

### Wheat for Feeding Purposes.

A circular has been issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, prepared by Dr. Salmon, Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, presenting data concerning the feeding quantities of wheat and other grain products. The following are extracts:

Equal parts of wheat and corn should prove better for fattening animals than either of these grains alone. For growing animals corn is plainly not so suitable as is wheat or oats.

When wheat and corn are the same price per bushel, it is preferable to feed wheat and sell corn; first, because wheat weighs 7 per cent heavier per bushel than corn; secondly, because wheat is weight for weight an equally good grain for fattening animals, and better for growing animals; and thirdly, because there is much less value in fertilizing elements removed from the farm in corn than in wheat.

There are certain points to be borne in mind when one is commencing to feed wheat. Our domesticated animals are all very fond of it, but are not accustomed to eating it. Precautions should consequently be observed to prevent accidents and disease from its use. It is a matter of common observation that when full-fed horses are changed from old to new oats they are liable to attacks of indigestion, colic, and founder. If such results follow the change from old to new oats, how much more likely are they to follow a radical change, such as that from oats to wheat? For this reason wheat should at first be fed in small quantities. It should, when possible, be mixed with some other grain, and care should be taken to prevent any one animal from getting more than the quantity intended for it.

The precautions are especially necessary when wheat is fed to horses, as these animals are peculiarly liable to colic and other disturbances of the digestive organs, accompanied or followed by laminitis. Cattle, sheep and hogs frequently crowd each other from the feeding troughs, in which case some individuals obtain more than their share, and may bring on serious or fatal attacks of indigestion.

The best form in which to feed wheat is to roll or grind it into a coarse meal. It may then be fed alone, or mixed with cornmeal or ground oats. When ground fine it is pasty and adheres to the teeth, gums, and cheeks so that it is not so readily masticated or eaten. In the form of a coarse meal it is relished by all animals, it is in a condition to be attacked by the digestive processes whether thoroughly masticated or not, and in most cases it gives the best results. Dr. Gilbert appears to have obtained better results from whole than from ground wheat when fed to sheep. Sheep feeders may, therefore, experiment with whole wheat, but wheat meal will certainly be found to give better results with all other kinds of animals.

The number of pounds of live weight that may be produced by feeding a bushel of wheat will evidently vary according to the age and condition of the animal fed. Prof. Robertson, at the Ottawa experimental station fed frozen wheat to hogs and secured from 9.1 to 15.46 pounds, live weight, from a bushel, the greater increase being from young, growing animals, and the smaller from those which were fattening.

At the South Dakota Experimental Station the hogs fed ground wheat required 4.81 pounds, and those fed whole wheat required 4.91 pounds for 1 pound gain in live weight. The ground wheat fed returned 58.89 cents per bushel, the whole wheat, 55.83 cents; corn, 60 cents; and peas, 65.86 cents. The quality of the pork obtained from ground wheat and corn was about equal, and was superior to that from whole wheat, peas or mixed feed.

From the Canadian experiments it would appear that the feeding value of an equal weight of wheat is slightly in excess of that of corn; the South Dakota experiments gave better results from corn. In general, the differences would probably not be very great, but it would undoubtedly be better to mix corn and wheat, or corn, wheat, and bran, or corn, wheat and middlings.

### Railway Extension in India.

The London Financial Times of August 18 says: In the House of Commons yesterday Sir Richard Temple asked the Secretary for India what result had attended the issue by the Government of India of the Resolution No. 921 R.C., dated Simla, 15th September, 1893, in which terms were stated on which the Government of India was prepared to consider offers for the construction, by the agency of private companies, of branch lines or extensions of existing railways, to be worked, when constructed, by the main line administrations, which it was intended should stimulate the construction of railways in India by private enterprise. Mr. H. H. Fowler said that the Government of India and the Secretary of State in Council were in negotiation with the view to the formation of a company for the extension of the India railway system on the lines indicated in the Government of India's resolution of 15th September, 1893. He was in correspondence with the Government of India with reference to some modifications which were desired in the terms of that resolution.

### Cutting in Plate Glass.

Rumors are rife regarding the cutting of prices in plate glass. There is an association on this article, and it fixed the discount at 35 per cent. All the large dealers are not affiliated with the association, but those of them who are not are in sympathy with it and adhere to the fixed discount list, which is tantamount to being members. The source of the cutting is not, therefore, the big dealers outside the association. It is alleged to be within the association itself, and also, at least, with one small independent dealer. And it is said that evidences are not wanting where a discount of 40 per cent. has been allowed.

The dealer who has most cause to be aggrieved is a member of the association. And his eyes became opened to the cutting that was being practiced when he found that contracts which he had tendered for were being regularly obtained by some other tenderer at figures below the Association price. Toronto Hardware Merchant.

### "Shoemaker, Stick to Your Last."

The incentives to speculation are always strongest in prosperous times, but a warning against the evils attending speculation is never out of place. The old proverb, "Shoemaker, stick to your last," should be ever present in the merchant's mind. We know of some merchants who have made fortunes by investments outside their legitimate business interests, but we have chronicled the downfall of hundreds who have attempted to follow in their footsteps. The few have succeeded, while the many have failed. In nearly every instance a merchant's business is capable of increased development by the application of brains and attention. Outside investments withdraw capital from the business which created it. The mind of the merchant is distracted and his physical frame overworked. A business which receives a sole, individual attention of a man will seldom, in return, lead him to bankruptcy.—Monetary Times.

### Coffee.

The outlook for coffee prices is an interesting one at present, in view of the fact that this year's crop the world over are expected by many to be the largest ever raised. Not since 1891-92, when the total world's crop was 11,750,000 bags, has the prospect for heavy yield been so favorable. W. H. Crossman & Bro., in a circular just issued, estimate the total world's production this year at 13,500,000 bags. This is against an estimate by a well-known European authority of 12,000,000 bags, but, as is pointed out by Crossman & Brother, the European estimate calls for 6,500,000 bags from Rio and Santos and only 8,000,000 bags from Mexico, Central America, West Indies and Venezuela, which last year, they say, gave full 500,000 bags more. It is further pointed out that receipts at Rio and Santos this season are 250,000 bags more than a year ago. Crossman & Brother, in predicting much lower prices this season, call attention to the poor quality of the Rio crop this season, which, added to current commercial conditions, in their opinion, favor the 1891-5 crop selling below the price of that of 1891-92. The London Statist says that Anton Hvisten Dahl estimates the coffee crop of 1891 at fully 12,500,000 bags, the largest in the annals of the trade. The Statist adds that the maximum consumption of coffee is 10,500,000 bags, and that if the speculators maintain prices during 1891 a great crash in the spring of 1895 is expected.

### Cheap Coal.

The following interesting item was published in the Buffalo Courier a day or two since: "The New York Central Railway Company recently bought its supply coal for locomotives, etc., for the year ending June, 1895. It amounts to about 500,000 tons delivered on cars at Buffalo, and was secured at the exceedingly low price of \$1.38 per ton of 2,000 pounds. The coal is of course the bituminous quality. The offers of the two bituminous coal railroads, the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh and the Western New York & Pennsylvania, owning a coal mining company with coal lands, were accepted at the price named.

The rate of freight is \$1.10 per ton to Black Rock, or equal to 95c per ton at Buffalo. Presuming that the railroad credits to the account of freight the regular rates that all outsiders have to pay, 95c, it leaves but 42c per ton for the coal, or 17 to 22c less than a middle man can buy it from the railroad companies named. The prices paid by the New York Central last year was \$1.60. It was supposed that the recent strike would stiffen the prices but it seems to have had the contrary effect.

"United States vs. British Locomotives" is the subject of a letter in the London Engineer, July 7, by "An Indian Locomotive Superintendent." The letter contains a description of the conditions under which the Indian railways are worked, and the writer argues that the whole question of getting more work out of locomotives in India is one of men and of human endurance and not one of engines.

A bulky volume of nearly 700 pages has reached The Commercial. This is the quarterly issue of the American Bank Reporter, published at 48 Church St., New York. It contains an alphabetical list of all banks in the United States and Canada, with names of officials of each bank, and other information. It also gives the banking laws of the various states and much other statistical matter, including a list of attorneys in the two countries. A list of towns without banks is given, with the nearest banking centres. The volume is a very useful one for the counting house and mercantile office.