

The Live Stock Interest.

A train load of fifteen cars of young cattle from Ontario were in the Winnipeg yards last week, on their way to the western ranges for the Northwest Cattle Company, of High River. The cars on which the animals were carried are new ones, and are equipped with air brakes, controlled by the engine, with automatic couplers.

At Liverpool on May 4 there was some improvement in the demand for cattle and a fair trade was done at about steady prices for best United States cattle, which sold at 10½ to 10¾c. The market for Argentines, however, was weak and prices declined 1c per lb. to 8½c. There was also a weaker feeling for sheep, and values sold down 1c, best stock selling at 11c.

The Montreal Gazette of May 5 says: Cables to-day were conflicting to some extent, some quoting best States cattle at 10 to 10½c, and others at 10½ to 10¾c. The demand for ocean space has been fair, and the Fremona, to London, was let at 40s, and the Hurona and Sarnia, to France at 47s 6d. Freight to Liverpool has also been taken at 40s, but it is stated that a firm offer of 37s 6d would no doubt be accepted, as the indications are that some of the vessels sailing this week will go out with only single deck loads.

An order-in-Council was passed at Ottawa on the 28th of April reducing the live stock inspection fees to 1½c on cattle and ½c on sheep.

At the East End Abattoir Montreal on May 4 the tone of the market was firmer and prices advanced ½c per lb. The demand from exporters was principally for choice steers and heavy julls, and quite a number were picked up. Choice steers and heifers sold at 3¾c to 4c; good, 3c to 3½c; bulls, 3c to 3½c; fair cattle, 2½ to 3c, and common, 2c to 2½c per lb. live weight. Spring lambs ruled higher, and sales were made freely at \$2 to \$5 each as to size. Old sheep met with a fair sale at 3c to 4c per lb. live weight.

At the point St. Charles market, Montreal on May 4, choice cattle were bought up for export account at 3¾c to 4c per lb., and local dealers paid from 3c to 3½c. The receipts of live hogs were fair, for which the demand was good, and prices ruled steady at 4 to 4½c per lb. A few small lots of sheep sold at 3½c to 4c per lb. live weight.

At the semi weekly market at Toronto on May 5, export cattle were in fair demand, and sold at 3¾c per lb., and a few brought 4c, while some only brought 3½c. Butchers cattle were quiet at 3½c lb. for best. Most of them sold at 3½c and medium at 2¾c. Bulls sold at 2c to 2½c for ordinary and fine at 2¾c to 3½c. Stockers and feeders sold at 3½c to 3¾c for good, and poorer at 2½c to 2¾c per lb. Sheep steady. Yearlings were ¾c per lb. higher, selling at 4½ to 5½c per lb. Spring lambs were quoted at \$1 each. Sheep quiet at 3½ to 3¾c per lb. Milch cows and springers were in fair demand at \$15 to \$35 each. Hogs steady at \$3.95 to \$1 per cwt. for choice bacon hogs, heavy, fat and light hogs, \$3.50 and \$3.75 for stores.

At Chicago on May 7, sales of hogs were at \$3.10 to \$1.60 for heavy, choice mixed going as high as \$4.65 and prime assorted light at \$3.60 to \$3.75, but later there was a declining tendency.

Circular to Creamery Men.

The following circular has been issued from the Department of Agriculture and Immigration, Winnipeg:

To the butter-makers of Manitoba:

Dear Sir:—As the creamery butter making season is now at hand, the following suggestions are offered with a view to having our creamery butter placed upon the best available market in the best possible condition

ALEX. C. McRAE,

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in

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WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

during the whole season, so that our reputation as a butter producing province will grow in the best markets of the world. From the latest information obtained from the best authority in England and Scotland, the requirement of those markets is, butter of a sweet mild flavor, salted not more than three-quarters of an oz. per one pound of butter. The color should be pale, not more than one oz. of coloring per thousand pounds of milk, or 2½ ounces to the cream required to make 100 pounds of butter, should be used in making fodder butter and no coloring need be used during the summer when the cows are out to pasture. Color must be uniform and free from any white specks. Body firm and free from any air-cells.

Packages—The package most desired is the square box holding 55 pounds net, lined throughout with good quality of parchment paper. It is not necessary to put salt on the top of a square package, and it is not desirable. Simply place parchment paper on the top of the butter (as well as on other parts of the box) and nail the cover on. The most desirable box is the ordinary nailed box, made of ¾ inch lumber. This box is preferable to the dovetail box as the ends of the dovetailing become blackened by dust and wet and leave the box in a filthy condition, consequently presents a very objectionable package. Again the ordinary nail box comes much cheaper to the creameries. From a strictly reliable source from whom this information is gained, I would advise all creameries that are packing butter for the European trade to use this kind of box.

Treatment—The boxes should be well soaked in strong salt and water a day or two before using, so that they may be thoroughly dry when required. The effect of the salt will be left in the wood and free it from any odors or tastes. Line each package with

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TORONTO, ONT.

parchment paper so that the butter cannot come in direct contact with any part of the package.

Branding—The boxes should be branded at one end only in letters not more than ¾ of an inch in length. The net weight and name of factory is all that should appear on the package. When tubs are used for other markets the brand should be placed under the second hoop of the tub and not on the cover, as some makers seem to persist in doing which often retards the sale of the contents of the package from its untidy appearance. By giving strict attention to the packing of our creamery butter we can do much towards not only retaining the market that we have already established, but will be enabled to open up new fields for excellent quality of butter, and thereby bring more revenue to the farmers in our province.

Yours truly,

C. C. MACDONALD,

Dairy Superintendent

The stock-in-trade of McLoughlin & Co., general merchants of the town of Portage, Ont., will be sold at a rate on the dollar on Saturday, May 16, at the office of S. A. D. Bertrand, Winnipeg.