OMAHA LIVE STOCK MARKET

Receipts for the Week Show a Slight Decrease.

HOGS HELD UP BETTER THAN OTHER LINES

Though Buyers' Wants Were Not Exactly Urgent Nor Very Extensive, the Supply Failed to Meet the Demand.

OMAHA, Dec. 24.—Receipts this week compared with last show a slight decrease in cattle and sheep, with hogs about the same. Compared with a year ago there has been an increase in cattle and sheep and only a slight decrease in hogs. The figures are as follows:

	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.
Receipts this week	13,097	31,571	2,625
Receipts last week	19,098	39,459	4,497
Same week last year	7,711	37,113	2,569

During the early part of the week, in fact up to Friday, the course of cattle values was steadily upward. Receipts were comparatively light at all market centers, a rather unusual circumstance for the week before Christmas, and although buyers' wants were not exactly urgent, nor very extensive, the supply failed to meet the demand, and with outside buyers also in the field, the market was naturally a lively one, and prices advanced 20c to 50c on fair to good corn fed steers and butchers' stock. With heavy receipts in Chicago Friday, there was a big break there, and during the last two days of the week, prices went off badly.

There were about the same number of cattle on sale today as were here Friday, but over 1,000 more than last Saturday. Offerings included some pretty good beeves, and anything the shippers would buy sold at about steady prices, while the dressed beef men were bidding from 5c to 10c lower than Friday on anything grading under choice. Poor to fair stuff was very slow and suffered the brunt of the decline. In general the market was all of 10c to 15c lower than Friday on anything not strictly choice. Good to choice 1,200 to 1,400-lb. steers sold at from $4.20 up to $5.00, with fair to good 1,050 to 1,250-lb. steers at from $3.60 to $4.10. Odd lunches of poor to fair rough and underweight stuff sold all the way from $3.00 to $3.60. Business was dull throughout, but a fair clearance was finally effected.

The decline in cow stuff was even more marked than in steers. Butchers' stuff and canners made up fully 40 per cent of the entire receipts and prices ruled 10c to 15c lower than Friday, a decline in two days of from 15c to 25c on about all grades. Some choice cows and heifers sold at $3.30 and old pelters sold as low as $1.25, but the big bulk of the fair to good stuff sold at from $1.90 to $2.40. Bulls and stags were in moderate demand at about steady prices from $1.25 to $3.20. Common large calves and yearlings to choice veals sold freely at from $1.50 to $5.

Stockers and feeders moved slowly, but at fully steady prices. Fresh receipts were light and went to the regular dealers mostly, as the the country demand was rather limited owing to the prevailing stiff prices. Sales of fair to pretty good stock and feeding cattle were largely at from $2.50 to $3. Representative sale:

DRESSED BEEF.

No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.
4	1080	$3 00	17	1154	$3 80
1	1160	3 00	38	1191	3 85
45	960	3 15	31	1237	3 90
3	1500	3 20	10	1133	3 90
1	920	3 20	22	1240	4 05
8	1033	3 25	19	1135	4 10
4	1085	3 35	3	1150	4 10
3	1033	3 40	15	1235	4 20
2	1225	3 50	22	1187	4 20
2	890	3 50	51	1239	4 20
2	1060	3 50	18	1266	4 20
2	1050	3 50	18	1214	4 35
21	950	3 55	19	1259	4 35
42	990	3 60	18	1323	4 40
33	1053	3 60	20	1331	4 80
10	1154	3 75			

SHIPPING AND EXPORT.

5	1224	3 25	3	1373	4 25
22	892	3 35	16	1334	4 55
25	1150	3 65	54	1379	4 90
100	1373	4 25	32	1300	5 00
25	1212	4 00			

STEERS, YEARLINGS.

7	621	2 10			

COWS

No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.
1	810	$1 25	13	1060	$2 15
1	690	1 25	1	1050	2 15
14	889	1 40	9	972	3 15
1	860	1 50	26	859	2 15
7	924	1 50	19	902	2 20
1	820	1 50	17	918	2 20
3	920	1 70	19	1142	2 20
1	930	1 75	1	860	2 20
1	1170	1 75	15	885	2 20
3	780	1 75	20	808	2 25
11	813	1 75	9	100	2 25
5	900	1 75	1	940	2 25
3	1080	1 75	1	1130	2 25
13	859	1 80	3	1053	2 25
1	1140	1 80	1	600	2 25
3	1133	1 85	1	1210	2 25
6	916	1 85	11	872	2 25
13	838	1 85	2	960	2 25
2	1055	1 90	15	918	2 30
2	1035	1 90	8	861	2 30
4	850	1 90	6	835	2 35
50	748	1 90	5	980	2 35
10	839	1 90	18	1082	2 40
21	972	1 95	22	1030	2 40
1	860	2 00	17	983	2 40
2	870	2 00	18	1160	2 45
14	805	2 00	2	835	2 50
1	1010	2 00	19	981	2 50
14	917	2 00	2	835	2 50
25	862	2 05	9	826	2 50
15	933	2 10	4	1045	2 50
1	1050	2 10	5	988	2 85
27	867	2 10	1	850	3 00
25	780	2 10	20	1183	3 00
2	1200	2 15			

COWS AND HEIFERS.

19	1051	3 30			

HEIFERS.

1	380	2 00	1	410	2 50
12	354	2 35	2	450	2 50

CALVES.

1	280	1 60	2	125	4 25
4	195	1 75	1	170	4 75
2	250	1 75	2	120	4 75
1	260	3 70	1	150	4 75
2	190	3 70	1	110	5 00
4	130	3 75	2	185	5 00
1	230	3 75	1	120	5 00
1	100	4 00	1	130	5 00
1	160	4 00	1	120	5 00
1	150	4 50			

BULLS.

1	550	1 25	2	1380	2 00
1	1340	1 65	1	1160	2 00
1	1370	1 75	1	1210	2 05
1	1010	1 75	1	1510	2 15
1	1090	1 75	1	1430	2 15
1	1240	1 90	1	1390	2 20
1	1340	1 90	1	1290	2 25
18	1357	1 90	2	1630	2 40
1	1270	1 90	1	1280	2 50
1	1340	1 90	1	1480	2 75
1	1320	1 90	1	1730	2 75
4	1365	1 95	1	1550	3 00
1	1320	2 00			

STAGS.

1	1140	2 25	1	1750	3 00
1	1730	2 85			

STOCKERS AND FEEDERS.

5	480	2 25	8	683	2 75
2	1035	2 25	4	832	2 75
17	1061	2 30	1	840	2 80
18	1058	2 30	9	798	2 85
7	974	2 35	3	856	2 85
1	1030	2 50	6	660	2 85
4	545	2 55	1	820	2 85

HOGS—There is little that is new in the hog situation. Conditions have not changed materially and conservative dealers are still looking for higher prices. The country is very bullish and neither the hope of high prices nor the fear of a break seems to affect the receipts one way or the other. Prices have ranged a trifle lower than toward the close of last week but the close is within 5c of closing prices last week.

The market today ruled about 5c higher than Friday on an average. Receipts were comparatively light, nearly 2,000 lighter than Friday and more than 3,000 short of the run a week ago. The week's supply was about 33,000, not much different from the week previous and only 3,000 heavier of the corresponding week of December last year. All buyers, fresh meat men, packers, scalpers and shippers wanted the hogs and as the supply was not large trading was brisk and prices ruled fully 5c higher than yesterday from the start. Good to choice heavy and butcher weight hogs sold largely at $6.35@6.40, with one prime load at $6.42. Common, light and mixed loads went largely at $6.25@6.30. On some late arrivals the market closed very weak with the early advance about lost. One or two loads remained unsold in first hands. Sales were largely at $6.30@6.45 on the same day last week. Representative sales:

No.	Av.	Sh.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Sh.	Pr.
3	200	—	$6 15	62	257	80	$6 35
8	204	—	6 20	67	237	120	6 35
84	210	—	6 25	70	257	240	6 35
46	252	240	6 25	65	251	360	6 35
74	212	200	6 25	72	251	280	6 35
72	222	200	6 25	19	222	—	6 35
57	219	160	6 25	70	242	80	6 35
74	214	80	6 25	76	248	80	6 35
87	218	160	6 25	73	207	40	6 35
67	226	120	6 25½	16	308	—	6 35
86	213	80	6 27½	70	241	80	6 35
61	224	80	6 27½	68	271	120	6 35
75	237	320	6 27½	62	277	160	6 35
71	250	120	6 30	61	271	160	6 35
86	233	80	6 30	48	273	160	6 35
27	230	40	6 30	68	242	120	6 37½
81	236	160	6 30	66	284	200	6 37½
72	219	—	6 30	49	299	200	6 37½
79	232	80	6 30	54	277	240	6 37½
15	233	80	6 30	1	560	80	6 40
65	292	280	6 30	33	325	120	6 40
66	260	280	6 30	71	271	80	6 40
80	239	200	6 30	42	304	160	6 40
91	235	440	6 30	70	286	80	6 40
70	249	120	6 30	68	287	360	6 40
69	270	200	6 30	58	324	200	6 40
52	215	40	6 30	63	291	200	6 40
88	353	40	6 30	64	260	—	6 40
60	241	120	6 32½	18	191	—	6 40
63	251	120	6 32½	44	269	80	6 40
77	227	40	6 35	59	304	40	6 42½

PIGS AND ROUGH.

8	92	—	4 60	16	117	—	5 00
156	108	80	5 00	92	151	200	5 50

SHEEP—The meager offerings changed hands readily at fully steady prices. Good muttons and good feeders are in brisk demand and strong. Fair to good natives, $3.50@4.75; fair to good westerns, $3.25@4.50; common and stock sheep, $2.25@3.50; good to choice 40 to 100-lb. lambs, $4.00@6.00. Representative sales:

No.		Av.	Pr.
220	native ewes, fed	91	$4 25

Official Disposition.

SALES.	CATTLE.	HOGS.	SHEEP.
Cudahy	580	1,201	.....
Swift	472	1,229	308
G. H. H. Co.	308	486	.....
Omaha P. Co.	.....	559	.....
Squires	.....	581	.....
R. Becker & Co.	240	.....	.....
A. Hass	242	.....	.....
Hamilton S.	4	.....	.....
Shippers	574	.....	.....
Total	2,419	4,097	308

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Trading on the New York Exchange Was Light Yesterday.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Trading on the New York stock exchange was light this morning, only 72,136 shares changing hands, of which 5,265 were unlisted. In the first transactions prices were generally a fraction below those ruling at the close yesterday, but subsequently a firmer tone prevailed, due to a disposition on the part of some of the smaller bears to even up their trades. They did not care to go home with contracts on their books over the double holiday. Manhattan was the only feature of note. The stock opened at 139¾, receded to 139 and advanced steadily to 143¾, closing at the top figure. The enhancement is the result of a belief that the company has but little to fear from the proposed underground route. Another reason for the rise is that the Pierrepont-Morgan committee will soon report a plan whereby the company's lines will be extended and its revenues largely increased. Judge Ingraham today decided to continue the injunction restraining the Panama road from entering into contracts with transportation companies outside of the Pacific Mail Steamship company, and the stock of the latter rose from 27 to 28. In the general railway the list of Grangers was particularly strong near the close, advancing ½ to ¾ per cent. The Rock Island's regular quarterly dividend of 1 per cent was officially announced and the amount is just what had been looked for. The strength of speculation in the final transactions was partly due to the unexpectedly good bank statement.

The Post says: The attitude of the investing public in the presence of our currency entanglements is a matter of the highest importance because on this hangs nearly the whole question of a possible crash if events should take a sudden and unfavorable turn. It is reassuring, therefore, to know that the great mass of security holders occupy an unusually strong position. The absence of this "outside public" from the field of excited speculation has been marked ever since the silver question became a threatening factor in our politics. Europe sold our stocks as soon as it had learned the situations and possibilities.

Stocks were distributed during this series of years among people generally able to hold them in an emergency; people who would, as a rule, hold them at a particularly low price. In some of the industrial groups there had been no reckless speculation since the active "winter's" Reading market. This explained and justified the strength of the months of October and November, despite the approach of the heavy gold shipments.

The following are the closing quotations for the leading stocks on the New York Stock exchange today:

Atchison	32¾	North American	9⅞
Adams Express	150	Northern Pacific	10¾
Alton, T. H.	35½	Northern Pacific pfd	47¾
do preferred	150	U. P. Den. & Gulf	1¾
American Express	116	Northwestern	115⅝
Baltimore & Ohio	39¾	do preferred	141
Canada Pacific	88½	N. Y. Central	105⅝
Canada Southern	57⅝	N. Y. & N. E.	42¾
Central Pacific	27½	Ontario & Western	17⅞
Ches. & Ohio	21¾	Oregon Imp	19
Chicago Alton	140	Oregon Nav	5
C. B. & Q.	96⅝	O. S. L. & U. N.	20½
Chicago Gas	83¼	Pacific Mail	27½
Consolidated Gas	132½	Peoria, Dec. & E.	16
C. C. C. & St. L.	57¾	Pittsburg	154
Colo. Coal & Iron	39¼	Pullman Palace	193
Cotton Oil Cert	39⅞	Reading	51⅛
Del. Hudson	129	Richmond Ter	7
D. L. & W.	148¼	do preferred	19
D. & R. G. pfd	51½	Rio Grande West	22
D. & C. F. Co	61⅞	do preferred	63
East Tenn	5½	Rock Island	83⅛
Erie	25⅝	St. L. & S. F. 1st pfd	75
do preferred	53¾	St. Paul	76
Fort Wayne	152	do preferred	120
Gt. Northern pfd	131	St. Paul & Omaha	46⅝
C. & E. I. pfd	96¾	do preferred	114⅝
Hocking Valley	27	Southern Pacific	18¾
Illinois Central	97⅛	Sugar Refinery	107
St. Paul & Duluth	40½	Tenn. Coal & Iron	35⅞
Kan. & Tex. pfd	21¾	Texas Pacific	10
Lake Erie & West	22	Col. & O. cent. pfd	73
do preferred	74½	Union Pacific	37⅝
Lake Shore	127⅛	U. S. Express	58
Lead Trust	43¾	Wabash	11⅛
Louis. & Nash.	69¾	do preferred	23¾
Louis. & New Alby	23	Wells-Fargo Exp.	145
Manhattan Con.	143⅛	Western Union	82⅝
Memphis & C.	50	Wheeling & L. E.	20⅛
Michigan Central	104⅝	do preferred	62⅝
Missouri Pacific	55⅝	Minn. & St. L.	17
Mobile & Ohio	34	D. & R. G.	15¾
Nashville Chatt	81	General Electric	110½
National Cordage	157¾	National Linseed	40
do preferred	112	C. Fuel & Iron	62¾
N. J. Central	13	do preferred	112
Norfolk & W. pfd	37½	Hous. & Tex. Cen	6

The total sales of stocks today were 72,000 shares, including: Atchison, 3,400; Burlington, 4,600; Chicago Gas, 3,400; Distilling, 4,300; Manhattan, 6,500; Northern Pacific preferred, 2,700; Reading, 15,400; St. Paul, 3,800; Sugar, 2,800.

New York Money Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—MONEY ON CALL—Nominal at 4 per cent.

PRIME MERCANTILE PAPER—6 per cent.

STERLING EXCHANGE—Firm, with actual business at $4.84⅞@4.86 for sixty day bankers' bills and $4.87@4.88 for demand.

The closing quotations on bonds:

U. S. 4s reg.	112¾	Northern Pac. 2nds	112¾
U. S. 4s coup.	113½	N. W. Consols	137
U. S. 4½s reg.	109	N. W. Deb. 5s	105½
Pacific 6s of '95	105	St. L. & I. M. Gen 5s	83¾
Louisiana st ped 4s	97¾	St. L. & San F. G. M.	103
Missouri 6s	103	St. Paul Consols	131
Tenn. new set 6s	103¾	St. P. C. & P. 1sts	117
Tenn. new set 5s	102	T. P. L. G. Tr. Rcts.	77
Tenn. new set 3s	75⅝	T. P. H. G. Tr. Rcts.	20¾
Canada So. 2nds	101	Union Pac. 1sts	107
Cen. Pacific 1sts	105¾	West Shore	104
D. & R. G. 1sts	116½	R. G. W.	70½
D. & R. G. 4s	86	Atch 4s	81⅞
Erie 2nds	103¾	Atch Pas. class A	103
M. K. & T. Gen. 6s	73⅝	G. H. & S. 6s	100
M. K. & T. Gen. 5s	48	G. H. & S. 2nd 6s	102
Mutual Union 6s	113	H. & T. C. 5s	108
N. J. C. Int. Cert	111¾	H. & T. C. Cons. 6s	104
Northern Pac. 1sts	119		

San Francisco Mining Stocks.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 24.—The official closing quotations for mining stocks today were as follows:

Alta	29	Mono	15
Bulwer	15	Ophir	155
Belcher	169	Potosi	185
Best & Belcher	55	Savage	90
Bodie Consolidated	19	Sierra Nevada	120
Chollar	55	Union Consolidated	110
Con. Cal. & Va	165	Utah	5
Crown Point	55	Yellow Jacket	50
Gould & Curry	80	Commonwealth	5
Hale & Norcross	85	Nev. Queen	5
Mexican	125		

New York Mining Quotations.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—The following are the closing mining quotations:

Con. Cal. and Va	165	Plymouth	45
Deadwood	110	Sierra Nevada	120
Gould & Curry	70	Standard	140
Hale & Norcross	70	Union Con	110
Homestake	1300	Yellow Jacket	40
Mexican	115	Iron Silver	49
Ontario	1300	Quick Silver	350
Ophir	160	do pref'd	1700

Financial Notes.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec 24.—Clearings, $1,859,610.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—Three per cent rentes, 97f, 90c for the account.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 24.—The Merchants exchange was closed today.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 24.—Clearings, $4,174,615; balances, $563,781.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Clearings, $124,021,831; balances, $5,335,702.

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 24.—Clearings, $2,159,442; balances, $268,961. Rate, 6 per cent.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 24.—Clearings, $11,598,035; balances, $1,636,439. Money, 5 per cent.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 24.—Clearings, $16,721,781. New York exchange sold from 60c to 70c premium.

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 24.—Clearings, $16,542,058; balances, $1,861,586. Money 6 per cent. Exchange on New York, 15c discount to 15c premium.

Omaha Produce Market.

The week closed with the market full of poultry and with prices low. Aside from that there were no very important features to the trade.

APPLES—Good apples are quoted at $3.50@4.00; choice to fancy, $4.00@4.25.

BANANAS—Quotations are: Fair to good shipping stock, $2.00@2.50 per bunch.

BUTTER—The general market is steady. The bulk of the receipts sells at 14@16c, and some select packages at 17@19c.

CRANBERRIES—Quotations are: Bell and cherry, $8.50 per bbl.; bell and bugle, $9.50; late Cape Cod, $10.00. The arrivals on the market are light.

CELERY—Fancy celery is difficult to find. Quotations range all the way from 25c to 40c.

EGGS—Market steady; bulk of the sales of bright stock, 22@24c.

GAME—The market does not show any very material change in values. There was a novelty in the market in the way of a black bear which found a ready purchaser. Quotations are: Pheasants, $5.00@5.50; prairie chickens, $4.00@4.50; grouse, $4.00; quail, $1.00@1.25; snipe $1.00; jack snipe, $1.25@1.50; plover, $1.00; golden plover, $1.25@1.50; canvas back ducks, $8.00@10.00; red head ducks, $4.00; mallard ducks, $3.50@3.75; blue wing teal, $2.25; green wing teal, $1.75; mixed ducks, $1.50; Canada geese, $6.00@7.50; jack rabbits, $1.50; snow rabbits, $1.25@1.50; squirrels, $1.00@1.25; antelope saddles, 14@15c; deer saddles, 15@16c; antelope carcasses, 9@10c; deer carcasses, 10@12c.

HAY—The market was overstocked and very weak. No. 1, $6.75@7.00; No. 2, $6.00.

HONEY—The market is firm, good white clover honey being scarce at 17c.

LEMONS—Choice, $4.50; fancy, $5.50.

MALAGA GRAPES—Per keg, $9.00.

OYSTERS—Unchanged at 13@35c per can.

ONIONS—Homegrown, 80@85c; Spanish, $1.90 per crate.

ORANGES—Florida, $3.25@3.50.

POULTRY—Turkeys, 8@10c; chickens, choice 4c; geese and ducks 7@8c.

POTATOES—Quotations are: Homegrown, 65@75c; Colorado and Utah, 85c.

SWEET POTATOES—Choice Muscatine and Illinois stock, $3.75@4.00 per bbl.

VEAL—Quotations are: Small and fat, 6½@7c; large and heavy, 3@5c.

Oil Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—PETROLEUM—Was neglected; not a single sale was reported; 52⅛c bid, 52⅝c asked. Pennsylvania oil, spot sales, none. January options, sales, none. Lima oil, sales, none. Total sales, none.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—CALCUTTA LINSEED—39s 3d per quarter.

Chicago Live Stock Market.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 24.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—By many in the trade it was thought today's receipts of cattle might reach 5,000 head, the high prices of Wednesday and Thursday being depended upon to bring them, but less than half that number arrived. It was just as well for there was not much demand either for local or outside account and sellers could do no better than hold values steady. The range of quotations was from $1.25 to $6.15, calves and bulls being quoted at from $1.25 to $3.50 and steers at from $3.15 to $6.15.

There was a beggarly supply of hogs here today, the arrivals being estimated at 7,000. There were enough stale hogs to bring the total up to 20,000. The market was strong at from $6.00 to $6.50 for poor to prime light and at from $6.25 to $6.70 for poor to choice heavy weights. The offerings did not include many choice heavy lots and prices above $6.55 were reached in a few instances only. From $6.20 to $6.40 bought the bulk of the light, and from $6.35 to $6.50 were the popular figures for medium and heavy weights respectively.

About 1,000 sheep arrived. They were readily closed out at Friday's quotations, sales making on a basis of from $3.25 to 5.50 for poor to extra quantities. Lambs were saleable at from $3.75 to $6 30. The offerings must be strictly first-class to command the outside quotations. The bulk of the business was at from $3.75 to $4.75 for sheep anp at from $5 to to $6 for lambs.

Receipts—Cattle, 2,500 head; hogs, 7,000; sheep, 1,000.

The Evening Journal reports:

CATTLE—Receipts 1,500 head; shipments, 2,000 head; market slow steady. Prices: Natives, $5.20@5.90; stockers, $2.00@3.30; cows, $1.25@2.90.

HOGS—Receipts, 8,000 head; shipments, 7,000 head; market steady to 5@10c higher; common, $6.15@6.30; fair so good packers, $6.35@6.40; prime heavy and butchers' weights, $6.50@6.65; light, $6.00@6.40.

SHEEP—Receipts, 700 head; shipments, none; market steady; natives, $3.75; westerns, $4.62@5.05; Colorado yearlings, $5.15; lambs $4.00@6.35.

Kansas City Live Stock Market.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 24.—CATTLE—Receipts, 3,700 head; shipments, 2,000 head; More active, steady to 10c higher; shipping steers, $3.20@4.85; stockers and feeders, $2.47½@3.15.

HOGS—Receipts, 7,000 head; shipments, 2,200 head; opened steady, common closed 5@10c lower; extreme range $4.75@6.40; bulk, $6.25@6.35.

SHEEP—Receipts, 300 head; shipments, 400 head; market nominally steady.

St. Louis Live Stock Market.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 24.—CATTLE—Receipts and shipments not reported; market firm; native steers, $3.00@5.10; range steers, $2.50@3.25; butchers, $2.30@3.70.

HOGS—Receipts and shipments not reported; market stronger; heavy, $6.10@6.55; packing, $6.00@6.65; light, $6.20@6.40.

SHEEP—Receipts and shipments not reported; fair to choice natives, $3.00@5.00; extra mutton $5.25@5.50.

TOPICS FOR FARMERS DISCUSSED

Mixed potato seed should not be planted, as the habits of each are likely to be quite different, and disastrous results are sure to follow. It is best to plant medium-sized tubers, uniform in shape and smooth, with shallow eyes, and it is a safe plan to introduce some new variety each year from some responsible dealer, not expecting always to find them what is desired, but hold on to those which do please. A rich, fertile soil will grow a fair crop from cutting to a single eye, but in a thin soil the size of the cutting should be uch larger.

That farmer who has a silo is about as independent of the weather as a man can be. Aside from heavy rains, nothing interrupts this kind of harvesting. Light rains and showers, while making the work disagreeable, do not stop it, and when once properly in the silo all danger of imperfect curing is past. The early date at which the land can be cleared makes it possible to either seed down to grass or winter grain a month before corn in the shock would be dry enough to husk. Another advantage in the north is that varieties of later growth may be planted for this purpose which will not fully ripen before frost.

Farmers are too careless in regard to keeping an account of their business, consequently they often raise crops which are not profitable to raise and sell off the farm, yet the farmer can, by knowing the feeding value of the manure produced from it, make a calculation of what crops can be sold off at a profit, or to sell one crop and buy another. The farmer's ability to transact his business in a businesslike manner is increased in proportion to the increased knowledge of his business details and in the same proportion also are his profits increased.

System in farming is important. He who carefully lays out his farm in proper fields, making a map of the same, devoting each field to a succession of crops, with suitable manuring, basing the rotation upon the adaptation of one crop to fit particular soils, and pursuing all his operations with a plan for doing everything just at the right time and with a determination to make experience and the lights of science as available as possible in his calling, will undoubtedly reap the most abundant reward for his labor. To complete the system he must keep a record of all his farm operations, for in no other way can he be said to have a full knowledge of his business. He should keep an account of all the expense, loss or gain; in what particular branch of his business he is most successful; what crops are the most profitable for him to raise; the most profitable disposition to make of them; the best and most profitable stock to raise and how best to dispose of it.

Dairy.

The dairy industry of the United States, notwithstanding its low average product, is more valuable than all our gold and silver mines, and if all the cows were as valuable as the majority of those which have been tested the yearly output would be more than trebled.

Rye is an excellent food for dairy cows, and in some respects is worth more than wheat bran, having less indigestible fiber and mineral matter, and more carbonaceous matter. Its estimated value is $1 a 100 pounds, and thus it should be cheap at $16 a ton. It would be improved by a mixture of oil meals of either linseed or cotton seed.

Very few Kerrys have ever been brought to this country for breeding. There ought to be a place for these tough little animals on rough, hilly lands, where beef cattle are wanted, yet where the large Shorthorns and Herefords do not thrive. Kerry cattle make beef of excellent quality, and the cuts are small and choice, better for ordinary family use than those from the large beef cattle. The cows are good milkers, too, and are almost as easy keepers as goats.

The successful dairyman must now become a student in all that pertains to the care and breeding of his herd. That a man is conservative does not longer make the dairy pay. It is only in the most proper combining of good and abundant foods, fed to a well bred cow and of dairy temperament, and having the care that in kind bestow upon all other mothers, which will bring the dairyman's reward.

When milking avoid all talking. Any strange motion or noise which attracts the attention of the cow away from the operation of milking has it is effect upon secretion of milk, which is now pretty well known goes on during the time of the drawing of the milk. Milk freely and rapidly, and with as little movement and jerking as possible.

There is a continual scarcity of choice dairy butter in medium sized packages. Most families prefer dairy to creamery, but it is a hard matter to find it of good table quality. Some never was good, some was spoiled in handling, some was kept too long, while some has been spoiled by bad odors absorbed from too close contact with other substances. There is always a wide range of prices from the highest to the lowest, and it is difficult to believe that there was as wide a range in the quality of the milk at the start. Whence, then, arises the difference?

One of the most potent causes of failure in village dairying is allowing the cream to collect until there is enough "for a churning." Before the required amount is obtained a bitter taste has been developed, which spoils the butter.

The churning must be done every other day at the farthest, without regard to the amount of cream gathered. The little swing and revolving churns will work where the amount of cream is very small, but with a dash churn it is often necessary to add water at the proper temperature, 82 degrees in summer and from 66 to 68 degrees in winter, in order to make the churn work easily.

In wintering calves a great mistake is often made by trying to get them through too cheap. Many farmers who feed all other stock well will try to winter calves upon not much beside the straw stack. It may be possible to get them through alive in such a manner, but they will come out poor and scrubby in the spring, and it will require a long time to get them in good condition. Their growth and development is arrested, and to get them well started on the upward grade again will cost more than it would have done to keep them well through the winter, and the result in the end will not be as good.

Horticulture.

The acid of all fruits has its value in purifying the system, and it should be the duty of every farmer to provide for his family all the standard fruits that he can possibly cultivate. Peaches, grapes and strawberries should not be neglected. Without reference at all to some of the newer varieties which most farmers have not heard of, or at least have not tested, there are sorts which he can easily get in his own vicinity which have been known for many years, and which will answer every purpose.

Without question the strawberry is a very desirable fruit to have on the farm, but to have it in perfection requires a little more care than most farmers are willing to give, and yet it only requires a good variety of berry, a little good soil well enriched, and a little cultivation given at the proper time, to have the most delightful fruit in abundance in the spring. If farmers could only be brought to realize the fact that strawberries have a medicinal value, like nearly all other fruits, they might give more attention to their cultivation.

Apple trees are slow in coming into bearing, and a crop of peach trees will live their shorter life, bear several crops of fruit and be out of the way before apple trees, planted forty feet apart each way, will greatly crowd them. This close setting while young benefits both kinds of trees. The app'e trees shade the peach trees from severe winds and hold more snow around the roots. The peach trees, if the soil is as rich as it should be, check the apple trees' growth and induce earlier fruitfulness. Even with this aid to the apple trees the peaches sold will often pay the cost of the whole orchard before a single bushel of apples is ready for market, causing the farmer to wish that all the trees had been peach, instead of merely filling in with this fruit as one of secondary importance.

There is no question but that a very large proportion of our orchards, after being planted, taken care of and brought into a thrifty state of bearing, often fail off greatly and fail to yield profitable returns from causes independent of insects and fungoids. There is no doubt that a large number of orchards have not paid in the past, do not pay in the present, and in all probability will not pay in the future. The leading and most common cause is starvation, for it is not too much to say that the average farmer who either plants out an orchard for himself or buys a farm with one already planted afterward goes on treating the land as though that orchard did not exist, cropping it with wheat, oats, rye, etc., in rotation, or want of rotation, until the wonder is, not that the trees do not bear satisfactory crops, but that they are alive at all.

For onion growing the soil should be thoroughly plowed and well harrowed just previous to sowing seed. If the soil is not rich it should be well fertilized. Finely ground bone (bone dust) is a splendid fertilizer for onions, or for anything else. A thousand pounds of it, with the same quantity of rotted (but no leached) ashes, lightly harrowed in before sowing seed, is a good application for medium soil. After the onions have started to growing any good fertilizer, top-dressed along the rows and hoed in from time to time, will be advantageous. One hundred and fifty to 200 pounds of nitrate of soda, applied after the crop is started, is a very profitable application, usually. Have the rows two feet apart. Five to six pounds of good seed will insure a stand. Sow in very