, such as they are. There is no shortage of numbers, but of quality. The trouble has been that what little attention the great majority of the sheep have received has been on the score of wool, and no attention whatever has been paid to the mutton qualities. In time flock-masters will learn that good feeding of sheep will do more than keep their carcasses in marketable condition; that it also greatly increases the quality and quantity of wool, besides keeping the animals in the best condition to resist and throw off diseases. Give us better mutton and more wool. Nobody, except very wealthy men, can afford in these days of competition to breed from scrub sires. The ram, like the bull, is more than half the herd. If a ram did not produce any more lambs than a ewe, then it might pay to refrain from using expensive animals of good breeding; but it does not take long to figure up the importance of good blood when it is considered what a vast number of lambs a ram will get in a lifetime.

The crop of range cattle from Texas and the Northwestern regions will be larger this year than last, and as the shipping season is opening much later, there is a strong probability that there will be unprecedented supplies crowded on to the market this fall. It is predicted that 50,000 cattle in a week will not be very uncommon. The largest number that Chicago has ever received was 42,000 in a week. A much lower range of prices than was current last year is inevitable if present prognostications hold anywhere near good.

The winter Fat Stock Shows bid fair to have much larger numbers of entries than last year. Some remarkably work at fattening is being done by the Shorthorn men, and they will make a grand display. The Polls will come out in some force, and the Herefords will make a better fight than they have ever done before.

On the Wing.

After writing to the leading seedsmen and enterprising agriculturists to ascertain the state of the winter wheat, we thought it best to take a trip for personal inspection and enquiry, to enable us to form an opinion as to which varieties of wheat to recommend. We visited some of the farms in Middlesex county, among which we found on one farm quite a number of new varieties of wheat being tested. The Martin Amber, a new wheat introduced from Pennsylvania, appears more promising than any other of the new varieties, a cut and description of which appear on the next page. The Mediterranean Hybrid, crossed from the Diehl and Mediterranean varieties, —spoken of very highly across the lines—appears to have stood the winter well, and deserves further trial. Several European varieties are being tested, one of which appears very promising; several appear to be failures. The Rogers wheat requires further trial before we can commend it for a general crop. It is a bald, white chaff, red wheat: many speak highly of it; it is not as early as the Michigan Amber. The Scott and Democrat are both looking very well. The three last varieties appear, from the tests seen here, to be as safe wheats as any to sow; in this vicinity the Clawson wheat has been superceded by these three varieties. Few fields of Fultz are to be seen.

We went to the Government Farm at Guelph. Mr. Mills, the Principal, very courteously gave us information regarding the College, its internal management and arrangements; but for information about the farm we are passed on to the outside or farm managers. The Professor of Chemistry was full of information about minerals and reports of other Professors, and had his mind on the co-operative action of different fertilizers. We at length reached the testing plot, under the management of Mr. Shuttleworth, who has the plot clean and free from Canada thistles, and the different varieties clearly labelled. *It is very evident the remarks we made last year about the thistles have had a most beneficial effect on the appearance of the farm this year.* Those who are opposed to fair, honest criticism, should not read this journal. This time the plot is free from Canada thistles; it is also free from the information we were in quest of, namely, What is the best kind of winter wheat to sow? We put the above question to the Government Farm manager. The response was: *The Clawson (formerly called by the officials the Seneca—now corrected).* We went to examine the varieties, and failed to see the kinds we were in quest of information about, namely, the Soules, Victor, Gold Medal, No. 9, all of which have been "Royal" wheats, but we did not see any of them now growing on the test farm. Some of the new varieties we hear of from other sources we did not find, but the Fultz, Fluke and Finlay wheats were allowed good space. *We see no reason for changing our view that they are all the same or one variety of wheat under different names.* The Fultz is the earliest maturing wheat, and will be ready to cut before any other; the heads are short. In viewing the different varieties, the most promising appear to be the Clawson, Egyptian and the Democrat. The Rogers and White Mountain, two varieties of late introduction, appear to be doing fairly well. The Diehl was very inferior to either of the before-mentioned varieties. They have one variety in the test plot with its name plainly labelled *Rust proof*. The name might sell it to the unwary, but every variety had more or less rust on it, and the rust-proof wheat had about as much as the average on the other varieties.

We left the Government Farm and called at Galt. Mr. John Blain kindly gave us a drive through the

country among the farms and farmers. We found the Clawson had lost the prestige it once had. The White Mountain has been preferred by many; the Egyptian or Michigan Amber are also well liked. The Democrat is not generally raised, but has a good report from those who have it, and we believe will increase in this country. One of the best pieces of wheat we saw in the locality was a field of Scott wheat. The beautiful-looking White Diehl wheat, which has carried off so much of the cash from our Provincial Exhibitions as the best white wheat, is so little thought of by our practical farmers that we did not see a single field of it growing in our journeyings through the country. There are some pieces no doubt growing on high sloping land that will produce a fine looking kernel, and may still gain prizes that ought to be awarded to wheats having greater merit. The red wheats are in demand by the farmers more than the white wheats. They are more to be depended on to yield profit. At the present time it is considered that the Clawson is degenerating, and has seen its best days in this locality.

We left this vicinity and make another inspection at Woodstock. Here we found that a wheat called Walker's Reliable has quite a run and is well liked, but the same wheat is known in other localities as the Michigan Amber or Egyptian.

The Mediterranean still holds a good name, and has kept it as long as any wheat. We deem the wheats mentioned are the best and safest known varieties of winter wheat. We must not place too much stress on either, as some succeed better than others, depending on soil and location. From these we would advise you to select for your main crop for your fall seeding. The Michigan Amber enjoys the greatest popularity. We find some of our American and Canadian seedsmen are introducing new varieties. Some of them are very highly spoken of, and recommended by good farmers, and are offered at very high prices. We advise you to act very cautiously in investing your money too hastily in any new seed, plant or implement before it has been fairly tested or examined by yourself. Fifteen dollars per bushel is asked for wheat by some of our American seedsmen. It is right for you to be posted in all seeds, and as our wheats run out, we must look for new changes and new varieties. It is no loss on the whole if you expend a little money each year in procuring a small quantity of any really new variety that bids fair to be more productive. A few ounces, or a pound, is ample to test it. We give you a brief account on the next page of some of the latest varieties, but we have not as yet sufficient knowledge about them to commend them for a crop. They may be the coming wheats, and it is but right that you should know what is being introduced.

FRUIT.

When walking through the garden of the Experimental Farm at Guelph last month, we noticed the black knot badly affecting the best class of cultivated cherries. It has been destroying the Mazzard or common pie cherry trees through a large section of country. We do not know if experiments are being made to find a preventative or cure. We know of none better than the immediate cutting away of the parts affected, but this does not appear to be of any avail if other trees in the neighborhood are permitted to remain and propagate the disease which threatens the total destruction of our cherry trees. Who will be the first to find out an efficient remedy? The pear blight is still on its march of destruction, which is much to be regretted; we are sorry to see the fine pear trees