

Chatty Letter from the States.

[From our Chicago Correspondent.]

January 13th was practically the first touch of winter weather that was felt in the great corn belt. Despite all predictions to the contrary the winter up to that time was no winter at all. This fact had an important bearing on all branches of trade. The woollen goods merchants, and in fact nearly all kinds of trades people were made to suffer by the unseasonable weather. The farmers and feeders did not escape. They could make so much many more pounds of meat than usual on the usual amount of feed that the markets were kept more heavily supplied than would ordinarily have been the case, and of course when there is a large supply the prices are correspondingly small.

The condition of western stock raisers at the present time is not especially encouraging, but the outlook is a little brighter than it was two months ago.

Cattle men are having to take very low prices for their products, and some of them are complaining bitterly, but others again take a very hopeful view of the situation. Judging from the large number who have been willing to pay good prices for store stock there are more of the hopeful than of the discouraged ones. It is certainly surprising what a strong demand there is for young cattle from farmers both East and West, especially when the fat cattle are selling at such poor figures, but it is only an exemplification of the saying, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast; man never is but always to be blest."

Farmers have not taken very much pains with their fattening cattle, and have stood ready to turn them off at the first indication of strength in the market regardless of the condition. This of course has kept the trade in a strained and weakened condition. For instance, the new year opened with a substantial advance in prices, values advancing fully fifty cents in the first two weeks, with a strong healthy prospect in the general tone of the trade; but the second week of prosperity brought in 70,000 cattle, and on the Monday following, January 14, the actual receipts were 22,064 head, being 2,000 more than ever before received in a day. However the demand was very strong and the gain in prices was not entirely lost, and since then there has been another reaction favorable to sellers. The fact is that if farmers and shippers had not been so nervous and lacking in faith the indications are they would have fared much better.

The marketing of range cattle during the coming year is almost certain to be less than last year, and there is good reason for thinking that cattlemen will fare better than in 1889.

Hogs are selling about \$1.50 lower than one year ago, and the hog raisers are now as the cattle men have been, a little frightened and panicky, and are therefore playing into the hands of buyers.

Sheep continue to sell better than anything else on the list, and many who are deserting the cattle business are trying to find their fortunes in the "golden hoof" of the sheep. There now appears to be a shortage of good mutton sheep, and the demand is certainly stronger than it ever was before, but it is wise to remember that when people generally turn their attention to sheep raising it is much easier to multiply flocks than to overdo cattle breeding.

Following is a record of the extreme ranges of prices for different grades of stock at Chicago for the year 1889:—

| BEEF CATTLE. | | |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Months. | 1200 to 1500 lbs. | 1500 lbs. and over. |
| January..... | \$2.85@5.40 | \$3.00@5.40 |
| February..... | 3.00@4.70 | 3.00@5.00 |
| March..... | 2.90@4.60 | 3.45@4.85 |
| April..... | 3.35@4.65 | 3.80@4.75 |
| May..... | 3.35@4.40 | 3.80@4.90 |
| June..... | 3.35@4.60 | 3.85@4.70 |
| July..... | 3.13@4.50 | 3.65@4.55 |
| August..... | 2.80@5.00 | 3.75@5.00 |
| September..... | 2.75@4.75 | 3.80@4.80 |
| October..... | 2.75@4.85 | 4.00@5.15 |
| November..... | 2.70@4.85 | 3.75@5.50 |
| December..... | 2.60@5.25 | 3.00@6.10 |

| HOGS. | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Months. | Heavy 200@400 lbs. Average. | Light 140@200 lbs. Average. |
| January..... | \$4.00@5.35 | \$4.70@5.40 |
| February..... | 4.35@4.90 | 4.40@5.00 |
| March..... | 4.35@5.00 | 4.40@5.10 |
| April..... | 4.40@5.05 | 4.55@5.05 |
| May..... | 4.05@4.75 | 4.20@4.90 |
| June..... | 4.05@4.60 | 4.20@4.70 |
| July..... | 4.00@4.55 | 4.20@4.80 |
| August..... | 3.40@4.40 | 3.85@4.87½ |
| September..... | 3.50@4.45 | 3.85@4.85 |
| October..... | 3.75@4.40 | 3.80@4.85 |
| November..... | 3.45@4.10 | 3.40@4.25 |
| December..... | 3.35@3.80 | 3.35@3.40 |

| SHEEP. | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Months. | Extreme Prices. |
| January..... | \$2.40@6.00 |
| February..... | 2.50@5.50 |
| March..... | 2.50@5.35 |
| April..... | 3.25@5.70 |
| May..... | 2.00@5.00 |
| June..... | 2.50@4.90 |
| July..... | 2.75@5.10 |
| August..... | 2.50@5.15 |
| September..... | 2.50@5.00 |
| October..... | 2.50@5.10 |
| November..... | 2.50@5.37½ |
| December..... | 2.75@6.35 |

| HORSES. | | |
|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Months. | Draught Horses. | Streeters. |
| January..... | \$167.50 | \$123.00 |
| February..... | 167.50 | 123.00 |
| March..... | 170.00 | 124.00 |
| April..... | 168.00 | 124.00 |
| May..... | 167.50 | 123.00 |
| June..... | 167.50 | 122.00 |
| July..... | 167.50 | 120.00 |
| August..... | 167.50 | 120.00 |
| September..... | 170.00 | 118.00 |
| October..... | 172.50 | 118.00 |
| November..... | 172.50 | 118.00 |
| December..... | 170.00 | 118.00 |

The market for all common horses is now very dull.

The supply of pure-bred cattle equals the present demand at any satisfactory range of prices. But the possible demand is far in excess of the supply.

Primrose, one of the brood mares at the Woodburn Farm, Kentucky, is now carrying her twentieth foal, and yet the oldest of her family is but twenty. With a single exception they are all alive.

No mistake is more injurious to young stock than high feeding and a lack of exercise. Give the colts all they will eat, but see that the exercise is proportionate to the grain consumed. Never neglect the exercise.

Farmers who refuse to pay a good price for good breeding stock of the improved breeds, should reflect upon the increased value of the young stock. Scrub stock does not pay at all; grain does not pay any better, and the only source of remunerative farming is the raising of improved stock.

The Arabs give their horses the very best care, and when weaned give the colt the milk of the camel. They put them to service at three years on a long march, in a gallop on the plains, to improve their muscle. The training is better than in England. Rich feeding, proper training for special service, appropriate work and exercise according to future work, to maintain the progress desired. One has said, "The mare produces the horse, but it is the oats that makes him run."

The Canadian Draught Horse Stud Book.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Henry Wade we have received at the ADVOCATE office a copy of the first volume of the Canadian Draught Horse Stud Book, which contains the pedigrees of 213 stallions and 310 mares, or a total of 553 animals. In explanation of the necessity of this book we quote the introductory:—"As our draught horse breeders are aware, when the Clydesdale Horse Association took over the revision of the stud book from the Agricultural and Arts Association, the standard was raised, and as formerly many pedigrees were received that did not come up to the new standard of eligibility for mares of four top crosses of recorded sires (all of which must be Clydesdale), and that the Association might keep faith with the owners of these animals, an appendix was added to the stud book in which these pedigrees were recorded. With two or three exceptions the animals recorded in this appendix are all Canadian-bred draught horses, in which the Clydesdale blood predominates over the Shire. It was the presence of the Shire horse blood in the pedigrees that caused their rejection by the revising committee of the Clydesdale Association." Breeders of this class of horses were of the opinion that recording their stock in this appendix detracted from their value by giving a false impression of their breeding, they have therefore formed themselves into an Association, of which the book just published is the initial volume.

Although this class is mentioned as horses of mixed breeding, the standard is really qualified to produce the best individual, as they must have the required number of recorded Clyde or Shire crosses. Any one who saw this class at the last Toronto Industrial Show must have felt that there are great possibilities for them in the future, as the class was an exceptionally strong one both in numbers and quality, particularly in the younger sections.

A correspondent wrote, says the journal of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria, Australia:—"I wish all horsemen knew the value of sunflower seed. It is not only one of the best remedies for heaves, but a horse which has recently foundered can be entirely cured by being given half a pint twice a day for a while in his feed. Last autumn I took an otherwise valuable young horse, which was so stiff that you could hardly get it out of its stall. In two weeks you wouldn't know that anything was the matter with it, and it has been all right ever since."

An Australian who has been experimenting with the storage of wool, to determine whether it will increase in weight or not, gives this as his experience:—"I sheared a number of sheep in April, 1888, and stored it in a room 10x30 feet, the floor being three feet from the ground. The fleeces that I weighed and noted particularly were put on the top of 1,200 pounds. I sold my wool in August, and weighing these fleeces again with the same scales, which were in perfect working order, I noticed an increase of ¼ lb. to ½ lb. to the fleeces that ran from 10 lbs. to 13 lbs.

The weights of Mr. Kough's herd of Galloways, which appeared in the January issue, when shown were—Claverhouse, 3 years and 2 months old, 2260 lbs.; Countess of Glencairn, 4 years old, 1505 lbs.; Mary 4th, 3 years old, 1520 lbs.; Mary 5th, 2 years old, 1470 lbs.; Miss Steele 5th, yearling, 1310 lbs. The weight of General Gordon 4789 when a year old was 1104 lbs. Miss Steele's heifer calf, dropped at Toronto Exhibition on 15th Sept., 1889, weighed on 10th Dec. 360 lbs. Two half-bred steers sold last May at six cents a pound, live weight—cross between a Galloway bull on Canadian cows—one 30 months old weighed 1680 lbs.; the other, 31 months, weighed 1710 lbs.