

## THE OUTLOOK FOR CATTLE.

Drovers' Journal, Chicago.

The outlook for the cattle trade at present is regarded by many people interested as being very discouraging. For some time past, owners of cattle have seemed to feel as if the trade was "going to the dogs" at a rapid rate. Prices are low, and this fact seems to have been taken by a great many farmers and feeders as a bad omen for the near future. In one case the present week a feeder came to market with some fat cattle which sold at \$4.25 after being on good grass all summer and on full corn feed since the middle of October. The discouraging feature of the business was that the feeder bought the cattle here in May at \$4.75 per cwt., or 50c. more than he got for them at market. Such experiences, and they have not been very uncommon of late, have had a tendency to weaken the faith of cattle growers and many of them are now apparently ready to let go even at great losses. The current receipts of cattle are much larger than were generally expected and the quality of the cattle received in December was never before so good. The cattle coming to market now are fatter and better in every way than were the cattle of last May after a winter's feeding, while the current arrivals as compared with the stock coming one year ago are in about 50 per cent. better condition. Men argue, that as the cattle are coming so good and in such large numbers now that they will surely keep it up, and the trade during the winter is likely to grow worse instead of better from the feeders' standpoint. Doubtless the number of cattle feeding in the country is large, but it probably is not more than equal to the demand. There are no more cattle in the country than one year ago, but the weather this season so far has been vastly more favorable for feeding than it was last winter. The saving in this matter alone is a great one and goes far to make up the losses which feeders sustain in the way of diminished prices for beefs.

The consumptive demand for beef just at the present time is rather light; the markets are glutted with cheap poultry and game, and the extensive winter operations of the pork packers throw upon the markets large quantities of cheap fresh pork, spare-ribs, pigs' feet, etc. As the holidays approach the variety of meats on the market increases.

Another very important consideration just at this time is the fact that the laboring classes are rather sorely pressed for work and money, and it is a generally conceded fact that it is not the millionaires, not the wealthier classes, who consume the meat. The meat-eaters are the working people; and when they are "hard up" there is always a diminished consumption of meat. The iron trade, the woollen and cotton trades, and other branches of industry, begin to operate more actively, and there are good reasons for thinking that the worst for the present has been passed.

High prices are not expected even by the most hopeful for the near future, but there is a general impression that the cattle trade at the bottom of the hollow if it has not started up, the hill.

## THE TREATMENT OF BULLS.

English Live Stock Journal.

In the management of bulls the great mistake is made by but too many in supposing that they need harsh treatment. A bull is quite as amenable to kindness as any other animal. Firm, yet kind treatment will reduce bulls to obedience, and render them easily managed. From the age of calthood they should be regularly handled and accustomed to the contact of human beings. At about one year old they frequently become playful, and this is often mistaken for vice, whereas, when used as above recommended, it is but the playfulness of youth. This is toned down by placing a ring in

the nose of a bull. Whenever practicable—and there are few cases where it is not so—bulls in service should be kept in a building where the milch cows are kept. They thus become accustomed to the regular association with human beings and are as docile as the cows. Never strike a bull without reason; they have long memories, and may retaliate when least expected. If disobedient, one quick stroke is usually sufficient, and the animal knows the reason for it. A whip is the best implement to use in connection with a bull. The best way to spoil a bull is to keep him in a place by himself, to feed him through a trap door, and never to bring out except when he is wanted for service. When so kept the getting him out is usually a formidable affair. So kept, he grows moody and savage, and it is to such bulls that we usually look for accidents. The attendants should never display fear of a bull. If the latter once perceives that his attendant is afraid of him, and they are quick to see the signs, the man should be replaced, or it is likely mischief will result, and the bull be spoiled. I have before remarked as to young bulls becoming playful when about twelve months old, that is the time when they are beginning to want service work. At this time, if you do not keep an eye on them, they will land the attendant a cropper when feeding, especially if they think he is not quick enough in supplying their food. For this a foolish attendant will thrash the animal, and probably he will take a stick with him every time thereafter that he goes to feed it, and on every such occasion the bull will come in for a few hard whacks. This is just the way to spoil him for life, for he conceives such a hatred for the human race that he is never afterwards safe. The best cure is a ring, and the putting in the ring is simple, and but the work of a few minutes. Place a rope around his neck, and draw him gently to the stoop of a gateway. Pass the rope around the stoop, and let it be firmly held. Have ready a round steel chisel, sharpened to a fine point, the chisel being a little thicker than the ring. This should be held in readiness by an attendant; also the ring, opened, the screw, and a small screw-driver. Don't alarm the bull, but soothe him. With the fingers of the left hand, feel for and draw gently down the proper place in the nostrils, taking care to avoid the bone. With the right hand, guiding the chisel by the fingers of the left, bring the point of the chisel to the place, and pass it quickly and firmly through the cartilage of the nose. Retain the hold with the left hand, take the ring in the right, pass it through the hole made by the chisel and fasten the screw, slipping it around a few times to see that it works easily. If the rope is held firmly by one or two men, and the animal is not frightened to begin with, there is no difficulty in ringing a young bull. If driven up to the spot with blows and loud shouting, then difficulty will be experienced, for the bull will resist to the utmost power, the operator becomes nervous, and probably takes off a piece of the bone, or otherwise injures it, spoiling the animal for feeding for some time after, even if no worse consequences result.

A difference of four quarts of milk per day at the low price of two cents per quart makes for 300 days \$24, which is the interest on \$400 for a year. This does not represent the entire difference in value, as the progeny of superior milkers will be worth many times as much to raise as will the progeny of the inferior animal. No farmer is rich enough to keep poor cows.

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## NORTH-WEST CATTLE INTERESTS.

A recent number of *Bradstreet's* contains an article which will attract much attention, being entitled "Northwestern Cattle Interests." It describes the rapid growth of this branch of industry and the consequent betterment of the condition of the farmers. The journal pays a high compliment to the man it believes mainly instrumental in bringing about this change, in these words:—

"The progress made is due, more than to any other influence, to the plans of J. J. Hill, President of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad. Mr. Hill, as the fortunes of the company he has built up exhibit, is a man of penetration and careful provision for the future. He saw long ago all that has just been stated. He knew the inevitable mutations of an agricultural industry. That great region which the lines of his corporation penetrate is now the granary of the nation. It has been peopled with a hardy race. He has had the intelligence, not common among those potent in railway management, to realize from the first that the interest of this territory and these people is his own—the uncommon will to use large private resources to promote the public good. What makes them prosperous will mean larger and surer dividends. No catastrophe such as has fallen on other sections in the transition from one form of industry to another could leave unscathed the financial interests of a public carrier. This road now carries a very large fraction of all the wheat transported by rail in the United States. Yet its earnings from charges on wheat are but one-fourth of its gross income. It is general prosperity, general industry, general and well-distributed traffic that pay a railroad best. Mr. Hill saw long ago the problem, with its danger on the one side and its promise on the other. He became convinced that the North-West must, for its own sake, voluntarily combine other interests with that of wheat-raising. He had the means to study the possibilities practically. After some years of experiment and an outlay of hundreds of thousands of dollars, he has brought it about that the North-West has to-day a more magnificent start in the industry of raising the finest breeds of cattle than was ever possessed by any other community in the United States in its early history."

## TRANSFERS OF THOROUGHBRED STOCK.

American Berkshire Record.

Granite of Phoenix Park, 13541. Springer Bros., Springfield, Ill., to Hugh Campbell, Harrison, Ohio.

Max S, 14403. C. A. Brackett, Gorham, Me., to C. P. Mattocks, Portland, Me.

Roy, 14591. M. W. Bishop, Madisonville, Ky., to J. C. Tapp, Dalton, Ky.

Carter's Queen, 14592. W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Philadelphia, Penn., to Jas. O. Carter, Walnut Grove, Arizona.

Sovereign Duke XXIV., 14613. N. H. Gentry, Sedalia, Mo., to M. O. Leary, Aubrey, Kan.

Lord Aubrey, 14615. N. H. Gentry to C. F. Adams, Marshall, Tex.

Sovereign Duke XXIII., 14625, and Charming Beauty, 14626. N. H. Gentry to J. F. Mason, Orson, Col.

Wood Dale Duke, 11527, Fancy Fair II., 14527 and Fancy Fair III., 14528. M. B. Keagy, Wellington, Kan., to Wm. Tilgham, Dodge City, Kan.

Jeff. Galloway, 14577. L. J. Miller, Bowling Green, Ky., to Wm. Booker, South Union, Ky.

Magna Charter, 14573. T. R. Proctor, Utica, N. Y., to Chas. E. Andrews, Somers Lane, Penn.

Braw Laddie V., 14539. D. W. Smith, Bates, Ill., to Chas. G. Elliott, Berlin, Ill.