

Review of the Corn Trade.

From the Mark Lane Express.

BRITISH.

The late variation in the temperature having generally deteriorated the samples of home-grown wheat, a corresponding effect has been produced on the value, to the extent of about 1s per qr. in the course of the past week, without the pressure of any large quantity on the part of farmers, though some markets have remained firm. It is satisfactory to find that the completion of the autumnal sowings has taken place under favourable circumstances, though a large breadth is still left for spring culture. The early sown pieces continue to look remarkably healthy, being kept from too rapid a growth by the night frosts.

The quantity noted in the last sales was 92,619 qrs. wheat at 88s 10d, against 88,449 qrs. in the previous season. The London averages only show 2026 qrs. sold at 64s 1d, and supplies of home growth to this port have been greatly falling off. The quantity imported into the principal ports of Great Britain for the week ending 7th January, in wheat and flour, was 106,802 qrs. The arrivals in the United Kingdom in Dec. last were 480,983 qrs. wheat, 381,110 cwt. flour.

Monday's market in London commenced with but a moderate supply of foreign wheat and a very short one from Kent and Essex, mostly in miserable condition from the late prevalence of damp weather; it was therefore generally neglected by millers, who found plenty of good American to suit their purpose. The few parcels of really fine quality made quite the prices of the week previous; and foreign samples generally were firm, with a moderate consumptive trade, and fair inquiry for export, at full rates. On Wednesday there were per coast 1130 qrs., with 7280 qrs. from abroad. The small quantity left over on the previous day was generally disposed of at the then quotations, foreign wheat, except American samples, being well supported. The quantity on Friday per coast was 2640 qrs., with 12,530 qrs. foreign. Trade was then very calm; rates unaltered, the demand for Spain and Portugal gives some firmness to parcels suited to those markets.

Oats of all descriptions on Monday were in very limited supply; but dealers, not having sufficiently cleared their stocks, were not eager buyers; and the rates realised, though fully equal to the previous week, were not altered for good corn, inferior quality still remaining difficult to dispose of. On Wednesday there were coastwise 40 qrs. only, from Ireland, but 1000 qrs., and from the continent 3680 qrs. Good corn then kept its price fully, but parcels out of condition were difficult to quit, notwithstanding the limited show of samples. No new features in the trade appeared on Friday, though supplies remained small, viz., 12,410 qrs. foreign, 700 qrs. more English, and nothing from Ireland.

The country markets generally agree in the dullness of their reports as to the wheat trade. Hull and Gainsborough, with small supplies, were rather improved.—Leeds, Gloucester, Bristol, Uxbridge, Stowmarket, Slough, Newark, Melton, Mowbray, and Barnsley were about the same as on the previous week. Boston, Wakefield, Lynn, Louth, and Birmingham were 1s. less; Market Harborough, Norwich, Newcastle, and Manchester quoted from 1s to 2s decline; and Wolverhampton, with a large quantity on sale, was fully 2s cheaper.

The Scotch markets present the same dull aspect. The attendance at Glasgow was thin, and foreign wheat 6d per boll lower. Barley was 6d to 1s per boll cheaper, Oats somewhat down, and all spring corn dull. Leith was also rather lower, and very dull.

Irish reports were much as the last. Clonmel, with better supplies and more trade, experienced no change of price either in wheat, barley, or oats. Dublin made no difference in the value of wheat, but barley was rather easier. Wheat was 1s per brl. lower at Waterford, but barley 6d in favour of sellers, and oats sold rather worse, say 3d to 4d per brl. Maize was still sought for export at Cork, all other grains being dull.

FOREIGN.

About 2000 qrs. wheat had been placed for Lyons at 2s advance, but prices at Lisle were quoted as much lower. Generally, the provinces quote rather higher prices. The little change experienced in Belgium has been towards a decline in grain prices, especially in the interior. At Antwerp little has been doing, foreign wheat being nominally firm. The Dutch markets have been inanimate, though a rigorous cold had been experienced. The Swiss markets come rather cheaper, wheat at Basle and Zurich being about 1s per qr., lower. The Baltic ports show little change. Arrivals have been insignificant at Danzig, and wheat little sought after, top price being 50s per qr. High prices continue to be paid at Madrid for wheat, notwithstanding a general improvement in the supplies, fine quality having realized 117s per qr., low sorts bringing 113s 6d. Prices at Lisbon were declining, in consequence of a large foreign supplies. An immense fall of rain was reported at Algiers threatening to lessen the quantity of wheat sown, in consequence of the sodden state of the ground, though a good quantity of seed was got in November. The badness of the roads keeping out supplies, prices were decidedly dearer. Little was doing at Odessa—about 1000 qrs. of merchantable soft wheat had been sold at 50s to 59s 6d per qr. The last accounts from New York were dull, being influenced by advice from Great Britain; but there was scarcely any reduction in fine flour.

AMERICAN RACE-HORSES IN ENGLAND.

The tone of the American sporting papers has materially changed within the last few days, as regards Mr. Ten Broeck's prospects of success on the English turf. His departure with his horses for England was announced by them with a tremendous flourish of trumpets; and they prophesied boastfully, that like the owner of the yacht "America," he would merely have to go over and conquer. England was challenged to produce a match for the wonderful Lecompte, and the still more wonderful Priores, and speedy defeat was threatened as the inevitable result if the challenge was accepted. In the course of a few weeks all this has changed.—Mr. Ten Broeck has seen English race-horses in that time, and is now less confident. The following extract from the New York *Spirit of the Times*, which is singularly in contrast with what it published a short time ago, shows the altered state of Mr. Ten Broeck's feelings.

OUR HORSES IN ENGLAND.—So far from Lecompte being broken down in consequence of severe training, he has not yet been put in training in England. We doubt if Priores is ailing, although she may be, but not seriously. No challenge has ever been ordered by Mr. Ten Broeck, nor has any person been authorized by him to challenge any England, or any part of it. Mr. Ten Broeck is a gentleman of means, and is possessed of sound judgment in racing matters. He will make himself thoroughly acquainted with the English system of racing, and will, doubtless, try his horses in some of the stakes—Goodwood first, probably. If England wishes a further trial, and Mr. Ten Broeck thinks he has a fair chance for his money, he will accommodate Johnny Bull.

New York, Feb. 2nd.

ARM YE!

We all go armed now. Life has become so insecure that to carry a revolver is a mere matter of prudence. Eighteen months ago a newspaper correspondent started the public by announcing that, having occasion to search for his overcoat in the cloak room of Congress, he discovered that three-fourths of the members had revolvers in their coat pockets. The Christian portion of our public shuddered thereat.—What has taken place since? Why, that the same practice commencing in the South and San Francisco, then invading Washington, has since seized bold of Philadelphia and New York. At the Italian Opera, last night, a singular incident occurred. It was *Gra de Willherst's debut*. During the performance of the third part of the third act the report of a pistol shot startled the audience; a gentleman had let his coat drop and a barrel of his revolver had gone off.

THE PROVINCIAL BATTALION AT CHATHAM.—The rumour has revived that it is the intention to break up this battalion, and to form it into Depot Battalions, constituted in all respects similarly to those of the other corps of the army. There are, however, obstacles in the way, partly caused by the arrangements which are necessary to make with the East India Company, and partly from the different establishments of the several Regiments employed in India. Indeed the difficulties are so great, that we cannot see how they can be got over without making the Corps all of the same strength, and doing away with what is called the Indian Establishments.

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF.—Shortly after the Lord Chancellor entered in the Court of Chancery, on Tuesday the 20th, it was intimated that the Duke of Cambridge was about to present himself to take the customary oaths as Commander-in-Chief and a member of her Majesty's Privy Council. The Lord Chancellor immediately left his chair, met his royal highness at the entrance, and came with him on the platform, when the oaths were administered by the Deputy clerk of the Crown, the Lord Chancellor and the bar standing during the ceremony. The Duke then bowed and retired.

We believe it is contemplated, on the recommendation of his Royal Highness, the General Commanding-in-Chief, with the view of insuring the efficiency of regiments, that officers on the staff shall receive in future a pecuniary allowance in lieu of soldier servants at the rate as now established for medical staff officers.

From a circular issued from the Horse Guards it appears that the smooth-bore arms now in possession of the Cavalry will eventually be superseded by breach-loading carbines and rifle pistols.

THE HAMILTON ARTILLERY.—Yesterday, according to previous appointment, the Hamilton Volunteer Field Battery, Major Booker commanding, turned out for Target Practice. The day, as all our readers know, was none of the finest from its commencement, and, as the afternoon approached, the sky became more and more lowering, and the mist which had hovered about, gave way to a complete storm of rain. Many persons thought that of course the gallant Volunteers would defer the practice—but no, they boldly resolved to encounter the storm, and accordingly, having mustered in full force near the gun shed, King Street East, they marched down King and James streets to the Bay, their Band striking up "Annie Laurie." There are four guns belonging to the force—three six-pounders, and a howitzer. Those were very speedily unlimbered and placed in position on the ice at the foot of John street. A target 12 feet square, had been constructed at the distance of about half a mile from the guns, and being black, was very conspicuously visible. The guns having been loaded and everything arranged with due and military precision, the command to "fire" was given, and the very first shot struck the target, and could be seen ricocheting along the ice, for perhaps a mile or two, throwing up the snow every time it touched. The shells seemed to attract the greatest attention. They too, were fired with considerable accuracy, and, each time the small cloud of smoke which appeared when they burst, was seen just above the target, while the fragments of the missile were profusely distributed in his neighbourhood. While the practice was going on, the sky became partially clear, and the on lookers—a hundred or two in number—hoped, no less than the members of the force, that the afternoon would yet prove fine. They were doomed to disappointment. The rain again descended in torrents, and after a few rounds the bugle sounded, the guns were rapidly limbered up, and the men marched towards home.—*Hamilton Spectator*.

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