

there was no place on earth where there was as much real comfort as in the home of the intelligent, industrious farmer.

Mr. Armstrong referred to the failure to a great extent of the wheat crop, and gave several reasons why we could not expect a good price in the near future, of which we may have more to say in the future.

Mr. S. B. Gorwell gave a short address on combines, consisting chiefly of a regret that they existed to so great an extent.

Mr. W. L. Brown gave a neat little speech on agriculture, recommending a more intensive system of farming, keeping more stock and soiling, and in many cases working less land. We regret our inability to give more than a mere synopsis of these addresses, as they were all of great merit; but space forbids.

Stock.

Chatty Letter from the States.

(From Our Chicago Correspondent.)

Among the recent notable sales were: 960-lb. Hereford steers, at \$4.25, with 1,700-lb. steers, on the same day, at less money. Some 1,491-lb. grade red polled cattle sold at \$4.46. They were raised in Dakota.

One cause of exorbitant railroad rates is the fact that there are so many different "lines," owned by inside directors and officers of roads, and run to make money regardless of public interests. It has been a common thing for railroads to charge more for hauling freight in their own cars than the various "lines" operating over the same road would charge.

The Inter-State Law aims to reach some of these things, but is only partially successful.

Western railroads have adopted a system of shipping all live stock by weight, which is not very satisfactory. They fix the minimum weight so high that it is often impossible to reach it with light cattle, calves and sheep, and so shippers are compelled to pay for what they do not get. One of the big Chicago concerns, the Fairbank Canning Co., in which Nelse Morris is interested, has bought the St. Louis Dressed Beef Company's plant, including 100 refrigerator cars, at \$500,000. For years St. Louis, as a live-stock market, has been on the wane. Perhaps this will wake her up.

Heavy cattle held back for higher prices are now being marketed in floods.

The crop of western corn-fed sheep has been marketed. The closing prices were \$4.35 @ \$4.75 for fair to choice 110 @ 140-lb. shorn withers. The thin-grass sheep are now coming from the far-west, and are selling at \$3.50 @ \$3.80. Texas is furnishing large numbers of sheep; the fattest of them, weighing 80 @ 98 lbs., have sold at \$4 @ \$4.50, while the 60 @ 75-lb. thin sheep have sold at \$3 @ \$3.65, largely to country feeders.

Texas sheep men have lots of courage this year. The muttons are not bringing as much money as last year, but money is not so scarce, and there are better prospects for the general mutton and wool business than for some years. If it were not for the large offerings of Texas sheep on the markets this spring, the mutton markets would have been scantily supplied.

Have a tight trough behind the cows which saves all the voidings, which are drawn to the field and spread, every day. It saves work and the manure is much more valuable. The main element of success lies in caring for the stock, saving the manure, and avoiding handling it too much.

The Outlook for Herefords.

BY ROBT. J. MACKIE.

Mr. Jas. Lawrence, of Calgary, N. W. T., on the 29th of May shipped from Oshawa, Ont., 33 head of pure Herefords, nearly all cows and heifers, and mostly from the herds of the writer and L. G. Drew, of Oshawa, which makes the largest purchase and shipment of Herefords that has ever been made from here, and I believe it is the largest shipment of any pure breed of cattle from this vicinity at one time. He also purchased 14 head of grades, making in all 47 head. Mr. Lawrence shipped from here two years ago four carloads of cattle, some of which were Herefords and Hereford grades, and he says he can do much better with them on the range than with any others, as the Herefords carry their flesh well through the winter, while the others get very thin. He speaks very favorably of the Herefords; and says there is a much greater demand for them where he is than any other breed. While we are not getting the booming prices of five years ago, they are such that we can make a reasonable profit, and at the same time ranchmen can afford to purchase for the purpose of improving their stock. If there had never been a boom in Herefords it would have been much better for the breed. The extremely high prices at which they at one time sold were almost prohibiting, and caused a great demand for grades, which was carried to such an extent that bulls from the very worst scrubs of cows brought from fifty to one hundred dollars, and such bulls were used very largely upon the ranges. It is very easy to foresee what the result would naturally be. They might almost as well use the much-talked about scrub bull, as one single cross from the scrub cow could not give satisfactory results. And these being marked with a white face and looking like a pure Hereford, were often sold as such. The result was disastrous to the breed for the time, but will, in the end, I believe, do good, for it has brought the price of the pure article at the present time below the real value, which will induce many to use the bulls who never would have done so while the prices remained so high. And when any breeder once uses a pure Hereford bull in his herd—I care not what his herd may be—the improvement will be so marked, and so great, that he cannot help but be satisfied with the result. The time is not far distant when the Hereford breeders who pay the proper attention to their breeding will be able to dispose of all they can raise at profitable prices, if not fancy ones. I have been told that a certain M. P. for some constituency west of here, when the good milking qualities of some of them were being discussed, said he never saw a Hereford cow that would feed her own calf. Now, that gentleman has either not seen many Herefords, or he did not tell the truth. If he will come to my place, I would soon take him where he would see fifty cows or more that will not only feed their own calves, but feed them well; and some of them do considerably more, and with less exceptions to that rule than any of the beef breeds. While I do not for the Hereford lay claim to the title of the general-purpose cow that we read so much about (and which I consider like the man that is jack-of-all-trades, and master of none), I contend they are good, fair milkers; and I do claim that, if not the finest, they are one of the finest of the breeds of the present

time, and they are bound to find a place in every county in Canada, in spite of all the opposition that can be brought against them. I believe there is room for all the improved breeds of cattle, whether for the dairy or for beef, and let us all join in fighting our common enemy the scrub, which by rooting out will not only be a benefit to the breeders but to the country generally.

Against the Dog.

It is seldom your neighbor's horse injures your property, for convenience requires that he be kept under immediate control; and if at rare intervals he enters your cornfield, he will probably remain long enough not only to do appraisable damage, but to enable a reasonably diligent husbandman to secure him as a witness in support of a claim for damages. But with the dog it is entirely different. His immunity from work of any kind, his rapid movements, indifference to walls, brooks or barriers, enable him to ravage a whole township in a single night, and yet be lying in his kennel when the mischief is discovered. Again, A. rides out into the country and his dog goes with him. The horse jogs quietly along, but the dog makes forays through grainfields, gardens and flowerbeds. He frightens the cows and worries the sheep, chases the hens and cats, just as A. knew he would do if he took him along. The individual damage may be trifling, but at the end of a ten-mile trip the aggregate amount would be five times the value of the dog. Now, the law no more sanctions trespass by dogs than by horses, but as the individual damage is small, the difficulty of identification great, and in a large proportion of instances impossible, it happens that only in a few aggravated cases, where the dog is known, is any recompense recovered from the owner.

The reason why I should be allowed to kill a trespassing dog, and not be allowed to kill a trespassing horse, is simply that in the one case it is a necessity, and in the other case not a necessity; against the latter I am amply protected by existing laws, while against the former I am very imperfectly protected. It is certainly anomalous that a man who owns not a rod of land in the world should think himself entitled to keep one or more dogs, knowing perfectly well that three-quarters of the time they will be trespassing on someone's premises, and knowing when he goes to his business in the morning, that he is leaving, without the least attempt or pretence at confinement, an animal whose roving nature will lead him all over the township before night and probably all over it again before morning. Is there any reason why the least useful (generally utterly useless) of our domestic animals should be allowed a license which would not be tolerated an instant in case of animals really useful? Surely no candid person will deny that some relief can fairly be asked for. "Put the dog upon the same ground as the horse and the difficulty will be solved," it is said, but he is already hedged about with far more stringent provisions and the difficulty is by no means solved. The nuisance exists—the present law does not abate it.—[N. E. Farmer.]

DEAR SIR,—I am pleased to note continued improvement in various departments of the Farmers' Advocate. I am sure your many readers must appreciate so valuable a monthly visitor. After careful perusal of the May number I must congratulate yourself, the gentlemen composing your editorial staff and its contributors, for its many excellencies. Several of the articles were exceptionally good, and I could not help wishing that typographical condensation would have made space for more. Faithfully yours,

WM. THOMPSON, JR.,
Derwent, Ont.