

in it, it will be almost sure to spoil. If it reaches market sound without freezing, it will sell all the better. In packing, when practicable, use hand-threshed dry straw; be sure that it is clean, free from dust of any kind, and entirely dry. Place a layer of straw on the bottom, then alternate layers of poultry and straw; taking care to stow snugly, backs upward, legs under the body, filling vacancies with straw, and filling the package so that the cover will draw down very snugly upon the contents, to prevent shifting or slucking on the way. Boxes are the best packages, and should contain from, say, 100 to 200 pounds. Larger boxes are inconvenient, and more apt to get injured. The objection to barrels is that the fowls are apt to be much bent and twisted out of shape; they answer better for chickens and ducks than for turkeys and geese. Straw should be between the poultry and sides of package to keep from freezing, though in very cold weather this cannot be avoided. In packing large lots, it is best to put the different kinds in separate packages and mark the kind on the cover. Geese sell the best at Christmas. Poultry should always be packed so as to run even in quality through the package."

#### GOOD VS. BOGUS BUTTER.

In the Wisconsin Farmers' Convention, Mr. F. C. Curtis read an admirable paper on butter-making, in which he said:—

To obtain good winter butter, we must provide better stables and better forage. Where convenient quarters can be given, the cows should "come in" in the fall. Good butter is obtained by means of good cows, good shelter, and good treatment generally. I prefer to keep milk and cream in closed vessels, because when exposed to the air bad odors and germs are absorbed. The absorbing power of milk is very great, and many instances have been reported of epidemic fevers in villages starting from the tainted milk of one vendor. The sooner milk is placed in closed vessels and cooled to 62 degrees the better. A good form of receptacle is a tin can 8 in. in diameter and 20 in. deep. These are set in cold water, to which ice may be added, if convenient. This form of can is safer and more readily handled than the old-fashioned wide pan, still advocated by some. After the milk has been in them 12 to 24 hours it is skimmed, and the cream immediately mixed with that skimmed before, and put in a closed vessel in a cool place. In about three days it should be churned 20 or 30 minutes, after which the milk is drained off and water poured in. Work but little, and pack solidly in the tub, to give a smooth appearance when the tub is removed. Use only good dairy salt, one ounce to a pound of butter.....As to the reason why cream rises, Mr. Curtis said: A very large percentage of milk is water, which cools quicker than the more solid creamy part. Hence, as the water cools, it sinks to the bottom, leaving the cream on top.

Of *Bogus Butter*, it was stated: People will not buy packed butter or that having a rancid taste, and hence the way is opened for adulterations. More so-called butter is produced in Chicago than can be produced by all the cows of Iowa and Minnesota combined. Oleomargarine is made from the fat of cows and steers, and butterine from the fat of hogs. The manufacture of these substances is actually decreasing the consumption of butter, and threatens the entire dairy interests of Wisconsin as well as other States unless something is done, and that right quickly, to put a quietus on the manufacturers, who send out circulars to dairy-

men all over the West, offering to supply them with a substance which they claim will actually improve the quality of the butter product, at six cents a pound. New York has passed a law which the Supreme Court held valid, prohibiting the manufacture of these articles, and Wisconsin should do likewise.

#### TRANSPORTING POULTRY.

The *Poultry World* says that a box in which a trio or quartet of full-grown fowls are confined in a journey need not be larger than 24 by 10 inches. The material for this box may be half-inch stuff. The front and ends can be open lathed, and the back of unbleached stout cotton. The bottom and top of whole boarding will be strong enough. In cold weather, stretch the cloth nearly around the entire front and ends, to prevent the freezing of the birds, combs. Feed sufficient to afford the birds half a pint each per day, of whole corn and wheat, for the term they may be *en route*, and a common tin pint cup for drink, will be all that is necessary for their convenience. In the bottom of the box strew a layer of hay or short straw, and the whole will weigh 20 pounds or so, in addition to the contents. If the above plan in a general way be adopted by shippers, the cost of transportation to buyers is lessened, over the careless mode too often practised of sending fowls in a heavy, solid inch-board box, that weighs more than do the birds themselves.

#### Farm Notes.

Messrs. Redfern, Alexander & Co., of London, Eng., recently received a telegram from Sydney advising a probable decrease in the production of Australian wool of upwards of 100,000 bales, as compared with last season, and adding that another drought has commenced in the western districts of Australia.

The trade in phosphate at Aylmer, P. Q., has been larger this season than was expected, and would have been larger still had the roads not been so difficult from heavy rains. The total amount shipped from the mines last year was 22,143 tons, of which this country furnished 20,353 tons. At High Rock 1,100 tons remain on hand, while at several of the other mines large quantities have been held over. The prices have not been so good as former years, but the decrease in the price of labor has more than counterbalanced this falling off. On the whole the season has been favorable to those engaged in the trade.

#### Live Stock Notes.

There will be a good demand for young bulls to go to the West this next spring and summer, but it must be borne in mind that ranchmen will not, as a rule, feel very wealthy this year until after they have marketed the beef crop, if the storms leave them anything to market.—*Caldwell (Kan.) Journal*.

The building of windbreaks on the range has been suggested by a cattleman, who thinks that the expense would not be very great and that it would keep cattle from drifting. The breaks could be built of sod, stone, or lumber, in a straight line, so that cattle could seek shelter on either side. Where the herds are not too large the plan would work very well.—*Globe Live Stock Journal*.

After all the fuss about cattle losses, it turns out that about the only loss amounting to much was in two or three counties south of San Antonio, where there is no grass and the cattle are very poor. And even in these counties the loss was greatly exaggerated. Thanks to the prickly pear, the loss of cattle even there is much lighter than was expected.—*Texas Stockman*.

Mr. E. M. Teall, Chicago, has bought of Mr. David Reesor, of Rosedale, Toronto, Canada, a six-months-old Stoke Pogis-Victor Hugo Jersey bull calf, by Diana's Kioter 10481, a double grandson of Stoke Pogis 3rd; dam Princess Minnette 24042, a granddaughter of Stoke Pogis 3rd; thus tracing three times to Stoke Pogis 3rd and four times to Victor Hugo. This calf is deep in the blood elements of Mary Ann of St. Lambert, Ida of St. Lambert, and Mermaid of St. Lambert, the largest tested cow of the Stoke Pogis-Victor Hugo family of Jerseys. He will be sent to Mr. Teall's Berkshire Hills Farm, Stockbridge, Mass.

A shipment of Jersey cattle, owned by Mr. J. A. Desreux, of the Island of Jersey, safely arrived in New York on the 24th of January, and are to be quarantined at Garfield Station, New Jersey. This lot of twenty head of heifers, are some of the handsomest, richest in quality, and well-bred animals that have ever left the Island. They are offered for sale privately, and if not sold in quarantine will be put at auction as soon as released. Any person wishing to start a first-class herd is especially invited to inspect the above, where all information will be given them by the person in charge of the animals.

Our weather report, for the first time in several weeks, is more favorable for cattlemen. Last Sunday, Jan. 25, was clear and bracing, and but little thaw occurred. Monday the snow melted considerably and the tops of high grass were accessible to stock. Tuesday morning a blizzard came in from the north, but quieted down in the afternoon. Wednesday was a lovely day, and yesterday (Jan. 29), Thursday, was also pleasant. The snow yet covers the ground, but it will more than likely disappear this week. The streams are generally open now and the cattle do not have to travel far to get water. The reports from the ranges where no feed is being used are, of course, gloomy, and especially from districts where cattle were driven in last year; but cattle that are being fed will pick up in flesh with the present favorable weather if the feed only holds out.—*Barber Co. (Kan.) Index*.

Mr. Alexander Sime, of Iowa, brought to the Chicago market this week a car-load of grade Shorthorn steers that attracted a great deal of attention from the fact that they were hornless. Mr. Sime, who is a Scotchman, informs us that these steers were all bred upon the farm which is under his management, and that the spring they were one year old he dishorned them by sawing the horns off close to the skin at the head, slightly wounding the skin in the operation. He states that in about two weeks the exposed surface closed up entirely, and in about two months it was perfectly haired over, so that they were as thoroughly hornless as the most approved Polled cattle of Scotland. He regards the operation as entirely painless to the animals, and says that he finds them much more convenient to handle than where the horns are permitted to grow, and he considers the danger much less from transportation by rail than in the case of cattle with horns.—*Chicago Breeders' Gazette*.

A correspondent of the *Breeders' Gazette*, writing from Jewell Co., Kansas, says:—"The