

## Live Stock Items.

An Ottawa telegram says: The Hon. A. S. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, will be in Washington on the 15th or 16th inst. He goes there to discuss with the United States authorities the question of abolishing the international quarantine. If the United States government will agree to abolish the quarantine against Canadian cattle, it is understood that Mr. Fisher will agree on behalf of Canada to do likewise.

The Macleod Gazette of Dec. 4 says: "We have now had three days of a warm chinook, and any danger that existed is over."

## Wheat Stocks.

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains, for the week ended Dec. 5, 1896, shows a decrease of 2,602,000 bushels, against a decrease of 117,000 for the corresponding week last year, an increase of 819,000 bushels the corresponding week two years ago, and an increase of 692,000 bushels three years ago.

The following table shows the total visible supply of wheat at the end of the first trade week of each month for four years, as compiled by the Chicago board of trade and includes stocks at most important points of accumulation in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains. There are some important points not covered by this statement:

	1895. bushels.	1894. bushels.	1893. bushels.	1892. bushels.
Jan. 2...	88,531,000	80,228,000	81,234,000	45,907,000
Feb. 5...	85,376,000	79,865,000	81,391,000	45,741,000
Mar. 4...	78,765,000	75,569,000	79,083,000	41,566,000
April 1...	74,308,000	71,458,000	77,654,000	41,086,000
May 6...	62,196,000	65,168,000	73,089,000	36,190,000
June 3...	52,229,000	59,394,000	71,080,000	27,910,000
July 1...	41,661,000	54,657,000	63,316,000	24,265,000
Aug. 3...	38,517,000	60,001,000	59,424,000	26,079,000
Sept. 7...	36,754,000	69,163,000	58,140,000	33,760,000
Oct. 7...	41,832,000	73,614,000	63,276,000	51,250,000
Nov. 4...	62,990,000	80,047,000	71,396,000	61,717,000
Dec. 2...	63,903,000	85,179,000	78,091,000	72,680,000

The following shows the visible supply by weeks, for four years:

	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.
Jan. 4...	69,842,000	87,836,000	79,943,000	81,786,000
" 11...	68,945,000	86,615,000	80,433,000	82,080,000
" 18...	67,968,000	85,288,000	80,332,000	82,227,000
" 25...	67,523,000	84,665,000	80,284,000	81,497,000
Feb. 1...	66,734,000	83,578,000	79,843,000	81,390,000
" 8...	66,110,000	82,322,000	79,660,000	80,973,000
" 15...	65,926,000	80,733,000	78,667,000	80,214,000
" 22...	65,011,000	79,476,000	77,937,000	79,413,000
March 1...	64,089,000	78,761,000	75,569,000	78,083,000
" 8...	62,696,000	77,717,000	74,097,000	76,103,000
" 15...	62,193,000	76,871,000	73,359,000	74,710,000
" 22...	61,348,000	75,773,000	72,163,000	73,204,000
" 29...	61,048,000	74,308,000	71,458,000	72,651,000
April 4...	60,822,000	72,705,000	70,762,000	71,293,000
" 11...	60,430,000	70,457,000	69,217,000	70,096,000
" 18...	59,483,000	68,626,000	68,425,000	71,869,000
" 25...	57,916,000	65,778,000	66,518,000	70,027,000
May 2...	55,006,000	62,100,000	65,150,000	73,089,000
" 9...	54,000,000	59,823,000	63,510,000	72,032,000
" 16...	54,146,000	60,484,000	62,440,000	71,526,000
" 23...	51,293,000	54,244,000	61,329,000	70,159,000
" 30...	50,340,000	52,229,000	59,394,000	70,367,000
June 6...	50,147,000	49,739,000	58,211,000	69,684,000
" 13...	49,456,000	47,717,000	57,105,000	68,370,000
" 20...	48,810,000	46,225,000	55,652,000	68,081,000
" 27...	47,860,000	44,661,000	54,116,000	67,310,000
July 4...	47,109,000	43,359,000	52,114,000	66,150,000
" 11...	47,220,000	41,320,000	51,154,000	65,328,000
" 18...	46,743,000	40,468,000	50,771,000	64,903,000
" 25...	47,142,000	39,229,000	50,144,000	64,319,000
Aug. 1...	46,734,000	38,517,000	49,001,000	63,421,000
" 8...	46,429,000	37,839,000	48,321,000	62,800,000
" 15...	45,876,000	36,825,000	47,691,000	62,182,000
" 22...	45,189,000	35,083,000	46,711,000	61,240,000
" 29...	45,674,000	34,438,000	46,949,000	60,381,000
Sept. 5...	46,495,000	36,764,000	49,168,000	59,140,000
" 12...	47,002,000	38,092,000	49,214,000	57,331,000
" 19...	49,665,000	39,381,000	50,159,000	55,695,000
" 26...	48,716,000	40,703,000	51,413,000	56,629,000
Oct. 3...	50,116,000	41,932,000	53,640,000	57,275,000
" 10...	52,444,000	44,481,000	55,771,000	58,239,000
" 17...	54,803,000	46,109,000	57,650,000	59,973,000
" 24...	57,236,000	48,486,000	59,100,000	62,370,000
" 31...	58,630,000	50,000,000	60,627,000	64,396,000
Nov. 7...	59,913,000	50,936,000	61,221,000	64,052,000
" 14...	61,003,000	52,324,000	62,282,000	66,753,000
" 21...	59,971,000	52,221,000	63,914,000	67,223,000
" 28...	58,914,000	53,903,000	65,159,000	68,010,000
Dec. 5...	56,312,000	51,786,000	65,978,000	73,783,000

Bradstreet's report of stocks of wheat in Canada on November 28 is as follows:

	Bushels.
Montreal.....	452,000
Toronto.....	136,000
Kingston.....	7,000
Winnipeg.....	216,000
Manitoba interior elevators.....	2,275,000
Fort William, Port Arthur & Keewatin.....	2,587,000

Total stocks in the United States and Canada as reported by Bradstreet's were as follows, on November 28, 1896:

	Bushels:
East of the Mountains.....	76,433,000
Pacific Coast.....	6,518,000
Total stocks a year ago were:	bushels.
East of the Mountains.....	87,688,000
Pacific Coast.....	8,276,000

Bradstreet's report for the week ended Dec. 5, shows a decrease of 2,447,000 bushels in stocks of wheat east of the mountains, making the total 73,936,000 bushels on the latter date.

Worlds stocks of wheat on December 1, 1896, (United States, Canada, in Europe and Africa for Europe) were 148,435,000 bushels, as compared with 161,318,000 bushels on Dec. 1, 1895; 181,610,000 on December 1, 1894; 190,386,000 on December 1, 1893, 175,814,000 on December 1, 1892; 157,748,000 on Dec. 1, 1891; 107,669,000 on December 1, 1890.

## Montreal Grocery Market.

There has been no important change in the situation of the local sugar market during the past week. The demand for all grades is slow and refiners state that the volume of new business is small, with little prospects of improvement in the near future. The scarcity of yellows, which was a feature of the market for the past two or three weeks, is now practically over, and manufacturers state that all orders booked to date for these grades were pretty well filled. Granulated in round lots has sold at 3½¢, and in small quantities at 4¢.

Yellow range from 3½¢ to 3¾¢, as to quality at the factory. In New York granulated is unchanged at 4.11 per 100 lbs net, but this market for raw material is firmer, holders of such now asking 3½¢ for crystals. Private cables from London to day reported the market for beet quiet at 9s 1½d December, and at 9s 8d January.

There has been no improvement in the demand for syrups, and the market rules quiet and steady at 1½d to 2½¢ per lb., as to quality at the factory.

There has been more enquiry for molasses during the past week, some fair sized lots have been placed, including one lot of 200 puncheons genuine Barbadoes at 28¢, and 100 of Antigua at 28¢. In a jobbing way Barbadoes is selling at 28½¢, and mixed stock at 26½¢ to 27¢ and Porto Rico at 27½¢. The stock of molasses on spot is not as large as was generally thought some time ago, and the indications are that it will be all wanted before next season. There is still in first hands two small cargoes of Barbadoes, and, outside of these, it is stated that few round lots are to be had.

In spices some fair sized sales of white pepper, ginger and nutmegs have been made. The ginger was placed at 3½¢ and pepper at 3½¢ c.i.f. Montreal. The jobbing demand has been good and a fairly active business is reported at firm prices. The following quotations are what jobbers can buy at only: Penang black pepper, 6¢ to 7½¢; white pepper, 10¢ to 12½¢; cloves, 7½¢ to 9¢; cassia, 8½¢ to 9½¢; nutmegs, 60¢ to 90¢, and Jamaica ginger, 15¢ to 18¢.

There was no change in the situation of the rice market. Advices from abroad continue very firm and values here are fully

maintained, but the volume of business doing is small at the present. We quote:—Crystal Japan, \$5.00 to \$5.25; standard B., \$1.70; Patna, \$1.50 to \$5.25; Carolina, \$6.75 to \$7.75; choice Bermuda, \$1, and Java kind, \$1.25.

The feature in the coffee market is the scarcity of Maracaibo, which grade is chiefly sought after, but buyers find it impossible to fill their wants and prices are very firm. We quote:—Maracaibo, 17½¢; Santo, 11¢ to 16¢; Rio, 15¢ to 16¢; and Mocha, 24¢ to 26¢.

A little more business has been done in teas since our last, but the market on the whole was quiet and not much activity is anticipated before the middle of next month, when it is expected that jobbers will commence operating again, as by that time they will have present supplies pretty well worked off. Stocks of teas here are not excessive, and holders in consequence are very firm in their views. There has been a very fair demand from United States buyers for Japans and Ping-Suez gunpowder, and some good round lots have been shipped to Chicago this week.

Brokers here have also had considerable enquiries from New York for Japans, and samples have been forwarded. On local account some fair sized sales have also been made, including one lot of 500 packages of China black at 9¢ to 11¢ and 600 Japan at 15¢ to 16¢.

In canned goods a fair jobbing business is reported, the demand from country buyers being good for small lots of most of the leading lines. The feature of late has been the strong feeling in lobsters and French Sardines, and prices for the former show an advance of 75¢ to \$1 per case, while for the latter they are from 50¢ to 75¢ a case higher. Recent sales of lobsters in fair sized lots have been made at \$9 to \$10 per case, according to brand, and French Sardines at \$10.25 to \$11 per case. Canned Mackerel here are very scarce and prices in consequence are firmly held at \$1.25 per dozen. Salmon are also firm on account of the scarcity of stock at the coast, buyers here who placed their orders some time ago have not had them filled yet, in regard to tomatoes, holders are still very firm in their views and the recent advance in prices is fully maintained. The following are jobbers prices:—Lobsters, \$9.00 to \$10.00 per case; French sardines, extra brands, \$10.25 to \$11 per case; ordinary brands, \$8.00 to \$9.00; Canadian brands \$1.25; salmon, \$1.30 to \$1.40 per dozen; mackerel, \$1.25; tomatoes 70¢ to 75¢; corn, 65¢ to 75¢; marrow fat peas, 75¢ to 80¢; baked beans, 81¢, \$1.25 to \$1.30; peaches, \$1.00 to \$2; strawberries, \$2 to \$2.25; raspberries, \$1.75 to \$2; pin-apples, \$1.75 to \$2, and 31b. apples, 65¢ to 70¢.—Gazette.

## Comparative Prices in Staples.

Prices at New York compared with a year ago.

	Dec. 4, 1896.	Dec. 6, 1895.
Flour, straight spring..	\$1.60 to \$1.85.	\$3.00 to \$3.10
Flour, straight winter..	\$1.05 to \$1.75.	\$3.00 to \$3.10
Wheat, No. 2 red.....	1.01	70¢
Corn, No. 2 mixed.....	29 to 29½¢	35¢
Oats, No. 2.....	23½¢	23¢
Rye, No. 2, Western.....	40¢	47¢
Barley, No. 2 Milwaukee	47¢	45¢
Cotton, mid. upld.....	7 9-16¢	5½¢
Print cloths, 6x16.....	2½¢	3¢
Wool, Ohio & Pa., X....	17½¢ to 18¢	17½ to 18¢
Wool, N. C. 1 comb.....	21 to 22¢	22 to 23¢
Pork, mess new.....	8.25 to 8.75	\$9.00 to \$9.10
Lard, western, oct'd.....	\$1.15	\$1.00
Butter, ex. creamery....	23¢	25¢
Cheese, ch. east fs.....	10½¢	10¢
Sugar, centrif., 96°.....	3 5-16¢	3½¢
Sugar, granulated.....	40¢	40¢
Coffee, Rio, No. 7.....	10½¢	15¢
Petroleum, N. T. Co....	\$1.05	\$1.31
Petroleum, rid. gal., ..	0.50¢	\$1.50
*Iron, Besse. pig.....	\$1.75	\$1.75
*Steel billets, ton.....	\$20.25	\$18.00
Orea, Steam Freight.....		
Grain, Liverpool.....	4d	3d
Cotton.....	0-61d	3-2d

\* Pittsburgh.