A FORTUNATE FARMER.

As a rule the prevailing opinion is that the farmers lose very heavily at the different elevators to which they deliver, by being docked. A case has been brought to our notice, however, which tells a different story. A farmer had his threshing ticket for 621 bushels of wheat, and 35 bushels of oats. He delivered the wheat and oats in ten loads to different elevators in town, and when he totalled up his tickets found he had 661 bushels of wheat and 45 bushels of oats to his credit.—Carberry Express.

TELEGRAPH TO DAWSON.

If Klondyke had been in United States territory, there would have been a telegraph line from Seattle before now, Canadians and Britishers are less fast, less nervous, than Americans. However, Mr. James Roche, a British M.P., well-known in Vancouver, who is at present in Canada, expresses the opinion that by the 1st of January, a land telegraph line will be built between Dawson and Skagway, and as soon as possible afterwards, the latter place will be connected by cable with Vancouver. Mr. Roche represents a number of English capitalists, amongst whom is Sir John Pender, of cable fame, who have acquired the charter granted by the Dominion Parliament last session to a company to build this line from the coast to Dawson, by way of the Yukon, and its affluents. The plan is to construct a double land line from Skagway to Lage Tagish and Fort Selkirk to the Klondyke, following the present Mounted Police route, so that the police posts may be used as telegraph stations. Work is to be commenced immediately, and, as already stated, it is expected that telegraphic communication will be established between Skagway and Dawson by next New Year's Day.—Vancouver News-Advertiser.

A NEW CHARTER FOR MONTREAL.

A committee of the Montreal City Council is considering a draft of a new charter for that city. The draft proposes no very radical changes, though it is possible that the charter will contain such before it becomes law. For instance, there is an agitation on foot for the introduction of the "cabinet system," which would mean that the city would be governed as the Dominion is, by a set of aldermanic ministers, directly responsible to the Council. This would take the ordinary alderman out of the executive branch of the city's government, making the Council a legislative body only. The civic ministers would then administer their departments—roads, finance, light, water, police, fire and the like—and the general policy of the city's management would be decided upon in cabinet council, just as it is at Ottawa. If the Montreal Herald is well-informed, there is much need for honest and efficient administration in at least three out of these six departments.

This charter, even as it stands, confers a far greater measure of "home rule" on the city than it enjoys at present. Now, for instance, its borrowing limit is fixed by the Provincial Legislature, and the Council must go to the Legislature to obtain permission to borrow any more money. The new charter empowers the Council to submit a by-law to the real estate owners, proposing a new loan, and a tax to pay it off within a given time. Thus Montreal would then be able to borrow as much money as it wanted without consulting the Legislature of Quebec at all.

It also takes full control of street widening, and expropriation proceedings generally. Several new forms of taxation are provided for, including a tax of a percentage on the rental value of any house not occupied by the proprietor, and a business tax which is expected to bring in considerable money.

This charter, after it leaves the committee, must pass the Council, and then the two houses of the Legislature. It is now being considered by various commercial and religious bodies, which will present their findings to the committee before it reports.

Commercial.

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, Oct. 20th, 1898.

Dairy Products.—There has been little change in the butter situation during the week. For real choice dairy, there continues to be a good demand at quotations, while offerings of inferior dairy are somewhat in excess of the demand. Creamery is steady, and in fair request. In the local cheese market a seasonable jobbing movement is taking place, but nothing more. Country markets are elsewhere reviewed. For eggs there is a good demand, with supplies of strictly fresh rather limited. Quotations range from 14 to 17c. per dozen, according to quality.

Green Fruits.—There is only a limited supply of oranges in the market at present, and values are ruling firm, with fine late Valencia California, 126's, 150's, 176's, 288's, $3.75 to $4 per box. Jamaica, $7 to $8 per barrel. Supplies of Jamaica and Florida oranges should, in a week or so, be coming forward more freely, when it would be expected prices will decline. Lemons are also in scant supply, with Messina quoted at 360's, $5.50 to $5.75. Of domestic pears, peaches and grapes, trade is now drawing to a close for the season, and prices have advnced. Almeria grapes are now on the market, and are quoted at $6 to $6.50 per keg. We note the following prices for sundry vegetables and fruits: Sweet potatoes, per bbl., $2.50 to $2.75; bananas, fancy fruit, per bunch, $1.25 to $1.50; tomatoes, Canadian, per basket, 25 to 30c.; dates, Hallowee, 4c. per lb.; figs, Tapnets, 3½ to 4c. per lb.; Spanish onions, $1.25 per box; Canadian onions, 80 lbs., $1 per bag.

Groceries.—Trade is good. In addition to the seasonable movement in general supplies, there has been a demand for groceries from points on the Upper Lakes, and in view of the close of navigation, within the next few weeks, orders are being rushed forward. Values are generally very firm; the sugar agreement fixing prices based on quotations at refineries so that the dealers will have uniform margin in selling, has thus far been very satisfactory. No changes have been made in quotations. The Japanese rice crop is reported to have been almost a total failure and quotations locally are very strong. Syrups are scarce, and it is almost impossible to secure in this market any low-priced syrup. It is said the indications are that the coming cane crop will yield less than the usual supply of syrup. Dried fruits are now beginning to come forward, although Californias have not yet commenced to move. Shipments of figs from Smyrna to date are reported to be less than one quarter of the quantity at the same period a year ago. A great deal of gossip on the street about the condition of the canned goods market. Trade is in an unsettled condition, and we should not like to take the responsibility of predicting as to the future of values.

Hides and Skins.—The hide market is very steady, and for No. 1 cured, merchants are quoting 9¼c. per lb. Tanners continue to complain of high prices, but take the hides, as they are the best quality of the year. With the colder weather, larger supplies are coming forward. There is nothing new in skins.

Provisions.—The packing season has not yet reached anything like full activity. Receipts of dressed hogs have, owing no doubt to the unsettled weather, been rather light. Cold, bright weather, however, is only needed to bring out the hogs, and put the packing-houses again into activity. For choice light weights (100 to 140 lbs.), packers are paying $5.60 to $5.70, and for heavy weights, $5.30 to $5.50 per cwt. Several lots of mixed weights have been sold during the week at $5.50 per cwt. There is a good, firm tone to the provision market, and products are commanding full rates. In the United States there is a weakness in the market, caused by the constant hammering of packers to secure the new crop at low figures. The export trade, although some large shipments have been made the past two weeks, is not generally strong in demand. Freight rates have advanced recently, and forwardings are made with greater expense than formerly.

Seeds.—There is a large quantity of seeds coming forward, but the demand from country points is hardly what might be expected for the season of the year. For alsike $5 to $7.50 per cwt. is quoted, according to quality, while timothy brings $2.25 to $3.75 per cwt. From New York, 19th inst., we are advised "there was a stronger market here and West, on flax and clover, but buyers and sellers are still apart for export, and no trade reported. We quote: Common to fair clover, $5.25 to $6.25; good to fancy, $6.75 to $7.75; timothy, $2.50 to $3, in job lots for common to choice, per 100 lbs.; flax 99c. to $1, c.i.f., New York."

Wool.—From the Canadian mills there is a good strong demand for wool supplies, and sales on this account are very satisfactory. In fleece wool, trade is slow, at prices formerly quoted. The total deliveries of the last London wool sales show a decrease of 146,000 bales, which is made up as follows: 24,000 bales less to England, and 181,000 bales less to America, but 59,000 bales more to the Continent. Next series will commence on the 29th November, the list of entries being closed on the 21st. It is yet too early to speak definitely about the probable total available, but judging by present advices, we estimate the quantity at about 170,000 bales. The first series of next year is to commence on the 17th of January, the list of entries being closed on the 9th.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 19th Oct., 1898.

Ashes.—There has been a continuance of the improved English demand, and as available stocks are now very limited, there not being more than 20 barrels or so in store at the moment, values continue to stiffen, and $4.30 is being paid for good tares of first quality pots; seconds are quoted at $4, and pearls $5 per cental.

Boots and Shoes.—Rather better reports of the state of trade are made by city manufacturers of footwear. Some houses report improved sorting orders, on the strength of which they have bought a little more freely of black leathers, as well as sole. Payments from the country are fair, but local retailers are not particularly busy or forehanded.

Cements and Firebricks.—There is nothing to report this week in the way of receipts of either cements or firebricks, but some considerable lots have yet to come forward on four steamers before the close of navigation. Business has been rather light on account of the wet weather, but values are very steady at last quotations, and stocks on spot are in quite moderate compass.