

been without important change. No large transactions are reported in wheat, and this market has ruled very quiet. There is no movement for export nor has there been any for some time back. The roads of Ontario have improved, and so far from being impassible now afford excellent sleighing. In consequence of this deliveries at country points from first hands have increased and are quite liberal. Manitoba wheat continues steady but quiet at the quotations of a week ago. Firmness rules in barley, although there has been no quotable advance. A number of small transactions have been made on American account, and, indeed, we hear of some round lots moving to the United States. Oats are not only firmer in feeling, but also in price, for quotations are 1c. per bushel higher than a week ago. There is a good demand from the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and the lumbering districts of Northern Ontario. An active enquiry exists for peas, and sales are being made at 54 to 55c. the bushel. A considerable quantity is being sent forward via Portland. Last season's crop was rather lighter than usual, and is now apparently pretty well picked up.

The stocks of grain in store at Port Arthur on Feb. 9th were 680,907 bushels. During the week there were received 13,277 bushels, and shipped 9,159 bushels, leaving in store on Feb. 16th, 685,055.

THE VISIBLE SUPPLY.

	Feb. 16, '95. Bush.	Feb. 18, '94. Bush.
Wheat	80,734,000	80,216,000
Corn	12,651,000	14,708,000
Oats	6,932,000	5,687,000
Barley	1,665,000	1,908,000
Rye	353,000	917,000

HIDES AND SKINS.—Of the local hide market there is really nothing new to report. Trading continues to be conducted upon a rather limited basis, while no change has been made in quotations. The position of the Chicago packer hide market is thus summed up by *Hides and Leather*, Feb. 16th: It was apparent at the opening of the week that the packers had concluded to move their native and Texas steers, and this was soon accomplished by conceding ¼c. on their previous asking prices. Some buyers who had been figuring on getting the latter at about 7c. were evidently disappointed. The market is now very closely sold up, heavy cows and spready steers being the only lines on which there are any considerable offerings. It is said that the total holdings in the four markets early in the week did not exceed 176,000 hides, nearly a quarter of a million less than the corresponding time last year. The receipts of cattle continue surprisingly small. It was not the general opinion last week that sheepskins would advance on the middle of the month. But on Monday buyers agreed to pay 85c. for the best fresh skins; other descriptions, however, remain unchanged at 80c. Tallow is dull and depressed. Large quantities of Australian tallow have been brought into the United States and values there are consequently low. We learn that a duty of 20 per cent. is not likely to prove sufficient to keep American tallow out of this market. Dealers are selling choice rendered at 5¼c. Some few weeks ago they received 6¼c. for the same descriptions. When 5c. and 5¼c. must be paid for stock there is but little margin left for the merchant, and small incentive to push trade.

LUMBER.—The last six weeks have been very slow. One of the largest operators describes January and February, 1895, as the slowest months in the experience of his firm. The severe wintry weather has had much to do with the existing depression. Freight receipts have been diminished to almost a nonentity. However, beginning with the present week, some little enquiry has been developed, and with favorable weather and probabilities of an early spring trade, may return once more to normal conditions. One of the most peculiar features of the situation is, that in the absence of demand prices have remained firm, which speaks well for the strength of lumber merchants.

PAINTS AND OILS.—For the season, trade is fairly active. Turpentine is firm, and prices have taken an upward turn. It is impossible to foretell the course of primary markets, the situation being very complicated in result of the influence of speculative forces. Linseed oil is firm, and the number of orders placed is considered satisfactory. The paint trade, in so far as the movement for present requirements is

concerned, is slow, but orders for spring delivery are fair. Import orders for glass are up to the usual standard for this season of the year; little stock, however, is being called for present consumption. The situation in lead has not altered since our last report. Although there is no association in existence, there is not that disastrous cutting of prices which one might expect under the circumstances.

PROVISIONS.—Trade is only fairly good. Receipts of roll butter are larger and the market generally is depressed; rolls are quoted at 13 to 14c., and tubs at 14 to 15c. per lb. Cheese is quiet and steady, with a quiet undertone to the market. There is no change in hog products; dressed hogs are selling at \$5.20 to 5.25 per cwt. Strictly fresh eggs are worth 20 to 21c., pickled 12 to 14c., and held stock 8 to 10c. Dried apples are firm at 5¼c.; evaporated quiet and steady at 7 to 7¼c.

WOOL.—The situation has not materially changed during the present month. There is some demand from the United States for Canadian fleeces wools, however, in the face of very limited stocks, but little trade is doing in this direction. There is little enquiry for pulled wools from local sources, but coarse long wools are readily picked up by American buyers. The domestic woolen mills are undoubtedly inactive and report trade slow, with the outlook not encouraging.

LIVERPOOL PRICES.

Liverpool, Feb. 20, 12.30 p.m.

	s.	d.
Wheat, Spring	5	4
Red, Winter	4	7½
No. 1 Cal	5	3
Corn	4	½
Peas	5	0
Lard	34	0
Pork	53	9
Bacon, heavy	28	9
Bacon, light	29	0
Tallow	24	6
Cheese, new white	47	0
Cheese, new colored	49	0

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Nineteenth Annual Statement for the Year ending 31st December, 1893.

Income	\$ 2,149,859 61
Paid Policy-holders	1,333,783 25
Total Assets	442,767 61
Gross Assets	1,516,271 82
Liabilities, Actuaries' 4% Valuation	801,945 77
Surplus, Actuaries' 4%	714,326 05
Policies issued in 1893	23,669,308 00
Policies in force December 31st, 1893	83,101,434 00

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