

THE PRODUCE MARKET.

THE business of the week has continued on the usual limited scale. Arrivals, though slightly improved, are light, and the demand for most articles of a purely local character.

FLOUR.—The business has been mainly in superfine, and although the supply has been more plentiful, it has been considerably short of the wants of the trade, and a steady, though gradual, advance has taken place. Strong Canada superfine has been particularly scarce, and commanded very exceptional rates in some instances, according to the necessities of purchasers. We quote as ruling rates, \$4.55 to \$4.60 for choice, and \$4.45 to \$4.55 for ordinary to good. The other grades, though in small demand, are so sparingly supplied as fully to maintain their relative value. *Bag Flour* has been increasingly scarce and in demand. All desirable parcels have been eagerly picked up as they have arrived, at advancing rates. Latest sales have been at \$2.45 to \$2.50 for ordinary, and \$2.50 to \$2.55 for choice and strong.

WHEAT.—We are still without transactions on which to base quotations, as the few cars arriving are still directed to millers. Good U. C. Spring would command 98 c. to \$1.00.

COARSE GRAIN.—Deliveries by farmers continue small, and prices without material variation.

PORK.—Prices remain unaltered. Sales continue to be made at \$20.50 to \$21 for Mess. Other descriptions nominal. None in first hands.

DRESSED HOGS.—The recent almost daily thaws, and the increasing power of the sun, bespeak the end of the season. Receipts are moderate, and prices remain without material change. Receipts are light at the various markets in the country; and it is probable that the limited quantity now understood to be on the way, will all be required for the consumption of this city and neighborhood. We continue to quote \$6.75 to \$7.25 for averages under 200 lb.; and \$7.25 to \$7.50 for heavy.

BUTTER.—The rapid and continuous decline of prices in New York and Boston has effectually prevented any relief to this market, by deterring orders from thence, and by checking any disposition that might have existed on the part of speculators to send there.

The dealers are also full, having been liberally supplied by farmers, who had, until now, held in expectation of high prices. The consequence is that sales of anything but strictly choice dairy are impracticable at present, and holders have no resource but to remain quiet and watch the first demand that may arise in any quarter. This state of things is solely owing to the inferiority of the quality, so often alluded to of late; as even at this stage of the season strictly fine parcels in any quantity would command ready sale for Britain, where the margin for profit on such is still considerable, but where for many months past medium and low qualities have been utterly unsaleable.

The stock of this description at all the principal points is greater, it is feared, than can be consumed before new makes its appearance in the market, the consumption during the fall and winter having been greatly limited by the high prices ruling; while the sole object of the makers being the production of a large quantity, an article has been produced whose only claim to the name of butter was being packed in kegs or tennets.

Were the quality such as could be eaten with pleasure, the consumption of Canadian butter would be increased to an extent practically unlimited; but it is only in the entire absence of good, sweet, wholesome butter that any party will consume the poor, insipid, and ill-flavored trash so generally offered.

Until all parties interested in the manufacture and packing of butter combine to produce an article deserving of the name of butter, so long must all concerned be content to have seasons of stagnation and of serious falls in prices.

It is to be hoped that this important article of Canadian commerce will, next season, receive the attention it merits at the hands of makers and packers, the result of which would be an increase of profit to all concerned, which would richly reward the slight additional labor.

ASHES.—Pots are dull and drooping, having declined to \$5.20 to \$5.25. Pearls.—The very few coming in are sold at about previous rates.

English Grain Duty.

The English duty levied on all Foreign Grain (including colonial) is 8d sterling per 112 lbs. On Flour it is equivalent to 7½d stg. per barrel.

LEEMING & BUCHANAN'S WEEKLY COMMERCIAL REPORT.

FRIDAY MORNING, March 10, 1886.

FLOUR—Superior Extra.....	\$4 80 to 5 00
Extra.....	4 70 to 4 80
Fancy.....	4 50 to 4 55
Superfine.....	4 40 to 4 60
Superfine No. 2.....	4 10 to 4 20
Fine.....	3 70 to 3 80
BAG FLOUR—per 112 lbs Medium.....	2 40 to 2 45
Choice and Strong.....	2 50 to 2 55
OATMEAL—per bbl. of 200 lbs.....	4 75 to 5 00
WHEAT—per 60 lbs. U. C. Spring.....	0 98 to 1 00
PEASE—per 60 lbs.....	0 75 to 0 80
BARLEY—per 48 lbs.....	0 70 to 0 75
OATS—per 32 lbs.....	0 84 to 0 88
PORK—Mess.....	20 00 to 21 50
Prime Mess.....	15 00 to 16 00
Prime.....	14 50 to 0 00
LARD—per lb.....	0 11 to 0 12
TALLOW—per lb.....	0 08 to 0 08½
BUTTER—Inferior.....	0 14 to 0 16
Medium.....	0 16 to 0 17
Choice.....	0 19 to 0 20
CHEESE—per lb.....	0 08 to 0 10
ASHES—per 100 lbs. Pots—1st sorts.....	5 20 to 5 22½
“Inferiors.....	5 50 to 5 55
Pearls, 1st sort.....	5 45 to 5 00
“Inferiors.....	0 00 to 0 00
SEEDS—Timothy, per bush. 45 lbs.....	2 50 to 2 75
Flax, 58 lbs.....	1 40 to 1 50
Clover, per 100 lbs.....	11 00 to 12 50
LEAF TOBACCO—Canadian.....	0 32 to 0 04½
Missouri lugs.....	0 41 to 0 05
“leaf.....	0 06 to 0 09

We have advices from Europe to 26th ult., per "Cuba." The advance gained in Breadstuffs on previous market day had been lost, and both Flour and Wheat are reported dull and neglected. Provisions are in better demand, American Pork and Bacon having been cleared off the markets. Good Butter wanted. Pot Ashes declined to 30s. 8d.; Pearls 8½s.

FLOUR.—Receipts have improved for the past three days. There is an active demand however for Superfine; every thing that comes forward is picked up at once by jobbers at full quotations. For Choice and Strong brands of Super \$4.75 has been paid. Extras and Fancy are not in such request this week as last. There is very little of either description offering. Bag Flour is brisk, and taken freely at quotations. For May delivery not much doing.

WHEAT.—U. C. Spring is much wanted. We are offered \$1.04 for a quantity delivered in two weeks.

PEASE.—In good request at 75 c. For May delivery 82½ c. per 60 lb. is offering.

BARLEY.—Steady in price. Little doing, owing to difficulty of transit. Oats the same.

PORK, MESS.—Held firmly at \$21. Other grades scarce.

BUTTER.—The market is very quiet. Supply of ordinary is large. Choice Dairy scarce, and wanted at 20 c.

SEEDS.—Clover is in demand at quotations. Timothy scarce. Small sales have been at \$2.50 for fair, and 2 75 for prime; Flax \$1.40 to \$1.50, Riga \$6, per 50 lbs.

ASHES.—A further decline of 10 to 15 c. per 100 lbs has been submitted to this week for Pots. Pearls are quoted nominally. English advices and low exchange have caused the decline.

LEAF TOBACCO.—No sales of any consequence to note. Small lots of Canada Leaf have changed hands at 4 c. Missouri Leaf and Lugs have been sold at 8 to 8 c. Holders are firm at these figures. The new crop cannot be touched at these rates in any of the Western markets.

Financial Associations.

About a year ago the English public were flushed with the success of Finance companies, considering them an unfailing source of increasing profit. Shares ran up; but now since their fall they are puzzled. At first these companies were regarded as the philosopher's stone, now they are looked upon with uneasy suspicion,—conditions always attendant upon mere speculation; and it is not surprising, considering the immense number of Joint Stock companies already existing, together with many in the incipient shape of hatching under the fostering care of the Limited Liability Act. We note a few of said companies and their profits.

	Profits 1884.	Divid. 12 per cent. pr. an.
City Bank, London.....	£79,938 15 8 stg.	
Mercantile Credit Association.....	99,217 0 0	
London & Westminster Bank.....	247,235 0 0	
(Bonus of 13 pr. cent. and divid. 6 pr. cent.)		
Bank of London.....	62,719 13 2	Divid. 20 pr. ct.
London Joint Stock Bk.	21,625 9 7	" 12½ "
The London & County Bank.....	" 86 "	
Thames & Mersey Marine Insurance Co.,..	" 20 "	
National Discount Co.,	" 20 "	
Oriental Commer. Co.,	" 10 "	
General Credit and Finance Co.,.....	£150,000	" 15 "

MANUFACTURE OF POTASH.

To the Editor of the "TRADE REVIEW."

DEAR SIR,—

WE furnish you with our Circular containing directions for the manufacture of Potash, published by us in 1862, being a reprint of the old Circular of our predecessor, Mr. John Dougall.

JOHN DOUGALL & CO.,

General Commission Merchants,
Montreal.

The usual causes of inferiority in Ashes are, in the first place, dirty leys,—the leaching process not being sufficiently perfect, and the raw material in many cases being field ashes, mixed with a large portion of dirt.

The next cause is adulterating the ashes with lime, salt, sand, &c. Salt should in no case be used, and lime only in the leaches. On no account should stones, wood, raw ashes, lime, straw, or dirt, be put in to fill up a barrel.

The next cause is using weak leys. The last run of the leaches, when not able to float an egg or a potato, should never be boiled, but kept to wet the next leaches.

Another cause is bad barrels. Whiskey barrels, and green or unseasoned casks, the wood of which contains moisture of any kind, will cause the ashes to deteriorate rapidly. White oak and white ash casks are much preferable, and red oak should never be used where it can be avoided. All should be well seasoned.

Ashes should be emptied by coolers into the barrel, two coolers being just sufficient to fill one barrel; and there should be as little breaking of pot ashes as possible, as the more they are broken the more rapidly do they deteriorate by the action of the air. Ashes should never be packed hot into the barrels.

If the ashes have begun to melt before packing, the cakes may be rubbed with dry slacked lime to prevent further melting; but lime or raw ashes should never be thrown loosely over them, as this injures the appearance, and must be separated in inspection.

Barrels should weigh at least 80 lbs. when thoroughly seasoned, and they should be accurately weighed, and that weight legibly marked on the barrel before packing. They should be packed quite full, and should be covered with solid round hoops to the extent of two-thirds of the barrel. The dimensions of the barrels used should be 20 to 22 inches diameter of head, and 30 to 32 length of staves, larger or smaller being condemned by law.

After packing, the barrels should be well coopered, with three shingle-nails in the hoops of each, to prevent the heads from falling out, and put in a dry place, where they will not be exposed to moisture.

The marks should be quite legible in paint (see below), using always a running number; and same marks should be carefully inscribed in the railway receipt, a copy of which ought to be enclosed to consignee with letter of advice.

The grades by law established are first, second, and third sorts, and then unbranded Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, each grade being an additional eighth off the selling price of First. Thus, unbranded No. 5 has seven-eighths of the price of First deducted.

First Ashes should contain 77 per cent. of pure alkali, at least.

J. D. & Co.
M.

From.....

No.....

FRESH SEEDS.

Catalogues of our Stock of GARDEN AND FIELD SEEDS now ready.

LYMANS, CLARE & CO.,

St. Paul Street, Montreal.

LINSEED OIL CAKE FOR STOCK FEEDING.

LYMANS, CLARE & CO.,

St. Paul Street, Montreal.

FLAX SEED.

IMPORTED RIGA, AMERICAN, AND SELECTED CANADIAN, for sowing.

LYMANS, CLARE & CO.

LINSEED OIL.

20,000 GALLONS RAW, REFINED, AND DOUBLE BOILED LINSEED OIL.

For Sale low, for CASH.

LYMANS, CLARE & CO.

PAINTS, PUTTY, AND WINDOW GLASS.

LYMANS, CLARE & CO.