

Chicago Hogs and Provision Market.

The Chicago Trade Bulletin in its review for the week ended October 31, says:—

Live Hogs—The receipts of live hogs during the past week were quite liberal—considerably in excess of the estimates. The quality exhibited a little improvement, but is still poor for the season of the year. The market was active throughout the week, packers especially purchasing quite freely. Shippers were slow to purchase early in the week, but toward the close were favored with larger orders. Prices were on a receding scale during the greater portion of the week though the decline was more marked on the common qualities. Prices on the whole range declined 20 to 25c, and the market closed comparatively steady at the reduction. Sales during the week ranged at \$3.55 to \$4.40 for light, \$3.65 to \$4.10 for rough packing, \$3.70 to \$4.40 for mixed, and \$3.90 to \$4.65 for heavy packing and shipping lots, with the bulk of the trading within the range of \$3.80 to \$4.25 for common to rather good qualities. Pigs were in moderate supply, and changed hands at \$2.40 to \$4.25, according to quality. The market closed with about 11,000 hogs in the pens unsold. The receipts of hogs throughout the week were considerably larger and the quality only fair.

Dry salted meats—With moderate supplies there was only a fair trade in small lots of dry salted meats during the past week. Orders were for limited quantities—almost exclusively for car lots. Foreign cuts of hams were quiet and dull, with prices favoring buyers. Shoulders were in fair request with small offerings. Prices ruled ½c lower, and closed easy. Long clear sides were called for moderately and prices 25c to 30c lower, and closed quiet. Short clear sides were in fair request and prices ruled 25 to 30c lower, and closed steady. Extra short clear sides were in small demand and prices nominally 20 to 25c lower. Foreign fancy and special cuts of meats were quiet and rather dull, with prices favoring buyers. Backs dull and slow sale. Bellies called for in small quantities, and prices easier.

Smoked meats—Trading moderate in a jobbing way, and the feeling was easy. Stocks moderate. Hams were in fair request in a small way, and sold at ½ to ¾c decline. Shoulders were rather quiet and slow sale at ¾c to ¾c decline. Short rib sides were in fair demand and easy at ½ to ¾c decline. Short clear sides were quiet and slow sale at ¾c to ¾c decline. Breakfast bacon in moderate demand and prices favored buyers.

Manitoba Butter.

Manitoba butter is gaining quite an enviable reputation abroad of late, and is steadily overcoming the strong prejudice which existed against it. No doubt this prejudice was partly founded on fact, as in the earlier days there was a good deal of carelessness in the butter trade. Under the influence of high prices and a demand in excess of the supply, there was a disposition to take advantage of the necessity, and considerable inferior stuff was placed on the market. All sorts of packages, including old pails and tubs, were used for filling with butter, and country merchants made no distinctions as to quality, in taking the article from customers. As the supply of butter increased,

in proportion to the demand, consumers were not obliged to take whatever might be handed out to them. Especially since the home market increased to a surplus over local requirements, thus necessitating shipments away, dealers have been obliged to discriminate keenly as to quality, with the result that the average quality of our butter has steadily improved. Grant, Horn & Ducknall sent some samples to Montreal some time ago, which were pronounced by experts there as equal to the best Eastern Townships, which latter is well known to lead as the finest Canadian dairy butter. The same firm sold a round lot of Manitoba dairy recently to go west, at a figure equal to the Montreal quotations for choice Townships dairy. This is very gratifying, as showing progress in an important matter. There is room for improvement yet, especially in some districts, but it looks now as though we could soon hope to make a splendid reputation for Manitoba dairy. There is no reason why we should not lead in the quality of our butter, as there certainly is no other part of Canada where the conditions are more favorable for making butter of fine quality.

In creamery butter, Manitoba has also gained some distinction this season. The first prize captured by P. G. de Labordaire & Co., of the St. Mailow creamery, at the Kingston, Jamaica, exhibition this year, was a point in favor of Manitoba. Recently 600 pounds of butter from this creamery has been shipped to San Francisco, California. This shipment was put up in sealed tins, containing one and two pounds of butter. It is intended for supplying ships, in warm latitudes.

London Fur Sales.

C. M. Lampson held their public raw fur sales commencing on October 26. The catalogue of furs comprised 10,000 raccoon, 9,000 mink, 1,400 bear, 90,000 American opossum, 1,500 marten, 24,000 skunk, 1,200 gray fox, 2,200 beaver, 2,000 Russian sable, 5,600 nutria, 30,000 Japanese fox, 20,000 furred wallaby, 200,000 Australian opossum, 8,000 wombat, and 1,200 raw Persian lamb skins. Fur seals, offered on the first day were: 13,500 Alaska, 5,300 Copper Island, about 3,500 Cape Horn and South Sea, and about 10,000 Northwest coast seals. On the same date Culverwell, Brooks & Co., offered about 17,000 Northwest coast seals. The new catch of Copper Island, about 35,000 skins, will be offered in January next. Some of Lampson's seals were withdrawn. Following were prices realized: Alaska fur seals average 12½ per cent. lower than in October, 1890. Copper Island seals, 7½ per cent. higher than in March 1891, or in average 8 per cent. lower than in October, 1890. Northwest coast seals, 15 per cent. higher than in March, 1891, or about 6 per cent. lower than in October, 1890. Lobos Island seals (at Goad, Rigg & Co.'s sale), 12½ per cent. lower than in January, 1891, when they declined 5 per cent. on October, 1890 prices. Skunk, raccoon, marten, brown and grizzly bear same as in May. Opossum 25 per cent. higher than in May; Mink, 10 do; gray fox, 20 do; wolf, 10 do; black bear, 5 per cent. lower than in May; hair seals, 10 do; Russian sable, Yakutsky and Kamtschatka same as March, Amoursky sable 20 per cent lower than in March.

The New York Fur Trade Review gives the

following report of the sales, as furnished by Phillips, Politzer & Co.:—Seals, as compared with October, 1890: Alaskas, middlings and smalls declined 7½, smalls 15, large pups 12½, middling pups 10, and small pups 10 per cent. Copper Islands, middlings and smalls advanced 5, unchanged large pups declined 2½, middling pups 10, small pups 12½, and extra small pups 15 per cent. Northwest coast skins, middlings and smalls advanced 5, smalls 15, large pups 10, and middling pups 5 percent., extra small pups unchanged. Lobos Islands declined 10 per cent. In C. M. Lampson & Co.'s sale of American furs, October 27, there was no change of any note as compared with last sale.

Business in British Columbia.

The Vancouver News Advertiser says: As was stated in last week's report, produce is steadily advancing, and this week the high prices are fully maintained, while the quotations for some commodities have still further risen. The tendency of the market is that dairy produce will advance. Creamery butter is now quoted from 27 to 28½c per lb, and dairy from 22 to 23c. Dairy is still scarce, and as soon as any comes in the market it is bought up. Eggs are scarce, and have risen considerably, the usual quotations being 23c per dozen, although as much as 25c have been obtained. Cheese is still held at 12½ and 13c per lb.

Meats have fallen a little in price, the present quotations being as follows: Dry salt, 11½c per lb; roll bacon, 12½c per lb; breakfast bacon, 14c; hams, 14½c; long clear, 11½c. Dry salt bacon is very scarce at the present time, and the market is nearly out of it.

Quotations for flour are: Manitoba patents, \$6; do., bakers, \$5.75; Oregon flour, \$6; premier, Enderby mills, \$6; XXX, \$5.75; XX, \$5.45. Oatmeal is worth \$4.25 per 100 pounds; eastern rolled oats, \$4.25; California do., \$4.00. Feed is quoted as follows: Wheat, \$35 per ton; chopped feed, \$38 to \$39; bran, \$25; shorts, \$27; oats, \$35; oil cake, \$40; hay, old or new, \$15 to \$16.

Potatoes are being received in large quantities and the quotation has again fallen. Potatoes are now quoted all the way from \$3 to \$14 per ton. Cabbage is quoted from 60 to 75c per 100 lbs; beets, 75c to \$1; turnips, 50c; carrots, 50 to 75c; parsnips 75c to \$1; and onions \$1 to \$1.25 for native, and \$1.50 for Californian per 100 lbs.

The season for green fruit is about over and apples are the chief fruit on the market, very large shipments of them having been received during the last few days from both Oregon and the fruit districts in the province. The usual quotations are from 90c upwards. One firm recently received a small shipment of Toronto apples which are of very fine quality, and if the freight rates permit, further shipments will be made. By the next China steamer a shipment of about 2,000 boxes of oranges is expected. Quotations for fruit are: Pears, \$1.50 to \$1.75; plums, \$1.25 to \$1.35; grapes, \$1.65 to \$1.75. Tomatoes 3½ and 4c per pound; bananas, \$3 to \$3.75 per bunch.

The contract for the new board of trade building at Montreal, was awarded recently to Foote & Casey. The amount is \$354,000.