

STOCK YARDS.

In the latter part of the afternoon, bound for the stock yards, we got on the street cars, which, by the way, are run without horses. A large wire rope being kept in motion by stationary engines, is placed below the ground to which the cars are attached or detached at the will of the driver. A train of from two to four cars are taken at a time, and a large number of these trains are attached to the rope, and are running at different distances apart, as required. We arrived at the stock yards, and a place of wonder and astonishment this is. A large exchange building is erected here for business; this is filled with the drovers transacting business. Cow boys are seen galloping up and down the alleyways between the cattle pens. They ride a mustang, having the Mexican saddle and wooden stirrups; they carry a short handled whip, with a very long and thick lash, with which they are quite adepts, so as to make a crack that sounds like the discharge of a gun, but sharper. This whip they use on driving the cattle and hogs; it fairly wakes up a lazy hog, and he quickly opens his mouth and jumps when he gets a cut. The noise of a lot of the cow boys' whips, and the squealing of the droves of hogs as they are driven along the alleyways, is quite deafening, and a little suffices. The hogs are being driven to the slaughtering houses, where they are rapidly killed, dipped, dressed and run on a tramway to the refrigerators. The number of cattle and hogs killed daily at this place is enormous.

The stock yards cover 380 acres of land, all planked and fenced with very strong fencing. One-third is covered with roofing. There is a covered roadway erected on posts, passing over the yards, to drive the stock from different parts of the yard to the slaughtering places. The extent of these yards and the enormous space, the great facilities for unloading, handling and keeping this immense business in order, is quite bewildering.

We ascended the waterworks tower on the grounds to take in the view; no description can convey to you the magnitude of this, the largest stock yards in the world. The rapidity with which the work is done, the enormous refrigerators for cooling and keeping the beef, the immense slaughter houses, the numerous trains being loaded and unloaded. We were informed that upwards of 5,000 hands are employed in these yards, and all are as busy as bees. The yards were very profitable to the original proprietors, and returned a large dividend; but the stock has been watered, that is, instead of being \$4,000,000, it has been increased, without any further calls on payments, to \$13,000,000. Those original stockholders who have held their stock have made fortunes, but those who invested in the watered stock only realized 3 per cent. last year. This is not because there is not profit enough from the charges made to the drover for the use of the yards, which is only 25 cents per head, but the money has been made from the prices charged for the hay and grain consumed in the yards, and in the supply of this the Company have the monopoly by law. Near the grounds the Company have a large stable in which are kept a few remarkable specimens of the bovine tribe; conspicuous among these animals is a grade Hereford having three horns, two in their natural position; the third one ascends from the centre of the top of the head between the other two horns; but to you the most interesting animal would be an enormous ox, standing four inches higher than the largest one at the great exhibition. He weighed in the

spring 3,500 lbs., but he is now getting old and lame, and was always an unmanageable animal. Nevertheless, the largest beast in this the great American stock centre, is Canadian bred, being a native of British Columbia.

We return to the city and stop at the Grand Pacific Hotel, which to enter and see the crowd in the immense hall, one would think it was an exchange or a monster commercial market. It is a great centre for the stock men, and here they congregate from all parts of the world. We met an Englishman just taking a look at the country. He had been often at Smithfield Market Fat Stock Show, in England, which is considered by butchers to be the best in the world. Yet this Englishman says this Chicago stock exhibit surpasses it. We enquired of a Scotchman, who has frequently attended all the leading stock exhibits both here and in Europe, and he considered that in some respects the Chicago exhibition excelled the Smithfield one, but on the whole he thought the matured British animals were the finest.

In the evening we were present at a meeting of the representatives of stockmen from the different States, having been called together by the Commissioner of Agriculture, G. B. Loring, to consider what steps should be taken regarding the stamping out of contagious diseases in the United States. We hope and believe that they will succeed in the undertaking, and that the funds devoted to aid that purpose will not be frittered away in building up or strengthening rings to work against the farmer's interest.

Several meetings of different Stock Associations were held at the Palmer House. On the morning of Saturday we went to the exhibition building again, but such a crowd of children we never before met. It was with some difficulty we succeeded in passing in with the crowd, and when inside our progress was so slow that we concluded to leave and return in the afternoon. The cause of our leaving was that the whole of the school children of Chicago (50,000) had the sway. Just fancy this immense number of happy children out *en masse* for a holiday! They were as thick as bees everywhere; elbowing, laughing, running or jumping; they were pulling the wool of the sheep, or in the hog pens, or kicking the cattle, or beating the big drum, or flinging the corn and roots about. In fact, they had full possession, much to their edification and amusement, but to the inconvenience of herdsmen, who tried to protect their stock or attend to them. An auction was announced and attempted, but the boys made more noise than the auctioneer could, and occupied the space that the cattle and buyers should, and the auction was necessarily abandoned. We returned in the afternoon and found our Canadian exhibitors well pleased with the laurels they had gained.

The prize list was a very liberal one, and was raised without taxation of any kind. Those interested in the city of Chicago, contributed largely; the different stock associations combine and give prizes or supplement them. For instance, the Illinois stockmen gave additional prizes for stock raised in that State. The Stock Breeders' Associations in Ohio and other States do the same, and others give to any particular class to which they require special notice to be drawn. These, together with the fees for entries, and the prices paid for admission by visitors, enable the association to give substantial prizes. These premiums, together with the honor and advantages which they give to the winners, are sufficient inducements to bring stock from long distances, some of the choice animals being brought from England and Scotland. The winner of one grand sweepstakes

being a grade Hereford, it is regarded as a great victory by the Hereford breeders.

The colors of the prize tickets are different from the Canadian. For instance, the latter are 1st, red; 2nd, yellow; 3rd, blue; whereas the Chicago tickets are 1st, blue; 2nd, red; 3rd, white.

Perhaps it will interest you most to know the prizes carried off by Canadians. Clarence Kirklevington (of which an illustration appeared in the February issue, page 45 of this journal), belonging to the Canada West Farm Stock Association, of which Mr. John Hope is manager, carried off, in the Shorthorn class, 1st prize for the best steer or spayed heifer two years and under three, and sweepstakes for the same. Also sweepstakes for best steer or spayed heifer two years and under three, judged by butchers, as well as the sweepstakes for the same judged by feeders.

This Association also carried off first prize for grade Shorthorn cows, aged three years or over, as well as the sweepstakes in that class with Canada's Pride, a splendid animal, being a perfect model, and considered to have a great chance of taking the prize for the best animal in the show.

The Hon. H. M. Cochrane took a prize for his Hereford, Longner Monarch, and first prize for his two-year-old Polled Angus cow, Duchess 2nd, this animal approached nearest to the highest standard of perfection for a butcher's beast; also, first for Polled Angus steer or spayed heifer two years old and under three, with Waterloo Jock.

The magnificent steer, Black Prince, exhibited by Geary Bros., London, Ont., was awarded first prize in the Polled-Angus class, for three year-olds and over; also, the sweepstakes in that class and the sweepstakes judged by butchers for best steer or spayed heifer, aged three years and under four.

The grand sweepstake prize of \$100 and gold medal for the best steer, spayed heifer or cow, was awarded to Roan Boy, a grade, said to be one-half Hereford, one-fourth Shorthorn and one-fourth native.

Canadians secured several prizes for long-wooled sheep.

The Awarding Committee in its final report of the Fat Stock Show incorporates the following recommendations:—If feeders desire to keep their cattle for feeding beyond two years, the most profitable results have been obtained where the animals have been liberally fed the first year on a coarse diet that will develop bone and muscle upon which to build the matured carcass. The most economical production of beef does not always result from strong feeding of grain or concentrated food during the first twelve months of age of the steer.

A VISIT IS MADE TO ILLINOIS MILK CONDENSING FACTORY.

This is the largest milk condensing factory yet established in the west. It is situated in the town of Elgin, which is a prosperous town. In the 39 miles run from Chicago the land is more rolling, stony, and more timber has grown on this land than any of the Illinois land through which we had previously passed when going to St. Louis or St. Paul. Consequently we should conclude that this would be a much better spot to introduce the dairy business than where the land is too flat, where rocks cannot be found, and water neither so plentiful nor pure. On leaving the station it was not difficult to find the factory. We could see numerous milk wagons going and returning. We followed the laden wagons and soon arrived at the premises. Here we saw fourteen milk wagons waiting their turn to unload. We entered into conversation with some of the farmers, one of whom said he had established a butter factory on his