

Seeds.—Alsike, per bushel, \$6.50; red clover, per bushel, \$6.25; timothy, per bushel, \$1.80.
Hay and Straw.—Baled hay, per ton, \$10; baled straw, per ton, \$4.75; in car lots.

Christmas Market.—The St. Lawrence meat market was thronged all day on Friday and Saturday, inspecting the prize cattle brought for the Christmas trade. One very fine carcass weighed 850 dressed—a two-year-old heifer purchased from Mr. Torbet, said to have cost \$100. A pair of twin calves, raised by Mr. R. S. Freeman, Essex Co., weighed 400 lbs. each, six months old. Mr. J. J. Walsh purchased ten sides of beef from the Guelph Fat Stock Show. Messrs. Puddy Bros. bought the two prize cattle that won the Bell Organ prize at Guelph, bred and fed by Mr. James Leask, Greenbank, Ont.; both three years old, the heifer taking the Halliday Cup, presented by Mr. J. Halliday for the best single animal any age. The Wm. Davies Co. purchased six prize animals from Guelph.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Chicago's receipts of live stock (closing days of 1900, estimated) were as follows, with comparisons:

	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.	Cars.
1900.....	2,711,000	8,118,000	3,556,000	276,971
1899.....	2,514,446	8,177,870	3,682,832	269,406
1898.....	2,480,897	8,817,114	3,589,439	276,043

The year's receipts show a gain of nearly 200,000 cattle, a decrease of 50,000 hogs and 126,000 sheep.

Cattle receipts were only exceeded in six other years—1889-94, inclusive.

Hog receipts were only exceeded in four other years.

Sheep receipts were equalled or exceeded in 99, '98, '97 and '96.

Cattle prices, taking good 1,200 to 1,500 lb. beefs as a basis, averaged \$5.25, or 28c. lower, with the top the highest on record—\$15.50 for a carload of the international prizewinners.

Hogs averaged \$5.00, or 95c. higher, being the highest since 1893. This, in face of an eight million run at Chicago, with liberal receipts at all Western points, is a great showing for hog men.

Sheep averaged 35c. higher, or \$4.70, being the highest on record. Lambs made the record-breaking average of \$5.95, being 45c. higher than the previous year.

The steer, "Big Hooker," reported in this department as winning the grand championship in the beef classes at the Chicago International Fat Stock Show, was the sweepstakes winner in the class for grades and crosses. He was a 2-year-old grade Hereford, owned by C. C. Judy. He weighed 1,925 lbs., and dressed 1,403.

The following compilation of top and average prices is from advanced sheets of the annual review of the new Chicago paper, the *Daily Live Stock World*, edited by Mr. A. C. Halliwell, for twenty-three years editor of the first daily live-stock paper ever published.

Extreme top prices, all weights native beef cattle, and average prices 1,200 to 1,500 lb. beefs:

	Extreme Top Price.		Average Price.	
	1900	1899	1900	1899
January.....	\$ 6 60	\$ 6 30	\$ 5 40	\$ 5 35
February.....	6 10	6 25	5 00	5 20
March.....	6 05	5 90	5 00	5 10
April.....	5 85	5 85	5 10	5 05
May.....	5 85	5 75	5 10	5 20
June.....	5 90	5 75	5 30	5 25
July.....	5 85	5 70	5 30	5 50
August.....	6 10	6 65	5 50	5 80
September.....	6 15	6 90	5 50	5 90
October.....	6 00	7 00	5 40	5 85
November.....	6 50	7 15	5 25	5 80
December.....	15 50	8 25	5 15	5 95
The year.....	\$15 50	\$8 25	\$5 25	\$5 50

Top prices heavy and light hogs, and average prices for all grades:

	Top Prices.		Average.	
	Heavy.	Light.	All Grades.	
	1900	1899	1900	1899
January.....	\$ 4 92	\$ 4 80	\$ 4 57	\$ 3 70
February.....	5 10	5 00	4 85	3 75
March.....	5 52	5 37	5 05	3 75
April.....	5 85	5 75	5 50	3 85
May.....	5 52	5 42	5 25	3 90
June.....	5 37	5 37	5 15	3 80
July.....	5 50	5 52	5 25	4 30
August.....	5 52	5 57	5 27	4 65
September.....	5 52	5 70	5 30	4 50
October.....	5 55	5 75	4 95	4 40
November.....	5 10	5 12	4 80	3 85
December.....	5 05	5 00	4 82	4 00
The year.....	\$ 5 85	\$ 5 75	\$ 5 00	\$ 4 05

Top and average prices, sheep and lambs, by months:

	Top Prices.		Average Prices.	
	Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep.	Lambs.
January.....	\$ 5 95	\$ 7 00	\$ 4 75	\$ 6 00
February.....	6 50	7 35	5 55	6 85
March.....	6 50	7 60	5 90	7 00
April.....	6 85	7 55	6 00	7 00
May.....	6 50	7 55	5 40	6 55
June.....	6 75	7 40	5 00	6 20
July.....	5 75	7 00	4 20	5 45
August.....	5 00	6 15	4 05	5 25
September.....	4 25	6 00	3 85	5 25
October.....	4 25	5 75	4 00	5 05
November.....	4 50	5 75	3 75	4 85
December.....	5 00	6 75	4 15	5 10
The year.....	\$ 6 85	\$ 7 60	\$ 4 70	\$ 5 95

On a Prairie Telegraph Pole.

Arthur Stringer, the Canadian poet, contributes the following strong lines to *Ainslee's Magazine*, under the title, "On a Prairie Telegraph Pole":—

Past mountain and foothill, plain and lake,
 Where it links the east and west,
 The tense wire tangles from sea to sea,
 A river that runs unrest.

As a two-stringed harp of haste it throbs
 With the rise and fall of States;
 And sings through a land of sun and peace
 Of far-off wars and hates.

Through a glimmering sea of waving green,
 Of silence, and golden suns;
 As a thread of pain in the woof of peace,
 From world to world it runs.

But the tales it tells are idle tales,
 And the songs it sings are strange
 To us who follow the glad, gold trail
 Of the sun on the Open Range.

Subscribers who have renewed their subscription for 1901 should observe the label on their paper. If due credit has not been given, write us at once.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Fat Stock Show Conundrum.

A writer in an English exchange propounds the following conundrum: "If the Hereford steer, Lord Roberts, beats the Queen's Shorthorn heifer, Cicely, and Cicely beats the cross-bred heifer, Ladysmith, and Ladysmith beats Lord Roberts, how much is Lord Roberts better than himself? Or, if Lord Roberts is second to Ladysmith (as at Norwich) and Ladysmith is nowhere to Cicely (as at Birmingham), and Cicely cannot even reach the reserve place (as at Smithfield), how far down the list ought Lord Roberts to be. This is a first-class Christmas conundrum—one of the best for some years, and is only equalled in mysteriousness by the record at the late show at Guelph, where the class sweepstakes was given to a second-prize sheep in the same class by consent of the judges responsible for the first ruling.

Smithfield Show.

England's great annual Fat Stock Show was held Dec. 10th to 14th, a grand show all round and one whose chief point for remembrance will be its general high quality, for its entries were less than in the more recent years. The result of the fewer entries was a much more level entry, the tail end of the several classes being much nearer the merit and quality of the tops, this being very noticeable in respect to the sheep section of the show, a brief résumé of the more salient features of which has been compiled from personal observation and careful examination by him who has the privilege and honor to represent your greatly appreciated paper in the Old Country, who with this letter takes the opportunity to wish it and its numerous readers a grand, prosperous and successful New Year—the first of the new century. Each breed of cattle, unless otherwise stated, was classified as follows: Steers not exceeding 2 years, steers exceeding 2 years and not exceeding 3 years, and heifers not exceeding 3 years.

The *Hereford* entries present numbered 5, 8, 3, their average daily gains being 2 lbs. 1.21 ozs., 1 lb. 15.65 ozs., and 1 lb. 9.95 ozs. The *Shorthorn* entries present numbered 12, 7, and 5, and their average daily gains were 2 lbs. 1.50 ozs., 1 lb. 13.56 ozs., and 1 lb. 13.02 ozs. The *Aberdeen-Angus* entries present numbered 5, 7 and 6, and their average daily gains were 2 lbs. 2.21 ozs., 1 lb. 13.19 ozs., 1 lb. 8.84 ozs. The *Galloway* entries present numbered 5, 4 and 4, and their average daily gains were 1 lb. 13.35 ozs., 1 lb. 9.90 ozs., 1 lb. 4.74 ozs. The *cross-bred* cattle entries present numbered 12, 7, 6 and 4, and their average daily gains were 2 lbs. 2.27 ozs., 1 lb. 14.41 ozs., 2 lbs. 10.10 ozs., and 1 lb. 11.24 ozs., the classification in this section being for steers not exceeding 2 years, steers exceeding 2 years and not exceeding 3 years, and two similar classes for heifers.

The champion beast of the show was Mr. John Wortley's Hereford steer, which, at the age of 937 days, gave an average daily gain of 2 lbs. 1.24 ozs. He won the breed cup of his breed, cup for best ox or steer, and, as noted above, the championship as best beast in the show. At the Norwich Show he was R. N. for champion to Mr. Learner's cross-bred heifer, and came in behind her also at Birmingham. Mr. Learner's heifer champion at Norwich, R. N. to Her Majesty the Queen's heifer at Birmingham, came in as R. N. for the championship here; she also won the breed cup of her breed, and cup for best cow or heifer in the show. At 1,034 days of age she gave an average daily gain of 1 lb. 7.68 ozs.

The R. N. for best ox or steer was Capt. H. L. Townshand's cross-bred steer, which was R. N. to Mr. W. E. Learner's heifer; for the cross-bred breed cup he took first in his class, and at 1,037 days old gave an average daily gain of 1 lb. 14.73 ozs. Her Majesty the Queen's heifer, Cicely, which was Birmingham champion, came in here R. N. for best heifer, and took first in her class, the Shorthorn breed cup, and Her Majesty's own cup for the best beast bred and fed by the exhibitor, which cup, having been won by the Queen last year, goes absolutely to Windsor; this excellent heifer's daily gain at 1,012 days being 1 lb. 12.55 ozs. Mr. John Ross won the cup for best beast under two years old with his cross-bred heifer, which was first in her class, and gave an average daily gain at 710 days of age of 2 lbs. 0.12 ozs., the R. N. for this cup being Mr. George Bruce's under-2-years-old Aberdeen-Angus steer, which, in addition to this honor and his first prize, won also the breed cup of his breed, showing an average daily gain at 693 days old of 2 lbs. 3.73 ozs.

The R. N. for the best beast bred and fed by the exhibitor went to the Earl of Strathmore's Aberdeen-Angus heifer, which won first in her class and R. N. for the breed cup, her average daily gain at 1,058 days being 1 lb. 6.54 ozs.

In the sheep section two classes were allotted to each breed, one for wether lambs under 12 months, and the other for wethers exceeding 12 months and under 24 months.

The *Leicesters* numbered 4 and 4 entries present, and their average daily gains were 10.59 ozs. and 6.78 ozs. *Border Leicesters*—The entries present were 2 and 1, and their average daily gains were 10.24 ozs. and 5.29 ozs. *Cotswolds*—There were present

one entry in each class, showing the average daily gains of 10.32 ozs. and 7.19 ozs. *Lincolns*—The entries present were 4 in each class, and their average daily gains were 10.31 ozs. and 8.32 ozs. *Southdowns* had present 13 and 10 entries, and their average daily gains were 7.76 ozs. and 4.85 ozs. *Hampshires* had 11 and 5 entries present, and their average daily gains were 10.26 ozs. and 6.39 ozs. *Suffolks* had 9 and 4 entries present, and their average daily gains were 10.79 ozs. and 7.10 ozs. *Shropshires* had 6 entries present in each class, and their average daily gains were 9.54 ozs. and 6.19 ozs. *Oxford Downs* had 5 and 2 entries present, and their average daily gains were 9.67 ozs. and 6.49 ozs. *Dorset Horns* and other short-wools had 5 and 2 entries present, their average daily gains being 9.42 ozs. and 5.07 ozs. *Cross-breds* had 8 and 5 entries present, and their average daily gains were 10.85 ozs. and 7.25 ozs.

The Prince of Wales' challenge cup was won, for the second year in succession, by Lord Ellesmere, who thus wins the cup outright, with his pair of Suffolk wethers, which also won their first class prize, breed cup and champion cup for best pen of short-wools in the show, their average daily gain being 7.70 ozs. at 654 days old.

For the R. N. for the Prince of Wales' cup, Mr. J. Pears' Lincoln wethers, the winners of the Liverpool champion cup, were selected. This was the heaviest pen of sheep in the show, 10 cwt. 11 lbs., and gave an average daily gain of 9.12 ozs. at 661 days of age.

The R. N. for the short-wooled champion cup was the Duke of Richmond's Southdown wethers, which won their breed cup and first in their class, their average daily gain at 640 days old being 4.67 ozs.

The R. N. for the long-wool champion cup were Mr. H. Dudding's first-prize pen of lambs, which, had they been judged entirely from a breed point, were decidedly the best type of their breed in the show. They showed at 296 days of age the average daily gain of 10.32 ozs.

The other breed-cup winners were as follows: *Leicesters*, Mr. E. F. Jordan's wethers, whose daily gain at 609 days was 6.83 ozs.; *Border Leicesters*, the Earl of Roseberry's wether lambs, whose daily gain at 250 days was 10.54 ozs.; *Cotswolds*, Mr. F. Craddock's wethers, whose daily gain at 623 days was 7.19 ozs.; *Hampshire Downs*, Mr. T. F. Buxton's lambs, whose daily gain at 317 days old was 12.23 ozs.; *Shropshires*, Mr. P. L. Mills' lambs, whose average daily gain at 275 days old was 10.18 ozs.; *Oxford Downs*, Mr. H. W. Stilgoe's lambs, whose average daily gain at 320 days old was 9.50 ozs.; *Dorset Horns*, Mr. James Toop's lambs, whose average daily gain was 9.33 ozs. at 341 days old, and cross-breds, Mr. F. I. Mathews' wethers, whose average daily gain was 7.36 ozs. at 647 days old.

The highest daily gain in the cattle section was a cross-bred steer shown by Mr. J. D. Fletcher, and R. N. in its class, whose daily gain was 2 lbs. 8.33 ozs. at 626 days old. The highest daily gain in the wether classes was that of Mr. J. Pears' pen of Lincoln wethers, 9.12 ozs. at 651 days, and the highest daily gain in the lamb classes was that of Mr. W. H. Gibbing's Devon long-wool lambs, 12.50 ozs. at 275 days of age.

The carcass classes were of great interest, the champion prize and its R. N., both in the cattle and sheep sections, going to the younger classes, which is indicative of the value, from a butcher's point of view, of early maturity.

In the steer class not exceeding 2 years there were four entries, whose aggregate age was 2,360 days, their live weight 5,182 lbs., their carcass weight 3,327 lbs., which equals 68.21 per cent. of live weight, the average daily gains being 1 lb. 13 ozs. of live weight and 14.13 ozs. carcass weight.

Seven entries formed the class for steers exceeding 2 years and not exceeding 3 years, their aggregate age being 6,325 days, their live weight 9,620 lbs. and their carcass weight 6,059 lbs., which equals 62.94 per cent. of live weight, the average daily gains being 1 lb. 8.33 ozs. of live weight and 15.32 ozs. of carcass weight.

There were four entries in the heifer class not exceeding 3 years, whose aggregate age was 3,775 days, with a live weight of 5,186 lbs. and a carcass weight of 3,221 lbs., which equals 62.37 per cent. of the live weight, the average daily gains being 1 lb. 5.95 ozs. live weight and 13.55 ozs. carcass weight.

There were eight entries in the long-wooled lamb class, their aggregate average age being 2,048 days, their live weight 977 lbs. and their carcass weight 561 lbs., which equals 57.42 per cent. of the live weight, the average daily gains being 7.64 ozs. of live weight and 4.38 ozs. of carcass weight. The yearling wether class of long-wools numbered seven entries, whose aggregate age was 4,283 days, with an aggregate live weight of 1,111 lbs. and carcass weight of 689 lbs., which gave a percentage of 62.01, their average daily gains being 4.15 ozs. of live weight and 2.57 ozs. of carcass weight. The short-wool lamb class had an entry of twelve, with an aggregate age of 3,534 days, a live weight of 1,760 lbs. and a carcass weight of 1,085 lbs., which gives a percentage of 61.64, the average daily gains being 7.97 ozs. alive and 4.90 ozs. carcass. The yearling wether class had an entry of six, whose aggregate age was 3,886 days, with a live weight of 1,120 lbs. and a carcass weight of 680 lbs., which gives a percentage of 61.51 and the average daily gain of 4.61 ozs. alive and 3.60 ozs. dead.

The swine show was a thoroughly good one in the open sections of the show, but there is not at present any carcass test for these animals.