

LEADING ARTICLE FROM THE *CHICAGO TRIBUNE*,
FEBRUARY 24th, 1863.

The defeat of the bill in Congress to enlarge the Illinois and Michigan and the Erie Canals, has fixed the attention of the entire West upon the necessity of greatly increased facilities to transport her rapidly increasing products to the ocean. The meeting to be held to-night is in no sense, as charged by some eastern papers, a political movement. It is simply a continuation of the efforts inaugurated in 1855 by the Boards of Chicago, Toronto, and other cities upon the Lakes and the St. Lawrence, to call attention to the growth of the West, and to induce the opening of new and enlarged channels of transit to the ocean. Our commercial readers have not forgotten that a convention of delegates was held in Toronto on the 18th September, 1855, from Oswego, Chicago (Geo. Steele, and Wm. Bross, Esqs., delegates), Toronto, Barrie, the county of Simcoe, and other places, the result of which was a survey of the route between the Georgian Bay and Lake Ontario, by Kivas Tulley Esq., and Col. Mason of this city, shewing the entire feasibility of that route for a ship canal for vessels of a thousand tons burthen. The commercial crash of 1857-8 and the depression that followed, stopped the discussion of this and similar projects, but in the meantime the production of the West has gone on increasing, till the produce seeking transit to the ocean has completely clogged up all our avenues, and freights have become so enormous that little or no profits is left to the producing classes. To make this enormous increase the more evident, we present the following statistics taken from our commercial tables heretofore published.

Total receipts of grain (flour into wheat) for four years :

	Bushels.
1859	20,008,223
1860	36,504,772
1861	54,093,219
1862	58,619,194
Total shipments of grain (flour into wheat) for four years.	
1859	16,753,795
1860	31,256,697
1861	49,363,381
1862	55,720,160

Total receipts of hogs (live and dressed) from October 1st to February 21st, for three years :

Season 1860-61	324,770
" 1861-62	720,130
" 1862-63	1,198,924

The total packing of hogs this season will foot up over 800,000.

The total receipts of beef cattle from October 1st to February 21st for two years.

Season 1861-62	62,626
" 1862-63	87,926

The claims of the West having been ignored by Congress, all that we can is to furnish the facts and figures to Canada, and through her, if she choose to forward