

that this formation, in its course north-westward, in Canada, becomes greatly augmented in thickness, and includes beds of salt which bid fair to surpass in importance those of Central New York." One well is mentioned, in which, at a depth of 964 feet from the surface rock, salt was met with in layers of a foot or more in thickness; the whole volume of the salt bearing mass being 41 feet, of which the salt itself formed about 30 feet. The salt brought up is described as beautifully white crystalline grains. The brine is remarkable for its purity, the solid matters from its evaporation containing over 99 per cent of salt, while those from Onandaga, New York, have, on an average, over three per cent of impurities. It results from this that the salt manufactured from Goderich brine must be of exceptional purity. No draining or other mode of purification is needed with the brine to make from it salt surpassing in purity the finest hitherto known. Some of the Onandaga brines are almost saturated with gypsum, of which they hold nearly six parts in 1,000, while the Goderich brine contains less than two parts. The Onandaga brines, also, contain on an average, about 15 per cent of salt, while the Goderich brine has nearly twenty-six per cent. The well, spoken of, yielded 500 to 700 gallons of saturated brine per hour, the former quantity being equal to about 560 bush. of salt in 24 hours.

The salt springs in and about Lake Onandaga are the property of the State of New York. In 1825, the State took possession of them, and began to furnish brine to manufacturers. Every encouragement was given to the trade. A bounty of three cents per bushel was paid for all coarse or so:ar salt that should be sent to the Hudson River or to Lake Erie, or that should be sent from Oswego to Canada, and a bounty was paid for the transportation of salt barrels on the canals. During the last twenty years the State of New York has received a revenue from the salt manufactured at these springs, in the way of duty, of \$1,264,133. The quantity sent to Canada via Oswego, in 1866, was 510,330 bushels at \$2.03 per barrel net. The average net price which the manufacturing company realized for the production of 1865 was, \$2.03 per barrel; the net profits for that year being \$272,237. The company paid for boiled salt, 19 cents, and for so:ar salt eight cents per bushel. The cost for a barrel containing five bushels is placed as follows, in American currency:—

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| FOR FINE SALT.                               |               |
| Fuel, boiling and repairs, 19 cts per bush   | 95            |
| State duty, 1 cent per bush.....             | 05            |
| Taxes and office expenses.....               | 10            |
| Rent of block at 12½ per cent.....           | 25            |
| Packing.....                                 | 05            |
| For the barrel.....                          | 45            |
| <b>Total cost per barrel.....</b>            | <b>\$1 85</b> |
| FOR SOLAR SALT.                              |               |
| For manufacturing at 8 cents.....            | 40            |
| For State duty.....                          | 05            |
| For taxes and office expenses.....           | 10            |
| For rent of vats, etc., at 12½ per cent..... | 55            |
| For barrel.....                              | 45            |
| <b>Total cost per barrel.....</b>            | <b>\$1 55</b> |

It is said that the introduction of coal in the manufacture of fine salt has been attended with highly beneficial results. Its superiority over wood is declared to be evidenced in the superior quality of the salt which can be produced at a largely reduced cost. The quality of salt by solar evaporation is for many purposes superior to that produced by artificial heat.

But sufficient has been shown to induce a greater degree of attention to the value of the Goderich salt region, as there is no reason why it should not be made to yield a considerable addition to the wealth of the country by, at least, keeping money at home which finds its way across the lines. A high official of New York State said that the Onandaga springs are a source of revenue to a large amount and have paid into the public treasury nearly \$4,000,000. It is to be hoped that capital and energy will be found in Ontario to make the most of our natural resources and, among other evidences of progress we may be able to adduce, the profitable working of our salt-springs.

### Market Review.

TORONTO, December 26, 1867.

The presence of the holidays has restricted business a good deal, and there is very little of interest to report in the market.

**Produce.**—The wheat market has been characterized by a firm tone and an advance on spring of 4 to 6c on the figures of last week has been established; sales of car loads and one or two lots at \$1 48 to \$1 50, which is the closing price. Fall is quiet and nominal at \$1 55 to \$1 65. Barley, excited and very scarce at \$1 00 to \$1 05. Oats firm at 50 to 52c. Peas quiet at 70 to 72c. Flour is firm and active, and about 10c higher on No. 1 superfine; several sales at \$6 65 to \$6 75. A lot of extra sold at \$7 35; superior, nominal.

**Provisions.**—There were fair receipts of dressed hogs, but mostly light weights; market steady at \$5 to \$6, according to weight and quality. Butter firm at 12 to 15c for store packed, and 15 to 18c for dairy. Cheese nominal at 8 to 9c. Mess Pork \$18 to \$19—no sales. Bacon 7 to 7½c. Hams 7½ to 8c; Lard 9½ to 10½c. Eggs scarce at 18 to 20c.

**Leather.**—Trade is fair for the season, and there is a good demand from the country districts. Prices unchanged.

**Petroleum.**—Demand slack and the market is dull and heavy at 13½ to 15c by the car load for refined. From a statement published in the *Petrolia Valuator*, it appears that the total bris. produced there in 1865 to 1st Dec. were 333,534; stock at beginning of year, 30,000; now in store, 176,150; shipped by rail during the year, 130,384 bris.; by teams, 22,000 bris.; destroyed by fire, 35,000 bris. Total sold since January 1st, 295,000 bris., at 70c, producing \$206,500. Prior to January 1867, 150,000 bris. were shipped from that territory.

**Tobacco.**—There appears to be a decided falling off in the crop of 1867. The total leaf tobacco raised in the States, according to the *New York Financial Chronicle*, in 1867, was 163,000 hhd., against 228,000 in 1866. The total seed leaf raised for five years was as follows:—

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| 1863..... | 110,000 hhd. |
| 1864..... | 80,000 hhd.  |
| 1865..... | 58,000 hhd.  |
| 1866..... | 66,000 hhd.  |
| 1867..... | 35,500 hhd.  |

**Freights.**—Tariff rates by Grand Trunk to the following points are:—Flour to all stations from Belleville to Lynn, inclusive, 35c., grain for 100 lbs. 18c.; flour to Brockville and Corn-

wall, inclusive, 43c., grain 22c.; flour to Montreal, 50c., grain 25c.; flour to all stations between Island Pond and Portland, 85c., grain 43c.; flour to Halifax \$1 65, grain 53c.; flour to St. John, 95c.; Marine insurance, Portland to Halifax 1½ on flour, and to St. John 1 per cent. Dressed Hogs, Toronto to Montreal, \$70 per car load of 20,000 lbs; in less quantities 40c per 200 lbs. Toronto to Liverpool, by Grand Trunk, via Portland—Boxed meats, per 100 lbs, 90c; lard and butter, \$1; beef, per tierce, 15s 6d stg.; pork, per bri., 11s 6d; flour and oatmeal, 7s. Rates by Great Western—flour to Suspension Bridge, 25c; Suspension Bridge to Boston, 90c, American currency.

**ST. JOHN MARKET, DEC. 14.**—During the past week the weather has been unusually severe for the season, which, together with the absence of snow to facilitate travelling through the country, has caused increased dullness to business generally.

**Breadstuffs.**—There is a fair demand for flour, the price of which is rather firmer than last week. Good brands superfine, are held at \$5.00, and for some favorite brands \$3.25 is the price in small lots. Early in the week some forced sales took place at a very low rate, \$7.67½ being accepted for a good article of No. 1 superfine. Of course any article offered as low as this readily found purchasers on speculation and later \$7.75 has been freely offered, and to some extent accepted—there being buyers who think flour a good investment at this rate. In view of the shortness of the stocks in the sea board cities of the United States, causing an advance there and in Montreal, it is reasonable to suppose that prices will not go below present rates, until spring, and they may be higher. The receipts since our last are 2,900 barrels, per steamer from Portland. Stocks are not large, but as the demand will be moderate through the next few months, supplies are sufficient for the demand. Corn meal very firm at \$5.25 to \$5.50.

**Exchange.**—Sterling 60 day bills, 10 premium; sight, 11; New York and Boston gold drafts, ½ prem.; Montreal, do; Halifax, 2½ discount; Canada and Halifax notes par.—*J. R. Curvey & Co.'s Circular.*

**HALIFAX MARKET, DEC. 10.**—We have to note more activity in business. The season being so far advanced, many of our out-port dealers are in the market for supplies before the navigation closes.

**readstuffs.**—Flour—We have no change to note, although considerable quantities have changed hands; still transactions have been of a retail character; the speculative enquiry has been limited. We quote Extra Canada \$9 to \$9.25. No 1 may be quoted \$8.35 a \$8.50. Extra State \$8 a \$8.25. Corn Meal in good demand and firm at \$5.50 a \$5.75 for Kiln dried, and \$5.40 for Halifax ground. Oatmeal in fair enquiry at former rates. Imports for the week: From Canada—4,797 bbls. flour, 634 bags wheat. From United States—463 bbls. flour, 500 boxes bread.

**Exchange.**—Bills on London, 60 days, 13 prem.; 30 days, 12½; private, 1½ lower; Gold drafts on New York, 4 prem.; Bank drafts on Canada, 4 do; on St. John, 3½ do.

**HALIFAX, DEC. 17.**—**Breadstuffs.**—Flour is firmer and there is a good demand for No. 1 Canada, as the stock is very light, very little being in first hands. This article may be quoted \$8.50. Extra unchanged at \$9, with moderate enquiry. Rye firm and in request at \$7; the duty, 25 cents per bbl, will cause it to advance. Corn meal scarce, and wanted, and none can be purchased now under \$6 for Kiln-dried; Halifax ground may be quoted \$5.50 a \$5.75. Oatmeal in active demand; the market is bare. Sales could be effected \$3.75 a \$4.00 per 100 lbs. Imports for the week: From Canada, 2,207 bbls. flour; From United States, 311 bbls. flour, 700 bbls. cornmeal, 104 bbls. rye.—*R. C. Hamilton & Co.'s Circular.*

**DEMEARA SUGAR MARKET.**—The following is from Sandbach, Perkin & Co.'s Circular of the 9th Dec.:

The manufacture of sugar is being pushed forward with vigor. The rains during the fortnight have given an ample supply of water in the canals, and as the juice of the cane is sweeter than a month ago, estates are able to make a full day's work. The quality is also improving, and some of the estates that have every needful appliance in the way of machinery, are now manufacturing an article that will compare favorably with any produced in any other sugar growing country.

**Sugars.**—There has been a brisk demand for Muscovades, and a large quantity has been sold, principally 9 and 10 Dutch standard at improved rates; for crystallized the enquiry has not been so good, prices have remained as at our last advices for 14 and 16 D.S., but choice samples, No. 18, have commanded outside quotations.

**Molasses.**—The great advance in rum has caused less of this article to be offered for sale; there has been a fair enquiry for all sorts, and clear bright parcels find ready purchasers at our quotations.

**Rum.**—The continual buoyancy of the English market has tended to keep up prices, and holders are asking such extreme rates that purchasers do not like to operate; very little has changed hands during the fortnight.