

Chatty Stock Letter from the States.

FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.

The most important business recently has been the stoppage of railroad traffic throughout a large part of the country by the sympathetic strike of the railway operatives. As is well known, the origin of this, the greatest railway strike ever known, was the refusal of Geo. M. Pullman to arbitrate differences with his workmen. He claimed business was dull, and when the men objected to wages, decided to shut down entirely. The result was that the American Railway Union took it up, and did not stop at refusing to run trains drawing Pullman cars, but tied up all kinds of railroad business, even refusing to allow a train of dead hogs to be moved from the Stock Yards here to the rendering works. Such business is calculated to lose them the sympathy of those who feel that the workmen generally get the worst of it. For many days not a hoof of live stock has gone in or out of Chicago by rail.

Business among fine stock breeders is a little quiet, as it is apt to be at this season.

Horse breeders are finding that raising ordinary stock is not profitable, and there is a tendency to get rid of inferior brood mares. Choice saddlers and fine drivers sell best just now.

Fat cattle will be ready to come from the Northwestern range regions early.

The President of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, John Clay, jr., has arrived from an extended trip through the West. He came direct from Montana, where, he said, the grass and cattle looked as fine as he ever saw them at this season. In Wyoming grass is poor, owing to lack of moisture. Only one-twentieth of an inch of rain fell during the 31 days of May on the great Swan pastures.

The very low prices abroad for dressed beef and States cattle have been quite discouraging to exporters lately. Late advices from Liverpool quoted best American steers at 9½c. per lb., sinking the offal, against 11½c. a year ago. It seems that the marketing of cattle by American shippers had lately been excessive. The general supplies in English markets were not very large, or, doubtless, prices would have fallen still more.

The order of the Secretary of Agriculture to condemn pregnant sows and cows is causing a great deal of confusion and annoyance. If the inspection can be fair and square, no one should object to it, but it is hard to avoid friction where individual judgment varies so much. The Government inspectors in the various slaughter houses condemn the meat of all cows that have calves inside with hair on.

The inspection of hogs is now made at the scales before weighing, and the decision of Government inspectors is final, salesmen having no appeal therefrom. Their inspection is very close, and all badly-pregnant sows, hogs with bunches, boils, bursts, also hogs with cuts on the hams and shoulders, are thrown out. These rejected hogs have to be sold to the dealers at 75c. to \$1.50 per cwt. less.

These new rules will fall more severely on owners of range cattle than any others. When cows are gathered on a ranch, owners can hardly tell whether they are pregnant or not, and when condemned at market before slaughter, they are too wild to make milkers. It is rather astonishing to the average reader to know that no less than 80 per cent. of the cows marketed for beef are in some stage of pregnancy.

The marketing of hogs in the West has been quite large, and yet the June supplies were far smaller than packers expected to have them. Receipts of hogs at Chicago the first six months of 1891 increased 972,818, compared with a year ago. Kansas City the first six months of 1891 increased only 41,555, while Omaha increased 252,388, compared with a year ago.

Reports from various parts of the country indicate a liberal supply of young hogs, but the crop of heavy hogs intended for summer marketing is pretty well in.

Feeding Grain to Hogs.

BY THOS. J. FAIR.

The following, on the above subject, in reference to Mr. John Cook's hog feeding account, as published in the ADVOCATE, is not written to make the impression that I doubt Mr. Cook's statements; far from it. A farmer cannot feed grain to hogs unless he has the hogs to feed, and whether he begins with sows in farrow, young pigs, or hogs ready for fattening, their value must be added to cost of grain fed in order to estimate the real profit in the transaction. I will give you a specimen from my books for 1891, showing one year's hog account:

Jan 1st.	To Stock, 10 pigs	\$45 00
"	" Grain fed	70 00
		\$115 00
By	2,373 lbs. pork sold, at 5 cts.	\$118 65
"	927 lbs. pork used	46 35
"	Lard	8 00
"	Stock Dec. 31st, 1891	10 00

Balance being profit \$98.00

Out of the above must be deducted the value of some milk and slops from kitchen, and should be credited by a quantity of very rich manure.

The Royal Show of England.

The summer show season in England is getting fairly well along. The Royal Show, which was held at Cambridge this year, bears to other English shows much the same relation as the Toronto Industrial does to the other important exhibitions, being of greater magnitude in nearly every department.

The Royal dated from June 25 to 29. Almost every year's show excels the preceding one in number of entries and excellence of exhibits.

The horse show this year assumed enormous proportions. Shires excel all others in point of numbers, the entries being 198. Hackneys numbered 167 and Suffolks 103. These three breeds are the most famous in East Anglia, and they certainly made a grand appearance.

The Clydesdale section, although not as well filled as in some former years, brought out a number of very good animals. There was, however, almost an entire absence of Scottish exhibitors, only two animals being forward from the home of the breed, and the display made in their absence is, to some extent, proof that the Clydesdale is becoming more popular in England. Among the principal exhibitors might be mentioned the names of the Marquis of Londonderry, Mr. Thos. Smith, Miss Emily C. Talbot, Mr. A. J. Marshall and Mr. John Kerr.

The Hackney exhibit, as well as being extensive in numbers, excels all former "Royal" shows in excellence of type throughout. This popular English breed has received a good deal of attention during the last few years, with a result of producing an almost certain desirable type in action, form and temperament, all of which are essential to a good animal. The stallion prize winners were owned by Sir Walter Gilbey, Mr. J. N. Anthony, Mr. John Rutter, Mr. Henry Moore, Mr. C. E. Galbraith, Mr. C. E. Cooke and Mr. J. Conchar. Most of the winners are of chestnut color.

In Shires there was a splendid exhibit, comparing most favorably with any Royal exhibit that has gone before. The animals exhibited represented to the full all the leading studs of the country, and it was observed on all hands that the progress made towards the perfecting of the Shire was most marked.

In the Cattle department, Shorthorns were out in good numbers, the entries in this important class reaching 141. All the classes were strong and good. The Hereford, Devon and Sussex classes were about as usual for a few years, while Red Polls were somewhat better, with 60 entries for aged bulls. There was a creditable muster of Aberdeen-Angus. The Galloways and Ayrshires were not very remarkable for quality or numbers. As usual, Jerseys made an excellent display, having 151 animals entered. Kerries and Dexters turned out well at the Royal; considerably better than at any other show this year.

The Sheep entries numbered 588, 120 of which were of Shropshires, 109 of Southdowns, and 71 of Suffolks. The other breeds, namely, Leicester, Lincoln, Cotswold and Oxford were represented in about the usual numbers.

Among the Shropshire exhibitors, we are pleased to notice one from this side of the water coming in for a share of show ring honors, Mr. C. H. Davison, Duchess Co., U. S. A., who secured a commendation ticket for his pen of Shropshire ewes. The judging of this magnificent breed was watched closely by many English Shropshire breeders, as well as Mr. Mortimer Levering, Secretary of the American Shropshire Record, who has been going the round of several of the leading flocks during the last month, in company with Mr. Davison, the American exhibitor. Among successful exhibitors were Mr. T. Fenn, T. & S. Bradburne, Mrs. Barrs, W. F. Inge, Mr. A. S. Berry, Mr. Bowen-Jones, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Harding, Mr. Mills, Mr. A. E. Mansell. The Shearling Ewe class, which is looked upon by Canadians as one of the most important, was a good one, well contested. The prizes were taken in this order: Mrs. Barrs, Mr. P. L. Mills and Mr. Bowen-Jones. Mr. Farmer secured the reserve ticket.

In the Southdown classes we look for a large and superior exhibit, and this year we are not disappointed, as ninety-two pens were actually filled out of an entry of 100. Mr. J. J. Colman, Mr. J. Blyth, the Duke of Richmond, Mr. E. Ellis, H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, Mr. Wm. Toop, the Duke of Hamilton and Mr. McC. T. Lucas are among the successful exhibitors.

The Hampshire classes were only moderately well filled, as 42 pens held them. The quality of the stock, however, was very good. Mr. T. F. Buxton, Mr. H. Lambert, Mr. T. Twidell, Mr. John Barton, Mr. Henry Lambert, Mr. Joshua East and Lord Rothchilts were the principal exhibitors.

Suffolks seem to be growing in favor, as this year's exhibit was a credit to the breeders of the bare-headed black-faces. Owing largely to the show being held so near their native pastures, a much larger exhibit than usual was brought. The number of entries was 71, being, with two exceptions, the largest of any breed of sheep in the yard. The principal exhibitors were Mr. Joseph Smith, The Marquis of Bristol, Mr. Lingwood, Major James Scott and Lord Ellesmere.

Leicesters, Cotswolds, Lincoln and Oxford were not very largely shown. The entries ran from 25 to 30. The heavy, coarse-wools do not seem to demand the attention of the finer breeds.

Horned Dorsets, too, were shown in meagre numbers, there being 17 entries in all. They were, on the whole, a good lot.

Wensleydales, Romney Marsh, Cheviots, Black-faced Yorks, Herdwicks and Welch Mountain were all represented in small entries.

The poultry show was, on the whole, a creditable one, although somewhat fallen off in numbers from the last few years.

The show of implements was more extensive than usual; the entries numbered 6,031. Those who imagine that England is away behind in the line of agricultural machinery would have changed their minds had they visited the Royal this year. There were many new and valuable implements shown. One that deserved special notice was a self-cleaning corn screen, a very ingenious arrangement, in which the meshes of a cylindrical screen open and contract alternately as it revolves, the grain or weeds fixed in the meshes escaping as the wires open. The Dairy Supply Co. showed some new cream separators; also a new butterfat tester. Manure spreaders, potato digging machines, incubators, hay tedders, and many more new devices were shown; also some new ideas in churns, one being the end-over-end diaphragm churn, which simply has a moveable diaphragm placed diagonally across the churn, thus making it much more easily turned, because only half the cream has to be lifted at each turn. Reapers, binders, mowers, rakes, ploughs, etc., were well shown. Seedsmen made a splendid display with their products. Sutton & Sons, Carter & Co, Webb & Sons, and others, made impressive displays with their grasses, grains and roots. Webb & Sons exhibited a variety of Swede known as the Imperial, which has won first prize at Birmingham Show for 19 years. It is said that 124 roots, drawn from an ordinary crop last year, weighed no less than 1 ton 232 lbs., or an average of 18 lbs. per root. Last year's mangolds were shown in good, firm condition and of enormous size. Some of the leading seed firms, as well as fertilizer firms, have erected and beautifully fitted up substantial buildings, some of which, in their show condition, may well be called museums.

The Selection and Breeding of Butter Cows.

[Paper read by Mr. R. H. Crump before the Canadian Holstein-Friesian Association.]

As I have nearly always found that the cows raised on the farm turn out the best milkers, I will take the breeding of butter cows first. The first and most important step is to have a good bull. The late Mr. Hiram Smith was once asked at the meeting of the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association to state the first step to be taken to start a dairy, and his prompt answer was "Buy a Bull." Get the best bull you can; find out all you can about his nearest female relations; remember always that the bull is of more importance than the cows, and the more inferior the cows, the more important it is that the bull should be of No. 1 dairy merit.

Having bought your bull, the next step will be to try and breed your cows so as to have them calve in the fall or winter. First, you will make more money from the cows by good feeding for butter through the winter, and the cows will give more milk, and milk longer, as when the grass comes in the spring they increase in milk; whereas, those calving in the spring shrink in the fall, do what you will. Secondly, and most important, the calves have a much better show, with good fresh skim milk for six or seven months, and then when the grass comes, and the majority of our farmers send to the cheese factories, the calves are old enough to feed well on our fresh pastures, and so go right ahead.

The next step will be to test your herd, both for quality and quantity, and this is a great deal more simple and less bother than a great many of our dairymen think. First, the milk must be weighed to find out how much each cow is giving. It is not necessary to weigh the milk every day, although it is better when one can, and it does not take long; but when it is not convenient, three times in each month will give you a nearly correct account, say you weigh the milk of the morning and evening of the 10th and 20th, and the last day of each month, and at the last add all six together, and multiply by ten, will give you a nearly correct amount when there are thirty days in the month. When there are thirty-one, add one day's milk to the amount. For example, we take the cow Lady. On the 10th of March she gave 20 lbs. morning, 18 lbs. evening; on the 20th, 21 lbs. morning, 20 lbs. evening, and on the 30th day, 24 lbs. morning, 22 lbs. evening; adding the six together we have 125 lbs.; multiply by 10 gives 1,250 lbs., and as March has 31 days, add 46 lbs., making 1,296 lbs. for the month of March. She really gave 1,297 lbs. by twice a day weighing. At the end of the year add all months together and you will then have the amount of milk the cow gives.

Now comes testing for butterfat, and this is of more importance than the weighing. Now, as only a few have a Babcock tester, the majority of our farmers will want to test as seldom as possible. It is found that the fourth month after calving a cow