

Bulls.—The export demand still holds good; heavy good stock bulls, \$3.50 to \$4.25; light bulls, good quality, \$3 to \$3.50 per cwt.

Stockers.—Two carloads went through for Buffalo; dull trade. Prices ruled 2½c. to 3c.; a few only touched 3½c. per lb.

Feeders.—None on offer to-day; not many wanted. Prices nominal, at 3½c. per lb.

Calves.—In fair supply; choice veals wanted. Prices steady, at \$2 to \$7, according to size and quality.

Sheep.—Export sheep are weaker, the two principal operators not on the market. Prices ruled weaker, at 3c. to 3½c. per lb.

Lambs.—Nothing touched \$1; best price recorded was \$3.90; the range averaged \$2 each.

Milk Cows and Springers.—Choice cows in demand. Prices rule from \$20 to \$38 per head.

Hogs.—Choice selections of bacon hogs ruled firmer, at \$5.60 weighed off cars. Thick fat, \$1.75 per cwt.; light fat, \$5.25 to \$5.50. Sows, \$3.25 to \$3.50. Stags, \$2 to \$2.25.

Dressed Hogs.—Receipts light; choice weights in farmers' loads, \$6.75 to \$7; others, \$5 to \$6.50. The exports of bacon last week were phenomenal, and for the month of June were 1,388,546 lbs., valued at \$153,526, against 2,094,890 lbs., valued at \$156,799, for June, 1896. Last month, 101,773 lbs. of hams were exported, of a value of \$16,443, against 126,327 lbs., valued at \$11,693, in June, 1896.

Receipts of grain on the street market showed an increase over last week.

Wheat easy, 300 bushels selling at 70c.

Oats firmer, three loads selling at 25½c. to 26c. per bushel.

Hay.—Conditions are reversed this year; a great shortage of hay is reported from Quebec and the Ottawa Valley; all the hay was winter-killed, and they are drawing hay from Ontario. Our supply is not large, many districts report the crop uneven; twelve loads in, at \$9 to \$10 per ton.

Straw in good demand, \$8 to \$8.50 per ton.

Wool.—The wool exports from Toronto have been very large, being about ten times those of last year to date. The shipments in June, 1897, were 943,963 lbs., valued at \$134,490, while for June, 1896, they were only 93,243 lbs., valued at \$18,517. Mr. Robert Berryman, and Messrs. Long & Bissley, wool dealers, of Hamilton, in the last two weeks have exported 500,000 lbs. of wool, principally to Philadelphia, U. S.

Hides.—The time when shipments to the United States can be made with safety is now closed; under the new tariff a duty of 20 per cent. is to be imposed on hides and calfskins. Sheepskins will be subject to a duty computed on the quantity of wool the skin will pull, and that will be about \$1 for a full-grown skin. The receipts are only moderate, and the local trade is taking all that are offered at 1c. advance; are now paying 8½c. for No. 1 hides, 7½c. for No. 2, 6½c. for No. 3.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

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

CATTLE.	Range of Prices.	Top prices		
		Present	Two weeks ago	1896
1500 lbs. up.....	\$4 40 to 5 15	\$5 15	\$4 50	\$6 00
1350 to 1500.....	4 00 to 5 20	5 20	4 60	5 85
1200 to 1350.....	3 85 to 5 05	5 20	4 50	5 75
1050 to 1200.....	3 75 to 4 80	5 00	4 50	5 50
900 to 1050.....	3 60 to 4 70	4 75	4 35	5 35
Stallions.....	4 30 to 4 60	4 75	4 40	5 65
Stags and F.....	3 45 to 4 30	4 20	3 75	5 35
Fat cows and heifers.....	3 25 to 4 40	4 25	4 35	4 50
Canning cows.....	1 75 to 2 65	2 60	2 25	2 50
Bulls.....	2 25 to 3 80	3 75	3 60	3 75
Calves.....	3 50 to 7 00	6 25	5 30	5 50
Texas steers.....	3 00 to 4 35	4 40	3 85	4 75
Texas C. & H.....	2 25 to 3 25	2 89	2 55	3 85

HOGS.	Range of Prices.	Top prices		
		Present	Two weeks ago	1896
Mixed.....	3 30 to 3 55	3 60	3 55	5 35
Heavy.....	3 05 to 3 55	3 55	3 40	5 42
Light.....	3 30 to 3 55	3 60	3 70	5 25
Pigs.....	2 00 to 3 50	3 60	3 65	4 90

SHEEP.	Range of Prices.	Top prices		
		Present	Two weeks ago	1896
Natives.....	1 50 to 3 85	4 10	4 25	4 25
Western.....	3 00 to 3 60	3 70	4 00	3 45
Texas.....	2 25 to 3 75	3 75	3 70	3 60
Lambs.....	3 00 to 5 40	5 80	6 50	6 10

The excessively hot weather is cutting down the demand for meats. There are not many fancy cattle, but more beefing bullocks than a while ago. The fly season was very late in starting, and made it easier than usual for cattle to get fat. Hog receipts are exceeding all expectations and are breaking some of the summer records. Hogs are making money for feeders, and there is no shortage of young pigs, and the prospects are that there will be a liberal business done by feeders in that line. The corn prospects are so far very good, and there is a good deal of two-year-old corn still on hand. The larger livestock markets of the country show in the main a gain in live stock business this year over last.

Receipts the first six months of 1897 at four markets compare as follows:

Years.	Chicago.	Kansas City.	Omaha.	St. Louis.
1897.....	1,174,410	712,610	321,819	318,963
1896.....	1,234,916	637,041	218,898	317,927
Increase.....		105,569	105,921	1,036
Decrease.....	60,506			

Years.	Chicago.	Kansas City.	Omaha.	St. Louis.
1897.....	4,097,082	1,749,406	793,013	863,512
1896.....	3,839,466	1,423,595	621,098	855,989
Increase.....	257,612	318,811	170,915	7,523
Decrease.....				

Years.	Chicago.	Kansas City.	Omaha.	St. Louis.
1897.....	1,637,549	639,385	352,897	351,635
1896.....	1,743,769	506,580	140,431	378,046
Increase.....		132,805	212,466	
Decrease.....	106,220			26,411

The July cattle receipts are now running about the same as a year ago.

July receipts at Chicago for the last nine years were as follows:

Receipts.	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.
July, 1896.....	224,919	499,964	279,130
July, 1895.....	225,559	382,398	278,898
July, 1894.....	153,664	379,483	131,301
July, 1893.....	265,742	519,507	220,133
July, 1892.....	303,315	488,820	158,942
July, 1891.....	248,983	468,497	169,793
July, 1890.....	328,290	612,355	143,958
July, 1889.....	272,541	414,696	133,744
July, 1888.....	205,814	331,379	96,740

* Railroad strike first two weeks of month curtailed receipts somewhat.

Several of the large slaughterers and the cattle exporters have lately been relying upon cattle contracted at country feeding points, chiefly at distilleries. There were a good many cattle contracted in Kentucky. These cattle, however, have now been pretty well forwarded. The cattle buyers, however, are feeling less anxious about filling supplies than they did a month or so ago. They are not sure about next year, but they feel pretty well satisfied that with all the raking and scraping that stock feeders have done will insure a plentiful supply of beef cattle for the next few months at least. There are some of the large operators who profess to believe that the supplies of ripe cattle, or at least good beefy bullocks,

will be very large. There has certainly been a good deal of change in sentiment among those who recently talked of and believed in a large cattle shortage. As it is, however, it would seem that they are taking a near-sighted view and not making due allowance for the energetic way in which cattle have been brought to the corn belt from Canada, the Eastern, Southern, and Western States. Canada may or may not have a plentiful supply of young cattle to take the place of those sold to United States feeders and breeders, but it is certain that the other sections referred to have no surplus of young stock. A report from Texas says:

"Cattle feeders all made some money last season, and now that plenty of feed is assured for the coming season they will try their hand again. Already there is a good demand for steers suitable for the feed pens, and unless all signs fall more cattle will be fed in Texas the coming season than during any other year in the history of the State. The only thing that may stand in the way of increasing the volume of business in this line is the scarcity of cattle."

Not many desirable stock cattle have come lately. Farmers are selling them without trouble at home.

It sometimes happens that a farmer will refuse to sell his young cattle to a neighbor, pay freight and charges on them to market, when the neighbor can afford to buy them and pay freight back again. The moral of this is obvious.

Western grass sheep were received from Washington, Oregon and Wyoming, selling at \$3 to \$3.35.

Heavy sheep are still almost unsalable, for there is no export demand.

Word comes from the East as follows: The heavy sheep shipments from Boston have ceased for the time being, partly because the man who has been shipping them has lost enough money and partly because there is a scarcity of sheep fit for export.

The horse market is very quiet, but not unreasonably so. Recent retail horse sales were as follows:

Brg. 6 yrs., 1,400 lbs.....	\$75 00
Brg. 6 yrs., 1,300 lbs.....	107 50
Brg. 6 yrs., 1,300 lbs.....	107 50
Gr team, 6 yrs., 3,100 lbs.....	300 00
Gr team, 6 yrs., 3,000 lbs.....	225 00
Gr team, 6 yrs., 2,900 lbs.....	100 00
B team, 6 yrs., 2,500 lbs.....	145 00
B team, 6 yrs., 2,500 lbs.....	92 50
B team, 6 yrs., 3,100 lbs.....	250 00
Gr h, 6 yrs., 1,500 lbs., and br h, 6 yrs., 1,500 lbs.....	225 00
Gr h, 6 yrs., 1,500 lbs.....	95 00
Bm, 6 yrs., 1,500 lbs.....	50 00
Gr m, 6 yrs., 1,400 lbs.....	70 00
Bm, 6 yrs., 1,300 lbs.....	80 00
Bm, 6 yrs., 1,250 lbs.....	75 00
Bm, 6 yrs., 1,300 lbs.....	90 00
Bm, 6 yrs., 1,100 lbs.....	65 00
Bm, 6 yrs., 1,100 lbs.....	65 00
Rm, 6 yrs., 1,150 lbs.....	65 00
Gr m, 6 yrs., 1,250 lbs.....	65 00
Ch m, 6 yrs., 900 lbs.....	70 00
Gr m, 6 yrs., 1,100 lbs.....	60 00
Bm, 6 yrs., 1,150 lbs.....	75 00
B team, 6 yrs., 2,150 lbs.....	120 00
Bm, 6 yrs., 1,050 lbs., trotter.....	460 00
Rm, 6 yrs., 1,050 lbs., trotter.....	175 00
Gr team, 6 yrs., 2,900 lbs.....	250 00
Gr m, 6 yrs., 1,250 lbs.....	90 00
Gr m, 6 yrs., 1,300 lbs.....	90 00
Bm, 6 yrs., 1,050 lbs., plug.....	45 00
R team, 6 yrs., 2,600 lbs.....	150 00
Rm, 6 yrs., 1,350 lbs.....	70 00
Rm, 6 yrs., 1,400 lbs.....	75 00
Gr m, 6 yrs., 1,400 lbs.....	75 00
Gr team, 6 yrs., 3,300 lbs.....	235 00
Gr m, 6 yrs., 1,500 lbs.....	95 00
Rm, 6 yrs., 1,300 lbs.....	85 00

Montreal Markets.

Export Cattle.—The almost entire absence of anything like good export cattle in this market prevents a reasonably accurate quotation; and although many are offered and called export cattle, few really come under that heading, as far as quality is concerned. A few of the best are culled out from time to time, but it is only when shippers are cornered to fill flag ends of space. For these the prevailing figure has been from 4½c. to 4¾c. per lb., the outside price being for extra nice ones.

Butcher's Cattle.—There is much of a humdrum nature to this market, the scarcity of good, fairly fat heaves being also apparent. Butchers have, however, been free buyers of late, and the markets have been fairly well cleaned up each day. This has the effect of keeping prices steadier and without any great movement one way or the other. Choice stock makes from 4½c. to 4¾c.; very good, 3½c. to 4½c., and down to 2½c. for common beasts.

Export Sheep.—This stock has been in good demand, and supplies not being heavy, fair prices are being paid, considering the poor nature of the British sheep markets. Values range from 3½c. to 3¾c. per lb.; butchers' stock, 2½c. to 3½c.

Lambs.—Quite a number offering and market easier, at \$2.50 to \$3.50.

Calves steady, at \$1.50 to \$5 each.

Live Hogs.—A slight slump took place in this line this week, choice lots falling off about 1c. per lb., and this on a market where the offerings were on the light side; 5c. off cars.

Hides and Skins.—The vagueness of the United States hide situation—this at least is what dealers lay it to—has caused a decline in beef hides here of 10c. per lb. There has been no change of a local nature to cause this drop, as hides are moving freely from dealers to tanners. Quotations now stand: Green salted hides—No. 1, 7c. per lb.; No. 2, 6c.; No. 3, 5c.; heavy salted hides—No. 1, 7c. per lb.; No. 2, 6c.; No. 3, 5c.; Country calfskins—No. 1, 7c. per lb.; No. 2, 5c.; Lamb skins, 25c. each; clip, 25c. each.

Live Stock Shipments.—As will be seen by the following table, there has been quite an increase in shipments of cattle this season over that of any other date; in fact, it is the banner year to date. Sheep and horses have, however, declined not a little when the period (two months) is considered. Following are the shipments to June 31st, with comparative figures from 1893.

Date.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Horses.
1897—	37,011	6,566	3,032
1896—	28,780	9,066	4,715
1895—	29,830	18,720	4,440
1894—	29,090	16,055	1,521
1893—	33,387	218	572

Horse Markets.

Quite a little business has been transacted since the Jubilee festivities have passed, the shipments for the first week after being the heaviest week of the season to date—507. Locally the markets have been good for good horses, which are unfortunately rather scarce. It is rather remarkable also that most of the buyers are making their consignments up of heavy drafts, very few taking drivers, these being mostly picked up for the city trade. We quote heavy blacks, \$1 to \$125; trammers and busses, \$75 to \$90; drivers, \$75 to \$125.

The British Markets.

Heavy supplies, combined with very hot weather, has had the effect of forcing prices back another 1c. per lb. for Canadian cattle and sheep, and 1c. per lb. for United States beefs. Choice States steers sold for 10½c. per lb., choice Canadian, 1c. per lb. less; sheep, 1c. per lb. less; and a quota-tions are per pound of dressed beef, ranging from 10½c. to 11c.



THE CASTING AWAY OF MRS. LECKS AND MRS. ALESHINE.

(Continued from page 301.)

I now took a position a little in advance of my companions, and as I swam slowly they were easily able to keep up with me. Mrs. Aleshine, being so stout, floated much higher out of the water than either Mrs. Lecks or I, and this permitted her to use her oar with a great deal of freedom. Sometimes she would give such a vigorous brush to the water that she would turn herself almost entirely around, but, after a little practice, she learned to avoid undue efforts of this kind.

How far off the steamer might be I had no idea, for I was not accustomed to judging distances at sea; but I believed that if we were careful of our strength, and if the ocean continued as smooth as it now was, we might eventually reach the vessel, provided she were yet afloat.

"After you are fairly in the water," said Mrs. Aleshine, as she swept along, although without the velocity which that phrase usually implies, "it isn't half so bad as I thought it would be. For one thing, it doesn't feel a bit salt, although I must say it tasted horribly that way when I first went into it."

"You didn't expect to find pickle-bine, did you?" said Mrs. Lecks. "Though if it was, I suppose we could float on it setting."

"And as to being cold," said Mrs. Aleshine, "the part of me that is in actually more comfortable than that which is out."

"There's one thing I would have been afraid of," said Mrs. Lecks, "if we hadn't made preparation for it, and that's sharks."

"Preparations!" I exclaimed. "How in the world did you prepare for sharks?"

"Easy enough," said Mrs. Lecks. "When we went down into our room to get ready to go away in the boats we both put on black stockin's. I've read that sharks never bite colored people, although if they see a white man in the water they'll snap him up as quick as lightning; and black stockin's was the nearest we could come to it. You see, I thought as like as not we'd have some sort of an upset before we got through."

"It's a great comfort," remarked Mrs. Aleshine, "and I'm very glad you thought of it, Mrs. Lecks. After this I shall make it a rule: Black stockin's for sharks."

"I suppose in your case," said Mrs. Lecks, addressing me, "dark trousers will do as well."

"To which I answered that I sincerely hoped they would."

"Another thing I'm thankful for," said Mrs. Aleshine, "is that I thought to put on a flannel skirt."

"And what's the good of it," said Mrs. Lecks, "when it's soppy wet?"

"Flannel's flannel," replied her friend, "whether it's wet or dry; and if you had the rheumatism as much as I have, you'd know it."

To this Mrs. Lecks replied with a sniff, and asked me how soon I thought we would get sight of the ship, for if we were going the wrong way, and had to turn round and go back, it would certainly be very provoking.

I threw a rapid glance around the whole circle of the horizon, and was rejoiced to see the dark spot which I had before discovered; and as we rose again my companions saw it, and were greatly satisfied.

"Now, then," said Mrs. Aleshine, "it seems as if there was something to work for," and she began to sweep her oar with great vigor.

"If you want to tire yourself out before you get there," said Mrs. Aleshine, "said Mrs. Lecks, "you'd better go on in that way. Now, what I advise is that we stop rowing altogether and have something to eat, for I'm sure we need it to keep up our strength."

"Eat!" I cried. "What are you going to eat? Do you expect to catch fish?"

"And eat 'em raw?" said Mrs. Lecks. "I should think not. But do you suppose, Mr. Craig, that Mrs. Aleshine and me would go off and leave that ship without takin' somethin' to eat by the way? Let's all gather here in a bunch, and see what sort of a meal we can make. And now, Barbry Aleshine, if you lay your oar down there on the water, I recommend you to tie it to one of your bonnet-strings, or it'll be floatin' away, and you won't get it again."

As she said this, Mrs. Lecks put her right hand down into the water, and fumbled about in search of a pocket. I could not but smile as I thought of the condition of food when, for an hour or more, it had been a couple of feet under the surface of the ocean; but my ideas on the subject were entirely changed when I saw Mrs. Lecks hold up in the air two German sausages, and shake the briny drops from their smooth and glittering surfaces.

"There's nothin'," she said, "like sausages for shipwreck and that kind of thing. They're very sustaining, and bein' covered with a tight skin, water can't get at 'em, no matter how you carry 'em. I wouldn't bring these out in the boat, because havin' the beams we might as well eat them. Have you a knife about you, Mr. Craig?"

I produced a dripping jackknife, and after the open blade had been waved in the air to dry it a little, Mrs. Lecks proceeded to divide one of the sausages, handing the other to me to hold meanwhile.

"Now don't go eatin' sausages without bread, if you don't want 'em to give you dyspepsy," said Mrs. Aleshine, who was tugging at a submarine pocket.

"I'm very much afraid your bread is all soaked," said Mrs. Lecks.

To which her friend replied that that remained to be seen, and forthwith produced with a splash a glass preserve-jar with a metal top.

"I saw this, nearly empty, as I looked into the ship's pantry, and I stuffed into it all the soft biscuits it would hold. There was some sort of jam left at the bottom, so that the one who gets the last biscuit will have somethin' of a little spread on it. And now, Mrs. Lecks," she continued triumphantly, as she unscrewed the top, "that rubber ring has kept 'em as dry as chips. I'm mighty glad of it, for I had trouble enough gettin' this jar into my pocket, and gettin' it out, too, for that matter."

Floating thus, with our hands and shoulders above the water, we made a very good meal from the sausages and soft biscuit.

"Barbry Aleshine," said Mrs. Lecks, as her friend proceeded to cut the second sausage, "don't you lay that knife down when you've done with it, as if it was an oar; for if you do it'll sink, as like as not, about six miles. I've read that the ocean is as deep as that in some places."

"Goodness gracious me!" exclaimed Mrs. Aleshine, "I hope we are not over one of them deep spots."

"There's no knowin'," said Mrs. Lecks, "but if it's more comfortin' to think this shallower, we'll make up our minds that way. Now then," she continued, "we'll finish off this meal with a little somethin' to drink. I'm not given to takin' spirits, but I never travel without a little whiskey, ready mixed with water, to take if it should be needed."

So saying, she produced from one of her pockets a whiskey flask tightly corked, and of its contents we each took a sip.