

**Stock.****A Chatty Letter from the States.**

[From our Chicago Correspondent.]

The immense crop of distillery cattle is beginning to move. The first arrivals of any consequence were about the middle of March, and sold as follows: 1,100 @ 1,471 lbs., \$4.40 @ \$5.10; cows, \$3.25 @ \$3.60; bulls, \$3.50. Meal-fed Wyoming-Texas cattle, fattened at Ames, Neb., sold at \$4.10 to \$4.40, averaging about 900 lbs. Unless the fattening process was quite expensive, these prices must have paid better than sending the range cattle to market in poor condition and when the markets are flooded. The feeding establishments of the Standard and Union Cattle Companies, at Ames and Gilmore, Neb., seem to be very successful, and are turning out fat cattle nearly every week.

The best prices for live stock at Chicago lately were as follows: Top cattle, 1,700 @ 1,860 lbs., \$5.25 @ \$5.50; fancy 300 @ 400-lb. hogs, \$6 @ \$6.12½; best sheep, \$5, with lambs at \$5.80 per hundred. The number of cattle feeding in the corn belt is hardly as large as was estimated and will not exceed last year.

Hog raisers have made a great deal of money, as prices have been steadily on the advance for the past few months. Less than half a year ago there were large numbers of farmers who firmly believed that there was no money in hogs, and would not be for a long time. They took no care of the pigs, rushed them off to market half fat, allowed them to die of disease and neglect in large numbers, and now they all wish they had some of the pigs which they then considered almost worthless. The mess pork gamblers ran the price of that article up to \$21.50 per bbl., against \$9 at the opening of the winter packing season. Reckoning the decrease in average weight as well as numbers, Chicago handled 670,000 less during the last packing season than during the corresponding period of 1885-6. The current weights of hogs are running largely behind last year.

Mr. Rodgers, of Abingdon, Ill., the Polled-Angus man, reports the sale of an 11 months old bull calf, Prince Domino, dam Princess Albeila (5515), sire Prince of the Blood (2307), at \$500 cash. He says this is one of the best Prince bulls he ever sold, and considers that the price is just half as large as it would have been before the pleuro-pneumonia racket.

The U. S. Government has just turned over \$500,000 to be expended in extirpating contagious diseases. It is needless to say that the pleuro-pneumonia managers are happy.

The past has been a fine winter for feeding live stock in the West. Cattle feeders have not made money as a rule, except those who have continued to feed since the spring advance commenced.

There are now some doubts about the crop of Texas grass cattle coming to market much earlier than usual, as they have had no rain or snow this winter, and are in need of moisture to start the young grass. As for cattle from Montana, they will be extremely late this year, and the number of beeves from that Territory will probably be far short of the average crop.

John Gosling, Superintendent of the Swan & Bosler Hereford farm, at Indianola, Iowa, was here with 41 head of yearling steers, one year old this spring, which averaged 1008 lbs., and sold at \$4.55. These youngsters averaged only 17

months old, and included 8 calves not 13 months old, which averaged 1005 lbs. after being driven three miles. These cattle were fed 6 quarts of meal and 3 pounds of oil cake per day from the time they were weaned. Mr. Gosling firmly believes that we must shorten the time between weaning and killing.

There has lately been a much more confident feeling among cattle growers, and some who were ready figuratively to "throw up the sponge" and quit the business, have taken fresh hope and decided to continue a while longer. Notwithstanding the very low prices for ordinary fat cattle, the demand for thrifty young store cattle has continued very strong.

The January and February receipts of cattle at Chicago were 50,000 head larger than last year, while the March receipts were only about the same, and toward the latter part showed some decrease. As the markets for fat stock begin to show so much improvement, and spring business of all kinds is opening in such a promising manner, the outlook for fine stock also grows better. During the winter the fine stock trade in the West was discouragingly dull.

**Our Native Cows—Feeding for Milk Tests.**

To the Editor of the Advocate:

SIR,—The February number of the *ADVOCATE* furnishes its readers with portions of the remarks of Prof. Robertson and members of dairy associations, which admit of criticisms, and, when considered, might enlighten practical farmers and lead them to think for themselves. To read the Professor's remarks, one would suppose he was not aware that many of the cows he calls "scrubs" are Ayrshire grades, and their milking qualities are due to that family of thoroughbreds, Ayrshire bulls having been obtained throughout Canada during the past fifty years for that purpose. If the Professor had given us the date of purchase and cost of the twelve cows that he calls "poor starved looking creatures," the time he fed them, the cost of feeding from the date he purchased them to the end of the three and three quarter months that terminated with a product of an average of 3,300 lbs. of milk for that time, and what butter or cheese that produced, then we might better judge the merits of the cattle and the value of the Professor's tests to the farmers of Canada; then give the prices that the twelve cows were sold at, thus showing the cost of the test.

There is no doubt that the "Canadian cow" is well adapted to our climate. It may be asked what is the "Canadian cow?" The cows that were so called a century ago were of the French and Jersey type; their importation commenced about two hundred and fifty years ago by the first settlers. Their first cross breeding here was by using Scotch cattle brought out by settlers to the grant of territory made about 1625 by King James I. to Sir William Alexander; thenceforward the importation was continued, the greater part coming from Scotland and England, till the real "Canadian cow" is hardly known.

It will not be denied that the quality of the cow we find often called a "scrub," is due to the extensive use of pure-bred sires from the best dairy breeds, and that without the use of new and good blood, the character of our dairy stock would degenerate. Farmers who use poor, small bulls, even from a good "scrub," fail to secure profitable young stock. Forced feeding may give

more milk and beef, but it pays best to increase the quantity and quality by introducing new and the best blood of the beef kind, if for meat, and of the dairy kind, if for milk. R. P.

**Bedding for Sick Horses.**

In all diseases where acute pain is evinced by violence or rolling, and especially in some intestinal affections where the intensity of suffering produces almost uncontrollable frenzy, it is necessary to provide some protection against self-inflicted injury by an abundant supply of straw bedding spread thickly over the floor, and packed along the walls of the box for several feet above the ground-level. In the majority of other severe and acute diseases there is generally an obstinate disinclination to lie down, and the movements of progression and turning are accomplished with difficulty and pain. In such cases saw-dust or chaff-litter is better than straw until convalescence is so far advanced as to warrant a probability that the animal will take his rest in a recumbent position. Where sawdust or chaff are unobtainable, the straw should be sparingly used and cut into short lengths, so that the horse may move freely through the bed. The bedding, of whatever material composed, is to be maintained in a condition of cleanliness and dryness by the prompt and complete removal of any portion soiled by dung or urine, or which may have become damp from any other cause. An important duty of the hospital nurse is to carry out the orders of the medical attendant, whose instructions should be implicitly obeyed with accuracy, regularity, and punctuality. The administration of medicines must be conducted with quiet, patient, and careful resolution, and in strict accordance with received directions as to dose, time, and form.—[Reynolds on Draft Horses.]

**Canadian Horses for the Imperial Army.**

Two correspondents of the *Field* furnish valuable evidence of the importance to the Mother Country, no less than to Canada, of the Dominion as a source for the supply of horses for the British army. Captain William Martin, late of the Royal Artillery, says in the course of a long article:—"From this last fact [that in 1877-1878 a commission of the British officers were sent to Hungary, on the advice of the inspector-general of cavalry, with orders to purchase 700 remounts, which order they were unable to execute, having to content themselves with 400 only, many of these being under regulation height, and some under four years of age] it seems that the European market will not supply our deficiencies; and if Hungary cannot, what chance can we have of supplying ourselves from Canada, where the winters are so severe that all stock and horses require housing? There at least it is not likely that people would keep any large surplus of horses over their immediate wants."

"W. H." in the same issue, writes:—"I thought the horses on the British side of the lines, known as Canada, British Columbia, and North-West Territories, showed more quality, with substance, than anything I saw in the States. The number of English horsemen settled there sufficiently accounts for this. The Eastern Canadian horses—though quite different from the Western, being almost exclusively the progeny of English and French horses—I considered on the whole a very useful breed. It would be most interesting if the two officers who were through the country last year could be induced to give us in your columns a candid report of their experiences. Meantime (taking it for what it is worth) I cannot say that I consider the Western American horse would come up to the standard required for the English army, either in strength, action, quality, or appearance."—[Can. Gazette.]

[So satisfactory have been the specimens of Canadian army horses shipped to England by