

not so good as if the stuff had got onto the market earlier.

Dressed Meats

A considerable business is being done nowadays between farmers and local butchers and packers in dressed meats. Dressed pork, weighing from 110 to 160 lbs., brings 12 cents (minus freight which is paid by the shipper). On the heavier stuff 11 cents is paid. Top grades of beef fetch 11 1/2 cents for hind quarters, 8 1/2 cents for fore quarters, and 10 cents for the beef carcass. On heavier beef the quotations are one cent less all round. Calves are worth 12 cents a pound for the whole carcass.

Hay

Hay prices remain level at last week's prices, \$19 for No. 1 Timothy, \$13 for No. 1 Red Top, and \$12 for No. 1 Upland. Supplies have been rather heavy lately, but not much change is looked for, one way or another.

CHICAGO WHEAT MARKET

Chicago, Dec. 29.—The grain markets, Saturday, fluctuated slowly within very narrow limits, while liquidation carried provisions down 7 1/2 to 10c. to 25c.

Wheat closed unchanged to 1/4 to 1/2c. under yesterday, corn a shade to 1/4c. lower, and oats a shade to 1/4c. depressed. For the first time there were bids for September delivery of corn and oats, 49 1/2c. being offered for the former, and 32c. for the latter.

The wheat market, while still bearish on the foreign situation, as reported yesterday, and the accumulation of stocks in the northwest, was on the main characterless. Somebody reported "rain in the Argentine," but the trade regarded it largely as a cry of "wolf," and ignored it. May ranged between 91 1/2c. and 91c., closing 1/2c. to 1/4c. under yesterday, at 91 1/2c.

A range of 1/2c. marked the widest fluctuation of corn prices. May sold between 48 1/2c. and 48c., and closed a shade down at 48c. to 48 1/2c. At the bottom there were plenty of buying orders, but these were easily filled without stiffening the price. Export bids were too low for working, but the inquiry was steady.

Oats were stagnant and the tone slightly easier. May ranged between 32 1/2c. to 32c. and 32 1/2c. to 32 1/2c., closing a shade lower, at 32 1/2c.

TORONTO LIVE STOCK

Toronto, Dec. 26.—Receipts at the Union Stock yards today were 10 cars with 10 cattle, 55 calves, 218 hogs, 567 sheep and 29 horses. No trading was done, all the buyers being still away. There will be no market until next week, and consequently prices will remain unchanged.

LIVERPOOL LIVE STOCK

Liverpool, Dec. 28.—John Rogers & Co. cable there was a fair trade at Birkenhead market today and the undertone is firmer, though prices cannot be marked up and remain at last week's level, viz.: 12 to 13 1/2 cents per pound for Irish steers.

STOCKS IN TERMINALS

Table with columns for Wheat, Oats, Barley, and Flax, showing quantities and prices for 1912 and 1911.

Total 9,483,916 40% 11,065,583 50 Last week 5,282,257 0% 8,548,437 30

Increase 4,200,759 40 Increase 2,517,146 20 Not including C.P.R. elevator.

Table with columns for Oats, showing quantities and prices for 1912 and 1911.

Total 2,588,462 15 Total 2,527,463 21 Last week 1,878,527 0% Prev. wk. 2,229,174 31 (Not including C.P.R. elevator)

Table with columns for Barley, showing quantities and prices for 1912 and 1911.

This week 1,334,028 00 This week 1,497,111 39 Note—This total includes C.P.R. elevator Last week's total, not including C.P.R. elevator, 736,608 bushels. Last year's total 671,739 bushels.

Shipments

Table with columns for Wheat, Oats, Barley, and Flax, showing shipment quantities for 1912 and 1911.

CANADIAN VISIBLE SUPPLY

Table showing Canadian visible supply for Wheat, Oats, and Barley, broken down by port and region.

Total 22,648,102 8,068,386 2,167,979 Total last year 17,393,111 7,365,449 1,883,851 Total last year, including afloat 17,764,672 4,934,519 1,689,476 At Midland and Tiffin, there are 35,080 U.S. wheat and 78,144 U.S. oats in bond.

CANADIAN VISIBLE SUPPLY

Table showing Canadian visible supply for Wheat, Oats, and Barley, broken down by port and region.

PASSED INSPECTION THIS YEAR

The total amount of grain which has passed inspection up to December 30 is as follows:

Table showing grain inspection statistics for Wheat, Oats, Barley, and Flax.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS

Liverpool, Dec. 2.—Today's closing prices were as follows:

Table showing Liverpool market prices for various grades of wheat, oats, and barley.

The market opened easy, unchanged to 1/4 lower and following the opening further declined 1/4 with moderate realizing. The easier American cables yesterday, cheaper American, Canadian and Australian offers and the favorable weather in Argentine caused the pressure.

The market is dull in view of the holiday season and with lower cargo offers and expectations of an early movement from Argentine, holders are inclined to realize. At the close the market was easy, 1 to 1/2 lower than yesterday.

BREAD PRICE IN WINNIPEG AND ENGLAND

Winnipeg, Dec. 27.—The following interesting letter from an Englishman was received by Controller Douglas, bearing on the wide spread between the prices of bread in Winnipeg and in England: "I have been a resident of this city for only about two years and cannot help being struck with the great difference in prices as compared with those obtaining in the old land, even after making a substantial allowance for conditions.

"For instance, bread of guaranteed quality is sold in England at from 7 to 8 cents per loaf of 4 pounds, while prices ruling here for a quantity in every way inferior range from 5 to 7 cents per 1 1/4 pound loaf (if you get the right weight). All bread in England has to be weighed on delivery, and the bread cart has to carry as part of its equipment a pair of guaranteed government stamped scales, no spring balances being allowed.

"I see from this morning's paper that eggs are sold in Philadelphia at 23 cents a dozen. Last week for medium sized eggs I had to pay in Winnipeg 40 cents a dozen. Why is this?

"Wheat is grown in Canada at our outskirts. It is collected, transhipped to port, sent across the ocean, stored in Liverpool, Cardiff or London, freighted to the mills, where it is made into flour, which is sold to the baker, and the latter sells the finished product at less than half the cost here. Who gets the profit? Not the producer, and, from what I can learn, not the retailer. Who then? Combines. It is time this was altered, and I think it is time that either a co-operative society be formed or that the authorities take the matter up. I quite appreciate the difficulties here, with the strong vested interests and an ignorant foreign population, but amongst the more intelligent surely some way may be found to put things on a more reasonable basis.

"I can substantiate all I say with regard to the price of bread in England. Public institutions, such as hospitals, poor law institutions, for contracts extending over six and twelve months, are buying bread of guaranteed quality at from 6 to 7 cents per four-pound loaf, in some English provinces. In London the price is probably a cent or so more."

POOR POP

Jimmie—Pop, one o' the fellers says I look like you. Pop—And what did you say? Jimmie—Gee! I couldn't say nothin'. He's a lot bigger 'n me.

Co-operation Among Fruit Growers

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arrange for the picking. To secure uniformity, however, the packing is done at the fruit house, under the superintendence of the manager, by men employed by the association.

The association buys some of the barrels and engages a cooper to manufacture others. These are charged to the members at cost. Current expenses last year amounted to 76 cents per barrel, including 40 cents for a barrel, 17 cents for packing, 10 cents management charge and 9 cents on account of incidental expenses, nails, etc. Owing to the cost of labor, the charges will be somewhat heavier this year. The President, R. W. Grierson, receives \$25 per year, while the directors are paid \$1.50 for each meeting and mileage.

The combined pack of the association in 1911 was 13,000, or about one-half of the total yield in the territory covered. Due to the heavy rains, the pack will be several thousand barrels lighter this year. More than 5,000 barrels were shipped to Western Canada and the balance, excepting a few barrels sold in Ontario, were consigned to English buyers. Of the present crop not more than 1,000 barrels are fit for the Western market.

Better Methods Encouraged

The Oshawa Association has done much to encourage scientific fruit growing by artificial fertilizing, spraying, pruning, careful cultivation, and also improvement of the quality of apples grown. It is the business of the manager to know the markets and he visits the orchards every year, advising the members as regards the best methods of cultivation, the most profitable qualities to plant and kindred matters. That the orchards of the members are better cared for than are those of non-members cannot be doubted. The fact that members are required to pick their own apples cannot fail to educate the farmer as to the quality of their fruit.

The most effective educational factor, however, is the difference in price received for fruit of different grades and quality. An apple grower is forced to seek an explanation when a neighbor realizes one-half more per barrel than that obtained by the less progressive farmer. On an average of six years the prices per barrel to the producer have been as follows:

Table showing prices per barrel for Ben Davis, Baldwins, Snows, and Spies.

Consequently, the farmers are beginning to realize that it is more profitable to grow other varieties than Ben Davis. The association keeps separate account of each variety and each grade. The farmer receives what his apples bring, less the regular selling charges, and the difference in price speaks for itself.

Shipment to Denmark

Co-operation has proved a decided advantage in shipping to the English market, by pooling the supply and distributing losses on account of faulty transportation. The association is seeking to open up a new market in Denmark and a recent consignment of 164 barrels of No. 1 Baldwins brought satisfactory prices. The association's equipment is continually being increased and it is planned to construct several additional packing houses with railway sidings at favorable points.

ENGLAND BREAKS ALL RECORDS

London, December 27.—England approaches the close of 1912 in a mood of confidence and self gratulation. Trade has never been better in the memory of modern men. The wave of commercial prosperity now sweeping over the country and the phenomenal shipping figures pass all records; manufacturers of cotton, wollen and metal goods cannot meet the orders that pour in on them from everywhere; over a large part of the country overtime is the rule in the factory and workshop; tradesmen report a bumper Christmas trade; never before has there been such an orgy of

present-giving, and never before have gifts been so costly. In the world of affairs, too, English people hold up their heads. England feels, to-day, that with the Dominions rallying to her support the fear of continental troubles recede into the far distance. European diplomacy has paid England the highest possible tribute in holding the peace and ambassadorial conferences in London. Men glow with something of the old national confidence and boastfulness which pervaded England in Palmerton's day and in the time of Victoria's first jubilee, yet impartial observers cannot fail to see even at this time shadows over the sun. Unemployment is still unsolved in London.

HAVE ALL DOUBTFUL SEEDS TESTED FOR VITALITY

Owing to the fact that climatic conditions have again been unfavorable, in certain districts, to the satisfactory maturing of seed grain, we wish to draw the attention of every farmer to the advisability of having his grain tested for germination.

Oats are particularly subject to injury by frost, and in certain stages of their growth are rendered worthless for seed purposes, even though they may look perfectly plump and sound outwardly. Others again, though undoubtedly frozen, are not seriously affected in vitality. As a germination test is the only sure indication of the condition of the seed in such cases, we would strongly advise having all doubtful oats tested.

Flax is also subject to injury by frost as well as moisture, and its vitality may be considerably lowered by these factors. Barley is affected likewise and often shows a low percentage of germination when cut after frost. Wheat, on the other hand, is much less liable to injury and will usually germinate readily, even when frozen quite severely. It may, however, be rendered unfit for seed by frost or through excessive moisture.

Timothy cut after frost should be tested, as it is often greatly reduced in vitality. We would suggest having these tested and other cereals or fodder seeds that may be suspected of not being up to the full standard of germination.

The Seed Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture has established laboratories at Calgary and Ottawa, where seeds of all kinds are tested free of charge for vitality and purity.

In sending in samples to be tested the following points should be remembered:

- 1. All samples are tested free of charge.
2. Seed bags suitable for sending samples may be had on application to the Dominion Seed Branch at Regina, Calgary or Ottawa.
3. About half such a bag full (1,000 grains) is ample for a germination test.
4. If possible samples should be cleaned, as for seed, before sending.
5. Samples sent to the Seed Laboratory, Ottawa, will be carried free in the mails; on samples sent to Calgary postage should be prepaid at the rate of 2 cents for 4 ounces and 1 cent for each additional 4 ounces.
6. It is unnecessary to enclose stamps for reply.
7. The usual time necessary for a test is 10 days, but when a retest is made a longer period is required.
8. All samples should be plainly marked with the name and address of the sender, together with an identification designation when more than one is sent.
9. Samples should be sent to the Dominion Seed Branch, Ottawa, or to the Dominion Seed Laboratory, Calgary.

The sale of seeds in Canada is regulated by the Dominion Seed Control Act. This Act provides a standard for purity and vitality of all kinds of seeds and it is illegal to offer for sale seed which is below this standard. Persons wishing to secure copies of this Act should apply to the Dominion Seed Branch at Ottawa, Calgary or Regina.

NAMING THE BABY

"Hello, Bill!" called the neighbor to a young father. "Have you named the baby yet?" "Well, almost," answered Bill. "The two grandmothers have agreed to arbitrate."