

TRAPPISTS IN FRANCE.

Their Heroic Labors in the Woods of Chambarland.

The following are extracts from a letter written by a Frenchman to a friend in this country: Walking along the ridge of a hill, we entered the immense woods of Chambarland, about six and a quarter miles in width and three times as much in length. But the land being extremely dry, the trees are not high, and what I called woods are really only copses. Some twenty years ago there came here some Trappists from the Abbey of Sept Fontz, in the Department de l'Allier. They began to grub the land, and, after taking out the stones that were in it, they sowed it with wheat, and in course of time a good crop was obtained.

In former days this land was flourishing and well cultivated, but after the religious wars and that with Italy in the time of Henry IV., there were no workmen there; all had been taken away by the war, and the population which remained, being incapable of cultivating it, found it convenient and desirable to change their work. The region is composed of small, almost imperceptible undulations without any high mountains, or any well delineated valley. Dykes and dams were constructed, and the water thus stopped, and finding no means of penetration into the ground owing to its clayish nature, formed a multitude of ponds, which covered nearly all the district.

There was soon nothing to be seen but sheets of water of no great depth and separated by dykes and clusters of trees where the soil remained dry. Fish was bought and multiplied rapidly; fishing became the main resource of the inhabitants for two centuries. Unhappily they had not foreseen a terrible consequence of this state of affairs. The ponds not being deep, a powerful aquatic vegetation sprang up and transformed them into swamps.

Fever spread into the country, and then two things happened; a part of the population—which, by the way, was becoming less and less—retired into the neighboring districts, into the Jura to the East, and to the Beaujolais to the West, to be in a dry country. But the families who, either through poverty or affection for their native land, were deterred from leaving it were undermined by fever; and the disease being transmitted by father to son wrought degeneration, both physical and moral.

This encouraged the country people, and now the vast part of the land which had been for such a long time of no utility, is being attacked from all sides, and will soon afford sustenance to a large number of people. Such is the utility of Trappists. I know another place where their self-denial and labor have restored a whole population. It is in the Department de l'Ain, in that district northeast of Lyons which is called La Dombe, and extends between the rivers Rhone, Saone and Ain.

This vast region was to be reconquered and cultivated once more. Some landowners asked for men in the neighboring districts, but did not succeed. So another means was to be tried. Trappists were asked from the Abbey of Aiguebelle in the drôme, and forty of them came. They placed themselves in a half-finished building, and began to empty the ponds. The dykes were opened to let the water flow away, and afterwards the ground was dug very deep. About 1 1/2 yards beneath the soil was a thin layer of clay.

This was broken up, and the water entered farther into the earth. The land was dried, and magnificent crops of wheat were gathered. But when they saw that it was comparatively so easy, the people in the villages around there shook off their torpidness, and those of neighboring districts flocked together. The same operation was repeated in many places, and the land is now productive again—Catholic News.

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COMMERCIAL.

FLOUR GRAIN, Etc.

Flour.—We quote prices nominal as follows:—
Patent Spring.....\$3.90 @ 4.10
Patent Winter..... 3.40 @ 3.60
Straight Roller..... 3.10 @ 3.30
Extra..... 2.75 @ 2.90
Superfine..... 2.40 @ 2.70
Fine..... 2.20 @ 2.35
City Strong Bakers..... 3.60 @ 3.70
Manitoba Bakers..... 3.25 @ 3.60
Ontario bags—extra..... 1.40 @ 1.50
Straight Rollers..... 1.50 @ 1.60
Superfine..... 1.25 @ 1.40
Fine..... 1.10 @ 1.20

Oatmeal.—We quote prices as follows:—
Rolled and granulated \$4.35 to \$4.50, standard \$3.90 to \$4.10. In bags, granulated and rolled, \$2.10 to \$2.20, and standard \$1.90 to \$2.05.

Feed.—We quote \$13.50 to \$14.60. Shorts are firm at \$18 to \$17. In the west prices have advanced with sales of bran at \$12.50 f.o.b. Moullie is steady at \$20 to \$21.50.

Wheat.—No. 2 hard Manitoba wheat is held in this market at 75c to 76c. A few lots of new Spring and Winter wheat have been picked up west of Toronto at 54c to 56c.

Corn.—We quote 45c to 46c in bond, and in car lots, duty paid, 50c to 51c.

Peas.—A lot of No. 2 being sold at a fraction over 70c per 60 lbs afloat.

Oats.—No. 2 have been placed at 39c per 34 lbs, and a car of new was sold at 38c.

Barley.—No. 3 has been offered at 42c without finding buyers, and malting grades are quoted at 48c to 55c as to quality.

Rye.—We quote 57c to 58c.

Buckwheat.—We quote prices nominal at 51c to 53c.

PROVISIONS.

Pork, Lard &c.—We quote:—
Canadashort cut pork per bbl.....\$21.50 @ 21.50
Canada clear mess, per bbl..... 20.00 @ 20.50
Chicago short cut mess, per bbl..... 20.00 @ 20.50
Mess pork, American, new, per bbl..... 19.50 @ 20.00
India mess beef, per tierce..... 00.00 @ 00.00
Extra mess beef, per bbl..... 00.00 @ 00.00
Hams, city cured, per lb..... 12 @ 14c
Lard, pure in pails, per lb..... 10 1/2 @ 12c
Lard, com. in pails, per lb..... 8 1/2 @ 8c
Bacon, per lb..... 11 1/2 @ 12c
Shoulders, per lb..... 10 1/2 @ 11c

DAIRY PRODUCE.

Butter.—We quote:—
Creamery, July..... 20c to 20 1/2c
Creamery, August..... 21c to 22c
Eastern Townships..... 18c to 21c
Western..... 18c to 17 1/2c

Cheese.—We quote prices here as follows:—
Finest Western colored..... 9 1/2c to 9c
Finest Western white..... 9 1/2c to 9c
Finest Quebec..... 9 1/2c to 9c
Underpriced..... 8 1/2c to 8c
Liverpool cable white..... 46s 6d
Liverpool cable colored..... 47s 6d

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Eggs.—Are quoted at 12c to 12 1/2c. Culls are quoted at 10c to 11c. Country buyers are paying 1 1/2c in the West for fresh stock.

Beans.—We quote choice hand-picked at \$1.70 to \$1.80 per bushel, ordinary to good \$1.50 to \$1.60, and inferior \$1.00 to \$1.25.

Maple Products.—Syrup at 4c to 5c in wood, and 50c to 60c in tins. Sugar is dull at 6c to 7c per lb.

Hops.—At 20c to 30c, and yearlings have sold at 18c to 19c, as to quality and quantity.

Baled Hay.—Sales reported at \$10. to \$10.50 for old hay and \$9 to \$9.50 for new. Straw is quoted at \$3 to \$5.

Game.—The first lot of partridges has been received and sold at 80c per pair.

FRUITS, Etc.

Apples.—Stock is rapidly disposed of at \$3 to \$4 per bbl.

Oranges.—Jamaicas, the only ones obtainable here, are quoted at \$3 to \$3.50 per box and \$5 to \$5.50 per barrel.

Lemons.—The new stock of Messinas which arrived here sold at \$2.75 to \$3.50 per case.
Peaches.—Delaware in baskets, \$1.40 to \$1.50; Western, 85c to 90c; and California in boxes, \$1.50 to \$1.75

Pears.—We quote values as follows: California boxes \$3.00 to \$3.50, baskets 65c to 85c as to quality; Bartlett in kegs at \$3.40 to \$3.50, barrels \$4 to \$5 as to condition of prices.

Pine Apples.—Are selling at \$2.50 to \$3.00 per dozen as to size.

Plums.—We quote California \$1.50 to \$1.75, 4 basket carriers. Canadian in baskets 85c to \$1.00

Green Gages.—At \$1.00 to \$1.25 per basket for choice fruit, soft selling at 85c to \$1.

Grapes.—Concord 2 1/2c to 4c per 10 lb basket; Rogers 4c to 5c per lb, and California Tokay \$2.50 per 4 basket carrier. Niagara grapes \$2.75 to \$3.00 per crate.

Cranberries.—At \$9 per barrel.

Bananas.—We quote \$1, \$1.15 and \$1.25 as to size and quality.

Melons.—We quote watermelons 20c to 25c apiece, by the barrel. Demand fair.

Onions.—Egyptian onions are quoted at 2 1/2c to 3c per lb.

Potatoes.—Demand fair and quoted at 90c to \$1.00 per barrel.

FISH AND OILS.

Pickled Fish.—Newfoundland herring are arriving in car lots, and selling at \$4 per bbl. Cape Breton are quoted at \$5.25 per bbl, and half barrels at \$2.75 to \$2.87 1/2. Labrador salmon is quoted at \$12 to \$12.50 per bbl, for No. 1. Green cod is in fair demand, which is improving for No. 1 at \$4.25 to \$4.50. Dry cod is wanted at \$4.50 to \$4.75 per quintal.

Fish Oils.—A lot of Newfoundland cod oil was offered on this market, and the best bid was 20c. One lot of poor off oil sold at 22c. We quote prices more or less nominal at 32c to 34c. The ordinary Newfoundland oil is quoted 45c to 50c for old and 57c to 60c for new, but the demand is very slow.

Dried Fish.—Cases of large codfish boned and skinned are selling at 6c per lb. Dried cod 4c to 5c.