

	Cheese, boxes.	Butter, pkgs.
1897	2,102,985	220,252
1898	1,720,220	157,321
1899	1,710,007	69,664
1894	1,720,038	32,187
1893	1,682,946	76,914
1892	1,608,353	103,139
1891	1,352,070	81,801
1890	1,480,220	30,142
1889	1,157,854	41,957
1888	1,134,349	10,528
1887	1,104,065	60,353
1886	891,065	54,293
1885	1,070,001	66,545
1884	1,108,448	108,137
1883	859,812	92,764
1882	677,211	64,620
1881	551,847	130,481
1880	507,009	194,366
1879	518,240	180,322
1878	407,676	108,399
1877	398,188	87,246
1876	463,060	168,048
1875	507,062	115,417

ONTARIO CROPS

The final crop report for 1897 has been published by the provincial department of agriculture for Ontario. The yield of wheat has been large, and much of it is of first-class quality. But a portion of the crop is not up to the standard in either weight, or quality, as some of the grain "sprouted" during the wet weather. A large area of new fall wheat has been sown, but owing to the dry condition of the soil, much of the seedling was done later than usual. Spring wheat was rather poor in the west, but good in the remainder of the province, although much shrunken grain is reported in some quarters. Rye and buckwheat are evidently being restored to favor, and both were splendid crops this year. Peas have been a great disappointment. A few had good returns, but the yields generally were light. The bug was unusually destructive. Corn was a splendid yield, but some got nipped by the frost. Potatoes were struck by a blight or rot in September, nearly all the older sections of the province suffering more or less. In some places about 50 per cent. of the crop was lost. Fruit trees are in good condition. There is not the usual surplus of pears and apples are scabby and scarce in most parts of the province. Grapes were abundant, but late clusters were caught by the frost.

The area and yield of crops is as follows:

	Acres.	Bushels.	Yield per acre.
Fall wheat	950,222	23,988,031	25.2
Spring wheat	323,305	4,868,101	15.1
Barley	451,515	12,021,779	26.6
Oats	2,432,491	86,318,128	35.5
Rye	187,785	3,822,005	18.
Peas	890,735	13,867,093	15.5
Buckwheat	151,969	3,464,186	22.8
Beans	50,591	981,340	19.4
Potatoes	169,338	10,100,797	95.1
Corn	335,030	24,603,398	73.6

LIVE STOCK EXPORTS

Last week The Commercial gave a telegraphic report of the exports of live stock from the port of Montreal for the season just closed. Exports

from Montreal practically include the export trade of Canada, as shipments from other ports are limited. Some further information regarding the season's live stock trade is gleaned from the very complete report given by the Gazette. The season has been an unprofitable one. It is estimated by most of the prominent exporters that the average loss during the season on cattle is fully \$6 per head, and some of them have even went as far as to say that the above figure, if anything, is below the mark. In round figures, therefore, exporters have lost in the neighborhood of three-quarters of a million dollars. This has been principally due to the engineers' strike in Great Britain, which was in full blast throughout most of the season, demoralizing the markets, while there was a large increase in supplies far in excess of the requirements of the trade, and the inferior quality of stock sent forward from September to the close of the season had a further depressing effect upon values in foreign markets.

The total number of cattle shipped was 115,188 head, of which 12,171 head were from the United States, shipped through in bond. These figures show an increase of 18,823 head as compared with last year. The average cost per head is placed at \$60, making a total value of \$7,151,250, and ocean freight at an average of \$10 per head is \$1,191,850, while the railway carrying charges at \$8.25 per head amounts to \$957,361.

The season opened much higher for choice export cattle than the markets abroad warranted, the ruling price for stall fed and distillery stock being 5c to 5 1-2c at points of shipment, which figures were fully 1-2c per lb. higher than was paid in 1896. This was due to some extent to the competition between United States and Canadian buyers, the former being almost forced into the market on account of the scarcity and high prices prevailing for suitable shipping stock in the United States markets, and as they had the bulk of the ocean space contracted for from United States ports, the stock had to be secured at almost any cost.

Another striking feature of the trade this season has been the active demand from United States buyers for stockers, and large numbers have been shipped out of the country, which will probably have considerable effect upon prices for choice stock next season.

The sheep exporters have shared the misfortunes of the cattle shippers, and those who have sent forward a large number state that the trade during the whole season was bad. The shipments for the season were 61,254 head, showing a decrease of 19,417,

compared with 1896. This industry has fallen off over 50 per cent. since the embargo was passed on our sheep in January, 1896, as the exports for the season 1895 were 130,728 head.

The shipments of horses show a small decrease as compared with last year. The total number exported for the season 1897 was 10,051 head, as against 10,088 in 1896, showing a decrease of 37 head, while in 1895 there were shipped 12,755 head, or 2,704 more than went forward this year. The trade throughout the summer months has been satisfactory to those who were fortunate enough to be in it. The prices realized during the past season for good suitable horses averaged from £20 to £36 per head, and such stock as this would cost shippers in the country from \$60 to \$110 each. Some sales of fancy driving, carriage and thoroughbred animals have been made at prices ranging from £80 to £150 in the London market, but, of course, these figures are very rarely obtained.

The cost of handling horses from point of shipment in the country to their destination is \$35 per head, which includes ocean and railway freight, feed and insurance.

TELEGRAPHIC SERVICE

It may not have occurred to many of our readers that The Commercial is giving quite an extensive special telegraphic market report service. Our telegraphic reports last week included the total exports for the season of navigation, then just closed at Montreal, of cattle, sheep, horses, butter, cheese, etc. The Commercial was the only journal in the west to secure and publish these reports.

INSOLVENCY LAW

The Ottawa board of trade has suggested that a meeting of the Dominion board of trade should be held on or about the opening of parliament, to consider the proposed insolvency law question, particularly with a view to impressing the need of such a law upon the government. The Montreal board, however, has not adopted the suggestion of the Ottawa board as to the advisability of holding a meeting of delegates of the various boards of trade, unless the government should fail to introduce a bill, or having introduced it, there should appear to be a likelihood of its not passing the house.

WANTED—TRUSTWORTHY AND ACTIVE gentlemen or ladies to travel for responsible, established house in Manitoba. Monthly \$65.00 and expenses. Position steady. Reference. Enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. The Dominion Company, Department Y, Chicago.