

### Stock.

#### A Chatty Letter from the States.

[From our Chicago Correspondent.]

Chicago received more cattle and sheep the past year than ever before. A large share of the cattlemen are working to get Congress to make a gigantic appropriation to fight cattle diseases. Disease and rumors of disease, especially rumors, have cost the country many millions of dollars the past year.

The question of establishing a producer's stock yards at St. Louis is being agitated by some of the western range papers. They claim that the established yards are run too much in the interest of middlemen.

Among the December sales in the open market were 23 Polled Angus steers, 1,402 lbs., at \$5.50, sent in by J. J. Rodgers, of Abingdon, Ill.

The low prices for grade bulls are causing breeders to castrate many Angus and Hereford bull calves, and hence it is becoming more common to see bullocks of these breeds in the open markets. Yearling and 2-year-old Hereford grade bulls are selling at \$35 to \$50 per head, which is quite a come down from the boom prices.

Cattle are now selling a shade higher than a year ago, and hogs and sheep are selling 50 percent better.

All the indications seem to point to a revival of activity and confidence, and, above all, better prices for live stock during the earlier part of the new year. No boom is looked for or wanted, but there is good reason to believe there will soon be a substantial improvement in prices for live stock and farm produce. An improvement would have been realized during the past year but for the unfortunate labor demonstration. Already prices are on the mend, though cattle are yet extremely low. During December hogs and sheep sold much higher than a year ago.

A bad winter on the plains will ruin, completely ruin hundreds of ranchmen who are just now barely able to hold their heads above water. Grass is generally short and the cattle will die by the tens of thousands if the snows are deep and lasting.

The leading ranchmen of Wyoming now think the time is not far distant when they shall have to irrigate in order to produce grass enough to make the business profitable. The chief trouble lies in the fact that they can neither buy nor lease the Government lands in large tracts.

Swine breeders rejoice. Prices for their products have been about 50 percent higher than during December, 1885, with prospects of still better things to come. There is a great deal of sickness among the hogs, but farmers are not losing anything like as many as last winter. One reason is that in many localities they have not the hogs to lose.

So great were the losses of some last winter and spring that a good many farmers are feeding unground corn to cattle without having pigs to follow. This is highly extravagant, as about one-third of the value of the corn thus fed is lost. Feeding whole corn in the ear and on the ground as many do, is a most extravagant practice, anyway. One effect of the pleuro-pneumonia scare in the Chicago distilleries will be to do away with distillery milk and the feeding of old cows in such places. The managers say they will only feed steers and bulls hereafter. This is a good

thing, because swill milk from cows housed in close, dark, damp sheds, cannot be wholesome, no matter what the doctors say.

It would be just as well for the good of the people at large if distillery feeding were completely reformed, or done away with entirely.

Col. J. W. Judy's son, Mr. C. C. Judy, of Tallula, Ill., sent in 20 head of 1,377-lb. yearling Shorthorns, which sold at \$5.50. At the same time he marketed some 1,750-lb. "coming fours" at \$5.30. Some of the oldest and best feeders in the States, however, still believe that a beef bullock cannot reach his best short of three or four years.

#### The Government Fat Stock Show.

This exhibition took place in Guelph on the 9th and 10th ults. The display of cattle was not equal to that of the former shows, but there was a good collection of sheep and hogs. The practice of over-feeding and of keeping high-fed matured animals from year to year merely for exhibition purposes seems to be dying out. This is a movement in the right direction, and should it continue, there is a possibility of these shows being placed on a satisfactory footing.

The attendance, however, was very meagre. The curiosity is dying out, which must lead to a change of programme, if the show is to be continued. We observe with regret that the Council of the Agricultural and Arts Association is asking for increased Government expenditures in order to keep the concern artificially propped up.

The Christmas fair was also meagrely attended, and, with few exceptions, the cattle offered for sale were only of medium quality, the prices ranging from 3c. to 4½c. per pound. Choice Christmas beef brought 10c. to 12c. Wm. McQuarrie sold 92 lambs for 5½c. per pound, and Jas. Laidlaw sold 200 for \$5.75 per head. Mr. James Taylor sold 17 lambs at 5c. per pound. A number of the buyers present were from a distance, and quite a quantity of stock changed hands.

#### Meeting of Shorthorn Breeders.

A special meeting of a branch of the Shorthorn breeders who felt aggrieved at the action of the Dominion Shorthorn Herdbook Association in excluding from registration a large number of pure Shorthorns, was held in Guelph on the 8th ult. The meeting was called by J. and W. B. Watt, J. Fothergill, W. G. Pettit, J. and R. McQueen, and D. Talbot, who suffered loss from the exclusion of the bull "Roger," and the object was to consider what action was most advisable under the circumstances.

The meeting was not a secret caucus, and a large number of the members of the Dominion Shorthorn Association and other breeders were present. The question was discussed from every standpoint and by all the factions concerned, and in general, a good deal of harmony was manifested.

Mr. J. J. Hobson was moved to the chair. In explaining the object of the meeting, he stated that it was claimed that the rejected stock was eligible for registration in the Dominion Book according to the rules of the Association.

Mr. W. G. Pettit said that the rejected stock should be admitted for registration unless substantial reasons be shown for their exclusion. Some of the best stock in the Province was excluded. The burden fell upon the Dominion Association to prove that Roger's pedigree was a forgery, which would be difficult to do after the

lapso of 70 or 80 years, many of the witnesses now being dead. He produced a letter from the Secretary of the American Shorthorn Herdbook Association to show that there was no doubt of Roger being traceable to the importation of 1817, that the pedigrees were accepted by the early Kentucky breeders, else they would never have been recorded, and that he (the Secretary) could not comprehend why they should be excluded by Canadian breeders. He (Mr. Pettit) considered that the action taken by the Association was the offspring of jealousy. He contended (1) that the burden of proof fell upon the Association, and (2) that the stock was eligible for registration by the constitution of the Association. In support of the latter statement he quoted section 10 of the constitution, which burdened the Secretary with the duty of sending "timely notice" to breeders of stock whose pedigrees were affected, and he had not received such notice.

Robert McQueen contended that the Association established a standard to suit themselves. He laid great stress on the fact that no breeder objected to the British American standard, as each felt confident that his stock would have been eligible for registration in the Dominion Herdbook, and would therefore have voted without hesitation for the adoption of the same standard in the Dominion Herdbook; for it was not known amongst the breeders at that time that the same standard, if strictly followed, would lead to the rejection of such a large number of the best stock in the country. Every breeder considered his pedigrees safe. Many of the breeders did not, therefore, consider it necessary to attend the meeting, and if they had done so, the vote would have been unanimous in favor of adopting the British American standard for the Dominion Herdbook. He contended that the Dominion Association should prove the pedigrees to be wrong; it was not the duty of the other party to prove them to be right, as they were recognized by the Shorthorn breeders of Canada and the United States. He contended that Canadian-bred stock with 8 or 10 crosses were superior to imported stock. Since his letter appeared in the *Advocate*, he had received many communications, even as far as Manitoba, urging him to call a meeting and take decisive action.

Chas. Drury, M. P. P., argued that Mr. Pettit and Mr. McQueen put the burden of the proof on the wrong shoulders. The Dominion Association appointed a revising committee to test the pedigrees, and the matter was in their hands. If this committee found a missing link, it devolved upon the owners of such pedigrees to supply the deficiency. He had not always been in sympathy with the Dominion Shorthorn Association; his sympathies went with the farmers and small breeders. As a member of the Council of Agriculture and Arts, he pleaded for the masses, and advocated the lowering of the standard in order to put ordinary farmers in the position of securing superior stock at reasonable prices; but he made every concession in the cause of harmony and for the purpose of reducing the number of herdbooks to one. He was present at the Toronto meeting when the Roger pedigree was discussed, and every opportunity was given to the affected parties to establish their claims. He was as anxious as anybody to see the Roger pedigree proved, but the revising committee decided that Roger did not come up to the standard. Secretary Wade had corresponded with parties in the U. S., but failed to secure the necessary evidence

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