

Crows and Corn.

J. CHELLOW, Jr., Lincoln Co., Ont., writes:—"I raised corn in Illinois for 25 years. There crows do not pull up corn, neither do they dig it up, yet the crows there are just as black as Canadian crows, and their characters equally as bad. Corn in Illinois is planted with a machine called the checkrow corn planter, and is planted about three to four inches deep. Now, there is the whole secret, just plant your corn deeper. When I came here I found farmers planting their corn not with a corn planter, but with an abomination, which, for want of something better, I had to use. I observed that this would only plant the corn about an inch or an inch and a half deep. Now, this is just exactly the right depth for the crows to work on—a crow can see that deep, but he can't see three inches in the ground—so I made a marker that would make a deep mark. I then planted the corn an inch or an inch and a half below the bottom of this mark with a hand planter. I then harrowed the ground. You see now that if the mark is two inches deep the corn will be planted three or three and a half inches deep, and the crows never dig or pull up my corn, while my neighbors with their effigies and whatnots are harassed nearly to death by the crows, and after all their trouble have to replant much of their ground. The above depth is not too deep for corn when planted on corn land. Of course, on clay land there would be a danger of the corn not coming up, especially if there should be a heavy rain immediately after the corn was planted, in which case judgment must be used to meet the circumstances, and probably the best thing to do under such conditions would be to harrow the crop before the land gets dry enough to bake.

Manitoba—Northwestern.

The weather has been most favorable for seeding, and the soil in excellent condition. Farmers are sowing more wheat on account of advance in prices. Majority of farmers seeding down to timothy and Bromegrass; 125 to 135 bushels of Bromegrass and timothy seed will be disposed of at this point. Farmers are sowing oats, barley and corn for fodder.

Butchers' cattle are very scarce, at 4½c. and 5c., live weight. Cattle are in poor condition on account of scarcity of feed and the backward vegetation. Good milk cows are scarce. Choice dairy butter, good demand, at 20c. per lb. Millfeed and coarse grain dear; shorts, \$14 per ton; bran, \$12 per ton; corn, ground, \$22 per ton; barley, 40c. per bush.; oats, 45c. to 50c. per bush. Hogs are in good demand, at 5c., live weight. H. I. Neepawa, Man.

Corn Growing and the Silo in Prince Edward Island.

Corn is being grown much more extensively here for green feed during the last few years. The advent of the cheese factory has given it quite a stimulus. Dairy men find it almost indispensable to keep up the flow of milk during the fall months. Silos have not become general here yet. One reason is that the generality of farmers are slow to change, and feel like sticking to the turnip for winter feed. Winter dairying, which is becoming general now, will be followed by silos as a matter of necessity. The turnip flavor in our winter butter will shut us out of the best markets. Those who use silos are well satisfied with them in general. Of course, there is here and there a farmer who, like the one mentioned in your issue of May 15th, went into the silage business without knowing anything about it, and now is going out disgraced. Such a farmer should have read the many excellent articles on corn growing and ensilage published in the "FARMER'S ADVOCATE" during recent years, and if he had, I venture to say his silo would be in use to day. The greatest drawback to the success of the silo in this country has been cold seasons. In such seasons corn does not mature sufficiently to make the best of ensilage. It is not usually safe to sow corn here till the first of June. A cold, wet spell in always fatal to the seed. Many plant corn too deep in cold weather, and it perishes in the ground for want of heat to start it, and in dry weather it is often planted too shallow, and does not get moisture enough to germinate. By putting it in with a grain drill the depth can be regulated to suit the conditions of soil and climate prevailing, and by blocking up all but three spouts the rows will be about 30 inches apart. The square silo is the kind in general use here, but there are some round stave ones being constructed. The Longfellow and Pearson's Prolific are two of the kinds best suited to our climate.

Our soil and climate are particularly adapted to turnip culture. It has been made a great success here—1,000 bushels to the acre is often raised on the best farms. Mangels are not nearly so easily grown, and, as a consequence, are not generally cultivated. My experience is and my observation shows me that it is easier to get 800 bushels of turnips to the acre than 400 of mangels.

The general practice in turnip growing is to manure the land in the fall, using about 30 one-horse loads to an acre, and about as much more in spring in drills. They are sown any time from the first to the 20th of June. We find the earlier sowing to succeed best, on account of more moisture and less liability to attacks from fly. Thick sowing is best, at least two pounds seed to the acre brings them along faster at first, and makes them an even size at thinning time. We would prefer roots for beef feeding, and perhaps for young stock, but ensilage is the cheapest and best succulent feed for the winter dairy. The great trouble with turnips is that they are not in good condition for feeding in April and May, while corn when properly cured is good all the year. W. S.

Queen's Co., P. E. I.

From Down by the Sea.

The weather in Prince Edward Island up to date (May 23rd) has been cold and wet. Very little grain is therefore put in the ground. Prices of seed grain and potatoes are almost prohibitive. A great many farmers will not sow any oats at all—cannot get them. Oats are selling now for 50c. a bushel. A farmer said that he would not plow any more until he would see if he could get any oats. The same

is true of potatoes, seed can hardly be procured at any price. Small lots bring 50c. a bushel—an extraordinary price for this Province. The acreage of potatoes, as oats, will not be more than one-half to two-thirds of an acre. Barley also is scarce; the price per bushel ranges from 80c. to \$1.25. There is no fruit of any account grown here. Hay and straw quite abundant, and low in price. Feeds, however, are very high, \$25 a ton for ground feed, and hard to be had at that.

Feeding pigs is expensive, and yet many think that \$10 for a thoroughbred pig, 6 to 8 weeks old, too high a price. Our experience is that there is no money in breeding pigs when sold "ready to wean" at less than \$10, if the stock from which they are bred is of a high class and has cost the breeder high prices. The keep of the sow for the year (which frequently has just one litter), the additional feed to young pigs, cost of advertising, time and expense of correspondence, postage, crates, time of man and team shipping, keeping records and furnishing pedigrees, etc., etc., leave nothing worth while for the breeder at less than \$10 per pig. J. A. M.

King's Co., P. E. I.

Toronto Markets.

At the Western Cattle Market there was a scene of confusion and discomfort owing to an unprecedented heavy run. The lack of space and the total inadequate accommodation for a steadily increasing trade has never been so generally experienced as to-day. Complaints this morning were general, and many wished His Worship the Mayor could be well hustled amongst the cattle in the alleyways so that he could realize the desire for a better provision for carrying on the trade under more favorable conditions. The receipts of cattle at the Toronto market were the largest on record, 160 loads—2,000 cattle, 1,200 sheep, 80 calves, and 2,500 hogs.

Export cattle.—It can readily be understood that business was considerably impeded by the rush of cattle, although buying is more active; still the market was a little weaker on account of the heavy offerings and high ocean freights. The prospects are that if the war with Spain continues much longer there will be a sharp rise in the price of export cattle. Too many unfinished cattle are coming forward which are too heavy for the local trade and not good enough for export. Farmers would do well to keep and make them first-class, as there is always a ready market for extra well fed animals. Export cattle sold for \$4 to \$4.40, a few extra choice lots sold up to \$4.50.

Butchers' Cattle.—There is fair demand. Buyers from Montreal and outside points were in good attendance. Choice picked lots sold at \$4 to \$4.10 per cwt. Good butchers' cattle sold at \$3.50; medium to common, \$3.50 to \$3.75 per cwt.

Stocks.—For Buffalo, weighing from 500 to 600 lbs. each, were in good demand at \$3.75 to \$4.10 per cwt. This in many cases was a better price than common butchers' cattle are bringing.

Heavy Feeders.—A good enquiry from farmers, but the prices were too high. Heavy feeders were selling at \$4 to \$4.10 per cwt. Heavy feeders were being bought by Ontario farmers at \$3 to \$4.25.

Bulls.—A fair supply, equal to the demand, sold at \$3 to \$3.50 per cwt. About forty stock bulls are tied up previous to export for Manitoba, purchased by Dan. McDougall, at prices ranging from \$50 to \$60 per head.

Sheep.—There were about 1,500 sheep on sale. Ewes sold at \$3.50 to \$3.75; bucks, \$3 to \$3.25 per cwt.

Lambs.—Yearling lambs in good demand at \$5 to \$5.75 per cwt.; spring lambs, \$3 to \$4 per head.

Calves sold at from \$3 to \$5 per head for the general run. Extra choice best quality veals fetch \$6 to \$8 per head.

Milk Cows.—Dairy men are on the market for good milk cows; about twenty on sale at prices ranging from \$50 to \$50 per head.

Hogs.—The market shows a decided weakness; a setback is foreboded from England by cable dispatches, and we would advise that farmers hold off the market for a week or two. Best choice sizers, off cars, \$5.10 per cwt.; these should not exceed 150 lbs.; all above this weight are culled as thick or light fat, at \$4.75. Sows, heavy, at \$5.45; stage at \$2.

Grain Market.—The receipts of grain on the St. Lawrence market were larger than usual, 2,400 bushels. Wheat firmer, 1,200 bushels selling—white, \$1.05; red, \$1.12 to \$1.15. Barley—200 bushels sold at 42c. to 46c. per bushel. Oats firmer—300 bushels sold at 39c. per bushel. Peas scarce and firmer—200 bushels sold at 55c. per bushel.

Hay market very dull—25 loads sold at \$7.50 per ton. May 30th, 1908.

The Montreal Markets.

Export Cattle.—Buying for export, although not indulged in to any extent, still has its effect on this market. So far no fancy prices have been paid for anything for export, the highest so far being a couple of bunches by Mr. Alex. McIntosh, for which he paid 4½c. and 4½c. per lb. They weighed 1,300 lbs. average, and were really prime cattle. Others have been bought, but the price has run as low as 4½c. to 4½c. per lb.

Butcher Cattle.—Receipts have not run very high for the past few markets, but notwithstanding it has been hard to effect a clearance on any market, and it has been the exception of late to hear of anything making over the 4½c. for the very best butcher stock. The receipts, lots of which are equal in condition to any number that have been exported during the past season. Prices ranged down from the 4½c. for selection to about 3½c. for a fairly good beast, very few animals coming forward to sell below that price.

Sheep and Lambs.—Receipts of these are uncommonly light, and, in consequence, maintain very fair prices, good-sized lambs readily making \$3.50 to \$4 each. Last week the first shipment of sheep, 64 head, went forward and were followed by another of 145 this week to Glasgow.

Calves.—The numbers coming forward have been more than sufficient and of rather poor quality, but are now falling off a little, but they are still heavy enough to keep prices down below what should be a fair value. They range now from 50c. to about \$5 per head for the best.

Hides and Skins.—This market is in a very unsatisfactory condition, the tanners being all they can to keep the prices down between themselves and the dealers, and the latter in turn trying to force prices down on the butcher, but owing to a certain amount of opposition they have not been able to hammer prices down to where they would like, and there is every probability that before this is published prices on green hides will have advanced another cent per pound; they are now 8c. for No. 1 green salted hides; 7c. for No. 2; No. 1 calf skins, 10c. per lb.; No. 2, 8c. per lb.; lamb skins, 15c. to 20c. each; sheepskins, \$1.15 to \$1.30 each.

The British Markets.

May 23rd.—Liverpool cables were unsatisfactory, as they show a decline on the previous week of a ½c. to ¾c. per lb., with choice States steers at 10½c. to 11c., and choice Canadian steers and heifers, 10½c. to 10½c. per lb. (dressed beef, sinking the offer).

The Horse Trade.—There is a good strong demand for choice draft horses, or, in fact, any class of horse that is really first-class, but the draft is the class that is meeting the best demand, and for this beast a good round sum can be obtained, but he must be good—have plenty of action, lots of bone and hair, and not too long of limb. Such a horse will readily sell for \$140 to \$160, and if he strikes a buyer's fancy, easily another \$10. Good chunks from 1,200 to 1,450 sell up to \$120, and carriage horses all the way from \$50 to \$150 each. Cabled sales for the right sort are good.

Liverpool, Eng., May 23.—American cattle, 9½c. to 10½c. per lb. (estimated dressed); sheep, 9½c. to 10½c.; refrigerator beef, 10c. Shipments.—The total shipments for the first three weeks of navigation show a falling off all round. They are as follows:

May 1st to 21st, 1897.....10,873
" 1898.....12,432
" 1899.....934
" 1900.....1,289

Canadian Live Stock Exports.

The live stock reports for the two weeks ending Wednesday, May 23rd, as prepared by R. Bickerdike, of the Live Stock Exchange, Montreal, show a total shipment of 6,822 cattle and 209 sheep from that port on eighteen boats for London, Liverpool, Bristol, Glasgow, Manchester, and Newcastle.

Horse Sales.

Mr. Joseph E. Seagram, M. P., Waterloo, Ont., disposed of some 19 head of young Thoroughbred horses by auction at Grand's Repository, Toronto, on May 23rd. Among the consignments were a number of race winners, and a few promising two-year-olds. The demand was not very keen, although the five-year-old imported Farthing, by Peter, went to J. F. Betts, Cincinnati, at \$475; \$225 was paid by Bennington & Gardner for the two-year-old Happy Knack, by Faverdale or Kinglike, and \$390 for Romanor to Luther Reinhardt. These were the top prices, the remaining figures running up to \$150 each.

An auction sale of trotters, coaches, and ponies held at Kellogg's, New York, on May 19th and 20th, evidenced the fact that high-class animals bring good prices. Among the number was a consignment of good things from the stables of Miller & Sibley (also Jersey breeders), of Franklin, Pa., which alone would have been sufficient to draw together many good horsemen. The highest price realized was \$1,400 for a pair of geldings sold to Wm. Solomon, N. Y., and the highest price for a single animal was \$610 for an eight-year-old bay gelding, 16½ hands high, weighing about 1,500 lbs. Other prices ranged from \$1,050 for pinto down to \$50 for a wean pony. The 30 animals sold brought \$17,855, an average of \$595.

Cattle Stock Letter from Chicago.

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

CATTLE.	Extreme Prices.	Two weeks ago.			
		1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
1600 lbs. up.....	\$4.30 to 5.25	\$5.25	\$5.25	\$4.25	\$4.25
1200 @ 1500.....	4.10 to 5.15	5.25	5.25	4.40	4.40
1000 @ 1200.....	4.00 to 5.05	5.20	5.25	4.40	4.40
800 @ 1000.....	3.80 to 4.90	5.00	4.90	4.25	4.25
600 @ 800.....	3.55 to 4.85	4.85	4.85	4.15	4.15
400 @ 600.....	3.25 to 4.90	5.20	4.90	3.90	3.90
200 @ 400.....	2.55 to 4.65	4.75	4.85	4.00	4.00
Stallions.....	3.90 to 4.90	5.00	4.90	3.80	3.80
Stockers and feeders.....	3.90 to 4.65	4.85	4.45	3.85	3.85
Fat cows and heifers.....	2.12 to 3.60	3.00	2.60	2.80	2.80
Calves.....	2.75 to 3.25	4.25	4.00	3.40	3.40
Calves.....	3.00 to 7.00	6.25	6.15	5.00	5.00
Texas steers.....	3.60 to 4.65	4.50	4.65	3.90	3.90
Texas C. & H.....	3.25 to 4.15	4.25	4.40	3.25	3.25
Corn-fed Texas.....	4.25 to 4.70	4.65	4.60	4.00	4.00
HOGS.					
Mixed.....	4.15 to 4.70	4.20	3.90	3.60	3.60
Heavy.....	4.15 to 4.80	4.25	3.90	3.47	3.47
Light.....	4.05 to 4.65	4.15	3.92	3.65	3.65
Pigs.....	2.75 to 4.35	4.00	3.90	3.40	3.40
SHEEP.					
Natives.....	2.75 to 4.50	4.60	4.30	4.00	4.00
Western.....	3.75 to 4.30	4.25	4.40	3.65	3.65
Yearlings.....	3.75 to 5.90	5.50	5.60	5.15	5.15
Lambs.....	5.25 to 6.50	6.50	6.50	5.15	5.15

Chicago receipts for 1898 to date, with comparisons:—

	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.
1898 to date.....	944,300	3,256,000	1,445,300
Same period, 1897.....	906,403	3,066,008	1,296,351
Same period, 1896.....	970,341	3,943,381	1,353,412

Live stock freight rates are now only 10c. from the Missouri River to Chicago. This is causing a good deal of stock to be marketed rather prematurely, as owners think that the war may not last long. Then, too, the high price of grain, with the late news of corn planting in some sections, influence large shipments of cattle that might have been held longer. The anti-oleomargarine laws of Pennsylvania and Vermont were by the Supreme Court of the United States declared to be in violation of the commerce clause of the Constitution and therefore invalid. The fight between the butter and dairy people has been a very bitter one all over the country.

A country buyer took a lot of 111 steer calves, well selected, at \$7. This shows how urgent is the demand for young cattle. The dairy calves were better bred the heifer calves would also be in big demand on breeding account, but in a large number of the big dairy regions they use "just a bull," or else grade bulls of the milk breeds, which are about as poor as common scrubs, from the beef-grower's point of view. There is not as much demand for good heavy feeding cattle as for light stockers. D. C. Hill and nephew, W. R. Hill, and C. A. Houston, of McKinney, Texas, were here with cattle. The Hill cattle, averaging 908 to 1,238 lbs., sold at \$4.15 to \$4.55. The Continental Cattle Company has sold its entire holdings of cattle of all ages, including the horses used in the business, to Harris Franklin, of Deadwood, S. D. C. C. Judy, the live-stock auctioneer, of Tallula, Ill., was here shaking hands with his many stock-yard friends. He says the fine cattle business is in good shape and prospects are very favorable, though prices are considerably lower than at the top prices during the early spring boom. The Standard Cattle Company, of Nebraska, sold 171 head of 1,275-lb. fed Western steers at \$4.70, and twenty-two bulls averaging 1,747 lbs. at \$4.15. W. L. Moorland, of Atlantic, Iowa, marketed sixteen head of branded Angus steers, which averaged 1,487 lbs. and sold for \$5.20. These cattle originally came from a Wyoming range, and were well bred and well fed.

Since the first of January 172,000 hogs have been received at the Sioux City market, or 55,000 more than was received last year during the corresponding period. The average weight the past week was 254 lbs., or 10 lbs. heavier than the previous week, and 16 lbs. lighter than a year ago. Never were so many hogs packed in Chicago in May as packers slaughtered last week. The total was 229,500, against 168,700 the previous week, and 139,100 a year ago. Armour led with 42,300; Anglo-American, 27,100; Boyd & Lunham, 11,900; Chicago, 23,700; Continental, 20,000; Hammond, 5,600; International, 29,300; Lipton, 11,600; Morris, 7,100; Swift, 26,400; Viles & Robbins, 15,000; butchers, 8,200. A Chicago live stock firm says: "We believe that a fair percentage of the receipts for the past six weeks are at the expense of the usual summer supply of hogs." The packing at Chicago for the summer season to date compared with last year shows an increase of 338,000 hogs. Hog supplies now in sight are very large, and the June receipts are expected to be liberal.

Some black Navajo Indian lambs sold here at \$4.25 per 100 lbs. A string of 1,055 fed Texas sheep, averaging 80 lbs., sold at \$4.40. The sheep market was very active, and all were weighed up quickly. Sales included some 143-lb. sheep at \$4.15; 104-lb. Western, \$4.35; 39-lb. fed Texan, \$4.50. Short lambs sold up to \$5.05, and woolled Colorado lambs, \$5.35 to \$5.50.

Horses.—Of the chunk class the enormous export movement for the omnibus service of Europe has depleted the supply in this country, and advanced the price for such animals fully \$15 to \$25 per head within the past year. The foreign demand for heavy draft horses has also advanced the price for such stock from \$25 to \$50, one magnificent 4,400-lb. team having been bought in the Chicago market this week for exportation to London for the fabulous price of \$706. Other teams have sold during the year for \$400 to \$370, and individual specimens from \$150 to \$307.50 on export account. Horse-growers have nothing to discourage them in the future outlook, but they must study and conform to the changing demands.