

5—HIDDEN SQUARE WORD.

It is not at all impossible to do it.
Did Olga go out to skate yet?
That is rather a grim ode, Clarice
I got an apple at Temple Hall.

6—DROP-VOWEL PUZZLE.

C - - u t t h - t d - y l - s t w h - s - l - w d - s c - n d
- n g s - - s - n t h y p - r t n - w - r t h y - c t - - n d
- n -
ADA ARMAND.

7—ILLUSTRATED REBUS.



8—NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

My 24, 8, 2, 31 is to rectify.
My 12, 5, 3, 21 is a box of birds.
My 23, 17, 27, 10 is a loud outcry.
My 7, 25, 22, 6 is to mend.
My 38, 16, 28, 14 is that which is present.
My 20, 1, 26, 36 is to sell.
My 1, 34, 4, 19 is a substance for draining.
My 13, 5, 29, 11 is a story.
My 9, 39, 30, 32 is a prefix implying some relation to wood.
My 15, 33, 37, 35 is to this degree.
My whole contains 39 letters and is a watch-word in Great Britain.

FAIR BROTHER.

Answers to December Puzzles.

- 1—Never buy what you do not want because it is cheap.
- 2—Speak the truth and speak it ever,
Cost you what it will,
He who hides the wrong he did,
Does the wrong thing still.
- 3—
C
S H Y
P A R R Y
C O M I C A L
C H R I S T M A S
E A R T H E N
C A M E L
P A T
S
4—
P
A T
P A P O O S E
T O T T E R
O T T E R
S E E T H E
E R R H I N E
E N
E
5—Stock—sock=t.
Brand—Band=r.
Neat—net=a.
Loft—lot=v.
Paint—pint=a.
Blind—bind=l.
Sign—sin=g.
Haunt—hunt=a.
Frail—fail=r.

Names of Those Who Have Sent Correct Answers to Dec. Puzzles.

Henry Willson, W. Webster, Wm. Jackson, Robert Kerr, Henry Reeve, Edmund Pepper, J. J. Seale, Minnie Stafford, Fair Brother, Lotta A. Ross, Emma Dennee, E. W. Hutcheson, Juliet M. Jordan, Alice M. Hume, Willie B. Bell, Will Thirlwall, Becca Lowry, Frank L. Milner, Wm. A. Laidman, Ellen D. Tupper, Georgia Smith, Jane L. Martin, Alice Mackie, Joseph Allen, R. Wilson, Ada Armand, Mary Morrison, Chas. Herbert Foster, Robt. J. Risk, Annie S. Broderick, Tillie Hodgins, Tnos. L. Lindsay.

Commercial.

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE OFFICE,
London, Ont., Jan. 1, 1886.

Very mild weather has prevailed the past month. We have had one or two pretty severe snow storms, but they have been of short duration and were succeeded by very mild weather. While business on the whole has been very good, it is not what it would have been with cold weather and good sleighing, or even good wheeling.

WHEAT.

A large portion, if not all of the winter wheat belt, is without snow, and the freezing and thawing so far has not had perceptibly any effect on the plants. American wheat centres have been waiting for something to turn up. The visible supply statement shows a small decrease, but this is explained in such a way as to give this turn of affairs little or no force. All things being considered, the markets maintain much strength. There is increasing evidence that the British markets may be expected soon to show a strengthening tendency. This may have little bearing upon our markets, as values there are still widely below a parity with American markets. Prices in this country, or rather the United States, have been maintained at a strained pitch most of the time since harvest, and have operated against the export movement.

In speaking of wheat in the United Kingdom, Beerbohm's List of Dec. 18, says: "It is evident that the next three months will witness a heavy drain upon stocks in warehouse, which at the present moment may be estimated to amount to about 3½ million quarters (26,000,000 bushels) in first hand, against 2½ million quarters (18,000,000 bushels) at the close of 1884." These figures probably include flour.

The stocks of wheat and corn at twenty-one leading interior and seaboard markets, east of the Rocky Mountains, in transit from the west to theseaboard, and afloat on the ocean, destined for Great Britain and Continental Europe, on dates named, were as follows:

| | Wheat, bu. | Corn, bu. |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| Total, December 21, 1885 | 74,108,000 | 8,256,000 |
| Previous week | 73,181,000 | 7,585,000 |
| Total, December 22, 1884 | 66,444,000 | 6,347,000 |
| Total, December 24, 1883 | 55,742,000 | 11,561,000 |
| Total, December 25, 1882 | 43,615,000 | 9,373,000 |
| Total, December 25, 1881 | 48,400,000 | 20,163,000 |

This includes Minneapolis and St. Paul for 1884-5, but not for previous years.

The following shows the exports of wheat and corn, including wheat in flour, from all American ports and Montreal from September 1 to December 19, for the years named:

| | Wheat. | Corn. |
|------|------------|------------|
| 1885 | 21,740,000 | 13,638,000 |
| 1884 | 42,852,000 | 6,359,000 |
| 1883 | 28,697,000 | 14,006,000 |
| 1882 | 55,353,000 | 2,619,000 |
| 1881 | 44,050,000 | 13,644,000 |

The American Consul-General at London, England, reports that the depression effecting the cultivation of wheat has reached an acutest stage. The acreage of wheat in Great Britain has fallen 7½ percent. under that of last year. The average price of wheat in more than 150 English towns last week was as low as the lowest price reached last year. The Consul-General advises American farmers to grow more oats and barley for export for the reason that in selling these crops they will not meet the severe competition of India. It is more than probable that the supply of Indian wheat will increase from year to year. At the same price the English will buy American wheat, because it is better, but the English buyer not only sees the Indian wheat far underselling the American, but has also learned that the price of American wheat is fixed by speculation rather than by legitimate trade. He can rely upon the steadiness of the price of the Indian supply, but he knows that the operations of a syndicate or a burst of speculation among the grain gamblers in this country, may send up the price of our wheat 10 cents a bushel in two or three days. Gambling in our grain market in the past led the foreign con-

sumer to develop the agricultural resources of regions that are now our formidable rivals, and gambling in the same market now tends to confirm the trade arrangements which it then caused to be established.

CLOVER SEED.

As yet little has been done in this article and what has changed hands has been chiefly Alsike. This variety is apparently more plentiful than Red Clover, and will be in good demand for home trade the coming season. One thing farmers must bear in mind, and that is that there will be a wide range of prices as to sample. Finest samples will command good prices, and those of secondary or below will not be wanted unless at low figures.

In red clover the American markets are very tame and tending lower. This is caused, no doubt, from the fact that a number of sales of seed in England have been made to arrive in New York or Chicago in January, and more likely to follow. This is a turn of affairs not just expected by the trade.

LIVE STOCK.

The Montreal Gazette reports the live-stock market as follows:

The following were the receipts of live stock at Point St. Charles by the G. T. R.:

| | Cattle. | Sheep. | Calves. | Hogs. |
|---------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| Week ended | | | | |
| Dec. 26.... | 510 | 1,505 | 80 | 451 |
| Prev. week.. | 1,460 | 3,769 | 45 | 520 |
| Since May 1.. | 72,415 | 57,076 | 4,509 | 13,139 |

The cattle market has ruled quiet, as might be expected after the activity incident to the Christmas trade has passed, and as butchers have considerable supplies left over from recent purchases. Receipts have fallen away, but the offerings were more than sufficient to fill all wants. There was no demand from exporters. The market to-day was dull and inactive, with prices somewhat nominal. The best butchers' cattle were quoted at 4c per lb. live weight, with inferior down to 2c. There were fair offerings of sheep, but demand was slow. Prices, however, were steady at 3 @ 3½c per lb. live weight. Lambs were quoted at 4c @ 4½c. Live hogs were quiet and steady at 4½c per lb.

CHEESE.

The cheese market has taken on a little more life the past two weeks, and considerable cheese has changed hands and gone forward or put into store. All stocks are firmly held and cannot be bought in any quantity at present. The stock in Liverpool and New York cannot be heavy, neither is it probable the stock in London and Bristol will be equal to that of last year. The supply held back in York State is said to be smaller than last year, and the Canadian supply seems to be vanishing in a way that must alarm the "bears," who are now very quiet.

The following table shows the official value of the exports of cheese from the port of Montreal from May 1 to November 30, inclusive in the years given:—

| | Not | Canadian. | Canadian. | Total. |
|------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 1885 | \$4,866,863 | \$500,923 | | \$5,367,786 |
| 1884 | 5,920,002 | 634,736 | | 6,554,738 |
| 1883 | 4,832,034 | 443,642 | | 5,275,676 |
| 1882 | 4,288,108 | 565,752 | | 4,853,860 |
| 1881 | 3,275,623 | 442,995 | | 3,718,618 |
| 1880 | 3,370,064 | 351,864 | | 3,721,928 |
| 1879 | 2,059,889 | 181,380 | | 2,241,269 |

BUTTER.

Trade in butter has been slow, without any new feature in the market. On all fine grades a steady and hopeful feeling is noticeable, and it is found that the local trade is taking a fair quantity.

The following table shows the official value of the exports of butter from the port of Montreal from May 1 to November 30, inclusive in the years given:—

| | Not | Canadian. | Canadian. | Total. |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1885 | \$563,081 | \$132,953 | | \$696,034 |
| 1884 | 986,532 | 112,854 | | 1,099,386 |
| 1883 | 1,160,865 | 34,753 | | 1,195,618 |
| 1882 | 949,893 | | | 949,893 |
| 1881 | 1,633,903 | 40,047 | | 1,673,950 |
| 1880 | 2,516,660 | 63,062 | | 2,579,722 |
| 1879 | 1,873,788 | 38,203 | | 1,911,991 |