

THE PRODUCE MARKET.

A RAPID thaw has prevailed since the date of our last, the country roads are mostly broken up, and crossing on the ice has become unsafe,—all which have served to interrupt business, and increase the previous dulness.

FLOUR.—More activity has prevailed along the lines of railway, and much of the surplus flour kept back for months has been brought forward; and, coming on the market at a time when the state of the weather and roads necessarily limits business, a natural reaction has taken place, particularly in those descriptions in largest supply. Extra, from scarcity, maintains its value. Fancy is wanted at former rates. Superfine is in excess, and about ten cents lower on the week. Some of those parcels of city brands which, for financial reasons, were pressed, have been cleared off, and prices have become more equalized. We quote ordinary to good \$4.45 to \$4.55, and choice, strong samples \$4.55 to \$4.60. There is a continued scarcity of the lower grades, and former rates are still maintained.

Bag Flour.—Receipts by rail have been more liberal, and although the wants of the trade have diminished, the extreme barrenness of the market has caused everything to be taken at about former prices. There is, however, a perceptible abatement of the previous competition; and a continuance of receipts must result in a decline. With a shipping demand restricted to small parcels of the higher grades, increased facilities for transit, and a more extended disposition to operate, developed by recent improved rates, and the greater readiness usual at this stage of the season on the part of Railway companies to grant special rates for freight, there seems a probability of receipts being in excess of the limited local consumption, and a lower range of prices is likely to rule for a time. Spring receipts, however, will be on a much smaller scale than usual, rendering us less dependent on the British market; and general confidence is felt that a higher range of prices will rule than for some seasons past.

WHEAT.—We have no change to note; receipts are very limited, and still direct to millers. We repeat \$1.00 to \$1.03 as nominal quotations for U. C. Spring.

PORK.—Remains unaltered. There is no demand likely to arise now before the opening of navigation; but the stock is unusually small, and there are no wholesale parcels offering, as nothing can come from the West at present rates ruling there.

BUTTER.—A continuance of the causes noted during the past few weeks still depresses the market; which remains unchanged, except in the gradual increase of the stocks on hand, and the greater increased anxiety of holders to realize. Advices from Boston and New York continue of the most discouraging character; and without some unlooked for movement operates to carry off the surplus, a good deal must of necessity go to grease when the warm weather sets in.

ASHES.—Pots remain without improvement, and with a languid demand, owing to a continuance of unfavorable advices from Britain, and the low price of Sterling Exchange here. Pearls.—The receipts are very light, and the value remains unchanged. Stocks of both kinds are heavy. We quote Pots \$5.20 to \$5.24, and Pearls \$5.40 to \$5.50.

A Contest of Wines.

The following account of the famous dispute arising out of the rival claims of Burgundy and Champagne, may not be uninteresting. About the middle of the seventeenth century a regular paper war was commenced in the French schools of science on the respective merits of Burgundy and Champagne. The controversy arose in consequence of a candidate for medical honours choosing to maintain, in his inaugural thesis, that the wines of Burgundy were preferable to those of Champagne; and that the latter were irritating to the nerves, and productive of dangerous diseases, particularly gout. Of course the Faculty of Medicine at Rheims took up the defence of the Champagne wines, eulogising their purity, brightness, exquisite flavour and bouquet, their durability, and superiority to the growths of Burgundy. This produced a rejoinder from the pen of the Professor of the College of Beaune, and the subject was discussed with much warmth, in verse as well as prose, till the national disasters that accompanied the close of Louis XIV's reign, directed the public attention to matters of greater importance. However, the controversy was afterwards continued, the world going on in other respects much the same notwithstanding, until 1778, about 180 years from the commencement of the dispute, when in a thesis defended before the Faculty of Medicine at Paris, a verdict was ultimately pronounced in favor of the vintage of Champagne.—*Wines, by J. R. Sheen.*

INTERESTING STATISTICS.

THE report of the Toledo Board of Trade shows that city to have become the second grain-distributing port on the Upper Lakes, having displaced Milwaukee, which has occupied that position until now. The following tables show the figures for several years in succession:

RECEIPTS AT CHICAGO.

	1864.	1863.	1862.	1861.
Flour, bbls	1,141,791	1,474,282	1,663,391	1,446,137
Wheat, bu	11,257,196	11,180,344	13,728,116	17,531,909
Corn, bu	13,623,087	25,459,508	29,499,328	26,543,233
Oats, bu	13,653,941	9,139,525	4,138,722	1,883,258
Rye, bu	969,116	869,760	1,038,825	479,005
Barley, bu	740,446	1,098,346	872,053	417,129

RECEIPTS AT TOLEDO.

	1864.	1863.	1862.	1861.
Flour, bbls	1,052,474	1,128,260	1,506,892	1,383,889
Wheat, bu	7,237,093	6,194,130	9,827,629	6,277,407
Corn, bu	1,041,160	1,705,096	3,813,709	5,312,038
Oats, bu	454,254	783,796	234,769	41,418
Rye, bu	39,435	24,529	44,393	31,193
Barley, bu	74,681	37,608	63,138	12,064

RECEIPTS AT MILWAUKEE.

	1864.	1863.	1862.	1861.
Flour, bbls	280,874	428,747	529,600	492,269
Wheat, bu	9,120,255	13,024,323	15,613,955	15,930,706
Corn, bu	473,309	359,052	258,456	114,931
Oats, bu	1,051,953	949,570	287,765	131,256
Rye, bu	89,457	162,613	154,576	73,448
Barley, bu	198,033	206,406	141,997	66,991

Toledo does not send much Grain or Flour to Montreal in winter, although some is exported via Detroit, the Canadian railways, and Portland. In summer, however, the shipments by Lake are considerable. In 1864 they were as under:

To Toronto,	12,800 bush. Corn.
To Kingston,	39,000 do. Wheat.
To Montreal,	800 bbls. Flour.
"	289,103 bush. Wheat.
"	25,300 do. Corn.

In addition, there were exported and passed through our canals and over our railways to the New England market:

To Oswego,	1,172 bbls. Flour.
"	1,584,204 bush. Wheat.
"	184,317 do. Corn.
"	22,000 do. Oats.
To Cape Vincent,	27,000 bush. Wheat.
To Ogdensburg,	61,463 bbls. Flour.
"	313,369 bush. Wheat.
"	189,089 do. Corn.
"	11,750 do. Oats.
To Sackett's Harbor,	23,250 do. Wheat.
To Port Huron,	150 bbls. Flour.
"	7,331 bush. Corn.
"	14,634 do. Oats.
To Detroit,	300 bbls. Flour.
"	14,000 bush. Corn.

It would be advisable for our merchants to cultivate close relations with the business men of Toledo, the emporium of the Grain Trade of the rich valleys of Indiana and Southern Michigan, as well as of part of Ohio.

Leather.

We have no improvement to note either in the demand or price of this important commodity since last week. It is now presumed that Tanners are fully convinced that over-production is at present, and has been, during the last three years, the sole cause of the consequent stagnation, and low prices, that have prevailed during that period. Had the supply followed the consumptive demand, the demand now would have been brisk, and prices 25 per cent. higher than they are. It is a fact that Leather has been higher in New York than Montreal ever since the first year of the American conflict; therefore, a golden opportunity has been lost which may never recur again. Let what we have said above be coupled with the anomalous fact, that Spanish sole leather is at present selling in the market for less per pound than Buenos Ayres hides, from which it is made, and the inference is justifiable that prices may have reached the bottom. We observe that Messrs. Shaw Brothers have made a shipment of upper leather to England. We hope this effort to create an export trade in this article may prove successful.

Sale of Real Estate.

The Sale by auction of the Hon. John Young's property, took place yesterday at the Court House. That block of property, measuring about 336 feet in McGill street, and equally in the rear on Grey Nun street; on William street 87 feet, and Wellington street 97 feet, with extensive stone stores; sold for \$45,500.

The five brick warehouses forming the corner of Wellington and Colborne streets, 96 feet by 159 feet, brought \$23,600.

A large vacant lot on the Wellington Basin of the Lachine Canal, 73 feet in front by 140 feet in depth, brought \$19,000.

MANUFACTURED TOBACCO.

The speculative demand experienced last week has subsided upon the announcement that, at present, the Finance Minister had no intention of increasing the excise or customs duties. But stocks throughout the country are now so much reduced that a continued enquiry exists to meet the ordinary requirements of the Spring Trade. Prices are very firm, and still tend upwards—our quotations remain at last week's figures. In Leaf Tobacco there is no change to note.

Wool.

Of good Canada Fleece Wool there is considerable scarcity in this market; and while the demand is not great, desirable lots for combing are at once picked up by shippers to the United States. In that market Wool has, of course, fallen during the present week, but not to a greater extent than is equalized by the decline in gold. Transactions on this side are made on a gold basis; so that the fluctuations of U. S. currency do not affect this market. We may quote—

Canadian Fleece, fair,40c. to .43c.
Peruvian Fleece35c. to .37c.
" Skin33c. to .35c.
Spanish Black29c. to .30c.
German Fleece39c. to .42c.

The early spring will probably bring on the new clip a little earlier than usual; but prices will probably be maintained at about present figures.

Varnishes.

There is an advance in the price of material for this manufacture. Turpentine and Benzine are dearer, which will cause the prices of Varnishes to be firmer. About the average of business at this season is being done.

THOMAS HOBSON & CO.'S PRODUCE CIRCULAR.

PRICE CURRENT.

Thursday Evening, March 23, 1865.

Flour, Superior extra,	\$5 00 to \$5 20
Extra,	4 80 to 4 95
Fancy,	4 65 to 4 75
Superfine,	4 45 to 4 55
Do. No. 2,	4 20 to 4 35
Fine,	3 70 to 3 95
Bag Flour, per 112 lbs.,	2 50 to 2 55
Oatmeal, per bbl. of 200 lbs.,	4 55 to 4 90
Pork—Mess,	20 50 to 21 00
Thin Mess,	18 00 to 19 00
Prime Mess,	15 00 to 15 50
Prime,	14 50 to 15 00
Butter—Ordinary, per lb.,	0 13 to 0 14
Medium,	0 15 to 0 16½
Choice Dairy,	0 18 to 0 19
Lard, Western,	0 00 to 0 00
City rendered,	0 11 to 0 11½
Tallow,	0 8½ to 0 9
Cut Meats—Hams, per lb.,	0 10 to 0 12
Bacon,	0 8 to 0 10
Shoulders,	0 7 to 0 8
Seeds, Timothy, per 45 lbs.,	2 75 to 3 00
Clover per lb.,	0 12½ to 0 14
Ashes, per 100 lbs. Pots, 1st.,	5 20 to 5 22½
Interiors,	5 50 to 5 60
Pearls, nominal,	5 45 to 0 00

FLOUR.—The arrivals have been somewhat larger than last week, and prices are a little easier; the demand is chiefly for Superfine, which finds purchasers at our quotations, selected brands commanding 5 to 10c. over our highest figure. Bag Flour sells at \$2.50 to \$2.55 per 112 lbs. according to quality. In other grades very little business doing.

PORK.—Sales of Mess have been made at \$20.50 to \$21, small lots bringing the latter figure.

BUTTER.—The advices from the American markets, in connection with the unfavorable reports from Britain by late steamers, have had a very depressing influence on our market; holders are more than ever anxious to realize, and buyers are either holding off altogether, or using great caution in making their purchases. The arrivals have been moderate, the exports about equal; some purchases have been made for the Lower Ports, and several orders are expected in course of a few days, so that it is hoped the worst part of the season is past. We hear of sales at from 12½ to 14c. for low grades, and at the present time there are several large buyers at from 12 to 13c. It remains to be seen, however, whether sellers will come down to these rates, as we believe the most pressing lots have been forced off. We quote sales of a good lot of storepacked, for shipment to Britain at 17c. Sales to the retail trade have been made at from 17 to 18c. according to quality.

Eggs are very much enquired for at 15 to 16c. per dozen.

LARD.—Scarce and in demand, City rendered at 11 to 11½c. Western none.

TALLOW.—There is scarcely any in the market; the demand is brisk. We quote sales at 8½ to 9c.

SEEDS.—Timothy is very scarce, and much wanted, price nominal at about \$3.00. Clover, worth from 12½ to 14c., but very little offering.

THOMAS HOBSON & CO.,
427 Commissioners street.