

MARITIME MARKS.

Halifax, Dec. 10th, 1903.

With the exception of exclusively holiday lines, business is a little duller in this province since the commencement of December. At Springfield over 1,000 coal miners have been out on strike, and although they have since gone back to work, the interruption had an unsettling effect upon business in that town and district. At Sydney all the industries at Sydney also have been detrimental to trade in Cape Breton. In the Annapolis Valley a firm operating stores in three villages has failed, involving several Halifax wholesale houses in considerable loss. The partial failure of the fisheries has lessened the buying powers of the shore counties. So, taking things all around, the trade outlook in this province has taken a less favorable turn.

The price of apples in the English market has declined owing to over supply, and the Nova Scotia exporters acting on cable advice from their London agents have reduced shipments, the quantity forwarded last week being less than half that of the weeks preceding. The local price is well sustained, and the wise policy of restricting shipments if followed by exporters generally, will lead to a recovery of the market on the other side. In this province the Fruit Marks Act is strictly enforced and little if any fruit is offered for sale here that is not honestly packed and branded. There has been some trouble in St. John, however. The captains of small schooners have been in the habit of picking up cargoes in the Valley and selling them in St. John. These apples were often deceptively branded and a number of the shippers have been fined this season. In one instance the packer of the apples has brought suit against the inspector for damages, claiming that the apples which he condemned as No. 2, were really No. 1. Very large quantities of Ontario apples have been sold in St. John this season. The latter were handled by commission houses, and it is quite possible that there is a desire to drive the Nova Scotia schooner captains out of the apple trade and concentrate the business in the hands of the regular commission men.

Quite a large quantity of produce has arrived by vessels from P. E. Island in the last fortnight, but the prices have been well maintained. Calico potatoes are selling ex. vessel at 35c. per bushel, and oats at 30c. There have been quite a lot of red potatoes arriving, for which there is no demand for local consumption, as they are not liked here.

Since last report there has been a good deal of Ontario butter arriving, but the market is not over-supplied. There has been very little more Nova Scotia butter marketed of late. Dealers are getting 1 1/4 cents for fat ended cheese, but as these are tough and pasty many grocers prefer to pay 12 cents for September's. The factories have sold all the season's make. Eggs are scarce and higher than ever before known here at this time of the year. Hay remains steady and in only light supply, the open weather preventing farmers from getting in their barns upon the dyke lands in this province.

Prince Edward Island

We have had no very frosty weather up to December 4. About 12 inches of snow fell on December 2, but as rain has been falling for nearly two days, much of the snow has disappeared. There was a small attendance at the market on account of the disagreeable weather. Very little produce was offered. Oats sold for from 32c to 33c; potatoes, per bushel, 25c; hay, 60c. per cwt., with a downward tendency; beef, qtr., per lb., 4 to 6c, small, 6 to 10c;

pork, 8 to 9 1/2c; mutton, per lb., 7 to 9c; chickens, per lb., 7 to 8c; butter, per lb., 23 to 24c; eggs 25c. per doz.; hour, per bbl., \$3.50 to \$4.00; geese, 75 to 80c. each; live hogs, 4 1/2 to 4 3/4c; ducks, pair, 70 to 80c. The sum of \$75.00 was offered this year in the cheese makers' competition conducted by the provincial government. This was divided into five prizes, and was offered for the five best lots of four each, of cheese: one made in July, August, September and October. The judging took place on November 24. E. L. Head, cheesemaker of Hazlebrook acted as judge. The following are the prize winners: 1. W. H. Leslie, Kensington, 93 1/4 points, \$25.00; 2. C. J. Cook, New Perth, 93 1/4 points, \$20.00; 3. A. Sullivan, Hillsboro, 91 1/4 points, \$15.00; 4. L. J. Murphy, Tignish, 89 1/4 points, \$10.00; 5. Jos. A. McDonald, Mount Stewart, 88 1/4 points, \$5.00. There were 13 competitors. The exhibit was pronounced highly creditable to the province, some of the cheese being very excellent quality.

The annual sale of pure-bred live stock held at the Exhibition grounds took place on December 3. Although the weather was disagreeable, there was a fair attendance of buyers. Some valuable cattle, pigs, sheep and horses were offered by a number of our leading stock raisers. The following is the stock sold:

CATTLE

Scottish Monarch, bought by J. McMillan, Cornwall, \$20; Scottie Archer, bought by Dr. Curran, \$95; heifer, Royal Maid, bought by Dr. Jenkins, \$37; cow, Linda, bought by J. H. McPherson, Hunter River, \$38; heifer, Wiltshire Lady, owned by Jas. C. Clark, bought by Dr. Jenkins, \$28; Sir John, owned by A. Boswell, Pownal, bought by J. Simpson, Hunter River, \$48; Cape Colony, owned by Jas. Mutch, Rustie, bought by G. McIntosh, East Town, N. S., \$60; bull calf, bought by G. W. Cameron, Augustine Cove, \$30; Bolivar Andrew Wells, Alberton, bought by A. E. McLean, Masouche, \$89; Jersey bull, Wallace Sheatley, sold to W. A. Dawson, East Royalty, \$25.

SHEEP AND HOGS

Leicester Ram, A. Boswell, Pownal, bought by J. McLean, Darlington, \$37; Southdown Ram, R. Furness, Vernon River, bought by Jas. Esery, Union Road, \$245; Southdown Ram, R. Furness, Vernon River, bought by Jas. Esery, Union Road, \$245; Shropshire Ram, Frank Halliday, bought by E. Wheatley, \$500; Shropshire Ram, H. Bowtell, bought by Walter Stead, Highfield, \$7; ram, John Allan, city, bought by S. Kennedy, \$25; Yorkshire Boar, J. W. Calbeck, Augustine Cove, bought by W. H. Weatherpoon, Granville Ferry, N. S., \$35; Yorkshire Boar, bought by S. J. McLeod, Kinross, \$25.25; Sow, bought by W. H. Weatherpoon, \$47; Boar, bought by J. H. Myrick & Co., \$21.50; two Yorkshire boars, owned by F. Halliday, Eldon, bought by C. H. Carruthers, Mill River. Some fine animals were not sold.

Some of our farmers are holding back their crops on account of the prevailing low prices for pork.

A few of the cheese factories are making butter now, but winter dairying is certainly on the decrease.

A. R.

HICKORY

(Continued from page 904.)

Then they pounded the walls of the bin, punched the flat roof above, and ran sticks down here and there through the few inches of coal; but, seemingly, there was nothing to find in that quarter.

"Well! what's the verdict? Shall we

put our coal in while you are looking after the corn?"

"Yes; any time you like," returned the R. O. leaving the men in disgust.

"Put in ten," said the captain, in an aside tone to Ginger, a few minutes later; "and the quicker you do it the better."

And soon—while the revenue men were turning everything upside down, hunting high and low, in nooks and corners, in cupboards and crevices, in boxes and drawers, in trunks and cabins, among papers and documents, and even into the sacks of corn for something they could not find—the coal heavers were pouring sacks of bituminous diamonds high and dry over little bits of white carbon, harder than ivory, that they were burying many feet deep.

"Mate," cried the captain again. "Tell the men that everything they've got is to be open for inspection. Not a single thing to be hid from one end of the ship to the other."

"Aye, aye, sir."

Never before on the great lakes did a sailing vessel receive from revenue men such a thorough overhauling as did the Condor. The search went on for two whole days. Every sack, even, of the ten thousand bushels of corn was examined, and no paper was left in ounce of contraband goods was discovered, and the C. R. O. were just as disgusted as were the A. R. O.'s only two days previously.

"There's only one other place we might examine more thoroughly," said one of the junior officers, who had the reputation of being the keenest man in the posse.

"Where is that?" demanded his senior.

"Under the coal bin, sir."

"That's the first place we examined."

"We didn't raise the floor."

"Raise the deuce," muttered the officer. "The floor was flat, and they haven't half a ton of coal in the bin. How much have you there now?" turning to the captain.

"Ten tons," was the answer; "but that needn't hinder you, if you take the planks up at the sides, you can work right to the centre beneath the floor. Take good care of the supports, that's all."

The R. O. looked him keenly in the eye for a moment. But the man with the eagle nose did not shrink. Determined not to be beaten, however, the revenue officer ordered the planks to be raised. There was room enough for a little man to crawl in beneath the floor to the large central supporting beam of the bin which ran amidships. A lamp was held, and the youngest junior, some twenty a smock, crept into the narrow crack of planks and coal dust to investigate. The lines of the timbers were straight, the angles square, and the floor above him flat. Seemingly, nothing could be hid.

"May there not be two cross beams and a space between them?" said the R. O., loth to be convinced.

"There is only one," replied the captain, "but don't take my word, measure for yourselves."

And passing a tape line between the joists from the two sides to the centre, they proved to their own satisfaction that there were only one cross-beam, barely ten inches thick, which supported the whole.

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