PROVISIONS.—The butter market is easy with heavy receipts. For cheese, the demand is slow at 9 to 10c. for choice lots. Stocks of eggs are accumulating, and retailers are purchasing with caution. Prices, however, are scarcely likely to go very much lower in the near future. There is a pretty good enquiry for good qualities of poultry. Receipts of dressed hogs continue light and the market for hog products is very firm, the demand being greater than what can be supplied at short notice.

WOOL.—It looks as though things are about to take a turn in the wool market. Prices remain as low as ever, in fact quotations this week are distinctly lower, but it is true, which heretofore it has not been, that a certain amount of business is being done here. This is due to the improved conditions prevailing in Great Britain and the States, which has imparted a feeling of comparative confidence. So far, however, no demand exists for export.

THE METRIC SYSTEM.

The British Consul, at Moscow, is a strong supporter of a speedy change to the decimal system of weights and measures. If England, he says, does not promptly wake up in this matter, Russia will be a lost customer to her. He admonishes British manufacturers to avoid English weights, measures, and coinage because Russia does not understand them. The ordinary British catalogue, he assures us, is no sooner received that it is consigned to the waste paper basket, and the order it might have secured is sent to Germany. Will this lesson ever be learnt? In the past, Britain was, commercially speaking, in a position to dictate her system to the world on the take-it-or-leave-it lines, because America, Germany, Russia and Japan were practically non-existent as competitors. But that condition of things has gone, never to return. Now, says he, Great Britain has to fight for her trade; and to do so with the present obsolete system of weights, measures, and coinage is just as foolish as it would have been to fight the Boers with old matchlocks instead of modern rifles.

FINANCIAL MATTERS IN NEW YORK.

Henry Clews & Co., in their weekly report, under date of Saturday last, say:

There has been a slight decline during the week in the volume of transactions on the Stock Exchange, though the sales have been more than double those of a year ago; and the tone of business remains buoyant and on the whole has favored the "bull" side. The unsettled feeling incident to the great "deals" has subsided without leaving behind a visible ripple of after-effects, and showing none of the reaction that has been expected to succeed such extraordinary stimulations. This unexpected steadiness may be, in some measure, attributed to the belief that the influential promoters of the deals are still behind the scenes supporting the general market, in order to smooth the later adjustments connected with their immense operations. There is a class of operators who seem almost unconscious of the extent to which Wall Street conditions have recently become abnormal. It hardly strikes them as a somewhat startling fact that, within the first ten weeks of the current year, the sales of stocks at the Exchange have amounted to 58,500,000 shares, compared with 23,400,000 shares for the same weeks of 1900; while the transactions in bonds have reached $232,700,000, against $106,300,000 a year ago. This enormous expansion of transactions has occurred on a scale of prices 30 to 35 points above the previous normal of values. So steady has the market become on this immensely advanced scale of prices, that many uninitiated operators take all this as a matter of course, and assume that the inflation has come to stay. But it should never be forgotten that the professional operator has a keen and true eye for the danger-line and usually locates it at the point where the outsider is most sanguine. It may be taken for granted that, from this time forward, every further advance brings the situation so much nearer the culminating point. We are nearing a point at which the money market usually becomes sensitive in anticipation of the disturbance of loans incident to the April settlements. How far this may affect the stock market remains to be seen. True, the reserves of the banks are unusually low for this season of the year; but the stock market has now become such an overwhelming factor in finance that its demands command more respect than they have heretofore received. The broadening of our relations with the European money markets also has an important bearing upon domestic finance. These new relations conduce very directly to a steadier movement in the home money market, and make it easier for the banks to satisfy the wants of the Stock Exchange.

WHAT THE STRATHCONAS THOUGHT OF LONDON.

The cow-puncher and the bronco-buster have taken possession of London. In fact, Strathcona's Horse are in town. There's one sweet thing about Strathconas. They don't strut. They don't preen their feathers on the sunshine side of Piccadilly, and they don't vie with one another in spur-clanking competitions. They slither along quietly, with their swaying shoulder lounging in the cowboy swoop—and they look inexpressible things.

Three of them sailed into a barber's establishment the other morning, where they were interviewed by a newspaper man.

"Been in town, before?" asked the latter of one of them.

"Not in this town," replied the warrior, with a delicious ignorance of the phrase.

"And what do you think of it?"

"A derned big place."

Silence.

Then, "Have you seen the sights?"

"Yes, all show places, mostly. They make your head ache."

"Westminster Abbey, for example?"

"Well—all right; but full of tombs and monuments. A bit stifling after the Rockies."

"And the Monument——?"

"Makes your legs ache!"

"Have you seen the Zoo?"

"I guess I have; and I can smell it still!"

The Star man, rather in despair, tried the weather, and brought a spark of enthusiasm from the bronzed Canadian.

"The cold's all right, but the damp's trying. Stops you from breathing."

Another shot. "How does the London crowd impress you—and the traffic?" That brought a frank admission.

"Well, that is astonishing. Everybody's continually treading on your toes"—he stuck out a great brown spurred boot—"and how you Londoners get across the road licks creation. It takes me fifteen minutes, solid. And then I'm in a dead fright!"

"What has impressed you most during your stay?"

"First of all"—with a gleam from his bright eye—"the astonishing kindness of everybody, and secondly, how your omnibus men drive. They're wonderful!"

Strathcona's men saw the King drive from Buckingham Palace to Parliament. "Best circus I ever saw," he said. "And that coach! ! !"

The English Tommy in England and the English Tommy in Africa struck him as two totally different individuals. "You see 'em in England as though they were behind a big store window—or show," he said. "In Africa they show you their business end—and it is business."

"And the British officer in Africa?"

"A good chap. A real good sort. But why the h—l does he wear an eyeglass? It's like putting a ham frill round a Martini-Henry!"—London Star.