

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

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

CATTLE.	Present Range of Prices.	Top prices		
		ago.	1896.	1895.
1500 lbs. up.....	\$4 50 to 5 30	\$5 55	\$5 15	\$5 35
1350 @ 1500.....	4 10 to 5 35	5 35	5 15	5 35
1200 @ 1350.....	4 00 to 5 25	5 35	5 10	5 15
1050 @ 1200.....	3 80 to 5 20	5 25	4 75	4 75
900 @ 1050.....	3 80 to 4 90	5 10	4 50	4 60
Stillers.....	4 50 to 4 80	4 60		
Stockers and feeders.....	2 85 to 4 55	4 50	3 85	3 90
Fat cows and heifers.....	3 25 to 4 60	4 75	3 75	4 25
Culling cows.....	1 75 to 2 60	2 60	2 10	2 30
Bulls.....	2 25 to 4 30	4 00	3 85	3 80
Calves.....	3 50 to 6 75	6 75	6 10	6 20
Texas steers.....	3 25 to 4 00	3 65	4 10	3 70
Texas C. & H.....	2 40 to 3 70	3 10	2 90	3 60
Western.....	3 40 to 4 50	4 40	4 00	4 45
West. cows.....	2 85 to 4 00	3 75	3 60	3 75
HOGS.				
Mixed.....	3 60 to 4 00	4 00	3 55	4 00
Heavy.....	3 35 to 4 00	3 90	3 52	3 95
Light.....	3 60 to 4 05	4 10	3 57	4 00
Pigs.....	2 50 to 3 80	3 80	3 55	3 90
SHEEP.				
Natives.....	2 00 to 4 50	4 35	3 50	3 90
Western.....	2 90 to 4 25	4 10	3 50	3 10
Lambs.....	3 00 to 6 25	5 80	4 90	4 50

Supplies of live stock are being marketed in fairly large volumes all around. The quality in all branches is generally poor. Speaking of the probable supplies of cattle, Mr. John Clay, Jr., says: "It is true our stocks of native cattle became reduced, and if one reckoned with those alone he could easily figure out a shortage. But the southern and western range country was heavily drawn upon last winter and spring, and the markets are now receiving more corn-fed Westerns than ever before in their history. Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska got vast numbers of those range cattle, and will begin to move them to market in earnest within a short while. The bulk of these cattle have good quality, and will come forward in generally good flesh, insuring plenty of beef for all demands." An Illinois Shorthorn breeder says he has traveled over a number of good cattle districts in Illinois and Missouri trying to find a first-class young Shorthorn bull to head his herd. About forty-five head of Shorthorn cattle belonging to the Kellogg Stock Farm Company of East Claridon, Ohio, and John Clay, Jr., of Waukegan, sold in Dexter Park at auction. Sales ranged at \$45 to \$200, with one calf as low as \$25. There were buyers present all the way from Nevada. The demand was very good, and rather better for bulls than for female stock. From all reports it must be a fact that Iowa is "full of cattle" that are getting fat on the abundant corn crop. There are many people who think the fat cattle supplies will be very abundant for the next six months. Many thousands of young cattle which farmers had intended to "rough" through the winter and feed next spring are now being put on feed because of the early drying up of the pastures. This will make a good many poor beef cattle on the market around the end of the year. There seems little chance of making up the shortage in the run of western range cattle. The season's receipts foot up about 197,500, against 242,300 a year ago.

The quality of the hogs continues very poor. Little pigs and coarse heavy sows form a large share of the offerings. The bulk of the pigs coming from Minnesota, where the swine plague seems to be most severe. A Chicago concern makes the number of hogs this October 92 per cent. of last year's. He made the 1895 95 per cent. of the 1894, the 1896 92 per cent. of the 1895, and the 1897 74 per cent. of the 1896. These figures would make it look as if the hogs this year were about half as many as a few years ago, and as if the hog would run out altogether after awhile. There is considerable speculation regarding the probable run of hogs for next month. Last November only 593,537 arrived, while two years ago 937,479 were received. Most of the trade expects 650,000 to 700,000 for this next month. There is a good deal of cholera among the pigs this fall, and large numbers of little pigs are being sent away from localities where outbreaks are expected. The U. S. Government formula for hog cholera is as follows: Bicarbonate of soda, 2 pounds; hyposulphate of soda, 2 pounds; sodium sulphate, 2 pounds; sulphur, 1 pound; charcoal, 2 pounds; black antimony, 1 pound. The best way to give it is in the slop, twice a day, estimating one tablespoonful for every 200 pounds of stock. The 131,813 hogs received here last week averaged 245 pounds, the same as the previous week, eight pounds lighter than a month ago, three pounds heavier than a year ago, and fifteen pounds heavier than two years ago. The 47,000 received at Kansas City last week averaged 269 lbs., against 234 lbs. a year ago. An experienced stockman who has been traveling extensively through Iowa says the crop of pigs is very large, with cholera worse than for several years past. He says there is a large number of cattle feeding throughout the State. And still another, who has returned from a month's trip through Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri and Iowa, says more cattle are on feed than for several years past. Hog cholera is killing off a great many pigs and hogs, especially in Iowa. A man from Sioux City says there will be more cattle fed in northwestern Iowa and South Dakota than ever before. Hog cholera is very prevalent, and even hogs up in South Dakota, where they do a good deal of grazing and never had cholera before, are suffering from the disease.

It is said that Swift & Co. have leased 2,000 acres of land in Washington County, Kansas, to be used for a sheep ranch. Large buyers have been contracting about all the sheep in sight in the far west, and the sheep-men feel that they are strictly in it this year.

Canadian Live Stock Exports.

The following are the live stock exports for the week ending October 27th, as prepared by R. Bickerdike, of the Live Stock Exchange, Montreal:

Oct. 21—Queensmore.....	London	575 cattle	196 sheep.
" 23—Brazilian.....	"	238 "	1,331 "
" 21—Lake Superior.....	Liverpool	336 "	"
" 23—Laurentian.....	"	763 "	"
" 24—Rossmore.....	"	720 "	"
" 22—Merrimac.....	Bristol	291 "	145 "
" 26—Tritonia.....	Glasgow	295 "	262 "
" 26—Pomeranian.....	"	272 "	259 "
" 22—Avlona.....	Newcastle	179 "	"
Total.....		3,669 cattle.	2,193 sheep.

Russia's Wool Industry.

Russia, the first nation in Europe in the production of wool, has 45,000,000 common sheep and 15,000,000 Merino sheep pasturing on the vast prairies of Southern Russia. Russia's wool production amounts to 10,000,000 pounds (361,120,000 pounds) annually, nearly six pounds per sheep. In 1895 there were 63 spinning mills in the districts of Moscow and St. Petersburg, employing 4,789 hands, and producing wares worth more than 5,000,000 rubles. Moscow and surrounding lead in woolen weaving; then come Tver, St. Petersburg, Warsaw, Lodz and Kharkov. European Russia has nearly 450 mills, employing 50,000 workmen, and producing woolen articles worth 15,000,000 rubles.



THE DUSANTES.

A SEQUEL TO "THE CASTING AWAY OF MRS. LECKS AND MRS. ALESHINE."

(Continued from page 460.)

We took leave of the kind-hearted ranch people, who looked upon us as a godsend into their lonely life, and disposed ourselves as comfortably as we could in the large wagon. Mr. Dusanter, who showed a moderate degree of pleasure at seeing us, and an immoderate amount of annoyance, exhibited principally to me, in being obliged to give up to the women of our party the large room he had occupied in the only lodging-house in the little settlement.

When I informed him that the strangers with us were the Dusantes, on whose island we had been staying, he at first listened vaguely. He had always looked upon the Dusante family as a sort of fable used by Mrs. Lecks to countenance her exactions of money from the unfortunate sojourners on the island. But when I told him what Mr. Dusanter had done, and related how he had brought the board-money with him, and had offered to pay it back to us, an eager interest was aroused in him.

"I do not wonder," he exclaimed, "that the conscience-stricken man wishes to give the money back, but that any one should refuse what actually belongs to him or her is beyond my comprehension! One thing is certain—I shall receive my portion. Fifteen dollars a week for my daughter and myself that woman charged me, and I will have it back." "My dear sir," I said, "your board was reduced to the same sum as that paid by the rest of us,—four dollars a week each."

"I call to mind no reduction," said Mr. Dusanter. "I remember distinctly the exorbitant sum charged me for board on a desert island. It made a deep impression upon me."

"I do not care to talk any further on this subject," I said. "You must settle it with Mrs. Lecks."

On the morning after our arrival at Ogden City, Mr. Dusanter took me aside. "Sir," he said, "I wish to confide to you my intentions regarding the jar containing the money left by your party in my house, and I trust you will do nothing to thwart them. When your baggage arrives, you, with your party, will doubtless continue your eastern way, and we shall return to San Francisco. But the jar, with its contents, shall be left behind to be delivered to Mrs. Lecks. If you will take charge of the jar and hand it to her, sir, I shall be obliged greatly."

"I promised Mr. Dusanter that I would not interfere with his intentions, but asserted that I could, on no account, take charge of the jar. The possession of that piece of pottery with its contents, was now a matter of dispute between him and Mrs. Lecks, and must be settled by them."

"Very well, then, sir," he said. "I shall arrange to depart before you and your company, and I shall leave the jar, suitably packed, in the care of the clerk of this hotel, with directions to hand it to Mrs. Lecks after I am gone. Thus there will be nothing for her to do but to receive it."

We spent three days in Ogden City, and then, the weather being moderated very much, and the snow on the mountains having melted sufficiently to allow the vehicles to be brought down, our effects were forwarded to us, and my party and that of Mr. Dusanter prepared to proceed on our different ways. An eastward-bound train left that evening an hour after we received our baggage, but we did not care to depart upon such short notice, and so determined to remain until the next day.

In the evening Mr. Dusanter came to me to say that he was glad to find that the westward train would leave Ogden City early in the morning, so that he and his family would start on their journey some hours before we should leave. "This suits my plans exactly," he said. "I have left the ginger-jar, suitably wrapped and addressed to Mrs. Lecks, with the clerk of the hotel, who will deliver it to-morrow immediately after my departure. All our preparations are made, and we purpose this evening to bid farewell to you and our other kind friends, from whom, I assure you, we are most deeply grieved to part."

I had just replied that we also regretted extremely the necessity for this separation, when a boy brought me a letter. I opened it, and found it was from Mr. Dusanter. It read as follows:

"DEAR SIR,—I have determined not to wait here until to-morrow, but to proceed eastward by this evening's train. I desire to spend a day in Chicago, and as you and the others will probably not wish to stop there, I shall by this means attain my object without detaining you. My sudden resolution will not give me time to see you all before I start, but I have taken a hurried leave of my daughter, and this letter will reach you on my departure to the east."

"I will also mention that I have thought it proper, as the natural head of our party, both by age and position, to settle the amicable dispute in regard to the reception and disposition of the money paid, under an excusable misapprehension, for our board and lodging upon a desert island. I discovered that the receptacle of this money had been left in the custody of the clerk, addressed to Mrs. Lecks, who has not only already refused to receive it, and would probably do so again, but who is, in my opinion, in no wise entitled to hold, possess, or dispose of it. I, therefore, without making any disturbance whatever, have taken charge of the package, and shall convey it with me to Chicago. When you arrive there, I will apportion the contents among us according to our several claims. This I regard as a very sensible and prudent solution of the little difficulty which has confronted us in regard to the disposition of this money. Yours hurriedly,

"P. S. I shall stop at Brandiger's Hotel, where I shall await you."

PART III.

Mr. Dusanter's letter astonished me and angered me, but, in spite of my indignation, I could not help smiling at the unexpected way in which he had put a stop to the probable perpetual peregrinations of the ginger-jar. I handed the letter to Mr. Dusanter, and when he had read it his face flushed, and I could see that he was very angry, although he kept his temper under excellent control.

"Sir," he said presently, "this shall not be allowed. That jar, with its contents, is my property until Mrs. Lecks has consented to receive it. It is of my own option that I return it at all, and I have decided to return it to Mrs. Lecks. Any one interfering with my intentions steps entirely beyond the line of just and warrantable procedure. Sir, I shall not go westward to-morrow morning, but, with my family, will accompany you to Chicago, where I shall require Mr. Dusanter to return to me my property, which I shall then dispose of as I see fit."

I now went immediately to Ruth, who, I found, knew nothing of what had occurred, except that her father had gone on to Chicago in advance of our party, and had had time only to bid her a hasty good-bye. I made no remarks on this haste which would not allow Mr. Dusanter to take leave of us, but which gave him time to write a letter of some length; and as Ruth knew nothing of this letter, I determined not to mention it to her. Her father's sudden departure surprised her but little, for she told me that he always liked to get to places before the rest of the party with whom he might be journeying. "Even when we go to church," she said, "he always walks ahead of the rest of us. I don't understand why he likes to do so, but this is one of his habits."

When I informed Mrs. Lecks and Mrs. Aleshine of what had happened, they fairly laughed.

"I don't know what Mr. Dusanter calls it," exclaimed Mrs. Lecks, "but I know what I call it."

"Yes, indeed!" cried Mrs. Aleshine, her round eyes sparkling with excitement; "if that isn't ex-honesty, than he ain't no ex-missionary! I pity the heathen he converted!" "I'll convert him," said Mrs. Lecks, "if ever I lay eyes on him! Walkin' away with a package with my name on it! He might as well take my gold spectacles or my tortoise-shell comb! I suppose there's no such thing as ketchin' up with him, but I'll telegraph after him; and I'll let him know that if he dares to open a package of mine, I'll put the law on him!"

"That's so," said Mrs. Aleshine. "You kin send telegraphs all along the line to one station an' another for conductors to give to him in the cars, an' directed to Mr. Dusanter, a tall man with gray-mixed hair an' a stolen bundle. That's the way they did in our place when Abram Marley's wife fell into the cistern, an' he'd just took the cars to the city, an' they telegraphed to him at five different stations to know where he'd left the ladder."

"Which ain't a bad idea," said Mrs. Lecks, "though his name will be enough on it without no description; an' I'll do that this minute, and find out about the stations from the clerk."

"You must be very careful," I said, "about anything of that kind, for the telegrams will be read at the stations, and Mr. Dusanter might be brought into trouble in a way which we all should regret; but a dispatch may be worded so that he, and no one else, would understand it."

"Very well," said Mrs. Lecks, "an' let's get at it; but I must say that he don't deserve bein' saved no trouble, for I'm as sure as that I'm a livin' woman that he never saved nobody else no trouble since the first minute he was born."

The following dispatch was concocted and sent on to Bridger, to be delivered to Mr. Dusanter on the train:

"The package you know of has been stolen. You will recognize the thief. If he leaves it at Chicago hotel, let him go. If he opens it, clap him in jail."

"Mrs. Lecks."

"I think that will make him keep his fingers off it," said Mrs. Lecks; "an' if Mr. Dusanter chooses to send somethin' of the same kind to some other station, it won't do no harm. An' if that Dusanter gets so skeered that he keeps out of sight and hearin' of all of us, it'll be the best thing that's happened yet."

Mr. Dusanter was fully determined to go on with us until he had recovered possession of the ginger-jar. His courteous feelings towards Mrs. Craig and myself prevented his saying much about Mr. Dusanter, but I had good reason to believe that his opinions in regard to my father-in-law were not very different from those of Mrs. Lecks and Mrs. Aleshine. Ever since Mr. Dusanter had shown his petulant selfishness, when obliged to give up his room at the railroad station for the use of the women of his party, Mr. Dusanter had looked upon him coldly, and the two had but little to say to each other.

We were all very glad that our pleasant party was not to be broken up; and although there was no resignation at the absence of the ginger-jar, we started on our journey the next day in a pleasant mood for the absence of Mr. Dusanter. Before we left, Mr. Dusanter sent a telegram to Kearney Junction, to be delivered to Mr. Dusanter when he arrived there. What this message was I do not know, but I imagine its tone was decided.

At Chicago we went at once to Brandiger's Hotel, and there we found, instead of Mr. Dusanter, a letter from him to Ruth. It read as follows:

"MY DEAR DAUGHTER,—I have determined not to wait here as originally intended, but to go on by myself. I am sorry not to meet you here, but it will not be long before we are together again, and you know I do not like to travel with a party. I have various members always in company, and in one way or another, I had proposed to go to Philadelphia and wait for you there, but have since concluded to stop at Meadowville, a village in the interior of Pennsylvania, where, as they have informed me, the two women, Mrs. Lecks and Mrs. Aleshine, reside. I wish to see the party all together before I take final leave of them, and I suppose the two women will not consent to go any farther than the country town in which they live. Inclosed is a note to your husband, asking him to procure for me a journey farther west than Chicago. It is your duty to make him see the impropriety of so doing. Yours, etc.,

"D. J. ENDERTON."

Ruth's letter was shown to all the party, and mine in private to Mr. Dusanter, Mrs. Lecks, and Mrs. Aleshine. When the first moments of astonishment were over, Mrs. Lecks exclaimed:

"Well, after all, I don't know that I'm so very sorry that the old sneak has done this, for now we're rid of him for the rest of the trip; an' I'm pretty certain, from the way he writes, that he hasn't dipped into that jar yet. We've skeered him from doin' that."

"But the impudence of him!" said Mrs. Aleshine. "Think of his goin' to the very town where we live an' gettin' there first! He'll be settin' on that tavern porch with every loafer in the place about him, an' tellin' 'em the whole story of what happened to us from beginning to end, till by the time we git there it'll be all over the place an' as stale as last week's bread."

"The man Dusanter," quietly remarked that individual, "will not abandon the purpose of his journey. He left his island to place in the hands of Mrs. Lecks, on behalf of her party, the ginger-jar with the money inclosed. He will therefore go on with you to Meadowville, and will there make formal demand, and, if necessary, legal requisition, for the possession of that jar and that money; after which he will proceed to carry out his original intentions."

We all expressed our pleasure at having him, with his ladies, as companions for the remainder of our journey, and Mrs. Lecks immediately offered them the hospitalities of her house for as long a time as they might wish to stay with her.

"The weather there," she said, "is often splendid till past Thanksgiving Day, an' nobody could be welcome than you."

"I'd have asked you myself," said Mrs. Aleshine, "if Mrs. Lecks hadn't done it,—which of course she would, bein' alive,—but I'm goin' to have Mr. Craig an' his wife, an' as our houses is near, we'll see each other all the time. An' if Mr. Dusanter chooses to stay awhile at the tavern, he can come over to see his daughter whenever he likes. I'll go as far as that, though no further can I go. I'm not the one to turn anybody from my door, be he heathen, or just as bad, or worse. But tea once, or perhaps twice, is all that I can find in my heart to offer that man after what he's done."