

unsatisfactory condition. Of the trade during November and December, the circular reads as follows:

"In November receipts were 145,229 barrels, as against 158,782 barrels in the corresponding period of 1898. During the first week arrivals were the largest of the season—58,486 barrels—not an excessive quantity; but it now became apparent that the crop was of poor keeping quality, as from all shipping points the fruit landed in miserable condition, much of it not worth freight and charges, with the result that the trade became demoralized, and it was difficult to dispose of, even fairly sound, at reasonable rates. During the remainder of the month there was very little improvement in the general condition, although scarcity caused a higher range of prices, and at the close there was a larger proportion of fairly reliable fruit which, being badly wanted, realized satisfactory rates; but the general results were of a miserable character.

"The arrivals during December were 135,869 barrels, against 145,922 barrels in the same period last year, a very moderate quantity to supply the largest demand of the year. There was still much to be desired in regard to condition, which was the case throughout the month, especially with Canadian, the damage to much being increased by the serious delays in transit. The market, however, through scarcity, was getting into a starved position, and buyers began to take everything, bad and good, at a much higher range of prices, which was maintained until the last week, when the quiet tone usually prior to the holidays set in. Final sales were very unsatisfactory, as what offered was unattractive in every respect, so there was no inducement for operators to take a single barrel more than filled their immediate requirements. Thus the first season finished with scarcely a gleam of satisfaction from beginning to end."

## British Meat Imports

In a recent issue of *British Refrigeration* some interesting data is given in regard to the imports of meat into Great Britain from which we take the following:

"The figures in connection with the import of meat, dead or alive into Great Britain continue to show that the former condition of the staple is gaining in favor among the importers. The comparison of the returns for the last week of October in 1899 and in the preceding year is distinctly emphatic as to the growth of this preference. In the matter of live stock there were 8,784 cattle imported during the week that year as against 14,167 for the corresponding period of 1898. With sheep we have 7,594 as against 11,424. Turning now to dead meat, the beef, in weight, amounted to 129,204 cwt. for the week that year as compared with 56,110 cwt. in 1898, and mutton 54,360 cwt. as compared with 25,832 cwt. Pork, which only appears in the returns as dead meat, shows a slight decline. The immense increase in the amount of beef and mutton imported, and the equally pronounced decrease in the number of live beasts shipped, make, however, a very gratifying record for those in any way interested or concerned in the refrigerating and cold storage trades."

## The Brood Sow in Winter

By John F. Coulter, of Daily, Mich.

The brood sow, after her pigs have been weaned, should not be fed too heavily, but simply kept in a good, thrifty condition. During the fall and fore part of the winter she should be allowed to run on rye, wheat or some other good pasture, and fed a very little grain. Her appetite naturally craves something green as she recuperates after the strain that is necessarily placed upon her in raising a litter of pigs. Too much grain shouldn't be fed in the winter, as the bowels will have a tendency to become constipated—a thing that should be avoided during gestation. In the absence of pasture during the winter months, substitute bran and mill feed, mixed up in a good slop, seasoning it

with sufficient salt to be palatable. It is a good idea to shell what corn you do feed them, boil it and mix with your slop. After breeding your sows in December, if April pigs are desired, which is a good time to have them farrowed in this latitude, she should be fed more slop than corn for best results. The brood sow must not be starved during pregnancy if you wish to have good, thrifty and healthy offspring. It is always desirable to have the young, when first farrowed, as strong and active as possible, and then there is but little difficulty in raising a large per cent. of each litter. Regular feeding and not allowing the sow to become too hungry at any time is also desirable. Good bedding and plenty of it should be provided, changing the same frequently, so as not to allow it to become damp from any cause. Avoid any cold draught in the sleeping apartment during severe cold weather. Hogs should be kept in such comfortable quarters in cold weather that it will be unnecessary for them to huddle together too closely in order to be comfortable. The brood sows should have all the water they desire, but avoid giving it to them too cold.

## Pasteurising Skim-Milk

A Minnesota butter-maker gives his plan of pasteurizing skim-milk as follows:

"Every pound of milk that goes back to the patrons is heated to at least 160 degrees, and by utilizing exhaust steam it is nearly free of cost to the creamery. I use a 20-bbl. galvanized steel tank for skim milk, with a tight cover on tank. Inside the big one I have placed a smaller one of about 100-lbs. capacity, size 4x1 1/4 x 1 1/4 feet; this is the heating pan. The exhaust pipe is cut near the engine so as to have two exhaust pipes, with a globe valve on each; one of these pipes extends into the bottom of the heating tank, an elbow is put on and a piece of pipe 4 feet long, fastened to the elbow, is drilled full of 3/8 in. holes (or 30 or 40 holes should be drilled), a cap is put on end of pipe and exhaust steam forced through the small holes into the milk; the skim-milk is pumped to the bottom of heater and flows over the top into the big tank, so the exhaust is always covered at least with a foot of milk, thus insuring thorough heating. All the patrons like it very much."

## Improvement in the Horse Market

Mr. W. D. Grand, who conducts large auction sales of horses in New York, gives this substantial testimony as to the present satisfactory condition of the horse market:

"The records of my auction sales in 1899 show an improvement of just about 33 per cent. in values over the sales of 1898. This means something, for the horses came from the same consignors in both years and were virtually the same in point of quality, so there can be no mistake in this estimate. Moreover, the books show that this increase in price is true of each individual consignment, as well as of the whole year's business together. We could have done a much larger business if we could have found the horses to sell. But the fact is, high class horses are becoming very scarce. New York buyers have learned to know a good horse on sight since horse shows became so popular, and they want the best. Only a few years ago you could lead out 100 carriage horses, good and commonplace, and sell them at auction, and there would not be a great difference between the selling price of the best and the poorest of the lot. But the amateurs are expert nowadays. They pick out the really high class horses at a glance, almost, in every public sale, and bid for them accordingly.

"My October sale of carriage horses this year was the best ever known in New York or elsewhere. Forty horses brought an average of \$1,000 each, and 25 of them averaged \$1,560 each. That is away ahead of any sale of