

## THE FARMING WORLD

Devoted to Canadian Country Life

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be a slump with the close of navigation, the slightest attempt to buy short wheat in any quantity would send the market up like a sky rocket.

As a prominent broker remarked to-day, "if once that market takes the upturn and shorts try to cover, the Lord have mercy on them, for they will need it."

The National Livestock Convention is arousing considerable interest in the West, and news as to the actual program is looked for anxiously. Livestock matters generally, in the West, need re-adjustment in many lines, and there is much room for missionary work in the matter of the more careful breeding and feeding of stock, and also of increasing the number of farms on which stock is kept.

The high prices of feed this year have tempted many farmers to part with all their cattle, many of them, because of their unfitness, at very low prices, and every indication points to extremely high prices for anything like fat cattle next spring.

During the month of November, there was an outcry from some of the smaller western ranchers that they had been badly used by the buyers, and after their cattle were concentrated for purchase, they had been obliged to turn 50,000 head back on the ranges because the buyers would offer for them. The statement was further made that this was in punishment for their having given evidence at the beef commission that there was beef combine. Inquiry went to show that there was very little in this story. Cattle were turned back on the ranges, but it was because they were quite unfit for export, and the large quantity of unfit cattle coming forward all season has glutted the local market with butcher's stuff beyond its powers to assimilate. J. T. Gordon, president of Gordon, Ironsides, and Fares, the firm that last year shipped 55,000 out of the 85,000 head exported, came forward and stated that to the best of his knowledge there would not be left in Saskatchewan and Alberta at the close of the export season, one thousand steers that were fit for export. Ted Burns of Calgary, who handles more butcher's stuff than anyone in the West, practically endorsed this statement and added that if money were not so tight he would take all the butchers of the rancher's hands and feed them himself.

Mr. Gordon stated that so far as export cattle were concerned, there had been no difficulty in securing money to handle them.

The extremely fine weather of the past month, which still continues, has lengthened out the season for the cattle movement very materially. By this time last year, and in fact ten days earlier, export cattle shipments had practically ceased.

Before leaving the cattle question it would be well to say that breeders of purebred cattle report their sales as very satisfactory this fall,

especially the sale of females due to come in early.

The fine season is helping another problem, and that is the fuel. Reports go to show that large stocks are being accumulated at central points, and the present indications are that unless the winter is one of extreme severity, there will be no fuel famine.

Butter will be better in the Canadian West this winter. Reports show that the make has so far fallen below requirements that already a million pounds of creamery have been brought in from the East, mostly from Montreal, and on this \$12,000 have been paid in freight. A goodly proportion of this butter cost 25c per pound in the East, so that it is not surprising that butter is retailing at 40c in Winnipeg. Last year Manitoba sent East seventeen cars of dairy butter, and this season there have been brought in from the East at least two cars of dairy.

Potatoes are likely to be short also. Up to the present time prices have ruled rather low and within the past ten days carlots have been sold on track Winnipeg at 40c. The tightness of money was partly the cause, and dealers were not able to accumulate stocks to the same extent as usual, with the result that now when the money market has loosened a little, the stocks in the city are small for December. If the open weather holds out for another ten days it will help to some extent to make up the deficiency, but will not place the stocks where they should be at this season. In addition to this, there are indications that the crop is fairly short. In the Red River valley country, which takes in a territory fifty miles south and west of Winnipeg, the potato crop is the finest that has been produced in years, both as to quantity and quality, but outside of that area in some districts potatoes suffered from too much rain and in others from drought. In a few of the more northern sections of both Manitoba and Saskatchewan a good many fields got badly frosted before they were fully mature, and this has reduced the yield and possibly the keeping quality of the stock also.

Hog prices have been the lowest in three years during the past month. This is due almost entirely to the decline in Chicago, as packers are obliged to pay prices on a basis where they could continue to compete against American meat coming in. The lower price has had a tendency to check the shipment of any and every kind of hog, which had set in with the advent of high prices for feed, some farmers cleaning out their whole stock, brood sows and all. Even with this check to wholesale disposal of sows, there has been far too much of a brood stock is likely to be a fancy price in the spring.