

30 cts. on Minnesota patents and straights, and an advance of 35 cts. on first bakers', but local millers who receive New York quotations by telegraph daily, say that the market there has been very steady and that no such fluctuations occurred.

The price of May wheat in London is equivalent to about 93 cts. per bushel for that option in Milwaukee.

The stock of wheat (in flour and wheat) in Liverpool on Oct. 31, was equal to over 8,350,000 bus., or 2,000,000 bus. larger than three months earlier, on July 31. Yet with all this enormous amount in one market, a cable was lately received by Franklin, Edson & Co., of New York, stating that the stock of breadstuffs in the United Kingdom was equal to only nine week's consumption. Late cables report the stock of wheat and flour in London as equal to 10,000,000 bus.

The following table exhibits the weekly imports of flour, wheat and corn in the United Kingdom on the dates named:

| Articles. | Week ending Oct. 27, 1893. | Week ending Oct. 28, 1892. |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Flour, bbls. | 165,000@170,000 | 110,000@115,000 |
| Wheat, qrs. | 275,000@280,000 | 400,000@405,000 |
| Corn, qrs. | 140,000@445,000 | 25,000@30,000 |

The stock of flour in Chicago is reported at 39,767 bbls., against 48,074 bbls. one month ago, and 47,705 bbls. one year ago.

The visible supply of wheat on the dates named was as follows:

| | Oct. 27, 1893. | Oct. 28, 1892. |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Wheat, bus. | 30,616,382 | 30,308,426 |
| Corn, bus. | 10,531,544 | 11,263,344 |
| Oats, bus. | 5,366,341 | 5,139,038 |
| Barley, bus. | 1,891,884 | 1,609,001 |
| Rye, bus. | 2,274,614 | 2,311,376 |
| | Oct. 28, 1892. | Oct. 29, 1891. |
| Wheat, bus. | 16,078,308 | 21,252,578 |
| Corn, bus. | 3,369,145 | 26,449,095 |
| Oats, bus. | 4,186,419 | 4,365,769 |
| Barley, bus. | 2,139,919 | 2,656,375 |
| Rye, bus. | 948,793 | 1,256,184 |

The exports of flour from eight American ports from Sept. 1, 1893, to Nov. 2, 1893, were 1,447,893 bbls.; wheat, 13,843,554 bus.

It is almost certain that the wheat surplus in Oregon and Washington will be a hundred thousand tons less than the estimate.

Bulls keep harping upon the 200,000,000 shortage in Europe as though it were actually so. They forget that this estimate was made up by parties interested in the trade, and that part of this Vienna estimate has already been proven to be false. The official report of the wheat crop of France is 50,000,000 bushels larger than the figures allowed by this Vienna Congress. Some New York houses engaged in the foreign grain trade say that the situation is changing abroad. The farmers' deliveries in England have decreased 20,000 quarters in two weeks. The continental houses claim that this holds true in France. The pressure of Russian and Indian wheat is said to be much less, and Indian wheat is called poor in keeping qualities, and fresh arrivals have to be sold promptly.

The Duluth market has been 1 to 3 cents higher the past week than Minneapolis.

The Australian and New Zealand wheat and flour markets are reported dull and weak.

The crop prospects in Australia are unusually good and large exports are prophesied for next season.

California and Oregon flour and wheat markets are dull, with no change in quotations.

How Bananas are Raised.

As everybody knows who has eaten a banana, the luscious pulp is seedless. The plants are propagated from other plants, so that the stock is not likely to run out. The plant requires for vigorous growth a deep rich soil, abundantly watered. With these conditions present there is said to be no risk of a crop in the hot regions where alone the fruit is produced. Nine months after a cutting has been planted a purple bud appears in the centre of the unfolding leaves that shoot out from the head of the parent stem. The stem on which the bud appears grows rapidly from the main stalk. As the bud increases in weight the stem bends downward by a graceful curve, on the extremity of which this bud continues to grow, till the purple blossoms falling off, little shoots appear as the embryo fruit. Each fruit has a yellow blossom at its outward extremity. At the end of from three to four months the fruit has grown to maturity, and is picked long enough before it is "dead ripe" to preserve it in marketable condition. From the roots of the parent stock other shoots appear, which are trimmed out or left to grow, as the cultivator may deem best. A single stalk therefore, bears only one bunch or crop as its life work. Spaniards have a religious reverence for the banana, believing it to be the fruit of which Adam partook.

The fruit has long been regarded as extremely nutritious. It is recommended above all others for invalids who are unable to swallow harder food. An estimate of Humboldt claims that 44,000 pounds of bananas can be produced on the soil that would be required for 1,000 pounds of potatoes, and that the same area that would be required to raise wheat enough for one man would produce enough bananas to feed twenty-five men.—*Ex.*

Barbed Wire.

The barb-wire market is not in a satisfactory condition so far as manufacturers of that commodity are concerned. Prices have reached a point where but little margin of profit for manufacturing is left. In fact barb fencing is now only a trifle more expensive than plain wire fencing. It is needless to say that consumers are greatly benefited by this state of affairs. The sales are, as may be expected, very large for this season of the year. Good authorities assert that more miles of this kind of fencing will be erected this year than in any previous year since the invention of barbed wire; hence, according to the old saying, what is meat for the farmer is poison for the manufacturer.

It might be a profitable, although an exceedingly delicate task to trace out the causes which have brought about the present disturbed condition of the barbed-wire market. The moonshiners are no doubt chargeable with no small share of the trouble, but their power for evil has been greatly overrated. It is safe to say

that the licensees controlling the patents had the power in their own hands to uphold the market, and that they have not done so is more their own fault than that of any one else. Why they did not do so is a matter which they must answer for themselves. The losses attending such failure falls necessarily upon themselves. Had there been more unanimity of sentiment, more confidence in each other and more liberality, there would have been little trouble it seems to us, in maintaining prices at a point where all could have realized liberal profits. It was not necessary nor expedient that, to keep prices up as high as they were when the combination started out. Probably, had the margin of profit been less, much of the trouble which subsequently accrued would have been obviated.

It will require excellent judgment and a radical change in the attitude of the manufacturers towards each other to reform the market.

The unfavorable decisions in the Missouri and Iowa cases have helped to complicate matters, encouraging the moonshiners, and giving an impetus to those who were engaged in litigation over the patents elsewhere. So far as the barb-wire suits are concerned, it would be unwise to indulge in any prophecy as to the final results. Law-suits are proverbially uncertain affairs, and nothing in the present litigation may be considered decisive, save it be a decision of the United States Supreme Court upon the merits of the case.

In the meantime, as consumers can get protected wire at bottom figures, they will not likely incur the risks of a lawsuit by buying infringing wire. At least those who do so are very foolish, and may have occasion some day to repent their folly, as did the infringers of the dental-vulcanite patents.—*Industrial World.*

Action of Acids on Tinware.

Francis P. Hall reports the result of experiments on the action of vegetable acids—acetic, tartaric and citric acids—on lead and tin. The results were rather negative in their tendency, and seem hardly to bear out the assertions that are made respecting the danger of lead poisoning from tinned goods. The most danger is from the solder, and from the action of the acids on the tin itself. The corrosion does not appear to increase as regularly as is supposed with the strength of these acids; but it was found that corrosion, in the case of canned fruit, takes place very rapidly after the can is opened, so that a can when opened, should be emptied at once. Mr. Hall's analysis of bright tinfoil failed in every case to show enough lead impurity to justify the charge of intended adulteration, even in the worst-looking ware from the five-cent stores. Terne plate, used for roofing, is known to contain large quantities of lead, but no one with his eyes open is ever likely to buy it for genuine tin. Tin-foil, which is used for enveloping various kinds of food, is in some cases pure tin, in other cases heavily adulterated. Specimens used for wrapping different kinds of compressed yeast were pure. The worst specimen (89.87 per cent. lead) was embossed, and on a very fashionable cake of chocolate.