

no speculative mania will run up prices to a point where it will not pay to ship grain. We may expect our markets to be more healthy, because more moderate this autumn and winter than for several years past."

The *Tribune* says it is highly probable that while lake shipments will continue active till the close of navigation, the amount of grain forwarded East by rail the coming winter will be largely in excess of any previous year.

#### ENGLISH WOOL MARKETS.

The *Irish Farmer's Gazette* of October 14th has the following regarding English wool:—A rather more cheerful feeling is observable in the market, and although business is still very quiet, settlers report a slightly increased inquiry for some descriptions. There is no spirited buying, however, and consumers only take small quantities to cover any trifling orders they may have booked. The great firmness in price is still a most notable feature of the market. Stocks of wool remaining in the country are usually small for the time of year, and prices asked there are such as make it impossible for staplers to replace their stocks favorably if they sell at present prices. Confidence is well maintained, and very few holders will make more than the merest fractional concession to affect sales. These remarks apply chiefly to good combing fleece wools. In skin wools, and among low wools and shorts, there is some giving way.

#### SUNDRY NOTES.

The *North British Agriculturist* says that in almost every potato growing district the disease is making steady progress, and it is generally expected that no small part of the crop will be unfit for human food. Ireland seems to be somewhat better off than other parts of the kingdom. Reports from various quarters assert that the potatoes are doing fully as well as last year. This good fortune is, of course, not universal, the blight being at work in portions of the North, and where seed of very old varieties has been planted much damage has been done.

Far more serious than the potato disease is the rapid spread of the cattle plague. It exists in two forms, pleuro-pneumonia and the foot and mouth disease. No amount of precaution seems able to arrest either the importation of the infected cattle or the propagation of the malady among English herds.

Official reports affirm its existence in seventy-three counties of the Kingdom.

**KELSO RAM SALE.**—The annual sale of rams, chiefly Border Leicesters, came off at Kelso on the 8th of September. There was a large attendance of buyers, a magnificent show of sheep, and good average prices were realized. As usual, the Mertoun and Mellendean flocks—the former owned by Lord Polwarth, and the latter by Miss Stark—were far ahead of all others. The highest price obtained this year was £115 for a splendid Mertoun ram destined for Australia. This is the highest price that has yet been reached. Previous to this year's sale, £109, the price of one of the Mellendean flock

in 1869, had been the highest sum paid. The average of Lord Pelwarth's lots this year was £30 10s; that of Miss Stark's £29 15s. 8d. The two leading flocks evidently maintained a close and even competition. The total number of entries was 1,802. An account and illustration of the Mellendean rams will be found in the October number of the *Ontario Farmer* for 1871, which gives a good idea of the form, full fleece, and noble bearing of these splendid types of the Leicester sheep.

At the late Swine Exhibition in Chicago, the second prize of \$500 for a collection of pigs, was awarded to our fellow-countryman, Mr. J. R. Craig, of Edmonton, who also gained other valuable prizes with the beautiful lot of imported Berkshires. Mr. G. Roach was another successful exhibition on the same occasion.

Mr. James I. Davidson, of Balsam, county of Ontario, has sold one of his Clydesdale mares, three years old, for \$1,000 in gold, to Wm. Moffat, Esq. Strongsville, Cuyahoga county, Ohio.

Quite a number of sheep have been killed in the northern part of Luther township by a wild cat or Canadian lynx. Messrs Jas. Hunter, Alex. Hunter, and Alex. Arnott, have been the principal losers.

A scheme is being matured among several capitalists and mechanics at St. Mary's for the establishment of large works for the manufacture of agricultural implements, engines and boilers. The plan proposed is to issue 800 shares for \$25 each, 200 of which are to be taken up by the employees in the shops and retained from their wages in the shape of percentage on their wages.

The *Gait Reporter* says that never before was there such scarcity of water in this part of the Province as there is just now. Wells, cisterns, ponds and even rivers are almost dry, and all descriptions of stock are suffering in consequence. Farmers are driving their cattle miles to water, and carting the precious liquid in barrels to their homes, while those living in towns have to exert themselves in many places to get enough for ordinary cleanliness. The Grand River has never been as low for years, and manufacturers along the banks have to submit to only keeping their factories open an hour or two a day.

An exchange says:—A word more, before Chicago is forgotten, about modes of extinguishing fires. Every one knows that fire is easiest put out in the beginning. Yet the tendency in America, of late years, has been to concentrate attention upon means of extinguishing great fires when under headway. The steam fire-engine is a grand invention; but we want also a cheap \$10 engine in every house, or every neighborhood, to attack fires at the beginning, while it is controllable. A garden-pump, delivering water through a hose, will, with three gallons of water, put out a very large and formidable fire.

The *Chicago Tribune* of November 4th, says:—A great improvement was apparent in grain circles yesterday. Since the fire the produce markets have been very weak, owing to a universal desire to realize on property held here, for the double reason that money was scarce, and insurance considered to be doubtful. Hence prices of grain fell with a