

bring their wheat forward; the demand is limited to the requirements of local mills. It is doubtful even if prices were better than any quantity would be moved, so long as the barley lasts, and is as eagerly sought for and saleable at such long prices as at present. Speculators will not take hold of breadstuffs until they are satisfied that they have touched bottom, which, notwithstanding the greatly reduced prices reached, is still uncertain. It is thought by many that the favorable crops have had an undue influence on prices; that the general anticipation of a decline has led to a much more rapid movement of wheat to market than is usual; that the increased receipts so induced have tended to the belief that the yield was greater than it will shortly prove to be, and that then—say in the latter part of October or in November—will come a reaction. Be this as it may, no one buys just now except on orders or for immediate use, the chances being considered on the side of still-lower prices. Spring has settled down to \$1.15 and \$1.18; midge-proof is worth \$1.20. **Barley.**—Receipts for the week by rail, 38,000 bush. against 41,058 bush. last week; receipts by teams 130,000 bush. and 120,000 bush. for the previous week. This day week the market opened at \$1.10 to \$1.12, and gradually advanced to \$1.20 and \$1.21, on the street; but owing to a break in Oswego, fell off to the opening prices of the week; within the last two days an improvement has taken place; the market closing at the quotations in our price list. The total receipt of barley from all sources are estimated at nearly 600,000 bush., and the shipments at 350,000 to 400,000 bush. The following vessels cleared with barley during the six days ending with Saturday last:—The "Australia," with 7,000 bush.; "H. P. Murray," 9,921 bush.; "John A. Macdonald," 9,268 bush.; and the "Defiance," 5,839 bush., all for Oswego; the "Cecelia," with 10,000 bush., the "Jessie," 14,000, the "Annie Mulvey," 17,000 bush. the "Eureka," 8,000 bush. and the "Paragon," 11,522 bush. all for Toledo. A careful estimate of the movement from the commencement of the season puts the total receipts at 451,000 bush.; shipments, 287,000; in store, 200,000 bush. The shipments were:—To Oswego, 179,000 bush.; to Toledo, 80,000 bush.; to Ogdensburg, 18,000 bush.; to Cleveland, 10,000 bush. **Oats.**—Car loads are arriving in sufficient numbers to supply the local trade, and are selling at 51c to 51½c. **Peas** are dull and nominal; very little of the new crop has been offered in this market yet. **Rye** is selling in small lots at 86 to 85c.

FLOUR.—Receipts for the week 900 barrels and 1,260 barrels last week. There is a quiet demand on orders for shipment to the Lower Provinces and for local use; but there are more sellers than buyers. No. 1 Superfine has sold during the week at \$5.50 to \$5.60; at the close there were sellers of ordinary brands at \$5.50, while, for favorite, higher figures are demanded. There were some sales of Fancy at \$5.85. Superior and Extra nominal, as quoted.

Halifax Market.

Sept. 22.—**Breadstuffs.**—Flour in steady demand, stocks rather heavy; Canada No. 1 \$7.40 to \$7.50; Extra \$8.40 to \$8.50; Extra State dull at \$7.25 to \$7.50; Baltimore Supr. \$7.25; Rye in little demand. Corn meal, kiln dried \$4.60 to \$4.75; fresh ground \$4.40 to \$4.50. Oatmeal, Canada \$7.75 to \$7.85. Imports from January 1st to Sept 22nd, 1867 and 1868:

	Brls. Flour.	Brls. Cornmeal.
1868	130,143	40,881
1867	127,624	29,742

West India Produce.—The importation of sugar and molasses having almost entirely ceased for this year's crop, and the New York market having recovered to a large extent, holders of sugars are very firm. The only sales reported are 50 hhd. common grocery Cuba at 5½c; 70 hhd. fair Barbadoes at 5½c in bond for export. We quote Porto Rico 6c to 6½; Barbadoes 5½ to 6c; Cuba 5½ to 5¾; Centrifugal Cuba 6c in bond.

Financial.—Bank drawing rate on London 60 day sight bills 13 per cent prem.; Private 12 to 12½ per cent prem. New York gold drafts at sight, 4 per cent prem. Currency drafts 27 per cent discount.

Graduated Sugar Duties.

We have had our experience in this country of the difficulty in working a graduated scale of sugar duties. Similar difficulties are met with elsewhere. We take a paragraph bearing on this point from the *London Produce Markets Review* of Sept. 17th:

It has long been remarked as an extraordinary thing, that if part of a cargo of Sugar were sent to the Clyde, and part to London, the Sugar sent to the Clyde was generally assessed at a lower rate of duty to that levied on what was sent to London. As the difference in favor of the Clyde would amount to 1s. 7d. per cwt. on the 8s. duty, and to 11d. on the 9s. 7d. rate, it is somewhat strange that the refiners had never looked into so probable an explanation of the extraordinary cheapness of Sugar on the Clyde, under which London was completely losing the Pieces trade. We understand, however, that the question has now been taken up, and the extraordinary discovery arrived at, that by the system of sampling carried on in London the "foots" are never touched by the "borer;" while on the Clyde, on the contrary, the "footy" part of the hogshead is always included in the samples drawn. Naturally, the Sugar drawn in London would be lighter in color than on the Clyde, and, as a matter of course, if it happened to be near the Duty Standards in color, a Sugar paying 9s. 7d. in London would pay 8s. on the Clyde. The sins of the fathers are certainly visited on the children in this case, for the dishonest system of sampling introduced in London by a former generation of merchants, and maintained up to the present day in spite of the continued protests of the trade, has thus recoiled on the heads of their representatives by driving the trade away from London. The refiners also have paid dearly for supporting the system on the ground that a slight uncertainty in color made no difference to them, while it would make a great difference to grocers, so that the uncertainty of the turn-out of Raw Sugar would force the trade to buy Pieces. We are of opinion not only that a fair mode of sampling should be enforced, but that fairness in this respect should be necessarily inserted among the conditions of sale, and also that no Sugar should be offered for sale without samples being redrawn from the hogsheads not later than a week from the date of contract. We have so often described our present vicious system of sampling that we need not enlarge upon it further, except as a moral to show the absurdity of graduated Sugar duties, for if these were logically carried out, every few inches in a hogshead of Raw Sugar ought to be assessed at a different rate.

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