

gates to be closed at nights and proper watchmen in the yards, especially during the summer months, to prevent tramps from using them as camping grounds or boys and loafers from loafing or drinking in them. The changing in all dangerous localities of the present fire alarm boxes for non-interfering boxes is advised, also that no more small mains be put in, and that more hydrants be placed all over the city, as the more hydrants there are the quicker can a fire be caught and less hose used, which will improve the streams. The steamer "Conqueror" should be provided with hoses, and that another 1,000 feet of $3\frac{1}{4}$ inch hose be procured and a wagon therefor, as well as three extra reels. Citizens having asked for a fire station in the neighborhood of Catherine and Bank streets, the chief recommends the granting of the same, and the placing of a hook and ladder truck in the same station.

"During my visit to the Chiefs' Convention, held in Montreal," said Mr. Young, "I was still more than ever convinced by the discussions that took place of the value of chemical engines, and one of them should be provided just as soon as the finances of the city will permit."

HIDES AND LEATHER.

Canadian hide markets are ruled from Chicago, although local features are always elements of consideration. About six weeks ago the Chicago packer hide market began to strengthen; the United States Leather Company, a very strong corporation, entered the market to buy. Quotations of heavy cured country hides on the local market made a slight advance, but the price of green hides continued unaltered. Last Saturday, however, green hides were advanced $\frac{1}{2}$ cent a pound, and market quotations are now: Green cows, $3\frac{1}{2}$ c.; steers, 4c.; cured and inspected, $4\frac{1}{2}$ c. a pound.

The question, of course, now is as to the permanency of the advance. For the greatest part this depends upon Chicago, and dealers are looking to the source of supply. Within the last few years the receipts of cattle in Chicago stock yards have reached enormous figures. The cattle receipts for six years past are given as follows by the *Review*, an excellent authority:—

Year.	Cattle.
1888.....	2,611,543
1889.....	3,023,281
1890.....	3,490,596
1891.....	3,251,622
1892.....	3,571,796
1893.....	3,133,406

Up to September 15th, 1,932,359 cattle had been received at the Chicago yards. Unless the remaining 15 weeks in 1894 average more than 72,000 head—and last week's receipts were estimated at only 64,083 head—this year will show the smallest entry since 1888.

On consideration of the supply side of the market, the situation certainly wears an aspect of growing strength. But the demand, the needs of the leather trade, must be taken into account. Tanners, although the price of their raw material has advanced to a considerable extent, have not raised the price of leather to a corresponding level. There has, however, been much talk of advanced prices; and harness leather is bringing from 1 to 2c. a pound more than it did a month ago. We are told that a large western sole leather tanner has raised his prices of slaughter by 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ c. a pound, but this advance has not become general, although there is no longer a shading of prices in market transactions. It is a difficult task for tanners to obtain higher prices from boot and shoe manufacturers in face of the depression now existing in that industry. Not only have western factories decreased their output, but our reports from Montreal say that the fall trade there has been a disappointing one, and the volume of the fall trade will fall short of that of last year. In Quebec there have recently been three failures among leather and boot and shoe firms; the failure of a large jobbing house is reported in Pictou, N.S., while the assignment of an Ottawa shoe firm is also announced this week. If the advance in hides is finally to be borne by the wearer of boots and shoes, it will only be after a strong, united endeavor all along the line.

WOOL.

The interest of the trade has been drawn this week to the London wool sales, which opened on the 18th inst. There was a large attendance on the opening days of the auction and all eyes were naturally turned to the American operators. But buyers from the United States were pursuing a policy of caution, and most of the wool sold went to the English merchants. French and German buyers took only a small part of the quantity sold. The bulk of offerings on the first day consisted of New Zealand wool of but indifferent quality. On the second day of the series 12,449 bales were offered, but 1,000 of these were withdrawn. So far the business done has been upon a basis of values from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent. higher than the prices obtained at the last auction. This, however, gives but little room for congratulation when we consider that the last series of sales were held in the midst of a most severe industrial depression.

The local market has developed little that is new during the week. Some lots of domestic fleece have changed hands with 17 to 18c. paid for select combing, and 19 to 20c. paid for clothing. A considerable quantity of Manitoba and Territorial fleece wool has been stored in the Toronto warehouse of a large city merchant this week. Pulled wools are slow of movement, and since the sale of 15,000 lbs. at $22\frac{1}{2}$ c., which we reported in a previous issue, no considerable lots have been moving. The domestic mills are not active, and Americans can afford to sell us fine pulled wools, rather than buy the product of Canadian millers.

THE APPLE TRADE.

The apple buying season is now well in progress. Until the last two weeks the outlook for the Western Ontario crop was not of the brightest description. Severe drought threatened to seriously affect the yield, and certainly has done a great deal of damage in many localities. Rain came at last, and although late has been of immense advantage to the growing apple crop. Dealers who were paying \$1.55 per barrel have come down in their views, and are now offering \$1.00 to \$1.25. Late crop reports from the United States do not differ materially from those published earlier in the season, and the yield promises to be a large one.

W. N. White & Co., of Covent Garden, have been collecting information and statistics with reference to the growing crops, and say that the bulk of the English crop will be marketed during the present month. Already the scarcity of the crop is being felt, and apples are selling for higher prices than have prevailed in September for years. The Continental supplies are becoming exhausted. Most of the Continental apples, with the exception of those of Southern France, are marketed in September, and the United States and Canada must therefore be depended upon for supplies during the remainder of the season. The Nova Scotia crop will reach a total of 120,000 barrels, and the Canadian crop about 600,000 barrels. It is expected that Boston will be able to ship between 300,000 and 400,000 barrels, and New York about 1,500,000 barrels. England has the lowest crop of apples that she has had in 20 years. London wants American apples. The first consignment was sold here Monday, and brought from 17s. to 20s. per barrel. Freights are now lower than they have been for years, and carriage can probably be secured at 3s. per barrel.

THE SHERBROOKE FAIR.

Mr. H. R. Fraser, secretary-treasurer of the Eastern Townships Agricultural Association, gives the following figures in connection with the exhibition held at Sherbrooke: This was the tenth annual fair of the association, and lasted for five days instead of three as in previous years. The following figures closely represent the attendance: First day, 3,000; second day, 4,000; third day, 13,000; fourth day, 12,000; and fifth day, 6,000—a total of 37,000, or about double last year's number.

The entries in the live stock department this year outnumbered, in all classes, the entries of any previous year. There were 500 head of cattle on the grounds, 300 sheep, and, in spite of the large amount of space provided for them, more sheep and swine than could be accommodated.

The poultry and the industrial and manufacturing departments had larger representation than they have had heretofore, and the miscellaneous class in the main building was well up to the average.

"SLOW AND STEADY WINS THE RACE."

There are plenty of people on this continent who scoff at this adage, and will tell us that no slow-going and conservative people need apply. Their aim is speed—rush, bang, rattle, make a fortune or make a smash, but anyhow "hustle," even if you ruin your health or land in an asylum. Or, if one is an artisan, the cry is apt to be: "Agitate for more pay, or shorter hours, or something; make it hot for the masters. We rule the roost, we want the best of everything, and if we can't get it on two dollars a day we must have three. Economy be hanged. We are not going to work more than eight hours a day, either." There are some compensations in the lot of a deliberate, easy-going man, however. In an interesting and comprehensive report recently furnished to the British Labor Commission, and presented to Parliament, it is stated from recent enquiry into the habits and ability of the general run of the artisan class of Holland, that "The Dutch printer is thorough and steady, but not remarkable for speed in his work; hence the long hours of labor which prevail in most occupations are not felt to be burdensome, provided that the laborer may work in the leisurely fashion that suits him best. Infrequency of strikes is attributable partially to lack of excitability and to steady common sense, which prevents its possessors from being led away by any schemes not of a distinctly practical nature."