

When we turn to the prominent staples we cannot but be much encouraged. Wheat, which within a year touched the lowest recorded price in 250 years, is again comforting the farmer with the old charm of a dollar a bushel, an advance almost unprecedented for rapidity. Doubtless the pace has been too rapid, but there seems little reason to doubt that the new crop will be marketed at remunerative prices. Iron of all kinds had fallen a few months ago to an average of 54 per cent. of the prices of October, 1890, and had risen at the close of May to 59 per cent. It is still, however, so low, and the power of production so great, that the profit of the miners and iron manufacturers in the United States must be trifling in relation to the enormous investment of capital. Petroleum has settled back somewhat after its great advance, but the present price is stimulating production all over the world. Hides, leather, boots and shoes, and beef have all gone up together, and doubtless to some extent from the same cause. While the leather industries of all kinds sadly needed the aid of better prices, perhaps no advance is of so much importance to our province as that in the price of cattle. The past few years, what with British restrictions and low prices, have been hard on the Canadian grazier, and now that there has been a substantial recovery it is to be hoped that for the future we will have steadier and more adequate results. At the moment, however, prices have again receded somewhat. Still it is fair to presume that as horses have also lately shown a decided change for the better, and attempts are being made at raising better animals, we can count on profitable returns from cattle, pigs, sheep and horses, which means a great deal for Ontario.

While the advance has not been universal many other leading staples such as cotton, wool, etc., have participated in the change, and there can be little doubt, even if present values are not quite maintained, that the turn has come.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The United States ship *Mohican*, which is now at Seattle, is expected to arrive here at the end of this week and will probably remain here about a fortnight. The object of her visit to this port is for the purpose of testing the anthracite coal, and it is understood that if the tests prove satisfactory, this coal will be largely used by the vessels of the United States navy on the Pacific coast.—Vancouver B. C., News Advertiser.

The Electric Storage Battery Company, of Philadelphia, have closed a contract for a storage battery plant in connection with the Sprague electric elevator system. The plant will be installed in the new public buildings of Minneapolis and will operate 12 elevators. This is a new field for the storage battery industry.

News comes from Quebec of the discovery of some large deposits of chrome iron ore near Coleraine, on the line of the Quebec Central Railway. The ore occurs in serpentine the same geological formation as the asbestos of Thetford and Coleraine is found in, and is reported to occur largely in surface deposits. If this is so, it ought to be mined, or rather quarried, very cheaply, and should find a ready market in the United States, whither the bulk of it will no

doubt be exported, as there is at present no home demand for it in Canada.—British Trade Journal.

On Thursday, at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, Professor J. Long read a paper on "Our Food Supply; Can the Colonies Provide It?" Professor Long pointed out that if every additional occupier of a quarter section of land put one-half into wheat he provided for 220 men, whereas every couple of acres of prairie newly broken up for wheat provided for a family of five persons, and this, too, when the annual average was as low as 18 bushels. The whole of the foreign wheat imported into England could be produced in our colonies by 76,000 additional farmers each growing 18 bushels on 100 acres. Great as was the area thus defined, it meant but 12,500,000 acres—assuming that each farmer occupied a quarter section—out of the 200,000,000 acres still untouched in the northwest of Canada, apart from the illimitable area of wheat land in Australasia, which was larger than the United States and twenty-four times larger than the United Kingdom. It was shown, too, that while the people of the United Kingdom, Canada and Australasia, required annually 289,000,000 bushels of wheat for their sustenance, they produce on the average of 1891, 1892 and 1893 only 172,000,000 bushels, so that the entire American exports to us would be necessary to provide for the deficiency, as well as the Indian consignment, apart from the provision of seed.—Manchester Guardian.

The uses of electricity are increasing, and even the birds utilize it in their business of incubation, or at least make use of electrical appliances. The *Petrolea Advertiser* tells of a pair of guy birds in that town that built a nest in the globe of an electric lamp and raised therein a brood of six young ones.

The latest reports from Canada are not satisfactory reading for English manufacturers. It is stated that "boiler plate, tank plate, and sheet steel, until lately imported solely from England, is now imported from the United States, with almost as little exception;" that "galvanized iron is another article in which the imports from the United States continue to grow;" and that "iron pipes come from the United States in increasing quantities, several carloads coming in now almost daily." It looks, indeed, as if the Americans had captured our Canadian market, just as the Germans and the Belgians have captured the markets of India and our Australasian Colonies.—London Iron and Coal Trades Review.

The Massey Manufacturing Company, Toronto, is to put up an extensive addition to its premises and go largely into the manufacture of bicycles, the works to employ three or four hundred men. Heretofore bicycles have been imported into Canada in pieces, and put together here. But the Massey company will make the entire machine. Tally one more for the late, lamented, discredited, dead and gone N. P.—Hamilton Spectator.

It is announced that a linseed oil mill is shortly to be established at Sidney by Belgian capitalists, one of whom himself a skilled operator, is about to transfer his works to this province. Besides the making of linseed oil, oil-