

## Commercial.

FARMER'S ADVOCATE OFFICE, }  
London, Dec. 27, 1880. }

Since our last we have had a month of unusually fine winter weather. Some localities have been favored with snow and others the best of wheeling. This has had a very beneficial effect on business.

## WHEAT

has ruled very dull and lower since December came in, and now, at the time of writing, the decline in Chicago from the highest point has been 17½ cents per bushel. This is a serious decline and has caused the suspension of a number of Chicago grain firms who undertook to "bull" the market upon an artificial basis of values. It is estimated that the liabilities of these firms will foot up the sum of \$300,000. Stocks are accumulating in the west and every elevator and grain warehouse in the cities and those along the railways are full to overflowing. To such an extent is this the case that the owners of this grain, in many instances, are unable to get any insurance on their grain as the insurance companies have all they can carry. Enormous sums of money are also in the same way locked up, and the effect is that money is scarce and difficult to negotiate in the west.

Another trouble with them in the west is the great scarcity of cars, the railways being quite unable to supply sufficient cars to move the grain as fast as wanted. How long this is going to last it is hard to conjecture. The question is often asked, "What has become of all these cars?" The answer is, they are detained at the seaboard, and the local traffic has assumed such unexpected proportions that it is requiring a large number of the surplus cars usually used for grain.

Stocks in Canada are also heavy and on the increase, as holders are not disposed to take prices now offered, freights also being rather high and the railways not very anxious to contract.

As near as we can ascertain there is one-half to two-thirds of the wheat still in the country. These causes all have their effect on the market, and the dealers in England know the situation as well as we do here. They are now trying to hammer prices down, and it remains to be seen how low they will succeed in getting them. They must have a certain amount of our wheat, and the forcing of prices too low will have the effect of stopping the movement till the prices right themselves again.

## PEAS

are accumulating. Dealers and holders have worked the prices up too high, and the result is that together with high freights they have checked the movement.

## BARLEY

keeps pretty well up and holders are firm in their price. It is a very unstable article and one never knows what is its legitimate value.

## HAY.

The trade in this article is assuming quite important proportions this winter. The shipments have been largely to New York, where hay is very dear this winter, caused by the short crop all through the Eastern States. It is being delivered at the railway stations, where the dealers have their machinery for pressing, and compressed into bales so that about nine tons can be put into a car. Should we have a long winter we may look for higher prices for both hay and oats, before grass grows next spring.

## CHEESE

is now pretty well cleared out, with the exception of a few large factories who will most probably

hold till the end of January or February. A good many very fair lots of cheese have been bought lately, at 11½ cents. Some of these were sold to dealers at 13 cents, the buyer being only too glad to find some excuse to get out of his bargain as the markets have gone the wrong way. There is a much better tone to the market the past week and we look for a quiet, steady trade during the winter, and we hope to see stocks well cleared out before next May.

## BUTTER

keeps very still and stocks seem to be accumulating all over the country. The wonder is where all the butter comes from when the market gets dull. When butter was twenty and twenty-one cents we could hardly find a dealer who had any. But now, when it is down to seventeen and eighteen cents, everybody seems to have butter and nobody wants to buy. The fact is, prices should not have gone over seventeen to eighteen cents. Another cause for the depression is the immense quantity of oleomargarine which is made and thrown on the market. Especially is this the case when butter gets up to and over eighteen cents. We hear of a shipment of creamery sent from New York that has been ordered back to that city from Liverpool, as it is thought that it can be disposed of to better advantage at home.

## London Markets.

London, Dec. 27, 1880.

English advices show markets to have been dull and inactive and prices declining. The feeling has been strengthened that supplies are pretty sure to be sufficient for the demands of the English market, and purchasers are holding back expecting a still further decline. The deficiency in the European crops has been less than some previous years, and in the surplus wheat crops in the United States there has been much greater increase. Supplies have lately been in excess of consumption. Meantime prices are pretty firm, and will probably not decline further till the arrival of the large supplies now afloat from the Pacific coast. The prospects of fall wheat in England are favorable.

## GRAIN.

	Per 100 lbs		Per 100 lbs
Deihl Wheat	\$1 68 to 1 75	Peas	80 to 1 00
Treadwell	1 68 to 1 70	Oats	85 to 90
Clawson	1 68 to 1 70	" Old	
Red	1 68 to 1 70	Corn	1 00 to 1 03
Spring	1 50 to 1 70	Rye	80 to 90
Barley	90 to 1 50		

## PRODUCE.

Butter, crock	16 to 18	Potatoes, bag	50 to 60
do roll	20 to 22	Apples p bag	30 to 50
do keg	15 to 18	Turnips, p bu	25 to 30
do inferior	8 to 12	Beef, per qr	3 00 to 5 00
Carrots, p bu	20 to 30	Mutton, lb	6 to 7
Onions, bag	1 00 to 0 00	Lamb	5 to 8
Beef, per qr	3 50 to 6 50	Wool	27 to 27
Tallow retd	8	Dressed hogs	per 100 lbs, 6 00 to 6 25
" rough	4	Live hogs, do	5 00 to 5 50
Honey	20 to 20	Lard	9 to 9
Cordwood	4 00 to 4 00	Geese, each	45 to 50
Ducks	30 to 40	Turkeys	75 to 1 25
Chickens, pr	25 to 40	Milch cows	26 00 to 40 00
Cheese, per lb	12½ to		

## FLOUR.

Flour, fall wht	3 00 to 3 00	Oatmeal fine	2 70 to 2 00
" mixed	2 75 to 2 75	" coarse	2 50
" spring	2 10 to 2 75	Cornmeal	1 50 to 1 50
Shorts, per ton	14 00 to 18 00	Bran, per ton	10 00 to 10 00

## HAY AND STRAW

Hay, per ton	9 00 to 10 00	Straw, per load	2 00 to 3 00
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## English Markets.

Liverpool, Dec. 23, 1880.

Flour, 9s. 10d.; wheat, spring, 8s. 6d. to 9s. 9d.; red winter, 10s.; white, 9s. 10d.; club, 9s. 8d. to 10s.; corn, 5s. 5d. to 6s.; oats, 6s. 2d. to 6. 3d.; barley, 5s. 3d.; peas, 7s.; pork, 65s.; lard, 46s.; bacon, 27s. 6d. to 39s.; beef, 77s. 9d.; tallow, 34s.; cheese, 65s.

## Chicago Market.

Chicago, Dec. 28, 1880.

Wheat in fair demand and lower, 94c to 99½c; corn, 36½c; oats, 29½c to 30c; rye, firm at 88c; barley, easier at 81.07; flour, dull end nominal; pork, lower \$11.25 for cash; lard, dull and a shade lower, 88.35; bulk meats, steady and unchanged.

## New York Markets.

New York, Dec. 27, 1880.

Flour dull, \$3.00 to \$3.75 for state and western, \$4.00 to \$5.50; wheat, \$1.15; rye, 53c to 57c; corn, less firm, 53c to 57c; barley, quiet and unchanged; oats, 4½ better; 41½c to 46c; butter, 13c to 34c; cheese, 7c to 13½.

## Montreal Market.

Montreal, Dec. 28, 1880.

The market dull with nominally unchanged prices. Flour, xxx, \$5.50 to \$5.40; spring, extra, \$5.25 to \$5.35; superfine, \$4.90 to \$4.95; strong bakers, \$5.75 to \$6.25; fine, \$4.25 to \$5.35; middlings, \$3.70 to \$3.75; pollards, \$3.10 to \$3.35; Ont. bags, \$2.60 to \$2.70; city bags, \$3.30 to \$3.35; oatmeal, \$4.40 to \$4.45; cornmeal, \$3.00 to \$3.10; pork, \$16.50 to \$17.50; hams, 10c to 11c; dressed hogs, \$6.40 to \$6.50; butter, creamery, 24c to 26c; Brockville and Morrisburg, 18c to 21c; western, 17c to 18c; eastern townships, 20c to 22c; cheese, 12½ to 13c.

## Toronto Market.

Toronto, Dec. 28, 1880.

Fall wheat, No. 1, \$1.12; No. 2, \$1.10; No. 3, \$1.05; spring, do, \$1.00 to \$1.16; barley, No. 1, \$1.02; No. 2, 90c to 95c; No. 3, 75c to 85c; peas, No. 1, 68c; No. 2, 97c; oats, 33c to 34c; corn, 60c; flour, superior, \$4.85; strong bakers, \$4.95; spring, extra, \$4.75; bran, \$12.50; hogs, \$5.80 to \$6.00; butter 15c to 18c; barley, 95c to \$1.00; rye, 83c to 84c; oatmeal, \$3.85; cornmeal, \$3; pork, \$15.

## Boston Markets.

Boston, Dec. 29.

Corn, per 56 lbs, 60c to 65c; Oats, 46c to 52c; wheat, \$1.10 to \$1.22; rye, \$1.00 to \$1.05; barley, \$1.00 to \$1.30; shorts, per ton, \$18.50; hay, per 2,000 lbs., \$20 to \$25; straw, 100 lbs., \$1.00 to \$1.75; butter, 17c to 33c; cheese, 6c to 13c; flour, \$3.75 to \$4.50; potatoes, 55c to 70c; oatmeal, \$5.50 to \$6.50; onions, per lb., \$3.50 to \$4.25; beans, \$1.80 to \$2.15.

## Stock Notes.

A cow, bred by F. W. Stone, of Guelph, Ont., was recently awarded the 1st prize at the Fat Cattle Show of Hull, England.

The Canada West Farm Stock Association have sold the young red bull, "Waterloo Duke 2nd," to Henry Pickereil, Harrison, Ills.

Mr. Jno. Dryden, M.P.P., of Brooklin, Ont., has recently imported from the celebrated Cruickshanks herd, of Scotland, six fine Shorthorns—four heifers and two bulls.

Prof. Roberts is a strong believer in the good effect of a proper atmosphere in the stable. The air should be neither too hot nor too cold, but above all should be dry. Dampness he considers highly detrimental to all kinds of stocks.

Messrs. H. & J. Groff, of Waterloo, Ont., are fattening 800 sheep this winter. If they would kindly furnish us the results when they sell, we think the information would be read with interest and profit by many.

Mr. J. R. Pettit, of Grimsby, informs us that his present herd of Shorthorns, about 40 head, have all been raised from one cow and her progeny, which he purchased some years ago, and he has also sold from her, and her descendants over \$6,500.00 of stock.

Messrs. D. M. Ferry & Co., of Detroit, Mich., are doing a large seed business in Canada. We consider them reliable, and have heard good reports of seeds sent out by them. As will be seen by referring to their advertisement in this issue, they send their catalogue free to applicants.

Mr. H. H. Spencer, of Brooklin, Ont., reports a large number of sales this fall both to Canadian and American breeders. The demand for South-downs has been especially good. He has also sold a large number of Shropshire and Oxford Downs and Berkshire swine. Mr. Spencer reports his stock as doing well, and that his recent English importation of South Downs and Shropshire Downs are of high quality.

Mr. W. W. Kitchen, of Grimsby, Ont., is at present on his stock farm, at Orlewin, Iowa, in connection with Capt. D. L. McLeod. They are doing well with their fine herd of Shorthorns, having increasing demand and ready sales for young stock, at \$100 per head on leaving the cows. They have over 50 females in their herd, all in fine condition, many in calf by "Golden King," from Scotland. We wish Mr. K. every success.

RECREATIONS.—Let your recreations be manly, moderate, seasonable, and lawful: the use of recreation is to strengthen your labour and sweeten your rest. But there are some so rigid or so timorous, that they avoid all diversions, and dare not indulge lawful delights for fear of offending. These are hard tutors, if not tyrants to themselves whilst they pretend to a mortified strictness, they are injurious to their own liberty, and the liberality of their Maker.