

Available Supply of Breadstuffs.

According to the returns of Broomhall's Corn Trade News, Liverpool, specially cabled to the Daily Trade Bulletin, the aggregate supplies of breadstuffs in Europe and afloat therefor on February 1, exhibited the marked decrease of 16,000,000 bushels during the month of January, against an increase of 400,000 bushels during December, and an increase of 5,600,000 bushels during January, 1895. The aggregate supplies were reported at 73,800,000 bushels, against 89,800,000 bushels on January 1, and 81,100,000 bushels on February 1, 1895. The quantity reported afloat showed a reduction of 3,900,000 bushels during January. The quantity afloat for Great Britain was decreased 500,000 bushels and 3,700,000 bushels to the continent, while the quantity "for orders" was increased 300,000 bushels. The aggregate quantity afloat was 9,200,000 bushels less than on February 1, 1895. The aggregate quantity of breadstuffs in store in the principal countries of Europe on February 1 was 12,100,000 bushels less than reported on January 1, and 1,100,000 less than on February 1, 1895. Stocks in the United Kingdom were reduced 4,800,000 bushels, in France 700,000 bushels; in Belgium, Germany and Holland 300,000 bushels; and in Russia 6,800,000 bushels. Compared with the returns of one year ago, the stocks in store in Great Britain are 2,600,000 bushels less; in Belgium, Germany and Holland 1,500,000 bushels less; in France 200,000 bushels more, and in Russia 2,800,000 bushels more. It is evident that Russia has been marketing wheat quite freely. The aggregate supplies in store and afloat for the United Kingdom on February 1 were 6,900,000 bushels less than last year, and those credited to the continent 600,000 bushels less. The quantity afloat "for orders" was 2,800,000 bushels less than reported one year ago.

DOMESTIC SUPPLIES.

The domestic supplies of breadstuffs in the United States and Canada, at the points reporting to the Daily Trade Bulletin and the Daily Market Record, of Minneapolis, exhibit a decrease of 5,696,200 bushels during January, against an increase of 5,610,400 bushels during December, and a decrease of 10,078,000 bushels during January, 1895, and 11,118,000 bushels during January, 1894. The aggregate stocks of flour exhibited a decrease of 91,000 barrels during January, against a reduction of 7,900 barrels during December, and a decrease of 105,100 barrels during January, 1895.

The supplies at the seaboard markets on February 1 were 493,315 barrels, against 510,535 barrels on January 1, and 445,807 barrels on February 1, 1895. The aggregate stocks at all points on February 1 were 320,400 barrels larger than reported one year previous.

During January the aggregate supplies of wheat in the United States and Canada decreased 5,512,200 bushels against an increase of 5,616,000 bushels during December, and a reduction of 9,695,000 bushels during January, 1895. Supplies throughout the East and on the Pacific coast were materially reduced, and slightly through the central west. In the northwest and in Canada, there was a fair increase in the supplies. The aggregate supplies of wheat on hand on February 1, were 11,855,500 bushels smaller than reported one year previous. Supplies on the Pacific coast are 6,817,000 bushels less than reported last year—a reduction of over 47 per cent. Supplies in Illinois are 6,689,000 bushels less, and in New York 6,433,000 bushels less. In the Northwest supplies were 13,399,000 bushels larger than reported on February 1, 1895, and in Canada were 1,971,000 bushels more, almost exclusively in Manitoba.

SUPPLIES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

The aggregate supplies of breadstuffs in Europe and afloat therefor, and in the United

States and Canada, at the points reporting on February 1, 1896, were equal 202,832,900 bushels against 224,797,000 bushels on January 1, and 223,493,000 bushels on February 1, 1895. Stocks during January were reduced 21,965,000 bushels, against an increase of 6,010,000 bushels during December, and a reduction of 1,479,000 bushels during January, 1895.

Uses of the Sunflower.

The poetical nature of the sunflower has received ample attention from the pens of writers, but its practical utility is just beginning to be generally recognized. In China and Russia the sunflower is considered a valuable plant, and it is raised for its seeds at the rate of nearly half a million pounds annually. The poor farmers of Italy and India likewise attach great importance to the plant, and the seeds are harvested for animal food and for poultry. One of the most important uses for the sunflower seeds is as food for poultry and cattle. It has long been valued by progressive farmers as an excellent and cheap food for fowls. Nothing makes them fatten quicker, and they will frequently leave all other food for them. The seeds make the hens lay better, and greatly increase their weight. They can be raised cheaper than corn and give better results. As a food for cattle, experiments are now in progress at several of the experiment stations, and the results so far obtained are very satisfactory.

Sunflower oil made from the seeds is in great demand in this country. In Russia millions of pounds of the seeds are raised annually for the oil, and large quantities of this oil are exported from that country. In the crude state it is used by painters for inside work, but it does not quite equal linseed oil for varnish purposes. It is mixed with most of our cheap paints, and also with many prepared stains. Of late years efforts have been made to refine the oil so as to sell it in competition with olive oil. In fact purified sunflower oil is used quite extensively to adulterate salad oils. Many consider it quite equal to the ordinary grade of olive and almond oil for table uses. It is of a pale yellow color, flavorless and palatable. In Maryland considerable of this oil is made to supply the Baltimore trade. After the oil is extracted from the seeds the residue is made into cakes for cattle food, and while not so nutritious as the food made from the fresh seeds it is of considerable value. The factories that express the oil sell the seed cakes at a merely nominal sum. In the poorer districts of India and Europe a fair kind of bread is made from sunflower seeds and the natives depend upon it for a steady article of diet. Their cattle are fed with the same diet, only the seeds and heads are chopped up together, and even the leaves are fed to the animals. The stalks, when stripped of their leaves and heads are dried and used for fuel. One acre of sunflowers will yield a great many cords of good wood. The stalks are large, tough, brittle and good burners. A few acres of such fuel will last one winter. There are many other uses for sunflowers that the ingenuity of man has devised, but the instances cited are sufficient to show the sunflower has outlived its association with a decadent æsthetic philosophy and become of practical value if not of universal use.

Leather and Boots and Shoes.

Manufacturers are still buying from hand to mouth, says the Montreal Trade Bulletin, and consequently no large lots are changing hands either in sole or black leather. Stocks are certainly not large, and as soon as buyers commence to lay in supplies they will find that it will not take much to absorb them. Montreal prices are: No. 2 manufacturers' sole 19 to 21c; jobbers' sole 22 to 23c; slaughter sole 21 to 22c; waxed upper 27 to 32c;

grain 12 to 14c; buff 10 to 12c; splits 20 to 21c for Ontario and 15 to 16c for Quebec; pebble 10 to 11c; glove 10 to 12c.

Business still continues quiet, the amount of spring orders so far taken showing a large falling off as compared with this time last year, although a few more orders have been received during the week. There are still complaints of cutting, but prices are about steady on the whole.

The settlers' excursions from Ontario for Manitoba via the Canadian Pacific Railway will leave Toronto beginning Tuesday, March 3rd, and every Tuesday during that month and April. To assist in promoting the comfort of those who will take advantage of the excursions, W. D. Scott, Manitoba government agent will accompany the train and supply any information desired.

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