

four years, and then begin the construction of a general system for domestic and all other purposes, which would be ready to put in operation by the time the present private monopoly expires.

THE Cincinnati Price Current has been making enquiries as to the quantity of wheat which is likely to be fed to animals this season. The estimated amount so far consumed in this way is placed at 40,000,000 bushels, and it is expected that fully 75,000,000 bushels will be fed during the crop year. The feeding of wheat to animals is a very interesting feature of the wheat situation. It is a new feature and one which heretofore has not been reckoned upon. If wheat is being fed to animals at the rate estimated, it will have a very important bearing upon the position of the cereal before long. Stocks of wheat in sight are large at the moment, but if a large quantity of wheat is being fed to animals, we may look for an early reduction of available supplies.

THE early closing movement has not been working satisfactorily in Winnipeg. Some time ago, it will be remembered, the provincial act providing for the early closing of stores, was brought into force in Winnipeg. The law, however, has not been closely observed, and no effort has been made to enforce it. At the last meeting of the city council, a deputation of retailers were present, who urged the council to enforce the law. It was stated that while many of the merchants closed up at the appointed hour, others kept open later. There appears to be some doubt as to the legality of the by-law, as well as to the mode of procedure in prosecuting cases of violation of the law. The matter was dropped by the adoption of a motion requesting the police commissioners to take such action as they may think fit to enforce the by-law.

ADDITIONAL information is coming to hand all the time as to the value of wheat for feeding stock. The American Agriculturist, one of the best agricultural authorities in the United States, gives details of an experiment as to the relative value of corn and wheat in feeding hogs. The experiment was on a large scale, 10,000 bushels of corn and an equal amount of wheat being used. The cost of each food was substantially the same. The hogs fed on corn gained 14 lbs. in a given time, and those fed on wheat 17 lbs. The managers in charge of the experiment said the wheat yielded, under the worst conditions, at least 10 per cent. better than corn, and in many cases the result was 25 per cent. better. The Commercial has published much information of late, relating to the feeding value of wheat, and we are pleased to add the above experience, from the Agriculturist.

AN item has lately been going the rounds of nearly all Manitoba papers, to the effect that "the wheat crop of Europe is 120,000,000 bushels short." The farmers, and even some of the country editors are wondering how it is that wheat is so cheap, in view of this

shortage. The Commercial does not know where the item originated, but it is of course very misleading. In The Commercial of two weeks ago there appeared a table showing the wheat crops of the world for six years. This table shows that the wheat crop of Europe this year is 1,120,200,000 bushels, which amount is practically the same as the crop of last year: 53,000,000 bushels more than in 1892: 215,000,000 bushels more than in 1891: 60,000,000 bushels more than in 1890, and 204,000,000 bushels more than in 1889. In view of this statement, it is difficult to see where the shortage reported comes in. Europe of course always imports some wheat, but with a large crop secured this year the deficiency is not as great as in past years. The crop of the world this year is placed at 2,522,100,000, which is larger by about 70,000,000 bushels than the heavy crop of last year, and larger than in any previous year.

THE COMMERCIAL learns from exchanges that the United States government is introducing domesticated reindeer into Alaska. Parties experienced in handling reindeer have also been engaged to manage the experiment. An agent was sent to Lapland, who secured a number of the deer, and also succeeded in inducing a number of Laplanders to emigrate to Alaska. It is the intention to establish reindeer stations in Alaska, for the double purpose of breeding the deer and educating the natives in handling the animals. By these means it is expected that the deer will eventually be distributed all over the country. This is perhaps an idea which might be adopted to advantage by Canada. Reindeer would be of more service in our vast northern region than in Alaska, for the reason that the Arctic and bordering northern regions of the Dominion are less mountainous, and therefore more accessible by ordinary means of travel than Alaska. The present means of travel in the far north is by dog trains. Reindeer are valuable for food as well as beasts of burden, and thus they would perform a double service. We learn sometimes of great suffering among the natives of our northern regions, on account of the scarcity of food. The introduction of domesticated reindeer would be one means of providing against such calamities. The location of a few colonies of Laplanders with reindeer in our great northern regions would no doubt be an important step in the direction of utilizing the resources of the north, whatever those resources may be. They would become the pioneer guides of the country, whose services would be available for purposes of exploration or other work required of them.

Trade with the Coast.

Wm. Lough, representing Major & El-Cridge, pork packers and wholesale provision merchants of Vancouver, B. C., was in Winnipeg this week. The firm handles large quantities of Manitoba and Territorial products, such as butter, eggs, cheese, etc.; also flour, grain, and feed. Live hogs are also secured from Manitoba for the packing factory. The firm has fine cold storage accommoda-

tion in Vancouver, which gives them special facilities for handling produce. A branch house has recently been opened in Victoria, which has led to an increased consumption of the Manitoba products handled by the firm. Mr. Lough reports business improving somewhat at the coast. He is over here looking up increased supplies of produce, particularly butter. The firm have been compelled to bring in creamery butter from Ontario, though they would prefer to handle the prairie product, if they could get enough of the quality required. There is plenty of dairy butter in Manitoba, but not enough creamery. Quite a number of hogs are obtained from the interior portions of British Columbia for the packing factory, but not nearly as many as are required, and they are looking for more hogs from Manitoba and the Territories. Mr. Lough had a good word to say for The Commercial. He said they always waited anxiously for the paper, and wished it could be published two or three times a week instead of once. As an advertising medium they had found The Commercial by far the most valuable journal for their business of any they had used.

Might Have Been A Millionaire

On Monday last, while a representative of The Canadian Grocer was talking to Mr. Craig, of Hogg, Craig & Co., grocers and lobster packers, Pictou, Nova Scotia, a farmer named Porter, who lives near that town, stepped into the private office. Before closing the door he looked around to see that he was not followed. When he felt safe he produced a bag containing eighty Spanish doubloons, and wanted to sell them for more modern currency. Mr. Craig, who at one time travelled for a London, Ont., biscuit house, is known all over Canada for his extensive collections of rare stamps and coins. From Porter's story the doubloons have been in an old stocking in his family for over 90 years, and the dates on them prove this. They were accumulated by his grandfather and transferred to his father, who kept them intact all his life.

When Mr. Craig and The Grocer figured what they would have amounted to had Mr. Porter's grandfather invested, instead of hoarding them, they found that he would have been more than a millionaire, which made the old man open his mouth. A doubloon was worth about \$16 a hundred years ago. Eighty of them would have been equal to \$1,280. Seven per cent is not too high a rate of interest to figure on, for twenty-five years ago ten to fifteen per cent. was not rare. A sum will double itself every ten years at seven per cent. compound interest, so that in a hundred years the eighty doubloons would have amounted to \$1,317,120. There are many others just as thoughtless as were Mr. Porter and his ancestors. That gentleman is now looking for an investment.—Canadian Grocer

Work Off Old Stock.

Most food products put up in tins will keep for many years, but it is always advisable to work off each season's supply before disposing of the new. Many houses do not do this.

A label gets discoloured or damaged through exposure and instead of disposing of the goods at once they are held to the last. Before its turn comes a new supply is received and for some years it is a back runner.

Finally the stock runs short and the old tins are sold. They are not up to the mark in quality and the grocer is blamed for keeping such goods, and the packer, whose name it bears, is listed as a man whose goods cannot be depended upon.

Always work off the old stock before offering any new. This should be an instruction to all clerks.—Canadian Grocer.