

Chocco—The market is decidedly firm, finest Septembers and Octobers being unobtainable at under 10½c, a bid of 10½c being made for 500 boxes of finest Octobers without fetching them. Plenty of English orders are on the market for finest at 10½c, but limits will have to be advanced before they get the stuff. We quote prices firm at 10½ to 10¾ for finest, some holders asking 11c for white, there being fully ½c premium on white. Underpriced goods are quoted at 9½ to 10½.

Eggs—The market is quiet, without any material change in prices. Western lined are giving poor satisfaction, and are selling at 14½ to 15c as to quantity. Montreal lined are steady at 16 to 17c. Hold fresh are selling at 17c for the ordinary run, but real fresh are quoted at 22c, and near by now laid at still higher figures.

Dressed Poultry—The receipts during the past week have been fair. In turkeys the demand is good at 8 to 9c per lb, in cases, extra birds bringing 10c. Chickens are selling at from 6 to 7c, while geese are quoted at 5 to 7c. At the close of last week, owing to the mild weather, quite a number of lots of turkeys were sold at 8c for turkeys, and 5c for chickens and geese, but the quality was soft and poor.

Hides.—Prices all round are unchanged. We quote:—No. 1, 5c; No. 2, 4c; No. 3, 3c; tanners are paying ½c more; lambskins, 75c; calf skins, 5c.

Wool.—The British Columbia and territory wools seem to drag on this market, and any offers are about a couple of cents below what is asked; as the freight from British Columbia means nearly 3c on every pound of wool, it is heavily handicapped. We quote:—Greasy Cape, 14c to 16c; N.A., secured, 29c to 36c; Northwest, 15c to 16c; British Columbia, 15c to 16c.

Dried Fruits.—The market remains unchanged at the following quotations. Dried apples 5c to 5½c; evaporated, 6c to 7c, dried peaches, steady, and meeting with good demand at 14c to 15c; apricots, demand good at 14c to 15c; evaporated vegetables in large cases at 24; evaporated peaches are selling at from 12c to 13½ per lb. *Trade Bulletin*, Nov. 25.

British Board of Trade Returns.

We are sorry to have to record another bad trade return. The government statistics just issued show a falling off for October of £2,440,653 in exports, and one of £2,146,971 in imports. As far as exports are concerned, the percentage of decrease is higher than the average ruling for the previous nine months, and brings the total loss, so far, for 1892, up to £19,435,261. Except for an increase of £24,685 under the head of animals living, and a trifling advance of £3,535 under that of articles of food and drink the whole export list shows a series of declines. Particularly heavy has been the falling off in yarns and textile exports, the total loss coming to £1,152,335, or more than double the amount registered for September. The diminished shipments of cotton textiles, particularly to Turkey, China and the East Indies, reflects the bad state of that a considerable expansion of trade occurred with certain South American countries, such as Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Chili, the showing would be even worse than it is. It is worth while remarking, however, under this head, that an improvement is noticeable in our exports of cottons to Portugal and her colonies, as also to the United States, notwithstanding the high tariffs in force.

As bad, if not worse, is the record for the metal industries. Taking metals and machinery together, the decline for the month is £587,242, while for the ten months the total loss reaches the high figure of £6,885,211, or about 20 per cent as compared with the same period of last year. The only encouraging feature in this department is the fact that the export of tin plates to the United States again shows an improvement as against 1891, though the ship-

ments were not so large as in September last. Among the other decreases to be found in the export schedules for October are £211,497 in apparel, £13,336 in chemicals, and £402,120 in manufactured or partly manufactured articles. It is observable also that in many classes of goods the prices obtained have been below those ruling last year.

A bad feature in the import returns is a drop of nearly a million sterling in the value of raw materials for textile industries, although considering the condition of the Lancashire cotton trade it is not greater than might have been expected. To set against this we have an increase in other raw materials of £244,326. It is somewhat strange, looking at the depressed state of a number of our industries that imports of manufactured goods from abroad continue to advance, the total increase for the ten months being considerably over half a million sterling. On the other hand we are beginning to economize in our food bill, having taken £1,091,711 less of articles of food and drink, including both dutiable and duty free descriptions, than in the previous October. Perhaps it is with a view to console ourselves for the general dullness of trade that we have imported £73,787 worth more of tobacco.

Taken as a whole, the board of trade returns for October are not cheerful reading. With the exception of a few South American countries, the contraction of our foreign commerce has been pretty general all around. As far as one or two Continental nations are concerned the decline has not been serious, and we have done fairly well with the United States, but east, Central America and Australasia show a diminished purchasing power, which probably applied to other countries' manufactures as well as our own.

It is but too evident that we have not turned the corner yet, but we may to a certain extent console ourselves by reflecting that it is not British trade alone that has suffered. Other European producing countries have done no better, if they have done as well as ourselves. Meanwhile, our manufacturers would be wise not to expect any benefit from such empirical remedies as may result from the International Monetary Conference. The period of depression must run its natural course and will not be shortened by artificial experiments. Pending the inevitable turn of the tide, capitalists and workmen should endeavor by mutual concessions to make the hard times through which we are passing as endurable as possible.—*London Financial Times*.

Out For 1893.

Seven years ago the wholesale drug firm of Bole, Wynne & Co., (then Dawson, Bole & Co.) made a new departure in the publication of the first issue of an almanac for Manitoba and the Territories. The venture proved a success, and since then the almanac has appeared annually. The edition for 1893 which is the seventh issue of the almanac, has just been printed in THE COMMERCIAL job printing department. The first issue of the almanac seven years ago, when it was first put forward as a venture, was small in number of copies printed, as well as in the size of the book, compared with the present issue. The demand for the almanac, however, has been so great that the number of copies has been annually increased and from 5,000 copies of the first issue printed, the number has grown to 55,000 for 1893. The first issues were printed only in English, but this year the complete almanac has been printed in four languages namely: English, French, German and Icelandic. The publication of the book in these different languages, shows considerable enterprise of the part of Bole, Wynne & Co. It also indicates the more prominent elements of the population of Western Canada.

The almanac for 1893 gives a great deal of astronomical information peculiar to Western Canada. The temperature readings at Winnipeg for each day of 1892 are shown. The record

shows that the first frost of the season at Winnipeg was on September 15, when there was one degree. There was no frost again until October 3, when there was again one degree. The first sharp frost came on October 15.

Views of a Great Packer.

The following expressions are said to have been uttered by Michael Cudabby of Chicago, in reply to an enquiry: "This is the first fall in the twenty odd years I have been in the packing business that I have not felt like selling hog produce short. And yet I don't know that I feel like filling my cellars. I would like very much to get the hogs cheaper. I am moderately firm in my views and yet I could be a good deal more pronounced—not the most comfortable position in the world, you see. Hogs, according to my theory, are about 1,000,000 short. Naturally we should have had an increase in the supply, of about 500,000—just about 1,500,000 short this season of what would have made a natural and comfortable situation. The reason? The rains in the spring partly. That lost a good many pigs, then the farmers, after several years of low prices, were tempted last summer by the high prices. They hurried their hogs along in an immature condition. The loss of the pigs and the over marketing of the summer have resulted in a little exhaustion. Yet I never go any any great length on a crop shortage. It's too big a country. I'm as mixed as any man in town over the provision prospect. The hog market is the thing which will control. I feel moderately firm. The situation has a good deal changed in recent years. The refrigerating system has made a new demand for the fresh meat of the hog. Then the cured product is so much more tempting than it used to be that its consumption is each year, for that reason increasing."

Farm Products in Britain.

W J Harris, while avowing himself openly as a protectionist, does not apparently adopt all the planks in the authorized protectionist platform. He takes a much more statesmanlike and less selfish view of the question than is often done by the anti-Cobdenites. If we understand the writer's views aright, his final aim is to strive to bring about the fuller cultivation of the land of the United Kingdom. It is certainly a disquieting thought to know that year by year the increasing millions of these Islands are becoming more and more dependent upon the agricultural resources of other countries, any of which may become hostile, or what would be almost as bad, may have their ports blockaded by an enemy.

The following short table shows the values of the articles imported from abroad that might have been produced at home during the past three years.

	1890.	1891.	1892.
Living Animals	10,361,000	11,216,000	9,216,000
Grain & Flour	42,300,000	43,000,000	43,200,000
Dead Meat	18,000,000	20,000,000	20,100,000
Dairy & Orchard	30,800,000	32,500,000	34,100,000
Sundries	1,307,000	1,407,000	1,000,000
	£103,368,000	108,119,000	115,216,000

These are truly startling figures, representing an expenditure of £3 per head by the entire population of the United Kingdom for food that could be equally as well produced at home. £3 per annum it is said is the sum requisite to maintain individual life in these Islands, although there are not many of our readers, we imagine, who would care to make the experiment of living upon 2d. a day; but if the assertion be true, we have the curious spectacle before our mind's eye of a great country actually depending upon foreign aid for the whole of its bare subsistence, and only producing a portion of its luxuries.—*Liverpool Corn Trade News*.