

Grain and Milling.

A Brandon correspondent says there is some talk of a milling firm now doing business at another point moving their plant to Brandon.

The Ogilvie milling company has closed a contract to ship to Australia by May next, 25,000 barrels of flour. It will take fifteen special trains to convey this order to the seaboard.

The Lake of the Woods Milling Company shipped for Australia fifty cars, each containing 200 barrels, during December, and seventy five cars are expected to be shipped this month. The company's Keewatin mill will be enlarged to 8,000 barrels of flour per day.

The Lake of the Woods Milling company will erect an elevator adjoining their warehouse in Winnipeg, for the purchase of wheat here from farmers.

A letter has been received by the Winnipeg board of trade from parties in Kingston, Ont., announcing the intention of erecting an elevator at Kingston of 500,000 bushels capacity and expressing a desire to get western men to assist in the proposed enterprise by taking some of the stock.

Hatch, the absconding elevator man, formerly of Killarney, Man., came up in the police court at Winnipeg on Wednesday for preliminary trial. From the testimony adduced the facts of the case appear to be as follows: Hatch a year ago leased the Farmer's elevator at Killarney. In May last Hatch loaded up four carloads of Nicol Brothers' wheat and consigned the cars to Winnipeg in the care of and to the order of the Union bank. Hatch followed the wheat to the city next day and sold it to S. P. Clark & Co. He realized about \$900 in cash, but that amount did not quite represent the proceeds of the deal as Hatch owed Clark & Co. money which was deducted from the purchase price. With the \$900 cash Hatch took the train for parts unknown. The case was put in the hands of the provincial police and Hatch was at last run down in a Minnesota town. At the conclusion of the evidence, the magistrate committed Hatch for trial, and refused overtures for bail.

Montreal Grain and Produce Market.

Grain—Oats are selling in a small way at 24½c to 25c, while peas are nominally quoted at 48c to 49c.

Flour—There is no material change in the situation of the flour market, values ruling steady all round. We quote Winter wheat patents at \$1.65 to \$1.85, straight rollers, at \$1.25 to \$1.40, and in bags, at \$2.10 to \$2.15. Manitoba spring wheat, patents at \$5.10 to \$5.30; and strong bakers' at \$1.50 to \$5.

Oatmeal—The demand for oatmeal continues slow, and the market is dull and easy. We quote: Rolled oats at \$3.25 to \$3.35 per barrel, and at \$1.62½ to \$1.67½ per bag.

Feed—There was no change in feed, and business continues quiet. Manitoba bran, \$9.50 to \$10 per ton, including bags, and Ontario, \$9 to \$9.25 per ton, in bulk.

Cheese—Stocks were further reduced on Saturday by sales at 10½c to 10¾c, and today what little remains is held firm at 12c.

Butter—The butter market continues firm at 20c for finest creamery, and the difficulty of obtaining this grade makes it likely to remain so. Undergrades vary in price from 18c to 19c.

Eggs—Montreal limed and choice candled stock are selling at 14c to 14½c, Western limed at 13c to 13½c, and held fresh at 12c to 12½c per dozen.

Dressed hogs—There continues to be a good demand for light weight dressed hogs, and prices for such rule firm at \$5.25 per 100 lbs. in car lots, and at \$5.50 to \$5.75 in a jobbing way. Heavy hogs are moving slowly at \$1.60 to \$1.75 in car lots, and at \$4.90 to \$5 in a small way.—Gazette, Jan. 26.

Russian Wheat Crop.

Dornbusch says: The yield of Russian winter wheat crop 1896 is set forth by the Central Statistical Committee of the government, as equal to 16,222,000 qrs, compared with 21,250,000 qrs. in 1895. This deficiency is partly compensated by larger crops in spring wheat of which no returns have yet been published by the Central Committee for the whole of the Empire, but the Minister of Agriculture in his return, published in November, indicates a larger outturn in European Russia and Poland—so that the total deficiency in winter and spring wheat crops for this season is probably between 8,000,000 qrs. and 1,000,000 qrs. under the previous year, but nearly 9,000,000 qrs. smaller than it was in 1891.

This result will allay apprehensions aroused by estimates of a shortage of 8,000,000 qrs. to 10,000,000 qrs. and with prices maintained about the present level, the reserves of former crops will be sent to the seaboard, and Russian shipments in year ended 31st July may reach 16,000,000 qrs. in comparison with the official figures of 15,500,000 qrs for last year, and 17,000,000 qrs. in 1891-95. The output between 1st August and 20th December, 1896, equals 6,652,000 qrs, and it is not unreasonable to look for 9,000,000 qrs. in the remainder of the cereal year.

Grocery Trade Notes.

The latest mail advices from Greece say that the statistical position there is extremely strong for currants. One hundred and five thousand tons had been shipped up to the close of 1896, leaving not more than 35,000 tons unsold, as against 60,000 tons at the corresponding date a year previous. The writer of the letter had been informed that stocks in all of the markets of consumption were much lighter at the beginning of this month than at the same time last year, and looked forward to an active and rising market during the coming spring. He was encouraged in this belief by the fact that the English markets already show signs of an upward movement.

A San Francisco report says: "An important pooling arrangement has been brought about between the Alaska Packers' association and the Alaska Improvement company that will materially affect the salmon industry in the northern waters, and the price of canned salmon in this country next season. The details of the pooling agreement, which will effectually relieve the Alaska packers of all competition in both the fishing and the marketing of the product of the Alaskan canneries, were adjusted a few days ago by President Henry F. Fortmann on behalf of the Alaska Packers' association, and Managing Superintendent H. J. Barling, of the Improvement company. The agreement does not affect last season's catch, which is being handled by the two rival organizations the same as in the past. During the coming season, however, under the terms of the agreement, the entire product of all the Alaskan canneries will be put in a pool and marketed by the Alaskan Packers' association at prices which, eliminating existing competition, are expected greatly to exceed the price now in vogue."

Concerning the canned salmon situation, The American Grocer says in its last issue: "The imports of canned salmon into the United Kingdom in 1896 were 932,226 cases,

against 952,597 cases in 1895; 647,190 cases in 1891. Notwithstanding such heavy imports and so largely in excess of previous years, the trade has been very satisfactory. The stocks of red fish held there are light. The market abroad is in as good condition to receive next season's pack as at home. There is in England an over-supply of flat fish of which fact packers should take notice in arranging for next season's requirements. Low-grade fish is in too great supply, and is not in favor abroad. The distribution of newly four and one half million cases of salmon packed in 1895 and 1896 has been accomplished with less friction and more satisfaction than has ever been the case before. The market has been free from wide fluctuations, speculative manipulation, and the trade better satisfied than is usually the case. There is great encouragement to salmon packers in the present position of the article. If they fail to make the industry profitable they only have themselves to blame."

United States Cattle Trade.

The export trade in live cattle during the year 1896, according to the United States Government statistics, showed a decided improvement over that of the previous year, as far as the volume of business is concerned. The number of cattle shipped from this country during the year exceeded the figures for 1895 by nearly 100,000 head while the total value of such exports showed a gain of upwards of 9,000,000. Boston heads the list as exporter of cattle, the shipments from that port aggregating 158,353 head, valued at \$18,917,295. New York stands second with shipments of 128,563 head, representing in value \$12,088,081. Boston's record is the largest for any port in the United States with one exception, which occurred in 1894, when over 161,000 head were shipped from New York.

Bananas as Food.

Crichton Campbell, in New York Sun. One cent will buy a good sized banana which, when baked in its skin in an oven for 15 or 20 minutes, until it is quite soft and bursts open, alone makes a full meal. Now the bananas sold at street corners are really plantains. Humboldt calculated the food product of the plantain compared with the potato as 44 to 1, and compared with wheat as 133 to 1. I say from personal experience that three bananas weighing one pound are equal in nourishment to 26 pounds of bread when baked.

Bananas should never be eaten raw, they are full of animal germs, and are productive of tapeworm. Raw bananas are very indigestible. Youngsters fed on raw bananas nearly always suffer from diseases of the intestinal canal and convulsions. Physicians call such children "banana babies."

Baked bananas are also the ideal food for nervous persons and anaemics, also brain workers. I learned their great power to sustain mental effort in India. If Wall Street brokers and others who are under great mental strain would on two mornings every week include a couple of baked bananas in their menu and leave out the chop or steak, they would last longer. I am as hard a brain worker as any person in New York, and I have subsisted for years entirely on baked bananas.

The Hochelaga Bank has issued notice that the capital of this institution is to be increased from \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 by the issue of new stock. New stock will be issued at \$1.20 and stock-holders on Feb. 20 will be entitled to one new share for every four held. The last sale of Hochelaga stock was at \$1.31.