

**MONTREAL GRAIN AND PRODUCE.**  
Special to The Commercial.

Montreal, Dec. 31.  
Business has been quiet, and there is very little change from a week ago. Oats sold higher early in the week, but close the same as last week. Dressed hogs have advanced 1-4c.  
Oats—No. 2 white in car lots on local account 27c.  
Flour—Manitoba strong bakers, \$4.90 to \$5.00; Manitoba patents, \$5.40.  
Millfeed—Manitoba bran, including sacks, \$11.50 per ton. Shorts, \$12.50.  
Oatmeal—Rolled oats, \$1.65 to \$1.70, per bag.

Hides—9 1-2c for No. 1.  
Eggs—Candied, 16 to 18c; new in'd, 21 to 22c.  
Butter—Dairy, 15 to 16c.  
Butter—Creamery, 18 1-2 to 19 1-2c.  
Cheese—3 1-4 to 3 3-4c.  
Dressed hogs—\$6 to \$6.25 per 100 pounds.  
Dressed beef—Front quarters, 3 to 4c; hinds, 5 1-2 to 7c.  
Dressed mutton—Lamb, 6 1-2 to 7c, mutton, 5 to 6c.

**MONTREAL LIVE STOCK PRICES.**  
Special to The Commercial.

Montreal, Dec. 31.  
The live stock market has been dull and demand slow for cattle, with the outside range 1-4c lower. Hogs are in demand at 1-4c higher.  
Cattle—Choice, 4 1-4 to 4 1-2c, fair to good 3 to 4c.  
Sheep—3 to 3 3-4c per lb.  
Hogs—5 to 5 1-4c.

**MONTREAL HARDWARE MARKET.**  
Special to The Commercial.

Montreal, Dec. 31.  
The market for staple lines holds very steady, though there will likely be some changes when the spring movement begins. The feeling is one of firmness.  
White lead, government standard, \$5.37 1-2c; No. 1, \$5; dry white lead in kegs, 5c; red lead in kegs, 4 3-4c; linseed oil, raw, 43c, boiled 46c; turpentine, 48 to 49c; bar iron, \$...5 to \$1.45; tin plates, cokes, \$2.75 to \$2.90; I. C. charcoal, \$3.25 to \$3.75; Canada plates, \$2.10 to \$2.15; tern plates, \$5.95 to \$6.25; galvanized iron, 4 1-4 to 4 3-4c; lead, \$3.75 to \$4; iron pipe, \$3.90 to \$4; putty in bulk, \$1.50; in bladders, \$1.05c; ingot tin, 15 1-2 to 16c.

**MONTREAL GROCERY MARKET.**  
Special to The Commercial.

Montreal, Dec. 31.  
There has been a very strong tone in several staple lines. Molasses has continued its upward movement and prices are 1c higher again this week, with a probability of a further advance. Domestic canned goods are very firm. Tomatoes have made a very sharp advance, as will be seen by the quotations below, and corn and peas are also much higher, \$1 being asked by some holders.  
Quotations are: Granulated sugar, 4 1-4c in lots of over 250 barrels, and 4 3-8c for 100 bbl. lots, at the refineries; yellows, 3 1-4 to 3 7-8c. Molasses, 27 to 29c. Syrups, 13 1-4 to 2 1-2c as to quality. Valencia raisins from 4 3-4 to 5 1-2c. Valencia layers 6 1-2c. Currants, 5 1-8 to 6 1-2c, as to brand. Coffee, Rio, 8 1-2 to 1c Mocha and Java 20 to 24c.  
Canned goods.—Tomatoes, \$1.20 to \$1.25; corn, 90c to \$1; peas, 90c to \$1.

**TORONTO WHOLESALE TRADE.**  
Special to The Commercial.

Toronto, Dec. 31.  
Wools are quiet and stocks small. Prices firm. Ontario woolen mills are working day and night on blankets. There are good orders for heavy hosiery and mitts for the Klondike trade. Groceries are active, and good orders from the west. All refined sugars advanced 1-8c this week. Tomatoes are ten cents higher at \$1.10. Currants, provincial, vostizilas, and patras 1-2c higher. Drugs active. Quinine likely to advance to \$5 and \$6.50. Creosote twenty per cent higher.

**TORONTO GRAIN AND PRODUCE MARKETS.**  
Special to The Commercial.

Toronto, Dec. 31.  
Weather soft and unfavorable for business. Grain deliveries are increasing in the country. Oats are dearer. No. 2 white sold at 25c for car lots at country points. Peas 1c higher at 36c. Ontario wheat steady at 82 1-2c. Manitoba wheat in better demand and firmer at \$1.04, grinding in transit, and \$1.03 North Bay. Manitoba flour in active demand. Patent, \$5.45; strong bakers, \$4.95. Eggs, fresh gathered, 25c. dozen. Hhd stock, 18c.

**MINNEAPOLIS MARKETS.**

Flour is quoted 10 to 20c lower. Corn 1-2c higher; oats 1 to 1 1-4c higher; feed barley 1-2c higher; butter 1 to 2c lower; poultry lower for turkeys and geese.  
Flour—Prices in barrels: First patents \$5 to \$5.15, second patents, \$4.80 to \$4.95.  
Millfeed—Shorts in bulk, \$7.75 to \$8; bran in bulk, \$7.50 to \$7.75; corn feed, \$10.00 to \$11.00 per ton.  
Corn—Quoted 25c to 25 1-4c for No. 4, 25 1-2c for No. 3, 25 3-4c for No. 3 yellow per bushel of 56 pounds.  
Oats—Held at 23 1-4 to 23 3-8c for No. 3 white, and 23 to 23 1-4c for No. 3 per bushel of 32 lbs.  
Barley—Feed quoted at 23 1-2c to 24c.  
Flax seed—\$1.17 1-2 for No. 1 per bushel.  
Eggs—16c for strictly fresh, including cases; cold storage 10 to 14c.  
Cheese—Choice to fancy, 9 to 10c; fair to good, 7 1-2 to 8c.  
Butter—Creamery 19 to 20 1-2, seconds, 16 to 17c; dairy, 12 to 18c.  
Dressed meats—Mutton, 4 to 6 1-2c; lambs, 5 to 8c; hogs, 3 1-4 to 3 1-2c for heavy and 4c for medium and light.  
Potatoes—Car lots, mixed, 38 to 40c; choice, named varieties, 43 to 50c.  
Poultry—Chickens 5 to 6c; old fowl 4 to 5c; turkeys 6 to 8 1-2c; ducks 7 to 8c; geese 6 to 7c.

**LIVE STOCK MARKETS.**

London, Dec. 27.—The trade in cattle was fair, but the tendency was weaker and prices show a decline of 1-4c since the day week, choice States cattle selling at 11 1-4c. Argentine cattle steady at 10c and sheep at 10 1-2c. No Canadian offered.  
The Montreal Gazette says: "There is no demand whatever in this market for export stock and the bulk of the shipments going forward by way of St. John, N. B., and Portland, are United States cattle."  
At the East End abattoir market Montreal, on Dec. 27, the market was quiet. Prices were maintained. A few extra choice beefs sold at 4 1-2c; choice at 4 1-4c; good at 3 1-2c to 4c; fair at 3c to 3 1-4c, and common at 2

1-4c to 2 3-4c per lb, live weight. Sheep ruled firm; lambs at 3 1-4c to 3 3-4c, and sheep at 4 1-4c to 4 3-4c per pound.

**LIVERPOOL MARKETS.**  
Liverpool, Dec. 30.—The grain and provisions exchange will be closed on Saturday, Jan. 1, 12.30 p.m.—Wheat—Spot quiet; No. 1 California 8s 3d to 8s 4d. Corn—Spot firm. Bacon—Long clears 35 to 38 lbs., 28s 6d. Lard—Prime western 24s 6d.  
Close—Corn—Futures steady. Jan. 3s 2 3-8d; Feb. 3s 2 1-2d.

**BANK STATEMENT.**

London, Dec. 30.—The weekly statement of the Bank of England shows the following changes, compared with the previous account: Total reserve decreased £13,000; circulation decreased £200,000; bullion decreased £329,890; other securities increased £3,093,000; public deposits increased £2,400; notes reserve decreased £100,000. Government securities were unchanged. The proportion of the Bank of England's reserve to liability, which last week was 42.97 per cent, is now 40.01 per cent. The bank's rate of discount remains unchanged at 3 per cent.

**NEW YORK MONEY.**

New York, Dec. 30.—3 p. m.—Money on call firm at 3 1-2 to 4 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 3 1-2 to 4 3-4 per cent. Sterling exchange strong with actual business in banker's bills at \$1.84 3-4 to \$1.85 for demand and at \$1.82 to 1-4 for 60 days. Posted rates, \$1.82 1-2 to 3 and \$1.85 1-2 to 6. Commercial bills \$1.81. Bar silver 57 3-8c. Mexican dollars 46 1-4c. Government bonds strong.

**BRITISH STOCKS.**

London, Dec. 30.—4 p. m.—Consols for money 112 15-16; do. for the account 113. Canadian Pacific 83 5-8; bar silver strong, 26 5-8; money 2 3-4 to 3 1-4 per cent. Rate of discount in open market, both short and three months bills, 3 per cent.

**EUROPEAN CROPS.**

London, Dec. 20.—The Mark Lane Express reviewing crop prospects says: "The English wheat fields have a satisfactory appearance and the French now regarded as favorable, but it is doubted if the acreage will be as large as a year ago. The Italian acreage will probably be increased, as the whole autumn has been favorable to sowings. News from Russia varies. Mildness reported in the Black sea district, but snow in the greater portion of the empire. The stocks awaiting export in Russian ports amount to 1,562,000 quarters, against 2,552,000 quarters a year ago, suggesting that the recent Russian shipments were heavier than the reserves justified."

**MONTREAL STOCKS.**

Montreal, Dec. 30.—Commercial Cable 178; Canadian Pacific in London, 83 1-2.

**CLEARING HOUSE RETURNS.**

Clearings.	Balances.
Week ending Dec. 30, 1897	\$1,816,204 \$337,537
Week ending Dec. 30, 1896	1,353,819 272,376
Week ending Dec. 30, 1895	1,250,537 334,960

**NORTHWEST ONTARIO.**

Taylor & McKay are opening a restaurant at Rat Portage.

Mr. Merrick, of Merrick, Anderson & Co., Winnipeg, has returned from a business trip to the Territories.