

THE PRODUCE MARKET.

FLOUR.—The decline in price consequent on increased receipts drawn in by the recent special reduction in freights, has caused millers again to seek other markets, and for some days arrivals have been decreasing, and although the demand is purely local and very limited, it has exceeded the arrivals, and prices are gradually stiffening. We quote \$1.29 to \$1.25 for ordinary super, and \$1.25 to \$1.30 for choice. Desirable brands of Extra and Fancy have engaged attention in view of favorable British advices for these grades and full prices have ruled. No. 2 and the lower grades, have continued scarce, and all the offerings command each sale at their full relative value.

BAG FLOUR.—The demand has been pretty much supplied by the city millers, and parcels from abroad have been placed with difficulty even at relatively low rates, most sales being at about \$2.20. The river being now passable, a better demand may be looked for in all descriptions, and falling more abundant supplies, a corresponding improvement in prices.

WHEAT.—The high freight tariff on Grain as compared with flour, has greatly limited receipts, and most of what is brought over comes direct to millers and is not offered for sale. U. C. Spring which is alone moving, is nominally 96 to 97 cts.

PORK.—The upward tendency of the Western markets has influenced prices here, and Mess is firm at \$19.00 to \$19.50. Prime Mess and Prime at \$14.00 to \$14.50. Stocks unusually light.

DRESSED HOGS.—The activity of the demand has continued, and all arrivals have been readily taken at \$7 for averages of about 200 lbs., rather higher or lower prices being paid, according as the weights have run much over or much below this average. The bulk of the receipts have been sent on to Boston, so that the quantity in hand is very limited. As it is probable the stock of Hogs through the country available for shipment will run out early in the season, we do not see any reason to expect any great or permanent decline from present rates. Though, should the Boston demand cease, and arrivals continue considerable for any length of time, there may be some reaction.

BUTTER.—Except the limited purchases on Boston account in the course of December, nothing has been done for export since the close of navigation. British advices have been most discouraging for the description of Butter mostly in stock, and although the general tone there is more encouraging recently, the late stage of the season adds to the uncertainty of getting despatch at Portland effectually, and deters dealers adventuring shipments. Some few have latterly pressed sales at prices ranging from 15 to 17 cts., but the principal holders being more confident are holding in anticipation of a speedy revival of the Boston demand which latest advices make probable. Stocks are heavy for the season and receipts continue large.

We would direct attention to the Circular of Messrs. Kirkwood, Livingstone & Co. on page 15.

ASHES.

THIS important branch of Canadian industry is equal in value to over one million dollars annually, and may be ranked as the third item in our exports. Canadian Ashes bring the highest price in the British market, owing, no doubt, to the high standard of inspection which has governed the trade for nearly fifty years. The standard for first Pots is 75 per cent., and Pearls 65 per cent. of pure alkali. A bill amending the inspection of ashes, is being laid before the Board of Trade of this city. The object will be a closer discrimination of qualities, that is to say, a barrel made as firsts, and filled up with a small quantity of seconds, shall not be branded as all seconds. The inferior quality, when it is practicable, will be removed, and the best quality branded as firsts.

Undoubtedly, the amendment will be a benefit to the manufacturer, as well as the trade, since their interests are identical.

Below, we give a statement of the receipts and deliveries of both sorts during 1864.

REMAINING OVER.

	Pots.	Pearls.	Totals.
December 31, 1864.	1412	1029	2432
December 31, 1863.	720	212	932

RECEIPTS.

	Pots.	Pearls.	Totals.
From 1st January to 31st December, 1864.	31244	10743	41987
Do 31st December, 1863.	32945	10716	43661

Decrease in receipts..... 1664

DELIVERIES.

	Pots.	Pearls.	Totals.
From 1st January to 31st Dec 1864.	30552	9035	40487
Do 31st December, 1863.	32479	10766	43235

Decrease in deliveries..... 2748

IN STONE.

	Pots.	Pearls.	Totals.
January 1, 1865.	1412	1029	2432
January 1, 1864.	720	212	932

Heavy tares are an advantage to the manufacturers, since the tare in the English market is calculated at so much per cent. upon the gross weight.

Prices at present have a downward tendency. We quote:

Pots.....	\$5.40 to \$5.45
Pearls.....	5.45 to 5.50

THE WOOL MARKET.

THIS staple product has, during the last three years, been to our farmers a source of greater profit than ever before, owing to the largely increased wants of the woollen manufacturers of the country. Another cause of the high prices has been the great demand which has arisen for export to the United States, Canada wool being found most suitable for army clothing, and having, by virtue of the Reciprocity Treaty, a great advantage in the American market over coarse Foreign wools.

The wool grown in this country generally goes direct from the producer to the manufacturer or shipper very soon after the clip, and is not held by the farmer as wheat and other produce. When wool was worth 29 to 35 cents, a manufacturer could lay in a year's supply without much difficulty; but with wool at 40 to 45 cents, and sometimes scarce at that, supplies have to be obtained from time to time, and from other sources than Canadian flocks. The high prices prevailing have induced considerable shipments from England of various Foreign wools, such as German fleece, Cape, Mogadore, Hungarian and Buenos-Ayres, of the finer sorts; and of heavy wools, Peruvian, Georgian, Mendoza, Cheviot, Donkoi, &c. Thus a direct trade is established between this port and Liverpool and London, which are the principal markets of the wool-producing countries of the world.

The benefits of this to manufacturers are great. Instead of having only one quality of wool, and so being compelled, in a measure, to make only one class of goods, they can choose that wool which is most suitable for their purpose, and so compete favorably with manufacturers of any other country. There is also the advantage of being able to purchase, from time to time, such stock as is required for immediate use, on ordinary terms of credit, in place of having to lay out cash for a large supply, which it will take a considerable time to manufacture and sell.

The abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty will unquestionably seriously affect the wool-growing interest of the country. If the present United States Tariff is enforced, a duty of nine cents per lb. will be levied on all exported to that country, which with wool at present prices (say 29 to 35 cts. per lb.) would be almost prohibitory. Our local manufacturers would be benefited, as they would then have no competition, and the price of the raw material would enable them to compete more successfully than they do now with imported cloths. A discriminating tariff on the part of this country would probably be enforced against American wool, and would favor the direct importation of the fine Foreign wools, which, however, we can never expect to enter very much into competition with Canada.

FLAX.

AMONG the many commercial enterprises that engage the attention and capital of countries, the Flax trade is one of the most important. We propose to devote a suitable space in these columns to the ventilation of the subject. The production of vegetable fibres in quantities adequate to meet the demand of the world is one of the desiderata of the age. The stoppage, in consequence of the rebellion in the neighboring States, of the usual supply of cotton, has convinced the world that it is unsafe to rely on a single staple, the product of a single country, and of a particular climate.

The evident remedy for the evils of the dominion of cotton, is in the establishment of the kingdom of flax. Already the world breathes freer by the relief received from flax in its limited production and partial incorporation into the main staples hitherto dependent on cotton.

The variety of uses to which flax may be put as a substitute for cotton, its superiority as a fibre, and its relative cheapness, are causing its introduction into nearly every department of textile manufactures in England and the United States.

Until very lately the cultivation of flax in the United States and Canada has been prosecuted almost entirely for the seed, and in that respect was found to be remunerative. Now, that the fibre from an acre of ordinary land is worth double as much as the seed, we need say no more in proof of the remunerative character of the crop to be grown.

That this subject is engaging the attention of the farmers of this country, the number of enquiries daily being made fully attest; and as there is a great dearth of information as to the description of machinery required, the value of the fibre when dressed, and the question whether there is sure to be a market for it, we propose to answer these questions.

The machinery required consists of a threshing machine, brake, and scutcher,—all of which can be purchased at from \$300 to \$500, according to the capacity required. We cannot, however, recommend farmers to set up machines for their own crop, as there is skill as well as capital required to dress a crop profitably.

The value of a crop of flax is to be estimated by its condition when sold. If the straw is drawn to a mill, and sold as such, it is worth from \$5 to \$10 per ton; if dressed at grower's risk and expense the ton of straw yields about 300 lbs. of dressed fibre, worth from 10c. to 15c. per lb.

It may not be amiss to give the result of a crop taken from 15 acres of land—the correctness of which we can vouch for. The figures are:

520 lbs. dressed flax, at 13c. per lb.....	\$725 00
1420 lbs. " fine tow, at 4c. per lb.....	56 80
2250 lbs. " coarse tow, at 2c. per lb.....	45 00
175 bushels of seed, at \$1.50 per bus.....	263 50

Gross receipt, equal \$73 per acre, \$1008 30

If any crop of grain now grown in Canada can be shown to result as satisfactorily as this, we have yet to hear of it.

There is a quick demand for the fibre and seed, and no possibility of overstocking the market of the world. It may not be generally known that Great Britain imports from foreign countries over ninety thousand tons annually of flax; that she has one million spindles at work on flax, and capital invested amounting to over \$50,000,000. The manufacture of linens, threads, tape, twine, belting, batting, wadding, drugget, felt, are all in their infancy in America; as these are developed, the requirements of raw material must increase incredibly.

Before flax becomes a drug in the market, Canada can make her fortune from it ten times over.

THE LEATHER MARKET.

SPANISH SOLE.—There is an ample stock of No. 1. No sales worthy of notice have transpired. Shipments (via Portland) to Liverpool tend to relieve the markets. Prices unchanged. Best No. 1, 18 cts.

SLAUGHTER SOLE.—Very little of this description, but sufficient for present requirements. Prices firm for No. 1. 18 to 18½ cts., sales at 18 cts.

HARNESS LEATHER.—Heavy stock, without much enquiry. Chiefly too light. Light, 18 cts. Heavy, 19 to 20 cts.

WAX UPPER.—Large supply, chiefly heavy and unsuitable; if carriers would split this description it would be more saleable and remunerative. Heavy, 27 to 29 cts. Mid., 30 cts. Light, 32.

WAX CALF.—Of Prime quality from 25 to 35 lbs., 66 to 70 cts.

GRAIN UPPER.—The season for this description being over, it is dull at 30 to 33 cts.

"Money paid by Telegraph" is a branch of business which United States Bankers in these fast days are doing pretty extensively. It is done in this wise:—A merchant in California or Oregon, or any point, owes \$10,000 in New York on a certain day, finds it difficult to remit in time to have it reach; he waits until the day the note matures, and then pays the amount to a banker in his own town, who telegraphs to his correspondent in New York to take up the note, for which he, of course, charges a good commission. Wells, Fargo & Co., the great express men and Bankers, have a large business in this line.