

felt all over the continent. In Manitoba prices of cattle have advanced about one cent per pound within a couple of weeks, influenced to quite an extent by the advance elsewhere. It seems probable that prices of cattle will remain comparatively high for the whole of this summer, as it takes time to produce good beef cattle. The supply of cattle is placed at 30 per cent less than last year. Prices in the western states are about $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound higher than a year ago and dressed beef is $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound higher than last year, and higher than the average for ten years.

EXPERIMENTAL FARMING.

One thing which was urged upon the Manitoba government by the committee which is interesting itself in the settlement of the vacant lands in the organized municipalities of this province, was the establishment of an agricultural college and experimental farm in the Red River valley. The Dominion Government some years ago established an experimental farm in the western part of the province, at Brandon, and this farm has done most valuable work in the interest of agriculture in Manitoba. As the nature of the soil and some other conditions are quite different in the eastern districts of Manitoba, as compared with the western sections, it was thought an experimental farm should also be established somewhere in the eastern portion of the province. The government, however, did not hold out any hope for the establishment of such an institution. A few years ago it is understood the local government was considering seriously a proposal to establish an experimental farm and we believe if the intention had been carried out at the time it would have been a great benefit to the country.

There is a feature which ought to be considered in connection with the establishment of an experimental farm and agricultural college, which has perhaps not been presented to the government. We hear a good deal about young men being sent out from the Old Country to learn farming. Private parties in Canada have made a business of teaching farming, for a consideration, and very often the conditions under which they proposed to do the teaching were anything but satisfactory. The Commercial has discouraged the custom of sending out young men to learn farming with some of these alleged tutors. If the teaching were done in a properly equipped institution carried on by the government, however, it would be quite different. Such an institution should be capable of doing good work. There are no doubt a good many young men in the Old Country who would be glad of the chance of attending an institution thoroughly equipped to carry on experimental and practical farming. Such an institution in Manitoba would we believe be well patronized and would be to quite an extent self-sustaining. Young men from the Old Country or elsewhere could be given a term of practical farming and at the end of that time they would be able to locate on a farm with good prospects of suc-

cess. If the matter were impressed upon the government in this way, a more favorable consideration of the matter might be given.

WILL THE JOBBER GO

The position of the jobber still seems fairly secure, notwithstanding the various assaults which have been made upon him from time to time. Prophecies have been made that the jobber would eventually pass away, and that trade would be done directly between the manufacturer and the retailer. There is very little indication, however, of any weakening in the position of the jobber. In fact in some cases, where manufacturers have undertaken to get along without the jobber, they have found out their mistake and have returned to the old way of doing business. The New York Shipping and Commercial List says:

"For two years the National Linseed Oil Company ignored jobbers in this vicinity and sought the retail trade exclusively. That short experience was sufficient to last the company for all time, and the new system was abolished in disgust after an accumulation of bad debts. It was only last month that the pottery manufacturers and jobbers had a love feast in New York after a separation of two years, during which time the makers were made to realize the power of the middlemen; they are now fast friends and trying to recover lost ground. At the opening of the year white lead jobbers were placed on an equality with buyers of twelve tons, and the dissatisfaction is resulting in bringing to the front obscure brands not in the agreement, with probability of increased importations. Some years ago the Standard Oil Company fought the jobber, but subsequently found out its mistake, and has appreciated his usefulness ever since."

AN INTERESTING LEGAL DECISION

The suit of Crane vs. Hunt and Wayper is a very interesting and somewhat novel case which has just been concluded in Ontario, at the Wellington assize court at Guelph. James A. Crahe, a farmer, was drowned in a dam. Robert Crane, administrator of the estate of the late James A. Crane, brought suit against Thos. Hunt and Joseph Wayper, the two hotel-keepers of the village of Hespler, where it appears Crane had got drunk, and was drowned in the dam on his way home. The evidence showed that deceased had been drinking around the two hotels during the day, and was in an intoxicated condition.

Judge Ross reviewed carefully the meaning of the words "in excess" in the statute. Defendants had the right to sell liquor for gain as lawfully as the merchant to sell dry goods; the people, through their representatives, gave them that right. But should any damage result from the selling of liquor "in excess" to a man they were responsible. He held it clearly proved that the man Crane was drunk all that day and had come to his death while in that condition, and as the cause thereof. A glass of liquor, too, to a habitual drinker might not be "in excess," where that glass to an occasional drinker would be. He only touched briefly on the evidence, and left it to the jury to say as to whether in their opinion, liquor had been

sold "in excess" according to the statute, and that intoxication resulted from the excess.

The jury found that Crane had come to his death by drowning while in a state of intoxication, from drinking in excess in the hotel of the defendants, and assessed damages at \$600 as against Hunt and \$300 against Wayper.

This case is a very important one as establishing the liability of licensed liquor sellers in the province of Ontario, in similar cases. This places licensed vendors of liquors in that province in a very ticklish position.

THE "BOOM" IN PETROLEUM.

The great advance which has taken place in crude petroleum of late, in the United States oil regions, was at first attributed to speculation, but it is now asserted that it is due to decreasing production. Great excitement has been experienced in the oil regions. The advance has been going on for some three or four months, and has culminated lately in some sharp speculative bulges. Since the first of this year crude petroleum has advanced 60 to 70 cents per barrel, or to about 75 cents per barrel over the price of a year ago. At Pittsburg crude touched as high as \$1.80 per barrel in a speculative way, but fluctuations were very wide. The advance in the product, as compared with prices a year ago, is in the neighborhood of 100 per cent., the price in the Pennsylvania oil regions having ranged between \$1.50 and \$1.60 per barrel lately. In October, 1892, crude petroleum sold as low as 50 cents, making the present advance over 200 per cent. as compared with prices in 1892.

The Canadian oil regions are sharing in the excitement and Canadian crude has advanced at Petros to \$1.50 per barrel. Refined oils are now advancing rapidly:

If it is proved that the production of the great eastern oil territories in Canada and the United States is decreasing below the limit of demand, it will further the development of the oil regions of northwestern Canada. A great oil territory is supposed to exist away to the north of Edmonton. If surface indications can be relied upon, we have a vast oil territory in the north, and the product of this territory may be required sooner than we may have imagined.

Later telegraphic advices from Pittsburg report further excitement and still higher prices, prices there having advanced to \$1.75 for cash oil. Still later reports stated that oil had touched \$2.00.

On Wednesday and Thursday this week the oil markets at Pittsburg and Oil City, Pennsylvania, were very excited and prices fluctuated widely. On Wednesday the market touched \$2.62, but it declined again to \$2.12. On Thursday the market ranged from \$2.25 to \$2.50.

J. & T. W. Stephens, manufacturers of boots and shoes, Montreal, have assigned, at the instance of Robert White, manufacturer. There are in all thirty-three creditors, and the liabilities will be between \$50,000 and \$60,000.