

The Cattle Markets.

A cable dated Liverpool, March 21, to the *Montreal Gazette*, says: "The cattle market has collapsed completely since last cable. The markets are glutted with United States cattle and prices are much lower, 51 being now the idea for average mixed shipments. There is no prospect of any improvement while the supplies from the States continue so heavy."

Speaking of the Montreal market, the *Gazette*, of Tuesday last, says: The concession of the railway companies is considered a great victory by the shippers. A reduction of \$5 per car on live stock from points west of Bowmanville and 10 per cent. from all stations east is a great saving to the trade, and the hope is expressed that further reductions will yet be made. The result of the visit of the delegation to Ottawa in reference to the reduction of inspection fees here has not been made known, but the chances are that the Government will see the injustice. British agricultural societies are passing resolutions by the score asking the government to prohibit the importation of live stock altogether and have even gone so far as to demand that all foreign fodder be scheduled; the last outbreak of disease, it is alleged, being caused by foreign straw used for litter in the stables where cows were kept—that is to say, the germs were in the straw. So long as Canada has a clean bill of health there is nothing to fear, but the least suspicion of any contagious disease among Canadian cattle would be just the excuse the agitators desire. The United States government realizing the gravity of the situation have prohibited the exportation of southern cattle owing to the prevalence of splenic fever in the southern states. A few Montrealers have decided to do a little trading in United States cattle, and will load the steamship *Namidian* on March 31 with 570 head. They calculate to be able to place the cattle on board the steamer at a trifle under 5c per pound. There is a

certain amount of mystery and uncertainty about the position of the freight market. It is understood that several boats have been engaged besides those mentioned last week. The regular liners say they will open the season with a 70-shilling rate, but it is said that none of the outside boats engaged are getting over 45 shilling, there being now several boats under offer at about this figure. We hear of no more buying in the country for export, and unless there is a great improvement shippers will probably hold off until they are actually in need of cattle before operating further. The Montreal Stockyards Company report the market as follows: The supply of cattle for week was unusually light. All offerings were quickly taken up and realized good returns, though values are not quotably higher. The outlook for next week is good, the supply for last two or three markets being short of the demand. Sheep and lambs quiet and values unchanged. Heavier receipts of live hogs for week; market firm at 5½c. We quote the following as being fair values: Cattle, butchers' good, 4 to 4½; do, do, medium, 3½ to 3¾; do, do, culls, 2¾ to 3½; sheep, 3¾; lambs, 4 to 4½; hogs, 5 to 5½; calves \$3 to \$3. At the East End abattoir there were 450 cattle, 100 calves and 60 sheep and lambs offered. There was a good trade doing and prices were higher all round. A few of the choicest steers brought nearly 5c; but 4½ to 4¾ was about the idea for the good cattle. Medium brought 3¾ to 4½; and culls 3 to 3½. Calves sold at \$8 to \$12 each; sheep at \$4 to \$8, and lambs at \$2.50 to \$5.

An order amounting to \$300 or \$910 from the Patrons of Industry has, it is said, been accepted by a Toronto wholesale house. It was being figured on by a retail house, but they could not meet the lower prices given by the wholesale firm. If the name of the seller comes out, says the *Empire*, it is not improbable that the retail trade will endeavor to make it uncomfortable for him.

Henry Shaw, representing Roblin & Suller, leather booting manufacturers, of Montreal and Toronto, arrived at the Leland, Winnipeg, last week, and will proceed westward on a business trip for his firm.

With the advent of the Soo road into Regina this fall, says the *Standard*, the new station, the court house, Indian warehouses, English church, hotels, brick business blocks and a hundred other proposed buildings Regina will experience a regular boom this season.

C. E. Perry, M. Inst. C. E., P. L. S.; M. S. Davys, M. E., and J. H. Gray, C. E., P. L. S., have entered in business with offices in Spencer's Arcade, Victoria, and Nelson, B. C. The firm will engage in civil and mining engineering, land surveying, etc., and will, in addition, deal in real estate and mining properties.

The March number of *The Colonist* is a good one. This publication is now making special efforts to place the advantages of Western Canada as a field for immigration before the world. An article by a well-known writer describing a trip "From Winnipeg to the Coast" is one of the leading features of this number.

W. C. Muirhead, who has represented Carscaden, Peck & Co., wholesale clothing, Winnipeg, in the western portion of the territories and the adjacent districts of British Columbia, will hereafter make his headquarters permanently at Calgary, where he will have a sample room, and from this point he will work the surrounding districts, including Alberta and a portion of British Columbia. The firm of Carscaden, Peck & Co. has recently added a new department in connection with its manufacturing establishment in Montreal. In addition to clothing, shirts, etc., the firm has decided to manufacture fur goods, and will be ready to supply the fall and winter trade with its own makes of fur goods specially adapted to the western trade.

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