

Stock.

Chatty Letter from the States.

[From our Chicago Correspondent.]

An enthusiast on dehorning cattle declares that he can feed four hornless steers in the space required for one with horns.

There is being developed quite a demand for goat meat. Texas has large quantities of Angora goats, grades and thoroughbred, and it is just being discovered that the goats have a fair commercial value in the meat markets. Some good "billies," 220 averaging 80 lbs. live weight, sold at \$3 per head. They dressed 48 lbs., and the hides sold at 60 cents. It is said that the annual clip of mohair pays all expenses, and the \$3 per head at three years old represents net profit. However, the clip ought to do more than pay expenses, and fat he goats averaging 80 lbs. ought to be more than \$3 per head.

Mule raising is receiving something of an impetus, especially in the South-west. Big, fine work mules sell for as much as draft horses, and for some work are more serviceable. They are more hardy and seldom get sick. They are easier to raise than horses, and are generally stronger, though not so kind or willing.

Horse feeding is coming to be quite a business. There are some men who make considerable money by purchasing and fattening their horses. Some say there is more money in feeding horses than cattle; and that has certainly been true the past season, if there has been any money in fattening horses. However, it is well known that fat, like charity, covers a multitude of sins.

The crusade against plug horses and the comparative cheapness of well-bred ones is having a marked effect upon the general average breeding of those one sees every day.

J. H. Freeman & Sons, of Bushnell, Ill., recently imported the shire stallion Great Britain, weight 2,775 lbs., claimed to be the largest in the world.

A large share of capital formerly invested in cattle is being put into horse raising. There does not seem to be any imminent danger of over-doing the horse business, but some of the more cautious are expressing such fears. The horse markets of the States have been pretty heavily supplied the past winter, perhaps owing to low prices for other farm assets and the great desire on the part of farmers to turn things into money. The demand for horses has been good, however, and prices have held firm, especially for all desirable kinds. At Chicago there is a tolerably regular range of prices for street car horses. "Streeters," good clean-built 1,050 to 1,150 lb. animals sell at about \$130 to \$135 per head. Prices are naturally higher in the spring when work horses are wanted on the farm, and when the appearance of grass cheapens the keep of them.

Why are cattle selling at such low prices when hogs and sheep are bringing such very good money? This is a question that has been troubling many people of late. One man says it is because the cattle trade has largely become centralized in the hands of half a dozen dressed beef operators; another says it is due to over-production, and another thinks the trouble is all on account of the large amount of money locked up in the vaults at Washington, and contends that if there was a freer circulation of currency

the problem of depression in cattle values would find ready solution. All of these explanations seem to be faulty, however, except the second. Why? Simply because either or both of the others apply with as much force to hogs and sheep as to cattle. In other words, if the depression in cattle values was the result of monopolistic combinations or under-circulation of money, the same causes would affect all kinds of stock alike. The facts are, however, that receipts of hogs are and have been light, and receipts of sheep are and have been very light, compared with the demand and with former periods, while receipts of cattle, on the other hand, have been very heavy, in fact the heaviest ever known. There may be something, there probably is a good deal in the combination and under-circulation money arguments, but the facts would indicate that there is much more in the fact that if there is not over-production there is at least over-marketing of cattle.

The Canadian Draught Horse Stud Book.

At the last meeting of the Council of the Agriculture and Arts Association, the Secretary had been instructed to go on with this Stud Book when the number of subscribers chosen at the organization meeting in December had been obtained. So, on the 7th of April last, the Secretary called a meeting of the Provisional Directors and subscribers to adopt a constitution and to fix a standard.

The following were confirmed in their offices:—President, Chas. Jackson, Mayfield; Vice-President, A. Fanson, Toronto; Secretary-Treasurer, Henry Wade, Toronto. Directors—James Gardhouse, Highfield; Chas. Lawrence, Collingwood; John Vipond, Brooklin; Dugald McLean, York Mills; W. A. Fanson, Toronto; F. T. Coleman, Arthur; and Thos. Natress, Mackville. The constitution of the Clydesdale Association, with the necessary changes for name, &c., was adopted. The annual membership fee was fixed at \$3, and \$2 for members and \$3 for non-members as fee for each registration in the Stud Book.

The following standard was agreed upon. Draught horses shall be received for registration on the following lines:—

1. Stallions or mares having sire and dam both on record in either the Canadian Clydesdale Stud Book, or the Canadian Shire Horse Stud Book, or in the Canadian Draught Horse Stud Book.
2. Mares having from top crosses of recorded sires in any of the aforesaid Stud Books.
3. The produce of a recorded mare if got by a recorded sire.
4. As many stallions were imported from Great Britain before any public records were kept, it is left to the discretion of the Revising Committee to accept such for registration in the Draught Horse Stud Book when they have been generally recognized as either Clydesdales or Shires.

The Canadian Draught Horse Stud Book is not a new book, but the appendix to the Clydesdale Stud Book, enlarged, and continued to suit the requirements of Canadian breeders. Here tofore the Clydesdale blood predominated, now no account is taken of the proportion of the bloods, only each individual cross must be in itself a recognized and registered animal.

The Kansas Agricultural College have found the kohl rabi a wonderful draught resister, and to be as easily kept over winter as the turnip. Cattle are fond of them, and eat them with relish.

Ramblings Among our Farmers and Stockmen.

SKETCH OF MAPLE SHADE HERD OF SHORTHORNS.

Mr. John Dryden, M. P. P., Brooklin, Ont., proprietor of this herd, has been a breeder of pure bred stock for nearly twenty-five years. During this time his herd has not only achieved great notoriety in this Dominion, but also in the neighboring Republic. From a small beginning, consisting of the purchase of one heifer, the herd has grown during these years until it now numbers nearly 100. If easy keeping qualities, thickness of flesh and general uniformity are the requisites of a good breeding herd, we think this one will stand among the foremost.

Some five years after the foundation was laid, a small importation was made from the world famed herd of Shorthorns owned by the Messrs. Cruickshank, of Aberdeenshire, Scotland. This importation consisted of two heifers, whose names have become familiar to many of our breeders, namely, *Mimulus*, the dam of Mr. Watts' celebrated bull *Barmpton Hero*, winner of 13 first prizes, and scarcely excelled in this country as a useful breeding bull, and *Queen of Beauty*, dam of *Orange Lad* (notorious as a sweepstakes bull in Iowa), and the bull *Stanley* (32954), whose portrait graces both the American and Canadian herd books. Mr. Dryden seems to have been so pleased with this purchase, that from year to year additions have been made from the same place. The breeding bulls during all these years have been without an exception supplied from the same quarter.

The first purchase in this herd was a heifer descended from the cow *Lady Eden*, imported by the late Mr. Wade. Females from this source have been bred to Sittytton bred bulls only, and it is wonderful to observe how strikingly the characteristics of this breed of cattle have been stamped upon this sort also. For all practical purposes they are of equal value, and from them have been taken from year to year the young animals which have won for their owner prizes in the show ring.

During the past few years importations have been received from the herd of E. Cruickshank, Lethenty, the nephew of Amos Cruickshank, of Sittytton, whose herd was originally founded from choice selections at Sittytton, to which were added five cows of superb quality, purchased at the sale of Mr. Longmore, of Rettie, in Banffshire. The young bulls received from this herd have given the utmost satisfaction as they seem to have done when sold in their native land. From the Aberdeen Free Press we learn that they invariably secured for their owner the top prices at the annual joint sale in Aberdeen, and some of them when used turned out so admirably as to create quite a sensation in the district where they were owned. Of the bulls received at Maple Shade from Lethenty, perhaps *Red Emperor*, sired by *Perfection*, and out of the Sittytton bred cow *Harmony*, has acquired the greatest reputation. After winning in this country as a yearling he was sold to Mr. Miller, of Missouri, and the following season he was shown at numerous State and other fairs, winning thirteen first prizes and one second. Seven times he won sweepstakes over his own breed, and four times sweepstakes over all breeds. The following year he entered again the show ring and came home with sixteen first prizes. No shorthorn bull of late years has succeeded better in the show ring. He is a beautiful red, has an imposing appearance, is of great weight, and stands on short legs. A sister named *Red Empress* now graces the stable at Maple Shade.

A visit made by Mr. Dryden to Scotland last year resulted in the purchase of the entire herd belonging to Mr. Edward Cruickshank, who had determined to retire from farming. The purchase included thirty females and eleven bulls. Twenty-one out of the thirty were descendants of the selections made from the herd at Sittytton, the remainder being mainly descended from the purchase made at Rettie, as previously mentioned. We shall only have space to notice a few of the animals. Among the Sittytton-bred families stand prominently the eight-year-old cow *Victoria 67th*, bred at Sittytton, and sired by *Lord of the Isles*. This cow is full of the blood of *Champion of England*, one of the most noted among the sires