

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, SEPTEMBER 29, 1890.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

The tendency of butter markets has been in a firmer direction of late. In Eastern Canada markets somewhat better prices have been obtained, and recently rather stiff figures have been paid. Late made creamery and choice late dairy have been in demand in the east at good prices. The firmness is due to better prices in Great Britain and the United States, though something of a reaction has been reported. There has been buying at Montreal for export, though up to about the middle of September exports from Montreal showed a heavy falling off, as compared with last year. Exports for the season from Montreal have been less than 10,000 packages, compared with over 25,000 packages for the same period of last year. Later exports may show an improvement, but at present the shipping movement would not seem to indicate higher prices.

In cheese there has been advances in prices on the cheese boards in Ontario country markets, though the situation is not regarded as very strong. Cheese has been bought at higher prices in the country than the immediate situation would warrant. Small lots of August make have sold as high as 10c and 10½c, in country markets, but it is said that these small lots were only taken for special purposes. Export orders at Montreal, however, usually do not quote over 9½c for late made August.

In Manitoba there is considerable interest in the butter situation. Stocks of butter have not accumulated as much as usual in this market, and better prices have been obtained recently. It will be remembered that the August crop bulletin issued by the Manitoba Government, intimated that on account of the low prices, farmers were not making as much butter as usual this year. Under the head of dairying, this report, issued on August 1, said:—

"Apart from the localities where cheese factories and creameries are in operation very little is being done by farmers in the way of making butter and cheese beyond what is required for family consumption. As a general thing farmers are going into stock-raising more and more from year to year, but the prices paid for butter and the conveniences at hand for the manufacture of it by the average farmer are not such as to encourage manufacture beyond consumption. The general remark made by correspondents is that the prices paid for butter are so low that people only make for their own use. So much so is this the case that calves, instead of being weaned, are in many cases allowed to follow their mothers throughout the season. Where cheese factories and creameries are in operation they are appreciated, and are spoken of as doing very well, but unfortunately the number in operation is not equal to that which the province demands."

While there is some truth no doubt in the report of the department, the belief among merchants is that the make of butter this year, will not be generally short. While receipts from some points have fallen off, from other country markets they have been fully as large as usual. It is probable that there will be some falling off in the quantity of butter made this

year, especially as cheese making has been conducted on a larger scale this season. Prices for butter in this market are now fully as high, and even higher than the situation would warrant, unless it be that the quantity is not more than equal to local requirements. Prices are on the high side for eastern shipment, if it should turn out that there is a surplus over local and western requirements. It is not likely, however, that there will be any considerable surplus over such requirements.

One result of the season will be that the butter trade will prove more satisfactory to country dealers if prices keep up. Heretofore it has been the custom to pay the farmer more for butter than the commodity was worth at wholesale. THE COMMERCIAL has long endeavored to correct this evil, and it is satisfactory to note that prices paid this season in the country have been more in keeping with the value of the commodity. Even yet, however, at some country points, the price allowed by storekeepers to their farmer customers, is excessive. The storekeeper should buy butter at a price which will allow him a fair margin for handling on average quality, and even if some farmers do stop making butter, this policy should be steadily persisted in.

CRANBERRIES.

Additional openings for the profitable cultivation of the soil will certainly be found in Manitoba, from time to time. New crops have been already added to those which can be grown here to advantage, and the list is no doubt capable of almost indefinite expansion. It has often been said that Manitoba can never be a fruit country, while others have all along contended that a country which produces such a large variety of wild fruits, should be adapted to the cultivation of domestic varieties. This year the crop of native wild fruit has been very large, and many tons of these have gone into consumption throughout the country during the season. On the Winnipeg market wild fruits of one variety or another have been offering all the season, and sometimes several varieties at a time were procurable. Among the native fruits now offered on the market is the cranberry, of both the high and low bush varieties. The latter, which is the cranberry of commerce, and is by far the more valuable, is found growing wild within a few miles of Winnipeg. Some who have used the native berry say they prefer them to the imported article. The berry would no doubt be improved by cultivation. Why would not a few cranberry farms pay here? Varieties of cultivated fruits suitable to this climate have already been discovered, and experiments being made at the Government farms and by private parties will lead to the discovery of many more varieties which may be grown to advantage here. It will only be a matter of time, when the variety of cultivated fruits found to be adapted to this climate, together with the native wild sorts, will afford a good list to select from.

SHIPPING LIVE STOCK.

Mr. Plumsoll, whose name has been made familiar through his agitation in the British Parliament regarding the sailing of unsea-

worthy vessels, is again to the front with another hobby. This time it is not the sailor who goes down to the sea in ships, whom Mr. Plumsoll desires to have protected. His efforts are now being put forth in behalf of animals on board ship. His pamphlet makes serious charge as to the cruelty practiced upon animals on board ship, and from the action already taken, it is not unlikely that some measure may be adopted by the British Parliament to correct the evils complained of. The matter has awakened great interest in Great Britain, and even on this side of the Atlantic, and is being generally discussed by the press.

There is good reason to believe that cattle suffer considerable hardship in their shipment by water and also by rail. Suffering is perhaps unavoidable so long as animals are handled in this way, though improvement may be enforced by Act of Parliament. There is one point in the question stirred up by Mr. Plumsoll which is especially interesting to Western Canada; and that is in regard to shipping dressed meats. Mr. Plumsoll argues that the British markets should be supplied with meats shipped dressed, and that the present mode of shipping live stock should be done away with entirely. He claims that meat can be handled in this way without impairing its quality, and thus the horrors of the cattle ships will be avoided and rendered unnecessary. Western Canada through the Hudson bay route, is more favorably situated than any other country for the shipment of dressed meats to the British markets, and when once this route is established, we may look for a trade in dressed meats to grow up in time, from the prairies of Western Canada, via Hudson bay to the United Kingdom.

Mr. Plumsoll's charges regarding the cruelties practiced upon cattle on board ship are being investigated, under the direction of the British Government, and the result will be awaited with interest by shippers and dealers on each side of the Atlantic.

THE HAY CROP.

The wet weather this season has been very destructive to hay. One correspondent from a western point writes that fully half the hay in his district has been destroyed. A wet harvest is such a rare occurrence in Manitoba and the tributary country to the west, that no forethought is taken for such a contingency. This season has proved an exception to the almost invariable rule, and a very remarkable exception at that. Counting upon dry weather, some are not very particular about the way they put up their hay, and no doubt a good deal has been lost through having been left in small stacks in the field, instead of being carefully stacked. On account of the wet weather some farmers decided to put off their haying until after the grain harvest had been secured, not thinking, of course, that the wet weather would continue so long. Others left their haying until late on account of the fact that the crop was growing and improving every day. Under ordinary circumstances the grain harvest would have been over long ago, and there would have been time to secure abundance of hay as well by this