

D. G. Hanmer, Mount Vernon—Mixed farming is pursued, but it is generally conceded that although the price of wheat has ruled low, the yield has been such as to have made it the best paying crop on the farm.

J. E. Richardson, Princeton—Farmers who keep a number of good cows and feed them well, I believe did the best last season.

Shefford, Que.—P. P. Fowler, Dalling—Dairy farming.

Sherbrooke.—W. A. Hale, Sherbrooke—Dairying was the most profitable branch of farming in 1894. Poultry in a small way paid well. Hay is a drug on the market. Market gardening was sadly overdone and depressed.

Manna McGinnis, Ierville—Dairying.

Prince Edward Island.—Walter Simpson, Bay View—Stock and dairy farming gave best returns for 1894.

Cumberland, N. S.—C. H. Black, Amherst—Dairy farming is growing in favor and perhaps is now the most profitable branch of farming, though some of us think we can do as well with beef; while those farmers who have a large acreage of marsh land should certainly make something by selling a large proportion of their hay.

Wisconsin, U. S.—Geo. McKerrrow, Sussex—Dairying, where properly followed, showed the best returns in 1894.

STOCK.

Chatty Stock Letter from the States.

(FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.)

Extreme top prices now, compared with one and two years ago:—

	1895.	1894.	1893.
CATTLE.			
1500 lbs. up.....	\$5 60	\$4 80	\$6 00
1350 @ 1500.....	5 40	4 80	5 95
1200 @ 1350.....	5 25	4 50	5 35
1050 @ 1200.....	5 00	4 00	4 90
900 @ 1050.....	4 70	3 60	4 60
Stockers.....	4 25	3 90	4 60
Fat cows.....	4 50	3 35	4 75
Canners.....	2 50	2 25	2 60
Bulls.....	5 00	4 00	4 25
Calves.....	5 75	6 25	7 50
Texas steers.....	4 55	4 00	4 75
Texas cows.....	3 45	2 35	3 25
HOGS.			
Mixed.....	\$4 35	\$5 30	\$8 50
Heavy.....	4 45	5 30	8 70
Light.....	4 20	5 30	8 30
Pigs.....	4 00	5 20	7 80
SHEEP.			
Natives.....	\$1 65	\$4 50	\$6 00
Western.....	5 50	4 00	5 25
Texas.....	4 50	5 40	5 00
Mexican.....	4 50	5 50	5 40
Lambs.....	5 65	4 55	6 50

Cattle and sheep are advancing and hogs declining. Good packing hogs only cost about \$4 on an average.

Reports from the range country are somewhat conflicting. The recent heavy storms undoubtedly did a great deal of damage to live stock interests, but in the main the losses so far have been very light.

High priced feed has caused cattle feeders to shirk and skimp a good deal. Buyers complain that the cattle do not net as much beef tallow and "butter-fat" as they should, nor as large a proportion of good beef.

Live cattle exporters have been fairly busy at Chicago, as the following record of a week's business indicates. Inspectors tagged cattle for export as follows:—J. M. Greenbaum, 350; A. J. Thompson, 769; Schwartzchild & S., 187; Morris, 461; Goldsmith, 66; Hathaway, 206; Shambert, 557; Lehman, 235; Swift, 555; Epstein, 150; O'Donnell, 100; making a total of 3,696, against 4,177 the previous week, and 6,064 a year ago.

The present French tariff is nearly \$1 per 100 on States cattle. It costs about \$18 to \$20 per head to market American cattle in Paris after landing at Havre, the biggest item, of course, being the tariff. It is said that the American cattle shipped to Paris do not compare in quality with the French stall-fed steers, many of which weigh 2,000 lbs.

Some fancy fat bulls have lately been sent in. One extra fine 2,130-lb. Hereford sold at \$5.00, or \$106.50; and another, weighing 2,180 lbs., sold at \$4.50. Exporters paid \$3.57 to \$4.00 for many bulls. A. J. Thompson bought export steers at \$4.75 to \$5.25. J. M. Greenbaum bought 1,377-lb. to 1,500-lb. steers at \$5.00 to \$5.45. Hathaway bought 1,557-lb. bulls at \$3.95, and 1,416-lb. to 1,520-lb. steers at \$4.00 and \$5.15.

Cattle supplies are very short, and nothing but the late uneasiness about financial matters has prevented a sharp rise in values. Dealers are asking, if these small cattle runs keep up a while longer regardless of prices, how long will it take the trade to find out that there is a serious shortage of cattle?

France has already put very strong restrictions on American live cattle, demanding certificates that are difficult to supply. For instance, a federal inspector must certify that the particular cattle have been personally known and seen by him for ninety days. William Peace, who has been to France many times, says the action of the French farmers in demanding protection against the competition of American cattle is not surprising, and he believes the agitation will be kept up until some excuse is found or made to stop the growing trade.

While experienced butchers, in some cases, admit that choice heifers, and even good fat cows, will be worth as much in the beef as steers, there are few of them who will pay anything like the

same price for them. The highest price lately for heifers or cows was \$4.50, while steers, no more above the average excellence of beef steers than the former were above the average of their kind, sold up to \$5.60; sixteen 1,531-lb. Hereford cows, \$4.50. A lot of 19 Hereford heifers sold to Swift at \$4.00, averaging 1,053 lbs.

The Standard Cattle Company marketed 30 fed Western steers, 1,428 lbs., at \$1.95, and 50 heifers, 1,173 lbs., at \$1.20.

John Rohwedder, of Wyoming, Ia., was the feeder of 15 head of choice 1,591-lb. grade Shorthorn cattle, which sold to Eastman at \$5.60.

Chicago's receipts of live stock for the year so far, compared with last, show a decrease of 75,000 cattle, a gain of 250,000 hogs, and a decrease of about 5,000 sheep.

The Illinois State Board of Agriculture, after heated discussion, decided to continue the fat stock show in Chicago. It is given out that the prize list is to be enlarged as to car-load lots of fat cattle, hogs and sheep, and also horses, as well as a grand agricultural exhibit. The classification of driving and saddle horses is very much changed. Something is certainly needed to increase the usefulness of this once important annual institution.

How tired we grow of that "biggest steer in the world." He bobs up every once in a while and nobody knows what he is good for. His owner usually is anxious to sell him, but always, or nearly always, has to take less than the monstrosity cost to raise.

The South is beginning to raise its own hog and hominy, but Mr. Armour says that from the standpoint of pork packers "the South is still worth two Europeans." There is sad need of improvement in the breeding and also the feeding of Southern hogs. An occasional lot of old-fashioned "razor backs" come to market, and they attract a great deal of attention.

In last issue I mentioned that the Chicago packers, in some cases, were reorganizing their forces of live stock buyers on a lower salary basis, only the word "lower" was printed "corner." They pay their oldest and best men very high salaries.

Salt for Stock.

We are surprised, when passing through the country, to find so few farmers who use rock salt for their stock. Whenever we find a man who uses it he always speaks of it in the highest terms. The writer can say from experience that there is no other way of salting stock nearly so satisfactory in every way as by the use of the rock.

It is a settled fact that stock salted once a week take too much when given to them, which has the effect of wasting much nutrition in the animal which the system requires, and before the next salting day comes round ill-effects are caused in the system by the lack of salt. This being the case, the farmer who depends upon weekly salting, be he ever so regular, cannot fail to lose milk from his cows, and flesh from his steers and other fattening stock. Some resort to the plan of putting a little salt into the food every day or two. Now, this is all chance work, and cannot give the best results, as the animal itself is the only proper judge of how much to take, and will never take too much or too little when given free access to it. Now, when stables have been fitted up with salt boxes in the stalls, the supply can be kept constantly before them by using either barrel or rock salt, the former having to be supplied every few days, while a four or five-pound lump will last for weeks. Another advantage in using rock salt is that it can be thrown into an ordinary manger and not interfere with the food. The animals can lick at it as desired, and no evil results or waste in food or salt can follow. Then, again, for field salting in the summer, a lump can be thrown on the ground, exposed to sun and rain, without loss or other objection, while when barrel salt is used the box will be half the time empty, and irregular salting results.

Canadian Horse Show.

We are pleased to announce that arrangements have been completed for holding what is now to be designated the "Canadian Horse Show," in the new Armory Building, Toronto, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 18th, 19th and 20th next, under the auspices of the Provincial Agriculture and Arts Association, and the County and Hunt Club of Toronto. Large premiums will be offered for all the recognized breeds of stallions, and for all kinds of driving, saddle and jumping horses. Prize lists and other information may be obtained from Henry Wade, Secretary Agriculture and Arts Association, or Stewart F. Hewson, County and Hunt Club, Toronto.

M. Gaudaud, French Minister of Agriculture, has made an order-in-council forbidding the importation of American cattle into France on account of the fever and pleuro-pneumonia with which they are alleged to be infected.

One of the lessons of recent old-fashioned Canadian weather, with its frequent snow-drifts, has been that wire fences along the highways are one of the essentials to passable roads in winter. Snow shovelling constitutes a heavy bill of expense in many municipalities, and the results, as far as travelling is concerned, are not usually very satisfactory.

Are Shorthorns as Good as They Used to Be?

[Paper read by Mr. Robert Miller before the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association annual meeting.]

The above question is so often asked that perhaps no paper that I might read here would be more interesting to a majority of the Shorthorn breeders in Canada than one attempting to answer it. New men in the breeders' ranks, and young men, are not the only ones who ask this question, but many who have had long years of experience ask it, and proceed to answer in the negative and defend their belief. While this may work no harm, as I believe it always better to speak out on matters of interest to the majority, yet I think it would be a source of satisfaction to all who have the interests of the breed at heart if they were convinced that Shorthorns are not only as good but better than they used to be, and we may learn a good lesson by looking back in comparing and figuring how to avoid mistakes and repeat success in the future.

When conversation turns to Shorthorn subjects and flows in a retrospective channel, Queen of Athelstane, Rosedale, Violet's Fourth, and Butterfly's Duchess are sure to be mentioned, together with an equal number of bulls that were prominent in the same days, and we hear the statement that no such cows and bulls are seen now. We are all free to admit the excellence of those animals; but is that the test that is to be applied? If so, we would merely have to compare the show-yard animals of the distant past with those of the present, and I am sure that even this test would not prove any cause for dissatisfaction with results attained. The great cows named above stood out preeminently above their competitors. Those that won before their day were not so good; those that won immediately after them were not such shining lights. We can only, in justice to the present time, compare the best with the best of that period. Havering, Nonpareil, Isabella, and Rose of Strathallen 2nd may fairly be called stars of the present decade; and while it is unnecessary to say that they were better, they were certainly in every way as good. In their show-yard career they were surrounded by large classes that were worthy competitors, and they show their superiority by being able to breed on, each having produced winners to perpetuate their names.

We do not hear the other classes discussed by those who had such a delightful impression made on their memories by the Queens of the past; not because they would willingly do an injustice, but because no other classes of those days charmed them as the matrons did, and it is from this lack of memory that the present suffers in comparison. Can any breeder remember seeing such classes as our yearlings and calves have made in the past five years at Toronto, even if a person were prejudiced? No, must be the answer; but the claim might be made that the classes were small then, because the breeders were few; so I will venture to say that the first prize winners of twenty years ago could not compare with the winners of the present.

The bull classes of the present decade have also furnished animals superior to those shown years ago, and this can be accounted for partly by the best being imported or purchased by those who exhibit to nearly as great an extent as years ago, which practice is not followed to so great an extent in females as formerly, and partly from the improvement made by our own breeders. There are not so many professional showmen now as in years past—men who searched the Shorthorn world for the best, regardless of cost; and many of the foremost breeders take no part in the show-yard contest; thus many of the choicest never appear in public, and those retained and shown by their breeders necessarily appear in a limited area.

While the show-yards cannot be ignored for the purposes of comparison, yet they do not supply the only means of judging between the present and the past.

A few good animals do not make a herd, and it is in the general excellence of the whole herd that the value lies, where all the animals are good. Scientific breeding and good judgment are bearing fruit, and this is where the Shorthorns of the present day so completely overshadow those of the past, in their uniformity of smoothness, growth, constitution and general character. Breeding Shorthorns, like the breeding of other classes of domestic animals, has been reduced to a science, founded on the principal that like begets like, if the form that is to be begotten is honestly inherited; two animals whose ancestors were not like each other, and not like the offspring when mated together, could not be relied on to produce of their own kind, and while the product might be an extraordinarily good animal, it would just as likely be extraordinarily bad; such mating would not be according to approved or scientific methods, but would be haphazard or chance breeding, and this is the kind of breeding to which can be attributed many of the phenomena of the olden times. They were produced by accident, and they towered so high over their brothers and sisters and mates in the herds that we were impressed by them to such a degree that their companions were overlooked or forgotten.

When two animals were mated, one being of a very good type, but perhaps small, the other being of great size and not so smooth, the progeny might embody the finish of the former and the extreme size of the latter, an accident in breeding, but still a great show animal.