

Live Stock Exports

SUMMARY OF THE SHIPMENTS FOR THE SEASON.

The live stock export trade for the season is now over, and the result is somewhat disappointing as regards the exports of fat cattle. The total exports of fat cattle from Manitoba and the Territories, for the season, foot up about 15,000 head, in round numbers. This is smaller than was expected. This result is due to the fact that grass cattle did not do well this year. There was too much rain, making the grass soft and less suitable for fattening cattle. About forty per cent of the shipments were range cattle, the balance being domestic cattle.

The trade developed a new feature this year, in the exportation of stocker cattle to the United States. It is estimated that approximately 20,000 head of stocker cattle were shipped from Manitoba to the United States. This is the first year in which this trade has assumed any importance. About the same number of Manitoba stocker cattle were shipped west to the territorial ranges, and these will later be moved eastward again as fat cattle.

Prices have not been favorable for export business to Great Britain, though in the early part of the season business was fairly profitable. The Montreal Gazette estimates that cattle exported this year averaged a loss of \$6 per head. This is no doubt an extravagant estimate. While the season has not been a good one, shippers of western cattle at least are not nearly as badly off as this would indicate. In fact it is quite possible that there has been some profit in the business, big loss reports to the contrary notwithstanding.

Exports of sheep show a falling off, prices having been unfavorable throughout the season, in British markets.

Early in the season quite a number of hogs were shipped to eastern Canada markets, where they found a ready sale at profitable prices, prices for hogs having ruled high this season. The following shows the shipments of live stock from Manitoba and the Territories for the past four years:

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
Cattle	30,000	50,000	33,500	65,000
Sheep	4,000	15,000	9,200	10,000
Hogs	10,000	15,000	3,300	8,000
Horses	200	400	300	400

*Exports of cattle in previous years represented practically all fat cattle, while this year the figures include about 20,000 stockers. The latter is an approximate estimate.

SUGARS ADVANCE.

Special to The Commercial.
Montreal, Dec. 3.

Granulated sugar has advanced 1-16c at the refineries.

Reduction in Wheat Rates.

Montreal, Dec. 3. — The Canadian Pacific Railway company have decided upon a step of great importance to the export trade. Freight rates have been reduced from 28 cents to 20 cents per hundred pounds from Fort William to Montreal and at other points east on the system, where the rate heretofore has been 28 cents.

This reduction will enable the farmers to sell wheat for shipment to St. John, instead of being obliged to pay elevator charges for storage, through the winter, and will enable Canadian millers to compete with United States millers for European, British and West India trade on more equal terms.

The report was received on the board of trade with a good deal of satisfaction, and the general opinion was, it will prove an immense benefit to the grain and flour business. Certainly, it is a change that will largely help the Manitoba farmers as well as the millers. There is still any quantity of grain to come forward, and it is not unlikely the new rates will set a lot of grain and flour moving that might otherwise have been held up west, until the opening of navigation in the spring. The lower rates will go a long way toward encouraging the traffic, which will be a necessary complement to the government's scheme of helping a genuine winter port in Canada.

It Helps Trade

Calgary, Nov. 27. — The number of Klondikers in town is really surprising. There are two separate parties of Englishmen of twelve each under the leadership of Captain O'Brien and Mr. Clatworthy respectively. Still another English party consisting of five men under Captain Bernard. Then there is a fourth party from Illinois. These men are all taking upwards of twelve months' provisions, besides ammunition, mining tools and gold testing instruments. They will all proceed overland in a few days. They have provided themselves with an adequate supply of horses, husky dogs, sleeping bags and tents, and experienced cooks, and should travel prove impossible at any stage of the route, through excessive snow or frost or accident, they can at least form a merry camping party till winter breaks. Many of the parties are already accustomed to Arctic travel.

A train of dogs, four, was seen on the streets yesterday practicing for the Klondike by hauling two stalwart policemen. Two of the voyagers are practicing to-night with sleeping bags. They are going to attempt to sleep in them out in the open prairie, and as the thermometer is already 30 degrees below zero it should afford excellent practice. Already this season over a thousand ponies have been purchased by the gold seekers. One sturdy lad, clad in red leather cowboy hat and spurs, was gallantly keeping his seat on a half frozen broncho this morning, the mercury hovering about 25 degrees below, while a photographer was struggling to blow enough heat into his hands to enable him to take the daring young voyageur's photo. How wild and woolly the west will look to this young gentleman's friends.

The parties have outfitted at London, Eng., Montreal, Winnipeg and Calgary.

There is a coal famine in the city in both hard and soft coal. The an-

thraxite furnace ^{chaf} is particularly in demand. In consequence of the supply of fuel at the hospital giving out the water pipes were frozen and much inconvenience occasioned. In private houses, wood has been resorted to.

Manitoba Wheat Movement.

Receipts of wheat at Fort William for the week ending November 27, aggregated \$21,000 bushels, the shipments by water from that port for the same period were 307,000 bushels and the quantity left in store at Fort William was 7,899,000 bushels.

The amount of wheat marketed by farmers in Manitoba and the territories to date is estimated at 16,000,000 bushels. Of this about 4,000,000 bushels are still held at interior points west of Fort William, including Keewatin and Winnipeg. The balance has been exported or consumed by the flour mills, except what is held at Fort William. Navigation closed a year ago with 1,547,081 bushels in store at Fort William.

M. and N. W. Train Service.

A new time table came into effect on the Manitoba and Northwestern railway on Sunday next. The change is made necessary by the establishment of a twice-a-week service on the Yorkton division instead of the rather unsatisfactory once-a-week service that the company has put on that portion of the line for some time past. The change will be of benefit to residents of the city for the reason that the departure of the M. & N. W. train being by the new schedule, 10.30 a.m. instead of 9.55 gives merchants and others a better chance to get replies to letters received from M. & N. W. points off by the return train.

By the new schedule the M. & N. W. train leaves the C. P. R. depot Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 10.30 a.m., arriving in Portage la Prairie at 12.20. It reaches Neepawa at 3 p.m., and Minnedosa forty-five minutes later. A mixed train leaves Minnedosa on Thursdays for Rapid City at 4.10 p.m. Returning, the train leaves Rapid City at 2 o'clock on Friday, connecting with the express at Winnipeg. On Tuesdays and Saturdays the Winnipeg train as a mixed, goes on west from Minnedosa to Yorkton, reaching Blueearth at 9.40 p.m., and Yorkton at 1.10 a.m. next morning. Returning this train leaves Yorkton at 6 a.m. connecting with the regular express for Winnipeg at Minnedosa. A train leaves Blueearth for Russell on Thursdays and Saturdays, returning Fridays and Saturdays.

It will be noticed that the 56 miles between Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie will be made by the trains under the new schedule in considerably better time than under the old.

Thoman's December report just out makes the increase in area of winter wheat seeded 7.1 per cent over the area harvested; on the Pacific coast the increase is 3 per cent. He makes the proportion of last year's wheat remaining in farmers' hands 48 per cent, or about 275,000,000 bushels, which is about 50,000,000 in excess of last year at the corresponding date. He makes the exportable surplus of wheat to next July 115,000,000 bushels. John Billy, of Chicago, considers all these estimates excessive.