FOOD SUPPLIES IN WESTERN CANADA.

What Winnipeg Imports—Mixed Farming at Saskatchewan and Alberta Points.

The early opening of the new Central Market, which has been completed and equipped by the Winnipeg industrial bureau, brings up the question of the great demand in Winnipeg for the produce of market garden and farm. Winnipeg annually imports from the United States, and ships from eastern points, thousands of dollars' worth of these articles, which might with advantage be produced on the spot. The following figures of the imports of live stock and dairy and market garden produce, for the fiscal year ending March, 1912, compiled by the department of customs at Ottawa, throw interesting light on the subject:—

	Quantity.	Value.
Sheep (number)	15,661	$ 61,262
Cattle (number)	239	10,877
Horses (number)	3,526	309,151
Mutton and lamb, fresh (pounds)	192,939	12,689
Bacon and ham, shoulders and sides (pounds)	4,988,859	573,569
Pork, barreled in brine (pounds)	2,850	269
Dried or smoked meats and meats preserved in any other way than salted or pickled (pounds)	18,604	3,216
Other meats, fresh (pounds)	696,788	68,661
Other meats, salted (pounds)	92,709	9,601
Eggs (dozen)	1,596,482	314,141
Cheese (pounds)	14,565	1,996
Potatoes (bushels)	18,722	28,092
Vegetables	......	76,232

From Other Sources.

The following facts have been obtained from reliable sources:—

	Quantity.	Value.
Butter receipts at Winnipeg from Eastern Canada and United States for calendar year 1912: 68 cars (pounds)	2,000,000	$560,000
Dressed poultry receipts at Winnipeg from Eastern Canada and United States for calendar year 1912: 54 cars (pounds)	1,620,000	243,000
In 1912 Winnipeg creamery companies imported milk and cream from St. Paul and Minneapolis alone, worth	......	102,000

An important event in Winnipeg this year, the Canada Land and Apple Show, takes place on October 10-18. The land show, which will provide opportunity for complete displays of the produce of the land, orchards, forests, mines and waters of the Dominion, is being held with the object of directing attention to Canada, and providing the prospective settler, fruit-grower, home-seeker, business man, and investor, with complete and authentic information regarding all sections of the west.

Proof Furnished by Results.

This country has now been demonstrated as suitable for all branches of mixed farming, writes Mr. F. Maclure Sclanders, board of trade commissioner at Saskatoon, and those western points which have already taken it up are the most prosperous to-day. The mere grain grower is now recognizing the foregoing fact. He begins to realize that, like all other business men, he also must work twelve months of the year, instead of six or seven. Mixed farmers all over this West have done splendidly. They owe nothing, or practically nothing—a fact which banks and merchants at mixed farming points will duly confirm.

Experience has shown conclusively that Macleod, Alberta, farmers can raise sheep, hogs, poultry, potatoes, onions, cabbage, celery, asparagus, turnips. carrots, beets, parsnips and other products. They can also raise the best cattle and produce eggs and butter in enormous quantities. The market is here, and now that the settlers have commenced to realize that there is money in mixed farming and that it is one of the best insurances that can be taken out to guard against loss, there is no doubt that before long the Macleod district will be noted more for its mixed farming than anything else. In former years large amounts of money was sent outside for dairy and poultry products, but in future much of this will be kept at home, as the men who before were inclined to be dilatory realize that there are as profitable crops as wheat, is Mr. N. C. Moffat's, industrial commissioner at Macleod, Alberta, statement.

CANADIAN NORTHERN TO COAST SOON.

The new Canadian Northern line from Quebec, via Montreal and Ottawa, to Port Arthur, will be ready for traffic by the time navigation closes this year. This will take the completed road through to the summit of the Rockies in British Columbia. The railway thence to Vancouver will probably be completed two or three months later.

WHAT ONE CENT MEANS TO COBALT.

Fluctuations of Silver Prices Are Closely Watched in Northern Ontario.

The rise of one cent in the yearly average price of silver means an additional income to the shipping mines of Cobalt of about $300,000. The average price of silver during 1912 was 7.5 cents above the average of 1911. That raised the income of Cobalt last year by $2,250,000. If we assume that the cost of production last year was the same as for the preceeding year, Mr. A. A. Cole, mining engineer of the Ontario Government railway, is generous enough to think that the large increase in income as a result of higher prices will become directly available for increased dividends early in 1913.

When the final returns for Cobalt are received, they will probably show a decline of 1,000,000 ounces in production for 1912 compared with the previous year. Here again the increased value of silver acts as an important factor, as the total value of the 1912 production will likely show an increase of about $2,000,000.

World's Third Silver Producer

Canada has good reason to evince a lively interest in the silver market, as it continues to occupy third place in the list of world's silver producers, Mexico and the United States coming first and second, respectively, as the following table shows:—

	1911. Fine ounces.	1912. Fine ounces.
Mexico	79,032,440	76,500,000
United States	60,399,400	62,369,903
Canada	32,740,748	35,250,000
Australasia	16,578,421	17,950,000
Other countries	36,621,835	37,500,000
	225,372,844	229,569,903

London is the chief silver market of the world and is the base of prices. Much of the silver bullion shipped from Cobalt now goes direct to London. Recently there has been a decided reaction in the price of bar silver in London. One of the chief causes of this is said to be the fact that the Indian Government is not likely again to be an early buyer of silver for coinage into rupees. An opinion to this effect is expressed by Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Company, the brokers who were employed by the Indian Government last year to make large purchases of the metal for the mint. The firm appears to base its opinion upon the state of the Indian currency reserve, which has recently been reflecting an increase in silver holdings.

Silver Prices Low.

The firm refers to the recent sales of silver at prices which were the lowest since April 5 last and adds:—

"The cause of this must be deep-set, for on some days business has been almost microscopic, and neither China nor any other quarter has been oppressing the market. Although June is described as a marriage month, the Indian bazaars have been but poor buyers; in the last day or so they have offered for sale substantial amounts of silver for forward delivery. The fact is that Indian speculators, who trade almost exclusively with borrowed money, have not found it very easy to carry forward their commitments in India, and have, therefore, put more pressure upon this market than it has been willing to bear.

"American and Mexican sales have been less than usual, partially accounted for by a demand from the Mexican Government for coinage, doubtless to replace coin exported to this country last year. It is, therefore, the more remarkable that pronounced weakness has been felt, and suggests that the action of speculators has, as it were, undermined public confidence."

Market Wants Support.

Messrs. Pixley and Abell, of London, also think that it will require some substantial support and a material reduction in London stocks to make a healthy market. They estimate the silver stocks in London at not less than £4,000,000. The total stocks of London, Bombay and Shanghai are placed at around £9,400,000. Messrs. Mocatta and Goldsmid say: "In view of the cheapness of money in Bombay, as compared to London, the inactivity of the bazaars is very disappointing, but the heavy stocks held by speculators, the not altogether satisfactory monsoon reports, and the currency returns, showing an increased stock of rupees, are all factors which may have helped to keep buyers out of the market."

How the Price Has Changed.

The silver market throughout 1912 was strong, and advancing, with occasional slight reactions only. The average monthly prices in New York are shown below:—

Month.	1910.	1911.	1912.
January	52,375	53,795	56,260
February	51,534	52,222	59,043
March	51,454	52,745	58,375
April	53,221	53,325	59,207