

MARKETS.

FARM GOSSIP.

Duty on Yearling Cattle.

A dispatch from Detroit, Mich., says: "Collector Rich's ruling as to the duty to be imposed on cattle which were a year old last spring, was made the subject of an investigation by General Spaulding, the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. The Department overruled on a technicality the protests of shippers affected by the decision, and has also sustained the decision on its merits. The contention of the cattle-men was based on the well-known custom of regarding yearlings up to the time when they are two years old as still yearlings. The recent confiscation of six carloads of cattle at Buffalo was based on Collector Rich's ruling."

Oxford County, Ont.

Even with all the trying wet weather the root crops have been safely harvested. The crop of turnips and mangels was especially good. I don't think I ever had better turnips. We were in the habit of throwing them out of the wagon with the potato scoop or scoop shovel, but they were so universally large this season that we could make better time throwing them out with our hands. There were a few rotted at the top or shank—a sort of dry rot. We left a few in the field. I am not afraid of it developing where the roots are kept cool enough. In the year '79 the turnips were similarly affected, and did not spoil in the root house. In feeding out this season I have only noticed one turnip spoiling. The rot is supposed to be due to the weather and too early sowing. We have had a few nice days, and the cattle, colts and sheep are doing nicely in the fields, the two former being fed night and morning in the stables. The apples are nearly all shipped now. They turned out a great crop, much better than could have been expected, having grown and developed very much the last two or three weeks they were on the trees. We are glad to notice that the prices are keeping up so that the dealers and shippers who have taken care in the packing and shipping will get out with a profit. The roads have been very bad, and it has been a trying time for those who have far to draw apples, milk, etc. The factories are mostly making butter, from 19 to 22 cents is being offered for November make. Cheese is also looking up, and some factories have sold their Octobers at about 9¢ cents. Live hogs have again reached 4 cents, and it is to be hoped the price will get up to 5 cents, as the farmers should have that much to make it pay. Some wheat has been shipped at 68 cents. There is still considerable plowing to do, as farmers were so much retarded by the continued wet weather, and some low lands are still too wet to plow yet. The corn crop was especially good, and all provident farmers have it husked and the stalks set up in the barns. We will soon be getting ready for the Farmers' Institute meetings.

D. L.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

Following are the current and comparative prices for the various grades of live stock:—

CATTLE.	Extreme Prices.	Top prices			
		Two weeks ago.	1897.	1896.	
1500 lbs. up.....	\$4 50 to 5 75	\$5 80	\$5 45	\$5 15	
1200 @ 1500.....	4 20 to 5 50	5 60	5 50	5 15	
1000 @ 1200.....	3 90 to 5 20	5 55	5 25	4 90	
800 @ 1000.....	3 60 to 5 45	5 50	5 25	4 75	
600 @ 800.....	3 30 to 5 30	5 40	4 80	4 50	
Fed Westerns.....	3 75 to 5 40	5 60	4 50	4 40	
HOGS.					
Mixed.....	3 20 to 3 65	3 75	3 60	3 50	
Heavy.....	3 20 to 3 55	3 75	3 55	3 50	
Light.....	3 15 to 3 50	3 70	3 60	3 45	
Pigs.....	2 40 to 3 40	3 50	3 55	3 45	
SHEEP.					
Natives.....	2 25 to 4 40	4 60	4 65	3 65	
Western.....	2 75 to 4 10	4 40	4 65	3 30	
Texas.....	3 60 to 4 00	4 00	5 55	5 20	
Lambs.....	3 75 to 5 30	5 50	5 85	5 20	

The general fat cattle market is in good condition, but there are too many unfinished cattle being sacrificed. The first meal-fed Texas cattle of the season averaged 1,085 lbs., and sold at \$1.30; some 994-lb. distillery-fed Texas steers sold at \$1.25.

The range cattlemen have had the best year since 1884, and they are generally in happy frame of mind. Receipts and average prices of western range steers for a series of years have been as follows:—

Season.	Receipts.	Top. Pr.	Av. Pr.
1896.....	300,000	\$5 00	\$1 20
1897.....	232,000	4 90	3 90
1898.....	272,000	4 40	3 50
1899.....	430,926	5 10	3 75
1900.....	374,429	5 00	3 60
1901.....	314,400	4 75	3 35
1902.....	271,000	4 60	3 55
1903.....	370,000	5 60	3 70
1904.....	229,500	4 50	3 35
1905.....	160,000	4 10	3 20
1906.....	269,500	5 40	3 90
1907.....	261,000	4 35	3 05
1908.....	210,500	4 60	3 45
1909.....	202,000	5 25	3 90
1910.....	232,000	6 00	4 40
1911.....	176,500	6 00	4 70
1912.....	229,500	6 50	4 75
1913.....	193,500	5 40	3 75

Western range steers averaged about 30c. per 100 lbs. higher than last year. On a basis of 1,250 lbs. average weight, this amounts to \$3.75 per head.

Upon western range cows and heifers the advance was decidedly more marked, amounting to at least 50c. per 100 lbs. This was partly because there were not so many of them. This was partly because they were in a little better fix and partly on account of the war, which cleaned out the old cans and left room for new ones to be filled. Then, too, there was a small supply of corresponding grades of both native and Texas cattle.

During the past week we have received quite a number of half fat cattle, which we confidently believe would have paid the owners well to have fed 60 to 90 days longer. Cattle of this description, that is, of good quality but not well-finished, are just the kind that should be kept until fat.

The demand for feeding cattle is not so strong as it was a while ago. One reason is that they haven't the confidence to justify the late high prices, and another reason is that the strength in the grain market is deterring feeders somewhat.

Here is a board of trade view: "Iowa is sending a good many claims of hog cholera. The light weight of the present arrivals at the yards is supposed to be due to a scare over this pest, which is prevailing west. Some of the provision people

say that this cholera scare is a reason for the present big receipts. It works in a very uncertain way on the market. If the scare increases it may so swell the receipts temporarily as to break prices. It would be bullish ultimately. As a matter of fact, there doesn't seem to be nearly as much hog cholera abroad as usual, and it is not as virulent. The hog market has lately suffered quite a decline, and current prices are the lowest of the year.

The slump in sheep prices has been due to large receipts and to a feeling on the part of the trade generally that prices had gotten to a dangerous point. Then, too, the advance in the price of grain made quite a difference.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Maritime Notes.

The Nova Scotia Farmers' Association, during the last two months, have held a series of Institute meetings, sixteen in number, and covering the counties of Victoria, Richmond, Guysborough, and Antigonish. The speakers were: The President of the Association—J. Rufus Starr, of Port Williams; W. W. Hubbard, editor of the *Co-operative Farmer*, Sussex, N. B.; F. L. Fuller, manager of the Provincial Government Farm at Truro; and P. C. Black, of Falmouth, Secretary of the Association. They report large and appreciative meetings at all points, and a general desire among the people to acquire all the information possible. These meetings, if continued, must end in lasting good. We need all the information we can get, and in no way can this information be so easily and pleasantly acquired as by listening to the address of a man who has made a success of his particular subject. One of our greatest needs is an improvement in our live stock, and this subject was gone into pretty fully by Mr. Hubbard at the evening session. His address was particularly interesting, as it was illustrated, by the aid of a magic lantern, with almost life-size portraits of many famous animals typical of the various breeds. Mr. Starr spoke solely upon fruit-growing, giving instruction upon the setting out, care and cultivation of orchards. He said that during his trip he had seen apples as fine as any ever grown in the Annapolis Valley. He thought that the reason why our apples were not generally good was that the orchards were not properly cultivated, and that with the same cultivation Annapolis Valley apples would be no better. He said the land for an orchard should be thoroughly prepared by underdraining, manuring and cultivation so that it would be dry, rich, and in fine tilth. The trees should be set out in rows 33 feet apart; large holes should be dug, enabling the roots to be well spread out; and in filling fine earth should be well worked among them with the fingers. The earth should be tramped as it was put in, except that on the top, which should be left loose. Trees should never be set in grass land or grass allowed to grow around them. For at least ten years after an orchard was set out it should be kept continually cultivated. Bare cultivation without manure would be preferable to grass with plenty of top dressing. Old orchards were sometimes seeded to grass, but much greater success attended cultivation. If stable manure or commercial fertilizers were used, root crops could be profitably grown in the orchard, but if little manure could be spared then green crops should be grown and plowed down. Potash was the constituent most particularly required in all fertilizers for use in the orchard. After the trees are well growing, their care, besides cultivation, will consist of an annual pruning. The head should be formed from five to six feet high, and afterwards all limbs should be removed which in any way interfere with another. Pruning should be done early in the spring or late in June, and it is better to remove the limbs while small than to wait until they get of large size. The pests which demand particular attention are the tent caterpillar, codling moth, and the black spot in apples and the black knot in plum trees. Caterpillars are usually killed by hand, going over the orchard several times during the summer. For the codling worm the trees were sprayed with Paris green and Bordeaux mixture, and for black spot they were sprayed with blue-stone before the leaves were out. Black knot in plum trees was cut out and the wound rubbed with turpentine or paraffin. The knot itself should always be burned.

Mr. Black thought that present methods of farming should be changed to conform with present conditions, and that while the selling of hay and other crude crops may have been all right when the land was in its virgin state, such a practice could no longer be justified. They should be fed upon the farm, thereby enabling the farmer to market them in a condensed form and at an increased value, and at the same time retain the greater part of their fertility. In restoring worn-out land, one of the quickest and best means was by the growing and plowing down of green crops, and of all crops for this purpose clover was the most important, as it possessed the power of extracting nitrogen from the air. In raising animals for beef, the best common cows of a beefy stamp should be selected, and upon them a pure-bred bull of a beef breed should be used. The calf, if possible, should be born in the fall, as there was more time during the winter to give it the required attention, and by spring it would be able to benefit by the summer pasture. As it was intended for beef, it should be kept fat from the start, and as a young animal gave better returns for the food consumed than one which had reached maturity, it should be well fed while young. For the first two

weeks the calf should be given new milk, after which time skim milk and flax seed should be substituted, and it should be taught as early as possible to eat a little clover hay and grain. It should be matured at two years old, at which time it should dress from six to eight hundred pounds. He thought that this was an ideal sheep country, and that more attention should be paid to this branch of farm stock. Sheep gave greater returns for feed and attention than any other kind of farm stock. The Shropshires made a splendid cross upon the common ewes, and they were hardy and prolific. Care and attention was necessary to profitable results; while warmth was not necessary, shelter from storms should be provided. Clover hay was one of the best foods, and turnips were almost a necessity. A good ram should always be used, and the best of the ewe lambs kept for breeding.

The *Sydney Record*, in a recent issue, referred to the departure of numbers of Cape Bretonians abroad, with the idea of bettering their fortunes. On one day nine young women left for Boston, Mass., and several others went the day following. Nova Scotia has been a nursery for the United States. It is a sad thing to see, year after year, the very best of our young men and women leaving the country. As soon as they are able to do a man or woman's work they are off. In very many cases the old people are left entirely alone; they receive help in the way of a little money from those who are away, but they cannot work the farm as it should be worked, and less is done upon it each year. Think what the value of their labor would be if profitably employed within the Province; what a vast addition to trade there would be in supplying their wants. Let our statesmen try and retain our own youth within the country.

AGRICOLA.

Barley and Corn as Pig Foods.

An instructive pig feeding experiment was recently conducted in Germany. The objects of the experiment were to determine (1) whether feeding with barley was deleterious when given in large quantities, and (2) to compare the feeding properties of barley and corn, both given with skim milk. Eight pigs, about seven weeks old, were selected for the experiment, and they were fed as follows: During the earlier portion of the experiment the first pair were given whole barley, the second crushed barley, the third crushed corn, and the fourth crushed corn with whey. Numbers one, two, and three were also given equal quantities of potatoes; and the weight of whey given to the fourth pair was about three times the weight of potatoes given to the third pair, equal amounts of corn being given. The same quantity of skim milk was given throughout to all. At the end of nine weeks several variations were made in the quantity and kind of food given, and by about the end of four months it had been established that crushed barley had produced better results than the whole grain; also, that up to this point the crushed barley had produced better results than the crushed corn. The general result of the experiments led to the conclusion that giving barley in whole, rough grain is harmful, and that it is not advisable to feed pigs under four months too freely on maize. After that age, and when rapid fattening is desired, the corn proved itself a better food than barley.

A Carriage Team for Lord Minto.

On November 22nd, the Governor-General's A. D. C., Major Drummond, and his English coachman visited Bowmanville to inspect the first-prize carriage team, the high-steppers that won such admiration at the Canada Central Exhibition at Ottawa last month, owned by Mr. R. Beith, M. P. It was said then by competent judges that their equal could hardly be found in the Dominion. They stand 15.2, and are a very showy span of mares, sound as a bell, and keen drivers. They were held at \$1,000 and the Major bought them, subject to satisfactory inspection by a veterinary.

Jas. A. Russell, Precious Corners, Cobourg Station, G. T. R., Ont., writes: "I have made some good sales through advertising in *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* since I started to advertise in October last. I started in the business in 1894; have won 95 first prizes, 35 seconds, and 8 diplomas. The bays and sows that I advertise are from first-class show stock; the B. P. Rock cockerels that I advertise are choice. Visitors welcome, and met at station when notified."

It is with difficulty that Canada can retain the best in live stock, as breeders in the Old Land stop at no small offers when an animal that suits them looms into view. Among the late noted animals that have found their way back to Britain is the champion Hackney stallion of America, Royal Standard, until recently owned by Graham Bros., Claremont, Ont. He has been secured by Messrs. A. & W. Montgomery, of Scotland, whose appreciation of the highest class of horseflesh is well known to our readers.

New Zealand was one of the first countries to engage in the frozen meat trade. In 1882, 40,000 sheep were shipped from that colony, while at the present time over 2,500,000 sheep and lambs are exported annually.