

Wheat Prices in Britain

The Miller of London reports the course of prices in British markets during August as follows: "The month's trade began on Aug. 1 with a dull market in London. The best Duluth fetched 26s offstands, while at the Baltic an arrived cargo of California was parted with for 22s 6d, and one of Argentine for 19s 3d per qr. Birmingham and Bristol, on the 2nd, were weak for most sorts of wheat, but firm for English and American, owing to poor crop reports from the latter country, and very bad harvest weather at home. No changes took place before the bank holiday on the 6th, nor did trade resume in earnest before the 8th, when Glasgow opened briskly with 1s advance on all sorts of wheat and flour. The American bureau report, although not published till the 11th, was already known to be unfavorable, especially for maize, and a real maize scarcity in the United States would, it was felt, affect the home demand for wheat very materially. On the 9th, wheat at Birmingham and Bristol advanced 1s in sympathy with a 3s rise in flat maize. Liverpool, on 10th, quoted American maize at 5s per cental, and American red winter wheat rose to 4s 5d per cental. In California 4s 11d was accepted. The country markets of the 11th were firm, but dull. On the 18th, at Mark Lane, the demand for foreign wheat was disappointing, but prices were is higher on the fortnight offstands. At the Baltic 28s 6d was paid for a cargo of arrived Californian, and 19s 6d for a cargo of Argentine. On the 14th Liverpool was very firm, and on the 15th Glasgow maintained previous advances. At the Baltic on the 16th, 19s 9d was made for Argentine wheat, and 20s 6d for now red winter. At Liverpool, on the 17th, 4s 4d was taken for red winter wheat and 4s 10d per cental for Californian, these prices being a trifle lower than the 10th. There were several offers of new wheat at Canterbury on the 18th, the first of the season. For white, 24s to 27s was demanded; for red, 22s to 26s per qr. Condition varied a good deal. Mark Lane saw new wheat for the first time on the 20th, but the condition was much spoilt by damp, and 22s was the price at which a solitary transaction took place. The sample was good red wheat weighing 50 1/2 lbs., but it was so wet and "unfit" that the purchaser did not expect to use it until October. On the 21st, at the Baltic, Argentine cargoes touched 20s, and red winter 20s 9d per qr. At Ipswich, new Suffolk wheat made 22s to 24s per qr. At Devizes, on the 23rd, Wiltshire farmers showed several samples of new wheat, for which they only asked 21s. Buyers offered 22s, and this price was not always refused. On the 24th Liverpool accepted 4s 3d for red winter. On the 25th new wheat was on offer at all the country markets of the eastern, south-eastern, and southern countries, and 20s to 24s was the universal range of quotations. On the 27th London was fairly firm, 22s to 24s was quoted for new English, 21s to 23s for red winter, offstands. At the Baltic red winter cargoes were held for 20s 9d per qr. On the 29th at Hull, Lynn and Ipswich 22s was accepted for new English wheat. Liverpool was again stronger for red winter, 4s 4d per cental being freely paid. On the 29th, at the Baltic, new Russian Taganrog wheat, for October shipment, was being bought at 17s 6d per qr. The close of the month witnessed a certain tendency to appreciation in red winter wheat values, together with decided firmness in South Australian, Chilean and American spring wheat. The Argentine and Indian sorts of wheat were all steady; but Russian and Californian were rather weak, the first because of free offers of the new crop, the second because Californian shipments were stated to be steadily increasing. The Liverpool imports for the cereal year ended August 31, was given at 4,719,454 qrs. of wheat for 1891-2, 4,646,321 qrs. for 1892-3, and 4,341,727 qrs. for 1893-4, the cereal year

just closed. Of flour the imports were 1891-2, 1,677,885 sacks, 1892-3, 1,666,527 sacks, and 1893-4, 1,401,429 sacks. French imports of wheat for the cereal year were given at 6,930,000 qrs., against 2,914,000 qrs. in the previous importing campaign, and a preliminary estimate of United States shipments of wheat and flour gave the total at 161,000,000 bushels as compared with 192,000,000 bushels in 1892-1893."

Patron Stores' Supplies.

The prominence which the Patrons of Industry have developed lately in politics has hid somewhat from view their operations in regard to retail trade of the country. Occasionally, however, a glimpse is obtained and then it is seen that the same old process of disintegration is going on among the stores that the Patrons have set up. In one little town of 1,300 inhabitants in western Ontario two Patron storekeepers have just gone the way of many of their predecessors; and another is said to be contemplating the folding of his tent.—Exchange.

California Fruit in England.

The Pacific Coast Rural says: "The train load of fresh fruit made up at Suisun, Vallejo and Sacramento and despatched to London early in the month reached its destination on August 24, twenty-one days from Sacramento. It attracted a large concourse of bidders, but for a variety of reasons, did not bring large prices. Some of it was spoiled, much was overripe, other parts of the consignment had been so tightly packed that the fruit was bruised and it arrived just at a time when the London market was glutted with the product of the French pear orchards. Under these conditions the reported prices, while certainly not large, afforded no discouragement. Pears brought 80c. to \$1.20 per box, a few lots in exceptionally good condition bringing \$2.20 to \$2.40 per box. Of peaches and plums it is only reported that they were not in much demand. The nectarines went off like hot cakes at 80c to \$1 for thirds of boxes. The market charges aggregated 8c per box and the auctioneer's fee was 5c per box. On the whole the shippers are encouraged by the results of this experiment, and will try again. Mr. Hutchins, of the California Fruit Transportation Company, under whose auspices the shipment was made, is an enthusiastic believer in the availability of the London market to California shippers as soon as the business can be got in smooth working shape. He points out that the recent shipment, as a new thing, was attended by a good many untoward circumstances. For example, some of the fruit was taken from the trees five days before the train left Sacramento; some of it came from orchards whose product is not the best for keeping qualities; there were delays in getting on the steamer, and again in getting off, due to the unusual nature of the shipment. These faults will, Mr. Hutchins thinks, be corrected if, through shipment to England should become a regular and systematic business. On the other hand the English market is bare of French pears after the 25th of August. In spite of all this the Rural has small faith in the London market under present conditions. Now and then a consignment may get through in good shape and find a good market, but there are so many chances to run that the occasional profit will be more than lost in the frequent miscarriages. We may, indeed, at some future time, when the Perkins or some other process shall afford a way of preserving fruit in transit, be able to market our product regularly in the European markets, but that is apparently in the future. In the meantime the Perkins process remains universally approved but practically unapplied, because nobody comes forward with the small sum needed to give it a fair trial.

Short Fruit Crops.

Cincinnati Price Current:—It is a well-known fact that the yield of apples, pears, plums and grapes in the west this year was much short of the average, and in some districts were a total failure; it was presumed that prices would be high if not actually prohibitory, and such was the case early in the season, when even common apples could be obtained only to a moderate extent in this market, even by paying high rates, but as the season advanced and the fruit in northern Ohio, Michigan and New York state got ripe it was found that supplies were abundant, and even with the transportation charges added prices were reasonable here, even for fine stock, while the common grades were absolutely cheap. The absence of the usual demand had much to do with this, for the great bulk of consumers had no money to buy largely either for current consumption or to preserve, and they have recently been able to obtain grapes at lower prices than ever before, and common apples and pears as cheap as ever. Peaches too have been more plentiful than anybody expected, and although not absolutely cheap, common stock has sold at reasonable prices, and even the finer grades of northern stock have been sold here by the car load mainly at \$1.25 per bushel and in exceptional cases at \$1.50 per bushel; No. 1 Bartlett pears have been brought from New York state and have sold as low as \$2.50 per barrel and seldom at over \$3, except in a small way. The bulk of the sales of good apples have been recently made at \$1.50 to 2.00, and the finest lots seldom bring over \$3 per barrel. Plums of fine quality have been lower than they frequently are when we have goods crops near home, and the less desirable kinds were absolutely cheap.

Canadian Prints.

Canadian prints have been sold during the past season without a profit to the manufacturer, without a droft to the jobber, and without a profit to the retailer. In fact, Canadian prints were a worry unto the trade. Finally, David Morrice, the head of the firm who control the sales of the product of the two great cotton companies of Canada, undertook to bring about a better state of affairs. He accordingly held conferences with the leading merchants in Toronto and Montreal. The Toronto conference was held on the afternoon of the 21st of August, in the office of D. Morrice, Sons & Co., Scott Street. There were some nine wholesalers present, including all the leading houses.

The plan proposed was that a list should be adopted fixing the prices at which these domestic prints should be sold to the retailer, and from this list some 10 or 12 1/2 per cent. discount was to be given to jobbers. This would ensure the latter a droft. The question of selling to such men as Eaton, Simpson, Walker, one man in Owen Sound, another in St. Catharines, and other retailers who were now buying direct from the mills, came up and was discussed but no decision arrived at. Then came up the question of terms. Should the goods be sold at four months from March 1st and Oct. 1st, with a cash discount of 5 per cent., 30 days, should the terms be 60 days net, or should they be three months with 3 per cent. cash discount? This was the great difficulty, and, with it unsettled, the meeting adjourned.

Mr. Morrice has held further conferences with the wholesalers of Montreal, but no agreement has yet been arrived at.

The reduction of elevator rates at Chicago has been much less than at Duluth. The storage remains 3c for ten days, and subsequently the rate is 3c for each ten days against 3c, as formerly.