

Stock.

A Chatty Letter from the States.

[From our Chicago Correspondent.]

The whole country has for some time been very much disturbed over the difficulties between capital and labor. The live stock trade seemed to feel the effects of the disturbance quite as much as any other branch of business. The railways were, for a time, unable to guarantee the free movement of freight, live or dead, and there was a feeling of "shakiness," which had a very bad effect upon the interests of those who were trying to attract investors. The trouble has, now at least, temporarily quieted, and the normal feeling of confidence has been restored.

Whatever the interruptions of trade, "the people must eat," and since the people of this country are great meat eaters, it would take a pretty serious state of affairs indeed to demoralize the live stock trade, or rather the demand for meats. Over-production is about all that can very badly unsettle the stock raising business, though of course it takes its ups and downs the same as other branches of industry.

A few months ago there were very serious fears of the supplies of live stock throughout the country exceeding the demand, but now the outlook is regarded as being decidedly more hopeful. The markets of late have not been supplied with as much stock as at the corresponding time last year, and the total offerings of live stock for the expired part of the year is considerably less in the aggregate than during 1885. The only question now is upon the demand. So far it is certainly no less, and while there is less of a foreign war stimulus than for a year or two past, the legitimate consumptive demand seems to be steadily gathering strength. At any rate, those who are in the business of raising live stock, and are conducting it on sound business principles, need have no fear but what it will prove, in the long run, quite as profitable as any occupation.

The dependence of the American cattle raiser on corn to fatten his cattle is very great, and often places him at a disadvantage, if he did but know it. The four fine cattle with which J. J. Hill, of St. Paul, won his laurels at Chicago over 600 corn-fed competitors, never knew the taste of corn. Mr. Hill, in a recent address, stated that he had secured a Scotch feeder at \$2,500 per year, and found that he could make premium cattle without depending upon corn.

It will be a long time, however, before root culture in the west assumes any important consideration. Wheat raising has, in a measure, been overdone, and it may so happen with corn after a while, as the corn belt of the States is very rapidly widening.

Nebraska has for two years been sending us corn-fed cattle, hogs and sheep every month in the year, and now Texas is being "heard from" in the same manner.

The imitation butter making seems to be gaining strength. The proposed taxation of 10c. per lb. will most likely be defeated. The claim is made that every creamery in the country uses "oleo" oil, and that about the only way to get real butter is to keep a cow and make it yourself. A Chicago restaurant made quite a hit by introducing churns and

making their own butter on the premises. It costs them about 75c. per lb., but pays at that, as it draws custom. Even the fellows who are making money on bogus butter do not wish to eat it.

The May sales of fine cattle at Dexter Park, Chicago, were fairly well attended, but buyers were found to be unusually discriminating. The Canadian Herefords and Polled Angus and the New York Shorthorns sold the best. M. H. Cochrane & Son, of Hillhurst, made a very successful sale, which resulted as follows:—Ten Hereford bulls were sold at an average of \$215.50; 14 cows and heifers averaged \$360; 8 Polled-Angus bulls averaged \$313.62; 22 Angus cows and heifers averaged \$347.50. In view of the general condition of business affairs of the country, the result of this sale was a highly gratifying one. The Hereford bulls sold at \$100 to \$525; Hereford cows at \$200 to \$575; Polled-Angus bulls at \$105 to \$450; Polled-Angus cows at \$175 to \$800. These prices showed that buyers wanted something good, and were willing to pay good prices for really prime stock.

H. Y. Attrill and Wm. Murray, of New York, 23 head of fine Shorthorns at an average of \$591. John Hope, of Bow Park, bought Grand Duchess of Ridgewood 2nd at \$2,800, and J. J. Hill, of St. Paul, bought the Grand Duchess of Ridgewood 3rd at \$3,250. The Grand Duke of Ridgewood 69,965 sold at \$1,000 to J. H. Lafferty, Norwood, Ill.

T. W. Harvey, of Turlington, Neb., sold his entire here of 35 Shorthorns at \$40 to \$430 for bulls, and \$85 to \$455 for cows and heifers.

The Michigan Hereford Breeders' Association sold 12 cows at \$50 to \$300, averaging \$236.66, and 8 bulls at \$125 to \$300, averaging \$240. This sale was only a partial success, a number of the best cattle being withdrawn because of low bids or lack of bids.

It is a noticeable fact that in the sales which make the highest averages the cattle are carefully groomed, are not too fat, but always in good condition, and the choicest animals are taken into the ring first. It is suicidal to lead into the ring two or three animals which nobody wants and which are knocked off at low prices to the tune of spiritless bidding. There is nothing like a good start. "Well begun is half done." Where bidding is sharp at the outset it seldom lags. The first sale or two gives the spirit of the occasion and is the key note to the whole.

Feeding for Lean Meat.

Not long ago we published a report of Professor Sanborn's tests, from which he concluded that food makes a profound change in the composition of the animal; that the pig is most susceptible to the molding influence of food, so that we can elect the type of meat we want. Sir J. B. Lawes writes to the *Live Stock* (London) *Journal* to say that in the Rothamsted experiments the more nitrogenous foods tended to growth rather than fatness, which coincides with Professor Sanborn's investigations. In commenting on the fact that corn-fed pork contained two pounds of fat to one of lean, Professor Sanborn wrote: "No wonder that American wealth is disgusted with American hog grease as a daily food, and year by year steadily consumes less and less of it." Taking this for a text, Sir John preaches the following instructive

little sermon: "There can be no doubt that the wealthy Americans can obtain their supply of fat in the more palatable form of butter; but butter is a very costly substance and the enormous trade which has sprung up in butter substitutes shows how great is the requirement of the human stomach for some form of fat. Farmers would be only too glad to sell their pigs in a less fat state if the public taste would allow them to do so. It requires between two and three pounds of starch or five or six pounds of corn to produce one pound of fat; and, although a fattening animal increases in weight, it also increases in dry matter from the fat-displacing water. The farmer could produce a leaner quality of pork at less cost; at present, however, the demand for fat pork and bacon is not likely to alter. The pig is the best and cheapest fat-making machine which exists, and although Professor Sanborn speaks rather contemptuously of 'hog grease,' this does not alter the fact that when it is required the cereal grains are the most suitable food for obtaining it, and as we pointed out when writing on the subject thirty years ago, these grains contain the proper balance of nitrogenous to non-nitrogenous compounds. But except in the case of pigs, the animals on the farm receive the bulk of their food in the form of roots, grass, hay and straw, and the more concentrated foods only form a small portion of the bulk, while the most economical ration, that is to say, one where neither nitrogenous nor non-nitrogenous substances are wasted, has yet to be ascertained." [Philadelphia Press.]

Pork as Food.

The prejudice against the flesh of swine as human food is as old as history. If it has any foundation in nature besides the filthy manner in which the hog is generally kept, it is because the hog is more subject to disease, or at least to a certain class of diseases, than other domestic animals. Its omnivorous appetite makes it liable to certain diseases from which the exclusively vegetable-eating animals are comparatively, if not entirely, exempt.

The two evils most complained of are tape-worm and trichina—both parasitic. Both of these are developed in the animal tissues, and it is very doubtful if they ever afflict animals that do not eat animal food, or in some way get animal products into their stomachs and intestinal canals.

The tape-worm, when encysted in the tissues of the hog, has the name of measles—though wholly unlike measles in the human species—and pork containing these encysted worms is known as "measly pork." When taken into the human stomach, they are liable to develop there in the form of the loathsome creature known as tape-worm. This is not necessarily fatal, but very annoying. In modern times, it is successfully removed by the skillful physician without pain or injury to the patient.

Trichina is a parasite much more to be dreaded even than the tape-worm. It is liable to infect the human system in such numbers as not only to be very painful, but fatal, and we believe there is no known remedy. It is encysted in the flesh of the animal, in a dormant state, like the tape-worm. When the trichina enters the human stomach, it attaches itself to the mucous membrane and there awakens to all the activity of breeding thousands, if not mil-