

FISH AND OYSTERS.

During the past week fish has been very scarce, and supplies have been difficult to obtain. The trade has been better than was expected, and the prospects are that there will continue to be a good demand, but unfortunately the supplies are not expected to be very plentiful. Halibut, which is a staple line, is exceedingly high priced, especially from the Pacific Coast, due to a strike among the independent fishermen, which has created a great scarcity. A large demand from the American market is accentuating this difficult situation. A few shipments are coming from the East, meantime, mostly very small fish, and as a rule not as good in quality as the western fish. A certain amount of fresh salmon has been coming in from British Columbia, and selling at very high prices. Haddock and codfish are just in, with fair supply and normal prices. Lake fish, such as trout, whitefish, and pike, have not started to move in any quantity yet. Large quantities of river fish are arriving, and will be available for some weeks. The open season for blue trout started yesterday, but it is still close season for pickerel, and dore, until the fifteenth of the month. Bulk and shell oysters are very quiet, without any future of note.

Fresh:—	
Haddock, per lb.	0.06
Steak Codfish, per lb.	0.07
Carp, per lb.	0.09
Lobsters, live, per lb.	0.23
Salmon, Red Cohoes, or Silvers, Round, per lb.	0.25
Salmon, Red—Cohoes or Silvers, Dressed and Headless, per lb.	0.25
Halibut, medium, per lb.	0.18
Herrings, medium, 60 lb. per 100 count	2.50
Whitefish, per lb.	0.14
Pike, per lb.	0.09
Shad Fish, each	1.25
Perch, dressed, per lb.	0.12
Bullheads, dressed, per lb.	0.10
Smoked Fish:—	
Haddies, per lb.	0.09
Fillets, per lb.	0.10
Frozen:—	
Dore	0.10
Whitefish	0.11
Mackerel	0.09
Oysters:—	
Standard Solid Meats—No water. No. 5 Can(containing 3 wine gals.	4.25
Ordinary Bulk Oysters, Standards, per Imp. gallon	1.70
Shell Oysters, Cape Cods in large barrels	8.00

FAVORABLE MARKET FOR CANADIAN EGGS.

According to the report of the Canadian Trade Commissioner, Mr. J. E. Ray, in Birmingham, the prospects for Canadian eggs from now until June are very favorable if present conditions continue. He stated further that "eggs were so badly needed at the beginning of the year that several firms made the experiment of trying to get supplies from Archangel late in December; but the experiment ended disastrously. Five steamers with 22,000 cases of eggs (1,400 each) are frozen up in the White sea and there is no hope of their being released earlier than the end of May. Irish eggs at this time last year could be purchased at \$2.20 per 120; to-day's shippers are firm at \$3.40. Egypt, during January, sent 37,000 cases; during February, 25,000; and during March, 7,000. This was the total quantity that the Government would issue permits for. No permits have been issued for April, and it is very doubtful what number of eggs will be shipped during that month, as the season practically finishes at the end of March."

VALUE OF CANADA'S LIVE STOCK.

Horses	\$370,378,482
Milch Cows	164,223,592
Other cattle	151,477,474
Swine	48,363,346
Sheep	16,224,667

COST OF APPRENTICESHIP.

It has been figured that the average cost of apprenticeship, including the cost of bringing a man to the working efficiency necessary to profit, is approximately \$1,000. If this man is disabled from any cause, the employer must immediately recognize a charge for the cost of training another workman, in addition to whatever damage he may be liable upon to pay as a result of the accident.

MANY PROBLEMS IN THE CHINAWARE TRADE.

In all lines of importance business men in Canada today are encountering serious difficulties, caused by the shortage of labour in Europe and the great scarcity of Atlantic tonnage which, when available, can only be had at almost prohibitive prices. Importers of china and glassware have a full measure of these problems to solve. Prior to the war our supplies of china and glassware were obtained from England, France, Germany and Austria. Austria and Germany are no longer a source of supply, thanks to the British blockade, and the French plants are in many cases closed down or their output is largely curtailed. The English china manufacturers find themselves almost the sole possessors of an unlimited market, quite beyond their capacity to supply, owing to a labour shortage somewhat similar to that existing in France. In many cases consignments of china arriving in Canada from Great Britain are but one half of quantities ordered.

The American product consists mainly of china of an inferior quality, such as semi-porcelain and earthen ware, as the ball clay and kaolin suitable for the finer grades of china have never been found in the United States. The American industry dates back only some thirty or forty years, during which time, however, wonderful strides have been made. Forty years ago the American people faced the same situation as we do today, namely, an excellent home market supplied by a high-priced foreign article against the importation of which Congress set up a high tariff. Results show that they have made excellent use of their natural resources, and where they have not been able to discover the grades of clay required, they have imported the raw product and manufactured as much of the finer grades as possible at home.

Hitherto in Canada we have only produced the commonest types of china-ware, such as brown tea pots, flower pots, kitchen bowls, etc. Those of our clay deposits that have so far been developed are suitable only for such articles, or as fillers in the manufacture of pulp, paper and textiles. Quite recently an important discovery of a large kaolin deposit has been made at St. Remond. This deposit is shown the clay to possess a high ceramic value. Already a company has been formed under the name of the Canadian China Clay Co., with a capitalization of \$1,500,000 to develop the deposit.

The progress of the undertaking is being watched with keen interest, and if it proves a success a search will be made for similar deposits in other parts of the country.

It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of this project from a Canadian standpoint. In all times pottery and the ceramic art have gone hand in hand with progress towards the higher ideals of life, while the economic value of the industry is by no means small.

INCREASE THE BEET SUGAR AREA.

A special effort should be made in Canada to grow more sugar beets. With sugar now selling at nearly \$8. per hundred, wholesale, and likely to go considerably higher, there is an excellent opportunity for farmers to make money by growing sugar beets. It is stated that in some parts of Western Ontario, there has been an increased acreage, amounting in some cases to 40 per cent. Sugar beet factories are paying a bonus of 50 cents per ton on contract prices for beets and the indications are that still higher prices will be paid.

Previous to the war, Great Britain and France secured the bulk of their beet sugar from Germany, Austria and Belgium, although France had a considerable acreage of sugar beet under cultivation. Unfortunately this land was located in the North of France and is now in the hands of the Germans. This means that Great Britain and the other allies must depend upon sugar cane for their supply, which has resulted in the sharp advances.

Ontario in normal times has 20,000 acres under beet sugar cultivation, producing about 8,000,000 bushels per year. At ordinary prices this returns the farmer about \$45 per acre, but with the higher prices now being paid, the farmers will undoubtedly reap a larger return. This is in keeping with the government policy of production and thrift and not only brings in an increased return to the farmers, but aids the Empire in its fight against the Huns.

CANADA'S FIELD CROPS.

Ottawa, April 19, 1916.

The Census and Statistics Office has just issued in the form of a press bulletin a summary of the results of inquiries into (a) the merchantable quality of the field crops of 1915; (b) the stocks of grain and other agricultural produce of 1915 remaining in farmers' hands on March 31, and (c) the stocks of wheat in Canada on the same date.

Merchantable Quality of 1915 Crops.

The returns received from crop reporting correspondents show that of the total estimated wheat crop in 1915 of 376,303,600 bushels over 95 per cent, or 358,281,000 bushels, proved to be of merchantable quality. This proportion compares well with the previous years, being superior to last year by about 2 per cent and somewhat above the average of the past seven years. The proportions of other crops of 1915 which proved to be of merchantable quality are as follows: Oats, 92 per cent (480,208,000 bushels out of 520,103,000 bushels); barley, 88 per cent (47,082,000 bushels out of 53,331,300 bushels); rye, 88.5 per cent (2,118,500 bushels out of 2,394,100 bushels); buckwheat, 83 per cent (6,518,000 bushels out of 7,865,900 bushels); corn for husking, 77.5 per cent (11,142,000 bushels out of 14,368,000 bushels); flaxseed, 95.5 per cent (10,144,000 bushels out of 10,628,000 bushels); potatoes, 73 per cent (45,630,000 bushels out of 62,604,000 bushels); turnips, etc., 86 per cent (55,266,000 bushels out of 64,281,000 bushels) and hay and clover, 86 per cent (9,400,000 tons out of 10,953,000 tons).

Stocks of Wheat in Canada on March 31.

Out of the total estimated yield of wheat in 1915, 23 per cent, or 86,854,000 bushels remained in farmers' hands at the end of March. This proportion compares with 12½ per cent last year, 16½ per cent in 1914, 22 per cent in 1913, and 27 per cent in 1912; so that this year the proportion in hand is larger than in any year since 1912, which related to the crop of 1911. Last year the proportion remaining over was the smallest on record since these inquiries were instituted in 1909. Not only, however, is this year a high one; but owing to last year's excellent yields, the quantity on hand at March 31 is larger than in any previous year, 1912, (the crop of 1911) coming nearest with 62,188,000 bushels.

Of the remaining field crops the proportions and quantities estimated to be in farmers' hands at March 31 are as follows: Oats, 45 per cent or 235,530,000 bushels; barley, 34 p.c., or 18,514,500 bushels; rye, 30 p.c., or 732,700 bushels; buckwheat, 22 p.c., or 1,747,000 bushels; corn for husking, 24 p.c., or 3,453,000 bushels; flax, 25 p.c., or 2,700,300 bushels; potatoes, 20 p.c., or 12,960,800 bushels; turnips, etc., 15½ p.c., or 9,952,000 bushels; hay and clover, 23 p.c., or 2,524,000 tons. For oats, barley and rye the quantities on hand at the end of March are larger than in any previous year on record.

Stocks of Wheat in Canada on March 31.

The Census and Statistics Office also report the completion of an inquiry into the total stocks of wheat and wheat flour in Canada at March 31, the results of which are available for comparison with the special inquiry of the same kind which was carried out last year as for the date of February 8, 1915. This year the total quantity of wheat, and wheat flour expressed in terms of wheat, estimated as in stock in Canada on March 31, is, subject to slight revision, about 196 million bushels, as compared with about 80 million bushels on February 8, 1915. The total for 1915 includes in round figures 86½ million bushels in the elevators, flour mills and in winter storage in vessels; 87 million bushels in farmers' hands and 22½ million bushels in course of transit by rail.

SPANISH RIVER PULP AND PAPER.

A Sudbury, Ont., despatch states that the flooding of the Vermillion and Spanish rivers over the week-end swept away the Spanish River Pulp and Paper Company's dam at the head of Lake Onaping, with the entire winter's cut. The flood damage will reach thousands of dollars.

The Great Lakes Power Co., capital \$2,600,000, has been incorporated at Toronto, and will take over the electric plant of the Algoma Steel Corporation at Sault Ste. Marie, spending about \$3,000,000 in improvements and extensions to the plant.