

There are some roundabout moves in the live-stock trade. Some Canadian cattle were recently sent to Missouri, and the number proved to be more than equal to the requirements of the locality, so they were sent back to Chicago and sold to an Ohio man at a profit.

Toronto Markets.

Trading at the Western Cattle Market is practically at a standstill in the export trade. Prices have declined 20c. per cwt. Only extra choice, well-finished cattle fetch top price, \$4.80 per cwt. Our exporters are quite finished with this season's trade, and complain as to it being the worst on record. The excessive rates charged by the steamship companies, the unavoidable loss and heavy charges, have made the business unprofitable.

Export Cattle.—The trade in export cattle very dull. Only extra choice, well-finished cattle fetch \$4.80, the top price for today. Choice cattle have been on the market for a week without an offer, at \$4.90 per cwt. Mr. A. Allen sold 19 exporters at \$4.80 per cwt., average 1,280 lbs. each. Mr. Joseph Gould bought one load of exporters at \$4.80, average 1,285 lbs. each. One load of cattle, 21 in number, weighing 25,410 lbs., average 1,210 lbs. each, were sold at \$4.80 per cwt.

Butchers' Cattle.—Very few choice butchers' cattle on sale. Prices had a somewhat downward tendency. Medium quality of butchers' and exporters' mixed sold at \$4.25 to \$4.60 per cwt. The best choice of butchers' cattle, 1,100 lbs. average, sold at \$4.40 to \$4.50 per cwt. Common butchers' cows sold down to \$3, whilst very common grassers sold down to \$2.50 per cwt. This is the lowest price for any class of stock suitable for butchers.

Bulls.—Heavy export bulls were steady and unchanged in price, and sold at \$4.12 to \$4.25 per cwt. Light export sold at \$3.12 to \$3.35 per cwt.; scrub light bulls sold down to \$2.50 to clear. Mr. H. Hunnissett bought three export bulls, 1,550 lbs. average, at \$3.75; two, 1,700 lbs. each, at \$4.25 per cwt.

Feeders.—Sold well to a good demand. Those weighing from 1,000 to 1,150 lbs. each are worth from \$3.60 to \$4.10 per cwt. Steers weighing from 700 to 1,000 lbs. sold at \$3.25 to \$3.35. Feeders for the distillery byes are in demand, and will be put in about Oct. 15th at Messrs. Gooderham & Worts'. Messrs. Dunn Bros. bought two loads of heavy steers at \$3.75 per cwt., and one load of bulls at \$3. for the byes. Messrs. Halligan & Lunness bought 50 feeders at \$3.50 to \$3.75 for steers, and \$2.75 to \$3.25 for bulls. These cattle are for the Walkerville byes, at Windsor, Ont.

Stockers.—The supply sufficient for the demand, which was not brisk. Yearling steers, 600 lbs., sold at \$2.25 to \$3 per cwt. Heifers, black and white steers of the same weight, sold at \$2 to \$2.25 per cwt. Mr. H. Mayhew sold one load of stockers, 700 lbs. average, at \$3 per cwt.

Sheep.—Deliveries heavy, nearly 2,000. Prices steady, at from \$3.50 to \$3.75 for ewes, and at \$2.75 to \$3 per cwt. for bucks. Mr. Wesley Dunn bought 180 sheep at \$3.75 per cwt.

Lambs.—Spring lambs were easier, except for best quality; these held their own at from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per head; poor sold down to nominal figures. Mr. Wesley Dunn bought 400 lambs at \$3.15 each. Mr. James Harris bought 200 lambs at from \$3.25 to \$3.50 per head.

Calves.—Good enquiry for prime veal calves, at from \$7 to \$10 per head; common thin calves hard to sell, at from \$3 to \$5 per head. Mr. W. Dunn bought 15 calves at \$7 per head.

Milk Cows.—The quality of milk cows has improved; about 15 on offer, sold at from \$30 to \$50 per head.

Hogs.—The supply fairly good, quality much better than of late. 2,000 on offer; prices bid fair to be steady for the next two weeks. Prime quality hogs, off cars, unfed or watered, 150 to 200 lbs., right sort singers, are wanted at \$6.25 per cwt. Thick, fat hogs are culled at \$5.50 per cwt. Thin, light hogs, those weighing below 150 lbs., are culled as thin hogs at \$5.25 to \$5.50 per cwt. Unculled car lots off cars sold at \$6 per cwt.; sows at \$3.50; stags, \$2 per cwt. Collingwood Packing House Company has had the market in price all summer, and have only just let up in taking all on offer.

Dressed Hogs.—The opening of the season for dressed hogs. The price is firm, at \$5 per cwt. Mr. Wm. Harris, St. Lawrence Market, bought 150 dressed hogs at from \$7.75 to \$8 per cwt.

Wheat.—One thousand seven hundred bushels of wheat sold as follows: Eight hundred bushels of white at 71c. per bushel; 200 bushels of red at 71c. per bushel; 700 bushels of goosie at 69c. per bushel; 200 bushels of spring at 71c. per bushel. Over 10,000 bushels of grain were delivered on Tuesday, market day.

Barley.—Four thousand bushels of barley sold at 46c. to 49c. per bushel. The color is not very good this season.

Oats in good supply. Five hundred bushels sold at 29c. to 30c. per bushel.

Rye.—One hundred and fifty bushels of rye sold at 54c. per bushel.

Hay.—About 20 to 25 loads of hay each market day. Prices firm, at from \$11.50 to \$13.00 per ton.

Straw.—Wheat straw in sheaf, \$11.00 per ton. One load of rye straw sold for \$11.00 per ton.

Butter. There is not much change in the market. Dairy tubs, choice, 18c. to 19c. per lb.; dairy prints, 19c. to 20c. per lb.; creamery pounds at from 22c. to 23c. per lb.

Cheese.—July and August make sells at 11c. to 12c. per lb. Notwithstanding the fact that the British markets have eased off from 1 to 2 shillings per cwt. from last reports, cheese on the Canadian boards have in most cases advanced from 1.8 to 3.10c. per lb., 10c. being the prevailing rate at which cheese changed hands, but trade is very slow and promised to be less.

	Comparative prices to-day.	2 weeks ago.	Same date last year.
	Sept. 25, 1900.	Sept. 11, 1900.	Sept. 25, 1899.
Export cattle	\$ 4.80	\$ 5.10	\$ 5.12
Butchers' cattle	4.37	4.65	4.50
Bulls	4.25	4.25	4.12
Stockers	3.10	3.00	3.40
Feeders	4.00	4.25	3.75
Sheep	3.50	3.90	3.50
Hogs	6.25	6.25	4.62
Lambs, each	3.50	3.75	3.80
Milk cows, each	50.00	45.00	50.00

The Horse Market.—The trading at Grand's Repository last Tuesday was very brisk at this period of the season, when a certain amount of dullness is expected. Mr. W. Harland Smith sold upwards of eighty horses at good prices. Heavy delivery horses were in steady demand at firm prices. The remainder of the horses purchased for the British Government and rejected for various faults, either being over-size, too blocky, too coarse-bred, small-bodied, upright shoulders, were disposed of at good prices, more especially the heavy, blocky type, suitable for heavy delivery, coal merchants' transfer, etc. A very handsome, bright chestnut gelding, quiet in single and double harness, the property of a gentleman wintering abroad, was sold for \$180.00. A dark brown gelding saddle horse, quiet to ride (has carried a lady), fetched \$80. A 15h-hand handsome carriage horse, quiet to ride and drive, a good family horse, sold for \$100. Animals of various types, one a good trotter, with a mark of 2.25, sold for \$75. He was in very poor condition. A heavy lorry horse, 6 years old, sold for \$120 after very brisk competition.

Toronto, September 27th, 1900.

Decline in British Live Stock Receipts.

British Board of Agriculture reports considerable decline during 1899 in importations of live animals for immediate slaughter. Canada sent 11,900 fewer cattle than in 1898 and 32,000 fewer than in 1897; United States sent 18,000 fewer than in 1898 and 35,000 in 1897; Argentine 4,000 fewer than in 1898.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Does Rye Turn to Chess?

The ancient conundrum about wheat turning to chess, or cheat, was revived for discussion in the last issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and in the last issue of the *English Agricultural Gazette*, just to hand, a correspondent writes as follows:

"'Cheat' is said to be the result of feeding rye on the land by sheep, and afterwards allowing it to seed. Such rye will be infested with 'cheat,' or a degenerate, good-for-nothing rye. During last week a seedsman informed me that he could not recommend a sample of rye because it was full of 'cheat,' and posted a sample. Almost by the same post a letter arrived from a correspondent as follows: 'Could you kindly tell me the name of enclosed grass? It grows among winter oats, and increases very fast here. The people call it "cheats." The grass was examined and found to be a specimen of *Bromus secalinus*, a well-defined Bromo grass, allied to *B. mollis* (lop or bobs), *B. asper*, and *B. erectus*. On comparing the seeds with those in the sample of rye before mentioned, they were found to be identical, thereby proving that in both cases what were called 'cheats' were the seeds of *Bromus secalinus*, which is absolutely distinct from rye. I have frequently found *Bromus secalinus* growing in winter barley and other fodder crops. The so-called cheat is the adulteration of rye with *B. secalinus*, and as the grass produces much more seed than the rye, it multiplies more rapidly and appears in stronger force after the rye has been fed off with sheep. The transmutation of species is an exploded notion, which is repugnant to the experience of every good botanist. Even the lower forms of life are propagated truly, much more the higher forms of vegetable life, such as the grasses and cereals. *Bromus secalinus* flowers upon a panicle, and bears awned seeds, having a strong superficial resemblance to a small rye seed.

"On mentioning these facts to an agriculturist, he said that 'cheat' was a degenerate rye, and that it grew on the straw of rye which had been fed off by sheep, and then was grown for seed. Of this he had no doubt. There are, therefore, two theories. First, that the rye chadges into *B. secalinus*. The other, that cheat is a bastard or degenerate form of rye. I have grown excellent rye seed after feeding with sheep, although told that I should get nothing but cheat. There seems, indeed, no reason why feeding with sheep should alter the nature of rye, and in the absence of conclusive evidence it seems improbable that rye should be so altered."

Western Flock Matters.

BY J. M'CAIG.

The cattle interest of the West is a big thing: the sheep interest is not to be despised. The cattlemen haven't anything good to say for the sheepmen; the sheepmen thrive just the same. The sheep business in the Northwest Territories is away past the experimental stage, and sheep properties run into the tens of thousands. The buffalo grasses are good cattle grasses; it is found, likewise, that they are as good for sheep as they once were for the countless antelope that ranged the western plains. The creeping stems are green, sweet and nutritious all the year round. The "bunch grass" cures in the stalk, and is good to the top when the shorter grasses are covered with snow temporarily. Winter drops an occasional visiting card, but his sojourn is never protracted. Less moisture than is left in this way would be too little. "Good pasture makes fat sheep," and fat sheep fat lambs, and there they may be seen—fat lambs, fat yearling wethers and ewes, and fat mothers; the wethers kept until two and sometimes three years old. Probably with the elimination of the slow-maturing Merino blood, which in most cases formed the original basis of the ewe stock, and with the more careful selection of the best Eastern mutton rams, the stuff will be turned over faster. The wether will be sold at a year old, at least, instead of at two and three. As range is taken up, quality will be more considered and numbers less.

About those rams. There is no place where the best will pay as well as on the range. The long distances and competition for food in the large bands make plenty of legs. You don't need to buy leggy cull rams to get all of this you want. Buy the best of the Eastern ram bunches, or at least get the best with the worst, instead of being satisfied with taking "the others" after the sales of choice single ones have been made to the sharper fellows nearer home. A good many fellows have gone into the sheep business green because it seemed to be a good thing. Doing first rate, too, because it is hard to fail under the conditions, not because of skill or good management, and we have to start all over again with these fellows about the rams. The superior power of the male to determine the character of the offspring, the economy of improving the flock through the sire, and above all, the necessity of using rams of the best and most fixed mutton form on the mixed nondescript ewes of the range so as to give the offspring a uniform character. Top rams are available any place only in limited numbers, and it is the freight rake-off that goes to the Canadian Pacific Railway that spoils the chances for good sales to Eastern breeders and likewise the chances of Western customers to get good stuff. We had a small trial bunch of select ram lambs as good as sold to a Western customer. To send them

out under the auspices of the Ontario Stock Association even was going to cost about twelve dollars a head. The sale was called off. The Canadian Pacific Railway have been giving away thoroughbred cattle and hogs along the line. Without saying anything about the wisdom of it or the fairness to breeders of good stock in the West, why discriminate against sheep? The Northwest Government has been giving a bonus to purchasers of thoroughbred bulls. Buyers have been getting them in at five dollars a head. Why should it cost twice as much instead of half as much for a pedigreed ram? The sheepmen should look after their interests in this respect. The cattlemen take more clean cash out of the country than the sheepmen do, as their herding costs less for the capital invested. The supplies required by the sheepmen do more to build up local interests. Why shouldn't the local Government assist them as well as the cattlemen?

Sheep are doing all right for the owners this year. It was thought that the crest of the wave had been reached last year. Sheep multiply and increase quickly, and the market for them gluts easily, but this year is better than last. Three dollars and forty cents a hundred is a good price and the market close. Sheep are not shipped east, but go just over the ridge to the British Columbia mining camps. Last year there were even car lots brought from the densely-populated East to the same market. Altogether, things are looking well for the shepherds, and they are all out looking for what is called "she stuff" to expand and increase their sheep properties. The rolling hills of Assiniboia, as well as the benches of South Alberta, are feeling more and more of the tread of the gentle quadruped. The golden hoof marches on, the pockets of the shepherd bulge and his heart is made glad.

Wheat and Corn for Producing Pork.

Some experiments made at the Ohio State University show that a bushel of wheat produced 13.7 pounds of pork, while a bushel of corn made 12.3 pounds. When the difference of weight between a bushel of wheat and a bushel of corn is considered, the actual gain, it is seen, is almost the same for both. Calculated on the market price of wheat and Indian corn, it cost \$4.01 to produce one hundred pounds increase with wheat, and \$2.85 to produce the same increase with Indian corn. Carefully weighing all the reliable evidence at hand, the conclusion is reached that from the point of view of chemical composition, of digestibility and of nutritive value, Indian corn, with its products, pound for pound, is fully equivalent to wheat.

Round Cement Silos.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

As our land is too expensive to let the cattle roam over large areas of poor pasture, we have to turn our attention to some cheaper feed. The best is corn for the silo. There has been quite a talk among the farmers of this Province as to what kind of silo to build. The old silo of scantling and double boards, and paper between and boarding on the outside, has seen its day, as they will not last long enough for the money expended. Next came the stave, or tub silo, and they are here for a short time. The only thing in their favor is that they can be built cheaply. I followed the Farmers' Institute meetings last winter, and I could learn from those who had them that they would not build another wooden silo, but a cement silo instead. In the counties of Huron and Perth very many cement silos have been built this season. Some have taken down wooden silos and put cement ones in their place, others are going to build cement ones next year. The old Scotch saying is, "The proof of the pudding is in the eating." One thing is certain; the cement will last for all time to come. We are building this fall round silos and eight-sided ones we can build them much cheaper than a square one; they have not to be so heavy. One of those silos, 12 x 30, would cost about \$125. A silo of this kind will hold about 80 tons. A. E. HODGERT.

Huron Co., Ont.
[Ed. Note.—If subscribers express a desire for instruction in building round cement silos, Mr. Hodgert will furnish information through the columns of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.]

GOSSIP.

We regret to notice the death, on September 19th, of Mr. John G. Springer, of Springfield, Illinois, who was the efficient Secretary of the American Berkshire Association and of the American Southdown Association.

The death of Col. Lewis G. Morris, of Mt. Fordham, New York, is announced as having occurred Sept. 19th, at the advanced age of 92 years. His name will be remembered by the older Shorthorn breeders, and some will yet remember his personality. He was at one time a prominent breeder of Bates Shorthorns. He bought of Thomas Bates, of Kirkclevington, in 1850, three choice animals of the Oxford tribe. He was a purchaser of very high-priced cattle at the great New York Mills sale of Shorthorns in 1873. He was a man of excellent personal character, and was highly esteemed and honored by all who knew him.

The Kelso ram sales were held on Sept. 14th, when 1,708 Border Leicester, half-bred, and Down rams were offered. Lord Polwarth's famous flock of Border Leicesters improved their last year's average by over 48. The pick of the lot sold at \$120 to Mr. Balfour, of Whittinghame. Mr. Ridley, Peelwell, got another at \$90. Lord Roscherry, one at \$100, and Mr. Elliot, Meigle, one at \$71. Mr. Nisbet, of Lamber, got a nice sheep from the Peelwell consignment at \$80. From the Leaston flock Mr. Murray, Spittal, secured a good ram at \$95. A fine ram out of the Whittinghame consignment sold at \$105 to Mr. Hume, Barrow, and another to Mr. Dickinson, Lougicroft, at \$45. The Border Leicesters in the other rings sold relatively well.