

for grey goat skins, used for robes, have risen 20 to 40 per cent., and it is almost impossible, under the present state of affairs and the heavy purchasing for local requirements, to make contracts at all. There is a better demand for linings than probably has ever been experienced before, though grey linings are cheaper than a year or two ago.

And now a word regarding Persian lamb, that old favorite with the Canadian consumer. At the Nijni-Novgorod Fair, prices for this article, as for others, were depressed, and the collectors had lost fortunes in trying to keep up the prices on a par with last year. Canadians, however, are now very prosperous and they seek only the very best qualities of Persian lamb in the market. Now, of such as these, the stocks in hand are but limited, and they fetch a very high price, so that, in this particular article, there is no chance of obtaining anything really cheap.



PRICES FOR LIVE STOCK.

The quality, both of butchers' and export cattle lately offered in Toronto, has been quite poor, as a rule, with the natural result that prices have kept low. For export cattle there was hardly any demand in the city market, and they sold at \$4.40 to \$4.75 per hundred for the best, down to \$4.25 for average, and less for rough feeders. At the Union Stock Yards they fetched from \$3.87½ to \$4.65, the general range being from \$4.25 to \$4.40. Export bulls fetched \$3.40 to \$3.75, though a few choice obtained \$4. Butchers' cattle at the same market varied greatly in the price obtainable. The best realized fair values, from \$4.45 to \$4.65, while the average quotation was around \$4, and inferior were only worth \$2.50 to \$3. At the city yards, also, there was a pretty good enquiry for really choice butchers', but these were scarce and very few cattle sold for higher than \$4.40. The tone in fact was easy all round. Stockers and feeders have been in good supply for so long that the demand has become slack. Animals for distillery purposes fetched \$3.40 to \$3.75, or less, unless they were good stock. The demand for good milch cows was strong, more than the market could supply, in fact, at the last day's trading at the Junction. They are worth anywhere from \$30 to \$60 each for good grades. The run of sheep and lambs has been heavy, but values keep steady. Export ewes have fetched about \$3.50, lambs, \$4 to \$4.50.

Liverpool advices of ten days or so ago stated that the improvement in demand for cattle, which had been anticipated for some time past, had not materialized, perhaps on account of the damp, uncomfortable weather, but probably due still more to the poor quality of the stuff received. In London at the same time, however, a better tone was discernible, Canadian bullocks of best quality realizing 12¼c., second quality, 11 to 11½c., and American sometimes 13c. Canadian sheep sold at 11½ to 12c. per pound. There has since been a decline, however. Taking the whole cattle market, both prices and trade in the United Kingdom are distinctly discouraging, and the wonder is expressed how exporters on this side can stand their continued losses.

PUNISH CIVIC DISHONESTY.

The arousing of a community or a people to see the evil effects of municipal corruption, and to combat them is not always easy. For many years bribery and graft ran riot in the great cities of the United States while the mass of population who suffered from them were either ignorant of these vices or careless of their ruinous effects. But when things are at their worst, as the saying is, they begin to mend. And in the last five years more has been done than in any previous period to probe municipal sores of the kind and to cure them.

Chicago, Minneapolis, Denver, St. Louis, Philadelphia, New York, are some of the places where dishonesty was draining the money of the citizens and steadily lowering the tone of city administration. Happily, a civic spirit has been aroused to combat these evils, and good strides have been made towards remedying them.

During 1903 there were sentenced to State prison in connection with the Ames scandals in Minneapolis, Mayor Ames and the chief of police for six years, detectives and policemen for other terms, while the superintendent of the poor and his book-keeper were indicted.

In Grand Rapids, Michigan, the confession of a former city attorney laid bare an alarming and disgusting plot in connection with the water-works. Fourteen aldermen and ex-aldermen of that city, a deputy city marshal, a state senator, an ex-city clerk, four newspaper men, and three attorneys were arrested charged with bribery, conspiracy, perjury. Three confessed and three were convicted. A peculiar phase of this case is that because some of the daily papers were involved the people of the city were unable to get full reports of the court's proceedings.

In Chicago, an investigation into alleged "graft" was conducted by a special committee of the city council, appointed by the mayor. Five health inspectors were indicted for bribe-taking, that is, for allowing plumbers to omit the tests of plumbing work required by city ordinances. This is a peculiarly horrible procedure, since it exposes whole households to virulent maladies. The system covered nearly the entire city, and thousands of persons were exposed thereby to typhoid, diphtheria, and other deadly diseases. As a result, the sanitary bureau of the city has been purged and is now in a fair way to become an effective safeguard of the public health.

In St. Louis a great campaign has been carried on by Mr. Folk, circuit attorney, against boodlers. Some were convicted and others confessed, but they have not yet got their deserts because the attorney was hampered by the technicalities of the law, which, originally devised to prevent injustice being done to the one innocent man among the 100, are now being utilized to prevent the 99 guilty men from getting their just deserts. The jury found "Boss" Butler, of that city, guilty, but sentence was reversed because, as one observer put it, "there was an attempt by a de facto boodler to bribe a de facto board of health, and to get a de facto 'rake-off' from the cost of removing de facto garbage under a de facto contract made by