hogs. The quality is not very good, many half-grown pigs arriving daily. The sheep market has been not only active and higher, but excited, and no such figures have been paid during the last half of the year as were obtained for anything and everything that had wool. This was partially due to a competition between buyers for Boston and New York markets, and the prices have really been abnormally high. Scarcely anything went below $3.50, from which figure quotations range up to $4.85@5, while lambs are strong at $4@6. It is apprehended that these rates will cause a large influx of sheep, in which case values are liable to depreciate quickly and seriously.

Another year has come and gone, and the books are closed. The balance of profit on the stockman's side of the ledger is not found to be very large or very encouraging. The general reasons for lack of a better showing are over-production and low prices. While hogs have averaged lower than in former years, the generally low prices for cattle and sheep have been almost unprecedented. Again, Chicago has had rather more than her share of disturbing influences to affect the prosperity of the live-stock trade, under all of which she has borne up well, and, as has formerly been the case, will continue to keep in the forefront. Early in the year it was made known that the Eastern freight pool would materially advance the rates on dressed meats, which, while ostensibly it is borne by local operators, really reverts to the country feeder and the ranchman. This was the direct cause of lowering the selling value of every Western steer more than one dollar per head, and the railway magnates have that dollar. With midsummer came the scorching sun and the withering drouth which, with depleted pasturage, compelled the owners to market large numbers of cattle and sheep at ruinously low prices, which were in no condition for the shambles. With early autumn came the outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia near Chicago, which caused an embargo on the movement of certain kinds of cattle. No sooner had this been gotten thoroughly in hand than we were afflicted with that most senseless disaster, the labor strike, with its accompanying disorder, stoppage of work, and deserted packing houses, aside from the deputy sheriffs and militia. This occurred just at the beginning of the winter packing season, and practically spoiled the first half of November for profitable movement of hogs. With the closing month of the year, however, some brightness has been visible, and with moderate receipts those fortunate enough to have stock on sale have secured fair prices. While hogs show a shortage for the year just closed of about 225,000, largely due to labor troubles, sheep are a trifle larger, and a round 60,000 more cattle have arrived than during the previous twelve months. The receipts for 1885 were 1,905,518 cattle, 6,937,535 hogs and 1,003,599 sheep, and for 1886 they numbered 1,964,300 cattle, 6,717,800 hogs and 1,006,700 sheep. Arrivals of Northern range cattle and sheep from Wyoming, Montana and Dakota have been large, and of the 80,000 Montana sheep received it is estimated that fully three-fourths of them were bought by country feeders, and shipped as stockers to all central states from Iowa and Missouri to New York and Pennsylvania. Sheepmen appear to be resuming their industry with increased interest for the coming year. WATSON.

Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Jan. 1, 1887.

PITTSBURGH LIVE STOCK FIGURES.

RECEIPTS AND SHIPMENTS OF CATTLE, HOGS AND SHEEP FOR THE YEAR 1886.

The statistical report for 1886 shows a gratifying increase over the preceding year in the local trade in both cattle and hogs, while there has been something of a fall off in sheep, the aggregate of the local trade in the three kinds of stock showing a slight increase as compared with previous year, though the total gain was only 2,597 head. A heavy fall-off in through shipments will be noticed in cattle and hogs, while sheep about held their own. While stock to be sold here made the slight gain noted above, through stock of all kinds fell off 438,127 head. The growth of the dressed beef industry in the West is sufficient explanation why 127,513 less of through cattle passed to the Atlantic seaboard than in 1885. The decrease of 97,768 head in the total of sheep offered for sale here is as plainly explainable, the reason being that flockmasters had largely recovered from the panic which caused such a rush the year before. Here are the tables:

CATTLE.

	Receipts.		Shipments.	
	Local.	*Through.*	*Local.*	*Through.*
Jan...	10,654	19,001	4,467	17,153
Feb..	5,269	9,219	2,911	9,929
Mar..	5,396	7,768	2,051	7,361
Apr..	4,262	8,138	1,115	8,621
May..	4,548	12,940	739	13,416
June.	6,623	14,370	4,059	14,370
July.	8,826	11,580	5,951	11,897
Aug..	14,017	14,258	10,254	14,650
Sept..	14,501	6,619	8,883	6,619
Oct...	12,294	7,509	6,519	7,623
Nov...	11,450	8,057	8,728	8,057
Dec...	8,237	4,609	5,669	4,609
Total.	106,077	124,068	61,346	114,305
1885..	88,801	251,581	50,248	237,843

Incr'se 17,276 ..... 11,098 .....
D'cr'se 127,513 123,538
Local and thro' receipts for 1886.. 230,145
" " " " " 1885.. 340,382

Decrease 110,237

HOGS.

	Receipts.		Shipments.	
	Local.	*Through.*	*Local.*	*Through.*
Jan...	88,006	73,713	68,251	80,550
Feb..	34,266	68,121	23,132	70,634
Mar..	35,177	57,753	28,357	62,600
Apr..	28,664	47,805	14,330	45,106
May..	35,123	70,890	20,868	70,890
June.	30,000	50,798	22,744	50,798
July.	30,186	49,394	20,012	49,394
Aug..	48,819	22,761	23,541	22,762
Sept..	59,497	24,472	45,800	24,472
Oct...	61,482	57,325	43,568	57,325
Nov...	80,182	70,879	54,147	70,879
Dec...	109,484	58,227	63,858	58,227
Total.	640,886	652,138	429,608	664,537
1885..	557,797	963,576	373,394	945,955

Incr'se 83,089 ..... 56,214 .....
D'cr'se 311,438 281,418
Local and thro' receipts for 1886. 1,293,024
" " " " " 1885. 1,521,373

Decrease 228,349

SHEEP.

	Receipts.		Shipments.	
	Local.	*Through.*	*Local.*	*Through.*
Jan...	64,140	13,257	45,305	12,544
Feb..	46,431	7,591	38,890	7,946
Mar..	67,885	4,409	51,550	4,568
Apr..	32,652	4,482	49,407	4,482
May..	84,301	11,452	68,463	11,452
June.	71,232	18,940	51,884	18,940
July.	52,315	30,436	39,327	30,436
Aug..	50,850	16,987	33,783	16,987
Sept..	51,377	9,367	39,018	9,464
Oct...	51,305	16,354	34,861	16,354
Nov...	46,426	12,358	37,231	12,358
Dec...	51,517	11,448	30,639	10,684
Total.	670,431	157,081	520,358	156,015
1885..	768,199	156,257	580,395	155,957

D'cr'se 97,768 ..... 60,037 .....
Incr'se 824 58
Local and thro' receipts for 1886.. 828,512
" " " " " 1885.. 924,756

Decrease 96,244

SCRAP CORRESPONDENCE.

Swine Disease, Etc.—Your editorial on the danger to the swine industry in your issue of December 16 is to the point and timely, and if not now a "practical hogman," I am a practical reader of THE STOCKMAN; and having suffered a severe loss thirty odd years ago from hog cholera, I can speak from experience, and advise all concerned to keep on in the even tenor of their way. Hogs, like almost everything else, will get used to almost anything, except the sore throat, scalding the hair off, and hanging up by their heels. Hence keep the store hogs that have survived the cholera as being the healthy ones, and those said to be cholera proof only incur risk and loss. Discard all so-called cures, as sick hogs are bothersome to administer medicine to, and an ounce of prevention being better than a pound of cure. Give them the free run of the farm and a change of feed, and a run now and then of a green rye or wheat field. Rest assured disease wont down at your bidding, or by buying your neighbors hogs, and that it can only be lived down by time, patience and breeding. This experience was verified through all our siege of cholera, which scourged our bottom farms, where corn formed the principal ration, and was only known by hearsay in the hill country, where they had free range and mixed feeds. Give the hog's range and they will be as healthy as of yore.

We are having a nice winter so far. The early freeze-up continues, with now and then a light fall of snow, rendering it very nice for hauling feed off wheat fields, and for those that come from the hill country for load after load of straw and corn fodder, for which they pay one dollar per load and 10 to 12c per shock. This straw and fodder, with bran, shorts, etc., make up for the shortage of hay, and, all things considered, stock is doing remarkably well, except where the worthless curs get in their work on the flock and the flockmasters theirs on the treasury. Hence, no regret or loss is felt. The boom in hogs causes some inquiry for stockers. D. W.

Coshocton county, O.

Eastern Ohio Notes.—Among the pioneer wool-growers of Eastern Ohio was Robert George, of Moore's Salt Works. He is still living, at the ripe age of 80 years, and while his son and grandsons have charge of the farm, he still takes a deep interest in the things appertaining thereto, and has never given up the sheep, but regards them as the most profitable stock that can be kept on the farm.

Apples have doubled, and in some instances almost trebled in value, since the bulk of the crop was disposed of—another proof of the uncertainty of prices of farm products. Last May they could be bought as cheap as in the fall before, and people who had them were glad to get rid of them at any price.

It is said that in parts of Jefferson county there are more sheep being fed than in any winter for 15 years past. They were bought at from $3.50 to $4.00 per head, leaving for profit rather a small margin, unless there is an advance in both sheep and wool.

Lewis and Nor Russell, Hammondsville, have recently purchased a bull calf from Alex. McCullough, Knoxville, which weighs 600 pounds at 6 months old, without being hampered.

More bucks were sold in this neighborhood last fall than in any one season during the past ten years, and as a rule they were registered stock.

One of the best farms in the northern part of Jefferson county will be sold at public sale about the last of February.

A few clips of old wool are yet in the hands of growers.

John Anderson, an old highly esteemed farmer, died at his residence, near Hammondsville, on the 27th inst., in the 67th year of his age. Mr. Anderson spent most of his life in this county and has been identified with its interests for nearly half a century. He was class leader in the M. E. Church for 40 years, and at his death was President of the Hollow Rock Camp Meeting Association, six of the members of which were pall bearers at his funeral, which took place at Pine Grove on the 30th. M. N. R.

Jefferson county, O., December 31, 1886.

The Bath.—During winter, in changeable weather, especially in damp climates, we are all very subject to colds, coughs, rheumatism, neuralgia, etc., often caused by our own imprudence. It is said cleanliness is next to Godliness. We all understand that the skin is full of little pores, which in health are continually throwing off the poisonous matter which we term the "insensible perspiration." By the use of heavy clothing in winter this perspiration is increased and retained on the surface, the pores become clogged, the blood is rendered impure, and disease is the result. We sometimes walk fast till sweating, and then stand in the cold air and are sure to take cold. An old maxim is, "keep the stomach and bowels regular, the skin clean, the head cool, the feet dry and warm, and bid defiance to the doctor's bills." To do all this certain laws must be obeyed. Eat moderately, not over three times a day, of good, wholesome food, such as is easily digested, never eating within an hour before going to bed and never piecing between meals. Keep the skin well cleansed by frequent bathing with cold or cool water. Warm or hot water is debilitating, rendering the system subject to colds, rheumatism, etc. Never bathe within two hours after eating, as that would hinder digestion. Never allow a draft of cold air to strike you while bathing. Bathe in a warm room, where you will not be liable to become chilled. Wash a little and then rub dry with a coarse towel. Wash bottoms of feet so as to keep skin clean and soft, and thus prevent corns and chilblains there.

Weather cold and dry. We seldom have rain here in winter. We had a good share of the big blizzard November 16 and 17, and since then another has several times threatened us, but they seem to pass over with an inch or two of snow. Now is coldest of the season, mostly clear. Corn picking is nearly done, and the crop very good and sound. Markets: Wheat, 50c; corn, 18c; oats, 18c; potatoes, 50c; butter, 20c; eggs, 25c; hogs, $3.60. Stock is all healthy. FORMER BUCKEYE.

Adams county, Neb., Dec. 27.

Farm Meats.—Farmers will be slow to desert the time-honored custom of laying up a supply of meats from their herds of fatted porkers. The economy of this meat the greater part of the year over beef or mutton is worthy the farmer's attention. Few people in the country live close enough to market to procure fresh meat every day, and not many of these are able to bear such an expense. Those who live by the plow cannot buy, upon the market, articles that the farm can be made to produce and succeed any great length of time.

Mutton during summer and fall is both economical and convenient for farmers, since it is a farm product, and does not draw heavily on his small savings. What is more toothsome than a well fatted, nicely roasted leg of mutton? Yet many people have a strong prejudice against eating this meat, unless they are told it is veal. This seems to sharpen their hunger, and the poor cook is often put to her wits to supply enough veal for the hungry.

In the cooler months piggy comes in to supply the family larder. Americans are veritable pig eaters. Great care should be taken in preparing this food for market or family use. Keeping a hog in a close, dingy stall to eat, and remain in its own filth for months, without cleansing or a chance for exercise, is inhuman. Anyone who persists in this filthy mode of making meat for his family should be made to pay the severest penalty that he might see the better side of human nature. The hog has a scrofulous nature, and when fatted as above contains more demons than the herd of old that ran into the deep sea. No pains should be spared to keep the pig in a healthy condition until ripened into a well fatted porker. To secure this give him the same chance that other domestic animals should have. Give him warm, dry sleeping quarters, a clean, dry lot for exercise, with fresh water and feed in abundance that is wholesome, varied and suits his appetite. Such treatment as will produce the best results is the only one to adopt. SUBSCRIBER.

Guernsey county, O.

Vermont Notes.—We are experiencing a very cold winter here. Stock is looking well, and sheep especially, although some flocks are having sore mouths. The South American shippers, Chas Witherell, J. A. Wright and P. G. Potter, of Middlebury, and J. H. Close, of Ohio, have returned, having disposed of their stock. The first shipment consisted of 77 rams and 27 ewes, owned by Mr. Eells and Mr. Close, of Ohio, and left Middlebury on the 29th of last May. They were consigned to Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. They arrived in safety with the loss of two sheep only; and although at first the sales were slow, owing to the bad weather, they were all finally disposed of, most of them at Bueno Ayres. The second shipment was made June 24, and consisted of 87 rams and 13 ewes, the property of J. A. Wright and Cyrus Jennings, and under the care Chas. Witherell, who also took two fine stallions. These arrived safely and were all disposed of. Mr. Eells has not yet returned, and may remain in Buenos Ayres during the winter, his wife and son having accompanied him. J. L. B.

Leicester Junction, Vt.

Sheep Notes.—What few sheep are left are doing very well. So far this winter has been mild, and what we call a good winter for sheep. Small flocks of thirty to sixty head have all been sold off, which reduces the number nearly one-half from what it was some years ago. Very few are raising lambs. Last year's clip was much less than usual, and the next will still be less, but we hope for better times and are giving the sheep the best of care. J. R. M.

Harshaville, Beaver county, Pa.

Correction.—We like to read the farm talks of Waldo F. Brown, and like his experience in farming, but I think he made a mistake in his clover seed. He said he raised eleven bushels of clover seed and sold thirty-six dollars' worth at five dollars per bushel, and has six bushels left. He certainly either had more bushels at first, or got more than five dollars per bushel, or had not six bushels left. C. W.

Tuscarawas county, O.