

months was intense, and consequently a good deal of the summer butter made was considerably injured, and the drought being general throughout Europe caused an active demand in August and September, which relieved Canada of its stock of poor butter in a manner that would not be safe to reckon upon nine times out of ten. We make these remarks to caution dealers against handling inferior butter, which is usually attended with severe loss. From letters that we have seen from Britain, we are in position to state that if Canada butter was brought up to the standard it might attain either through the butter factory system or a higher standard of dairy production, the enhanced value of this article to Canada would amount to several hundred thousand dollars.

Great complaints are still made about over-salting. One firm writes, saying, "If you could ship us butter of the quality of fine fall dairy last sent, only having $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of salt, instead of 5 per cent., we would gladly pay you 10s. to 15s. cwt., more money."

As the manufacturing and shipping season for cheese is now rapidly drawing to a close, the situation becomes more clearly defined. From information which we have been at considerable trouble in collecting during the past few weeks, we have drawn to the conclusion that the reported short make which holders have constantly reiterated has not been wholly unfounded. The full shipments have been light as compared with last season. This, buyers have affirmed, has resulted from a combined effort on the part of holders to keep their stock back. However, as nine-tenths of the factories closed operations on the 1st of November, the actual stock in the country is now ascertained to be a small compass. This, exporters seem to admit now, though with some reluctance, and the same being true of the United States the English market has apparently conceded this position taken for some time past that the short crop cry was not genuine, and within the last few days the English market was advanced 38 per cent., with considerable orders said to have been received here since Monday. If we might venture advice, it would be to meet the present demand at current figures which we call 10c. to 11c. for good August and 11½c. to 12½c. for later makes. After the 15th of November shipments must be made via Portland, Halifax or Boston at enhanced rates, of freight and with the usual risks from frost.

The shipments this week comprise 14,000 boxes to the ports of Liverpool, Glasgow and London.

WESTERN AFFAIRS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Toronto, Nov. 9th, 1876.

—How surprised many people will be to learn in this fruit raising country of ours that winter apples from New York State are now advertised for sale at various places throughout this Province.

—And now come the grangers clamoring for protection, among other things against American corn. Mr. S. W. Hill of Ridgeway, master of the Dominion Grange, gives his opinion in favor of protection, and says he should be an

authority on the subject as he lives near the border.

—The Consumers' Gas Co., of this city, reduce the price of their manufacture from \$4 to \$3 per thousand feet, after the 1st January.

—L. Bugler, a Park Hill tanner, is classed among those who prefer fresh fields and pastures new. Supposed to have gone to Chicago. Creditors are looking after the debris. Another absconder is a Belleville dealer named Brooks. A writ of attachment has been issued against his estate.

—The new paper, the *Observer*, will advocate free traffic in the spirit trade. Here is another opportunity to test the physical efficacy of prayer.

—A general storekeeper at Widder Station, named Thomas Ironsides, who failed recently with liabilities of about \$6,000, is endeavoring to compromise with his creditors at 60 cents on the dollar. He had another store at Grand Bend. Too many irons in the fire.

—The stocks of flour and grain in store here at the beginning of the week and other dates mentioned were as follows:

	Fall	Spring,			
	Flour,	Wheat,	Barley,	Peas,	
	brls.	bush.	bush.	bush.	
Nov. 6 . . .	1,000	94,821	133,654	576,131	11,756
Oct. 30 . . .	600	98,605	172,211	550,979	7,823
Nov. 8, '75.	3,741	112,827	110,046	246,000	12,270
Nov. 9, '74.	2,983	9,275	48,293	379,159	18,172

No oats, rye or malt, and but 400 bushels of corn, at present.

—A largely attended meeting was held by some leading citizens recently to devise means for the exhibition in this city on their arrival of all the articles sent to the Centennial, before they be taken away by the owners.

—A Brantford jeweler named Hall, who made an assignment in September, has compromised at 40 cents in the dollar.

—Alfred Sloman, a Peterborough tinsmith, wants to compromise at 50 cents in the dollar, but his creditors object.

—It is estimated that about one-fourth of the farms in this Province are paying interest on borrowed money to the various loan societies.

—A number of farmers in the county of Oxford and vicinity have been badly imposed upon by a person calling himself Lumley, who after bargaining for the purchase of land has suddenly disappeared after all but the final arrangements had been made. What his object can be in thus putting men to annoyance cannot be ascertained. He showed a decided preference for stock farms.

—Business generally here is quiet. Wheat and barley continue to arrive, but in the unsatisfactory state of the markets holders will not ship and are inclined to purchase with caution.

—A gentleman of Grand Haven, Mich., has recently patented a process of fastening the hulls of wooden vessels and other structures, which is exciting much interest. It consists of a wooden plug or tree-nail being driven a short distance apart between each plank throughout the entire hull. It distributes equal strength throughout the entire structure, locking together each and every part in such a manner as to make the entire hull one solid mass, precluding all possibility of working, hogging, or straining.

CHICAGO AFFAIRS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Chicago, November 8, 1876.

The "spirit below" plays a considerable part in the economy of the Garden City; and there is perhaps no city in the world that presents a greater temptation to idlers to spend their loose cash, what with the elegant plate-glass mirrors, the dainty, fragile drinking glasses, the miniature fountains and free lunches of our numerous bar-rooms, which in their splendor recall to our minds the subterranean caves of Alladin. Many of them are furnished with telegraphic indicators, that the operator in grain or stocks may not lose the time spent in swallowing his hasty lunch. In its wholesale features the trade has not been at all comfortable since the illicit disclosures of last winter. In the conference held by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue with the leading distillers during the last few days it was suggested that, in order to allow some margin to the manufacturers of high wines through losses by absorption and leakage, specially on goods destined for distant points, it would be better to tax on the weight packages—the net weight of the spirits at a temperature of sixty degrees. Another was to the effect that the goods should be re-gauged by the distillers twenty-four hours after they had left the wine-tubs and been placed in the bonded warehouse. It was stated that there was always from half a gallon to a gallon lost in this way, and, furthermore, that no two gaugers ever gave the same results on even as small quantities as fifty barrel lots. Some understanding to this effect will probably be arrived at.

—A carload of tanning extract, the only one sold in this city by the Canada Tanning Extract Co. of Montreal, was sent on here some months ago as an experiment; but, instead of getting into the hands of the tanners, it was bought up by a certain brewer, whose name I suppress, to be used in imparting certain qualities to his beer.

—There is a great scarcity of hides in all quarters, and prices have advanced, through the anxiety of tanners to procure supplies.

—The contract for supplying 8,000 feet of five-ply rubber hose to the city was awarded to the Caswell Co., at 80 cents a foot—the lowest bid.

—The returns of fires for October show 57 alarms and 3 stills; loss \$102,700; covered by insurance \$64,870; insurance involved \$150,000. Suburban losses amounted to \$50,400, covered to extent of \$34,000. The pay roll of the department for October is \$25,000.

—The West-siders are rebelling against the overcharging of the gas companies, and are making efforts to have that most populous section of the city lighted with Kerosene on an improved plan.

—Cheese is very dull, but prices are maintained, and dealers will not stock up meantime. Coffees have a decided upwards incline, and other groceries, including sugars, spices and teas, sympathize in the movement.

—The bad weather of last week interfered seriously with the lumber shipments. A Saginaw correspondent of the *Lumberman*, not satisfied with Mr. Little's views, makes estimate of the quantity of standing pine in the State of Michigan. The information on which these