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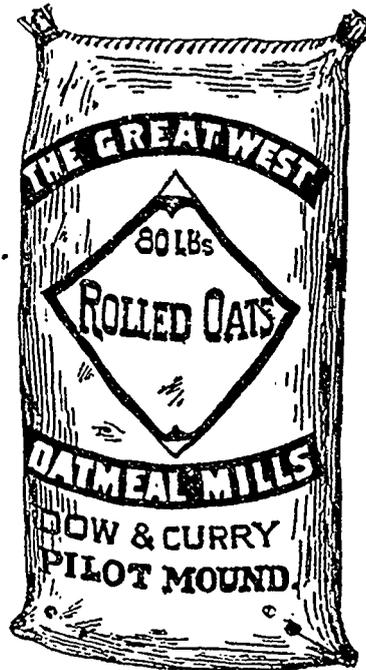
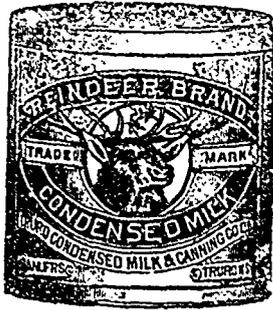
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WINNIPEG, JANUARY 27, 1896.

Manitoba.

E. Bunt, livery, Virden, has sold out to D. J. McLean.

The Breeders' Association will meet in Winnipeg on February 20.

W. J. Young & Co., grocers, Brandon, have dissolved. E. Merner & Co. continue.

It is definitely announced that the Manitoba legislative assembly will assemble for the dispatch of business on Thursday, February 6th.

W. S. Rough, representative in the west of John MacDonal & Co., Toronto, is in charge of the T. A. Garland stores at Portage la Prairie. Other creditors in the east are represented by Mr. Bradford, of Galt, who is taking account of the stock.

Winnipeg city travellers met recently to elect officers for the ensuing year, and to arrange for their annual "at home." D. M. Horne was appointed chairman, John Horne secretary, and J. M. Scott, treasurer. A committee was formed to make all necessary arrangements.

Regarding the Garland failure at Portage la Prairie, a further report from Toronto, where Garland's liabilities are principally held, says: "In 1881 T. A. Garland went from Caledonia to Portage la Prairie with a capital of \$25,000 and opened a general store. During the "boom" he was reported to have made lots of money out of his heavy investments in real estate. In a statement made a year ago, he claimed a surplus of \$115,000 over liabilities of \$81,000. Of this fully \$100,000 was made up of real estate. This no doubt has been the cause of his trouble. His brother Nicholas Garland, of Toronto, has come to his assistance, and an arrangement has been made by which Nicholas Garland, John M. Garland and Mr. Garrick, of the Portage, who are real estate creditors, defer their claims until merchandise creditors are paid 60 cents on the dollar. J. Kidston Macdonald, of Toronto, is trustee of the estate. The liabilities are more than \$190,000.

The Selkirk Transportation and Cold Storage Company, (Limited), is applying for Dominion incorporation. The purpose for which incorporation is sought are, the transportation of freight, merchandise and passengers on Lake Winnipeg and its tributaries; the freezing, storing, cold storage and shipping of fresh fish to be caught in the waters of Lake Winnipeg and its tributaries; the

carrying on of a general fishing business in the said lake and its tributaries on behalf of any parties duly licensed by the Dominion government in that behalf; the erection of chemical freezing plant and of all other plant used for freezing, storing or handling fish; the acquiring or building of steam vessels or other vessels, etc. The chief place of business is to be the town of Selkirk. The intended amount of the capital stock is \$50,000. The number of shares is to be 500, and the amount of each share is to be of the value of \$100. The names of the applicants are: William Robinson, merchant, and Albert Elswood Richards, barrister, Winnipeg; William Overton, Selkirk, and Hugh Armstrong, Portage la Prairie; all of whom are to be the first or provisional directors of the company.

Alberta.

Clonouning, millinery, Lethbridge, is succeeded by Mrs. M. S. Campbell

Cattle are reported to be doing well on the ranges so far this winter. There have been no bad storms and less snow than usual.

Assiniboia.

M. Palmer, millinery, Moosomin, has assigned.

Review of the Wheat Market.

The Miller, of London England reviews the wheat market for the past year as follows:

January began hopefully for a steady run of business. The stocks of wheat in the United Kingdom and the quantity afloat were comparatively moderate, amounting in the aggregate to about 5,000,000 qrs., compared with 6,000,000 qrs at the same period in 1891 and 7,200,000 qrs. in 1893. Then, as now, Russian wheat shippers were holding for higher prices, their c.i.f. quotations for shipments being 20s. to 24s. The new crop in Argentina was offered at 22s. to 22s. 6d., and Australian had sellers at 24s. to 24s. 3d., while India was not expected to be able to make any important contribution towards our requirements. In the opinion of millers, the prospective movements in the United States assumed the chief importance, but there, the uncertainty which overhung the financial situation had a paralysing effect upon export business, and c.i.f. values of Red wheat lost fully 1s. per qr. on the month, California and kindred grades sympathizing to the extent of 6d. to 9d. per qr.

February brought amelioration to the strained position in the United States, and public confidence was partially restored by the action of the President's Government; but export demand (necessary if higher prices were to be realised) failed to assume the expected importance, and so trade dragged along at nominally unaltered quotations. In Russian, La Plata, and other grades, no remarkable change took place.

March came in gently, and fears were felt in France as to the well-being of the autumn-sown crop, exposed, now that snow had melted, to sunny days and sharp nights frosts. It was early for the trade to be swayed by crop scares; nevertheless, both U.K. and Continental merchants began to stir, and several White wheat cargoes were purchased for account of speculators in the Berlin "term" market, but the lead was not followed by U.K. buyers, and the citement overrated almost as quickly as it arose, when the c.i.f. market closed rather heavily, although at prices about 6d. higher.

April's genial entrance had the effect of reducing considerably the fears of winter-kill in the French and other wheat crops; The continent paid 23s. 1½d. to 23s. 4½d. for Walla Walla, ordered to Hamburg from ports-of-call, and Darkirk took Victorian at 24s. 7½d. Matters remained quiet until

about the middle of the month, when rumours, unfavorable to crop prospects in Russia and North America, put New York and Chicago upon the war-trail. The close of April saw quotations for Red Winter and Spring fully 3s. higher on the month. Russian and La Plata advanced 1s. 6d. to 2s.; Californian about 2s.; other qualities participating in the improvement.

May began with reasonable weather, but anon became cold and droughty, thereby retarding the development of cereals in this country as well as over some parts of the continent. Meanwhile, reports from French fields were encouraging. In the United States very remarkable conditions were unfolding; wild and exaggerated statements were spread broadcast "telling out among the nations" that the Winter wheat crop in the best regions was generally injured, if not destroyed, by frost, and Transatlantic markets ramped along until a rise of 10 cents per bushel had been registered between the middle and end of the month. For example, the spot value of No. 2 Red Winter at New York, on the 15th, was on a parity of 21s. 6d. f.o.b., and by the 28th the quotation had risen to 28s. 6d. f.o.b. 480 lbs. Then the tide began to ebb gradually, for it was beyond doubt that much damage had come to the crop in Kansas and other important States. During the excitement, Russian, Californian, La Plata, Australian, &c., had advanced 1s. 6d. to 3s., and a very large business in forward wheat was put through.

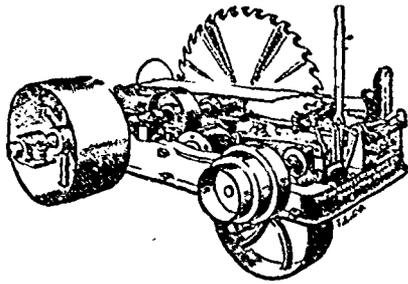
June.—The inexpediency of the spasmodic upward rush was not long in being made manifest; buyers became reflective, and it began to be recognized that, without support from the United States, the market must retrograde until firm ground was reached. Estimates of the crop in North America were now ventured upon. Taking the Agricultural Bureau returns for a basis, several American journals gave it as their opinion that the crop would produce from 400,000,000 to 420,000,000 bushels. Other "authorities" were emboldened to adopt independent methods of calculation, and these essays ranged between 425,000,000 and 511,000,000 bushels. Even at that time the huge yield of Spring wheat was regarded as a set-off to the shortage in the Red Winter crop, and the end of 1895 has arrived without definite information respecting the actual quantity of Spring wheat produced.

July trading was initiated at prices which indicated that of the recent 5s. to 6s. advance, between 2s. 6d. and 3s. had disappeared, and the market was in a position that, in all probability, would have been reached if the extraordinary excitement in America had not intervened to disturb gradual progress. The improved and mainly satisfactory aspect of European wheat fields had the usual soothing effect upon the market. California, August-September, had sellers at 27s. 9d. to 28s., over early month rates. Azima and Ghirka were quoted 23s. to 26s., and La Plata sailers on passage 23s. 6d. to 24s.

August.—The last month of the cereal year, unless weather prove bad for harvest, is usually a time of placid markets, and 1895 was no exception to the rule. The off coast market had a goodly display of cargoes, and arrivals at direct ports were numerous, therefore the accumulation in U.K. granaries became excessive, having increased nearly 7,000,000 qrs. in four weeks. At the same time the tone of trade ruled steady, although c.i.f. quotations for leading qualities shrank 1s. 6d. to 3s. in the month. Russians offered at 20s. to 23s., and prompt Californian at 26s.

September opened with lovely summer weather, and by the tenth day scarcely any grain remained on our fields. Business was trammelled by the growing suspicion that the world's wheat crop would work out larger than had been anticipated. That such

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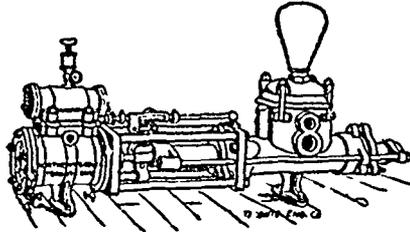


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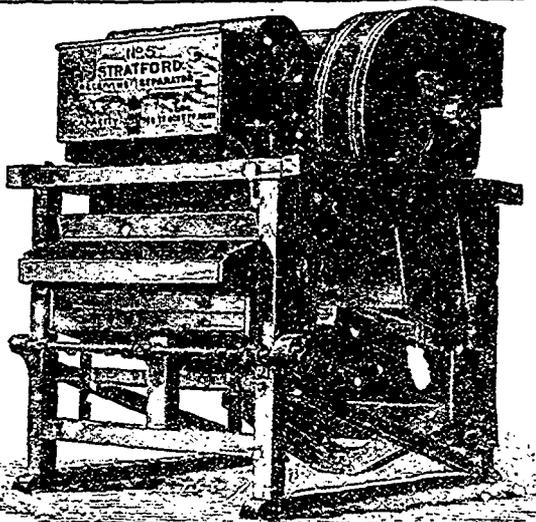
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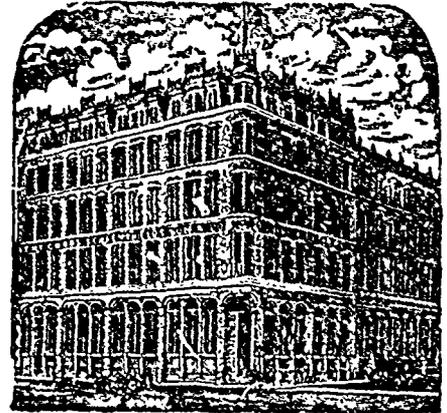
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The Bushel and the Cental.

In early times, when the requirements of mankind were fewer and simpler than now, commercial intercourse between nations was rare, and often limited by a mountain or a river. The exchange of commodities that took place among the members of one tribe was carried on with the simplest measures, and in accordance with custom. Commercial intercourse has broadened since then, but the instrumentalities of exchanges have not kept pace with its growth. The time is past when feudal princes tinkered with the weights and measures of a country as they pleased, but the complicated system of Troy weight, avoirdupois weight, dry measure, liquid measure, etc., which they concocted, is still with us.

The United States brought its measures and weights from England. In England an inch was determined by the dimension of three barley corns; a penny was to weigh 82 wheat corns plucked from the midst of the ear, 20 pennies was to make an ounce, 12 ounces one pound, 8 pounds a gallon of wine, 8 gallons of wine a London bushel, which was one-eighth of a quarter. However, the bushel measure was placed on a more secure foundation later, being made 2,218,192 cubic inches, which equals 1.0315 Winchester bushels, the unit of measurement in the United States. Besides this England has 300 or 400 other units of measure to facilitate commercial transactions.

The use of commerce is to transport commodities from parts of the earth where they are in abundance to parts where they are wanting. Whatever hinders this transportation or renders it detrimental to commerce, whether it is a mountain or a river, or a Sahara of weights and measures. How does the system now in use in England meet the requirements of modern commerce? A grain merchant in Liverpool had a cargo of wheat. Parts of it were bought by five different persons. The cargo had to be sold in five different bushels; in paying the duty these bushels had to be converted into imperial quarters; in calculating tonnage and other dues it was necessary to reduce all to tons.

No two countries have the same weights and measures, and the same name is often employed to designate different quantities. The United States lost many of the delectable features of the English measures, but adopted others equally good. While the currency is on the decimal system, which is acknowledged to be the best in operation, we have contentedly adhered to the antiquated scale of weights and measures with which trade has for so long been embarrassed. For the ordinary purposes of retail trade this is all right. We have no quarrel with the grocer. No one wants the "good old metric system of France." The difficulties of establishing it would be almost insurmountable.

But to carry on such a business as grain dealing the bushel as a unit of measurement is inadequate to the requirements of commerce, international or interstate. An examination of the different weights of the bushel of grain in the United States shows a curious state of affairs. Throughout the states the weight of a bushel of wheat is fixed by law at 60 pounds, but the measured bushel actually weighs all the way from 40 to 60 and to 64 and 66 pounds. However, this measurement is comparatively and exceptionally uniform. There are 54 pounds to the bushel of rye in California and Louisiana, 56 pound in all other states except in South Carolina, where it weighs 60 pounds. There are only 28 pounds to the bushel of oats in Maryland, 36 in Washington. In South Carolina there are 60 pounds of barley to the bushel, in Georgia there are 47 pounds. This uniform diversity exists throughout the whole list.

This state of things might lead to some confusion. For instance, 1,000 bushels of rye

bought in Kansas (where it weighs 56 pounds to the bushels) and shipped to New Orleans would become 1,750 bushels there, where a contract for delivery would be settled for at the rate of 54 pounds to the bushel were it not for an agreement to the contrary. In the case of barley 1,000 bushels bought in Kansas at 48 pounds to the bushel would become 1,500 bushels in New Orleans. If 100,000 bushels of oats were shipped from Washington to Duluth, Minn., they become at their destination 112,500 bushels.

Of course, an agreement between shipper and buyer obviates some of the confusion, and as a general rule their weights fixed by law are declared to be intended only as standards of reference in the absence of any express agreement. But suppose a law should be passed which made unlawful this option of special contract? In 1874 the Maine legislature fixed the weight of a bushel of apples at 41 pounds and forbade agreement to the contrary under penalty of forfeiting 25 cents to each bushel. In Wisconsin a bushel of apples weighs 57 pounds.

An American asks for a fair field and no favors, but he does not find it here. I will mention two more examples of the beauties of our bushel measure. In Salem County, New Jersey, the weight of a bushel of corn was fixed at 55 pounds, in the rest of the state it weighed 56 pounds. There is a law in Indiana fixing the weight of a bushel of mineral coal at 70 pounds if mined in the state, at 80 pounds if mined outside and sold in the state.

Such a chaotic state of affairs is a hindrance to commerce. The time has come for the grain trade to abandon the bushel, for it has become a useless instrument in our transactions. Some may raise the objection that as the various weights and measures now existing are the natural growth of the necessities of traffic, and as they are founded on experience, they are likely to be better adapted to practical commercial purposes than any changes to systems founded on theory. While this may be true for the great part of commodities which are naturally bought and sold in other than decimal proportions, nevertheless it is time, and it has even become necessary, for the grain trade to make a change.

Common use for years in the Pacific coast states has demonstrated that the cental (100 pounds avoirdupois) is the most convenient unit at present known for carrying on the grain business. As the business is carried on at present the farmer is offered a price per bushels for his grain. The buyer receives it in pounds and reduces it to bushels; the freight is paid in pounds; it is received in the central market and reduced to bushels—just about paralleling the experience of the Liverpool grain merchant's shipment. The adoption of the cental or decimal system would do away with all this. It is the simplest and easiest system, and would be the one most readily adopted by foreign countries. Prices could be easily adjusted to this standard, existing tabulations would be simplified, and it would tend toward the establishment of uniform practice throughout the world.—F. R. Progress in American Elevator and Grain Trade.

The Agriculture of Canada.

The wealth of every country is a product to which all classes contribute, or should contribute. If, however, we trace it back to its source, we shall find that four streams contribute to the volume, namely, the product of the farm, the forest, the fisheries, and the mine. The variations in our national wealth and the general condition of our national wealth are controlled largely by these four sources. In Canada, these four great industries give employment to a very large portion of our population. In 1891, out

of 1,659,855 workers in all classes, 790,210 were engaged in agriculture, fishing, mining and lumbering. The relation of the various classes of workers may be stated briefly, thus: Of the total persons having occupations, 47.6 were engaged in agriculture, mining, fishing, and lumbering, 19.8 per cent. were engaged in manufacturing and mechanical pursuits, 14.9 per cent. in domestic and personal services, 11.2 per cent. in trade and transportation; 8.8 per cent. in professional vocations; and 8.2 per cent. were in the non-productive class. The 790,210, forming nearly one-half of the total workers, were divided into the following classes. Agriculture 785,207; fishing 27,079; mining 15,168; lumbering 12,756. The annual agricultural productions of Canada amount to about \$500,000,000 in value, the forest products \$80,000,000, the mineral products \$20,000,000, the fisheries products \$20,000,000. It will thus be seen that the four streams or fountain sources of wealth aggregate \$620,000,000 a year, and that four-fifths of the total volume comes from the farm. No wonder, then, that when agriculture prospers our whole country prospers, and that Thanksgiving Day is postponed until the year's harvests have been gathered and the farmer has balanced his ledger.

The times have been hard, unusually hard, and have weighed excessively upon the farmers of Canada; and yet they have not lost heart. The farmers of Canada came from hardy stock,—the best of the yeomanry of England, Scotland, Ireland and Germany, in addition to the thrifty French-Canadians, who may be considered almost as being native to the soil. When these rationalities shall have coalesced, the product will be a rural people unexcelled, if not unequalled.

Another cause of hope in Canada's future lies in the fact of her variety of resources. We have coal in abundance in our Maritime Provinces, east and west; iron in every province except the prairie sections; gold in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia; copper and nickel to supply the world; salt, petroleum and natural gases. We have cod fisheries on the Atlantic coast, salmon on the Pacific, and our inland lakes and rivers also contribute large quantities of varied kinds. The timber limits of the older provinces still contribute the larger portion of the legislative revenues, while the enormous forests of British Columbia and Labrador have been only partially explored, and the agriculture of Canada is even more varied. Prince Edward Island, long noted for its sheep and its horses, is making a special effort for recognition as a dairy province; Nova Scotia grows some of the finest fruit in the world, in the rich and beautiful Annapolis Valley; New Brunswick has as yet developed no speciality, but is making a general advance in methods; Quebec, with abundant hay and rich grasses, holds her high record for Eastern Townships butter; Manitoba grows the best wheat in America; the Northwest Territories are building up a series of magnificent stock ranches in some sections, and in others general farming is developing well; British Columbia will soon have a surplus of fine fruit; as for Ontario, the central province, her cheese, her apples and peaches, her barley and peas and oats, her cattle and sheep and horses, all take rank unsurpassed in the world's markets. While we have a variety of resources and a variety of industries, we can also claim a wonderful variety of agricultural products, and in this there is reason for concluding that the continued prosperity of this country is assured.—C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, in Industrial Canada.

Cream of tartar has been advanced 1c per lb. by manufacturers, owing to the scarcity of the raw material from which cream of tartar of made.

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, JANUARY 27, 1896.

RED RIVER IMPROVEMENT.

A scheme is said to be on foot to form a private company to improve the navigation of the Red river between Winnipeg and Lake Winnipeg. Mr. T. C. Livingstone has been at Ottawa and he says the government are anxious that the work should be undertaken by a private company. He further says that the government would liberally assist the proposed private company by a cash bonus on completion of the work. Mr. Livingstone says he has the promise of a Dominion charter for his proposed company, authorizing the construction of the necessary work to make deep water navigation between Winnipeg and the Lake.

No doubt the government would be quite willing to charter the proposed company, and furthermore, the government would no doubt be quite willing to vote a bonus to the proposed company "on completion of the work," as the chances are against their ever being called upon to hand over the bonus.

The improvement of the Red river so as to permit of lake steamers navigating the river beyond Selkirk, is a most important question. There are no very costly obstacles to overcome. The only impediment to the navigation of the river is the St. Andrew's rapids and this could be overcome at an expenditure of from \$500,000 to \$1,500,000 according to different estimates already made. At the same time we believe this is a work which should be undertaken by the Dominion government. It is to all intents and purposes a Dominion government work, the Dominion having sole powers of legislation in matters regarding navigable streams. When a bonus was proposed by the city of Winnipeg some time ago, to aid in the carrying out of this work, The Commercial objected to it on the ground that it was a Dominion work, which the people of Manitoba have a right to expect shall be done at the expense of the federal government.

Mr. Livingstone intimates that his proposed private company should be aided by bonuses from the city and province. The Commercial believes that neither the city nor the province should be called upon to contribute anything to aid this undertaking. The Dominion government appears to have funds to spend in canals in the East, such, for instance, as the Tay canal, which are of much less importance than the improvement of the Red river. The Dominion has not yet undertaken any important public work in the improvement of our western navigable streams, though there has been a pressing demand for this work for many years, and now evidently they desire to shelve it by giving a charter to a private company to carry out the work.

In the opinion of The Commercial great care should be exercised in the matter of this proposed private company. It looks too much like a scheme to postpone the work. Once the private company were chartered, the government could object to do anything, on

the ground that this company had been formed to carry out the improvements, and it would not be fair for the government to step in until the private company had been given plenty of time to see what it could do. In this way the matter could be kept hanging fire for years, while the government would be in a position to meet any pressure upon them to urge them to undertake the work.

Before this proposed company is chartered the matter should be thoroughly investigated by the public, and the board of trade and city council should have a say on the subject.

The reception the present proposal will receive will depend very much upon the names connected with it. So far the only name mentioned is that of Mr. Livingstone. It is to be hoped that no representative men will allow their names to be connected with the enterprise, unless they are fully satisfied that it is a bona fide enterprise, and that there is good reason to believe the work can be carried through in this way at once.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A COMMITTEE of Winnipeg gentlemen have decided to call an immigration convention, to be held at Winnipeg on or about the 26th, 27th and 28th of February. Delegates from each municipality throughout the province and Territories, as well as from the larger towns between Port Arthur and the Pacific coast will be asked to attend. Representatives will be invited from the Winnipeg city council, board of trade, grain exchange, jobbers' union, exhibition association, Hudson's Bay company, Canadian Pacific railway, Northern Pacific railway, Manitoba and Northwestern Railway, and Great Northern Railway. The railways will be asked to supply a cut rate to delegates from outside points. The movement to hold this convention, is an outgrowth of the recent immigration convention held at St. Paul, Minnesota.

THE payment of claims against the Territorial Exhibition, was discussed in the Senate at Ottawa last week, but Premier Bowell did not hold out much hope that the Dominion would pay the claims. In reply to Mr. Perley he is reported to have said: "With regard to the liabilities for the fair at Regina he did not know that the federal government was bound either in honor or equity to assume that indebtedness, and they certainly were not legally bound. If it was shown that the debts were incurred by the lieutenant-governor upon his own responsibility, there might be some claim in equity against the government whose officer the lieutenant-governor was. The government had, however, only given a money grant to assist the fair and had taken no further responsibility." To this Senator Loughheed asked: "Did I understand the premier to say that the government repudiated the fair liabilities incurred by the lieutenant-governor?" The premier replied: "I did not say so. I said it was a matter for consideration. Would it not be well for the honorable gentleman to establish a claim before he talks of repudiation." It may be explained that large claims against the territorial fair remain unpaid. It was certainly expected all over the Territories and in Manitoba that the Dominion would

satisfy these claims. The exhibition was looked upon here as purely a Dominion government affair, and practically its sole management was in the hands of Governor Mackintosh, who is a Dominion official. The Dominion is surely morally responsible for these liabilities, the premier to the contrary notwithstanding. The government should also be held morally responsible for the money they place in power as lieutenant-governors. It seems only reasonable to expect the Dominion to wipe off these claims, when we consider how the exhibition was brought about and managed throughout by government influences. Eventually we believe the claims will be paid by the Dominion, and they should be paid at once, as no doubt much hardship has already been caused by the delay in straightening up the affairs of the exhibition.

THE COMMERCIAL has spoken several times about the loss sustained through the careless handling of poultry, but there still seems to be room for a full course of lectures upon this subject. Both the farmers and many country merchants seem to require further advice upon this matter. A few days ago we saw a barrel of turkeys in a Winnipeg store, which had been shipped in from the country, that was certainly a disgrace to the shipper. Nearly half the value of the turkeys had been lost by improper handling. In the first place, a barrel is not a suitable thing to pack poultry in. In the second place, these turkeys had evidently been frozen before they were packed, and they had no doubt been thawed out by the shipper, to admit of being packed closely in the barrel, for they had been packed in so closely as to form a solid mass when frozen again. The consequence of this freezing and thawing and freezing again was that the birds looked black and dirty. They looked as though they had been lying around a dirty warehouse for a few months, and altogether they were about as uninviting a lot of goods as we have seen for some time. Poultry, or any other flesh food, once it becomes frozen, should not be allowed to thaw until it reaches the consumer, as it presents an objectionable appearance by being frozen and thawed. The shipper saved space in packing by thawing these turkeys, but he utterly destroyed their appearance, and greatly reduced their value.

THE statement published recently in the Winnipeg Free Press, and credited to the St. Paul Pioneer Press, to the effect that large quantities of oil cake were shipped from Minnesota to Manitoba, is entirely untrue. Flax seed meal is produced in Winnipeg in larger quantities than is required for consumption in Manitoba, and the surplus is exported east. The product of flax seed has not been imported into Manitoba for years. The St. Paul paper has evidently been stuffed.

WHILE The Commercial has some doubts as to the feasibility of the proposed dairy exchange in Winnipeg, there is one point which would appear to greatly favor the formation of the proposed exchange. We refer to the loss sustained by holding dairy goods at the factories or in country stores. This has ever been the great complaint about Manitoba dairy goods, that they have been held until

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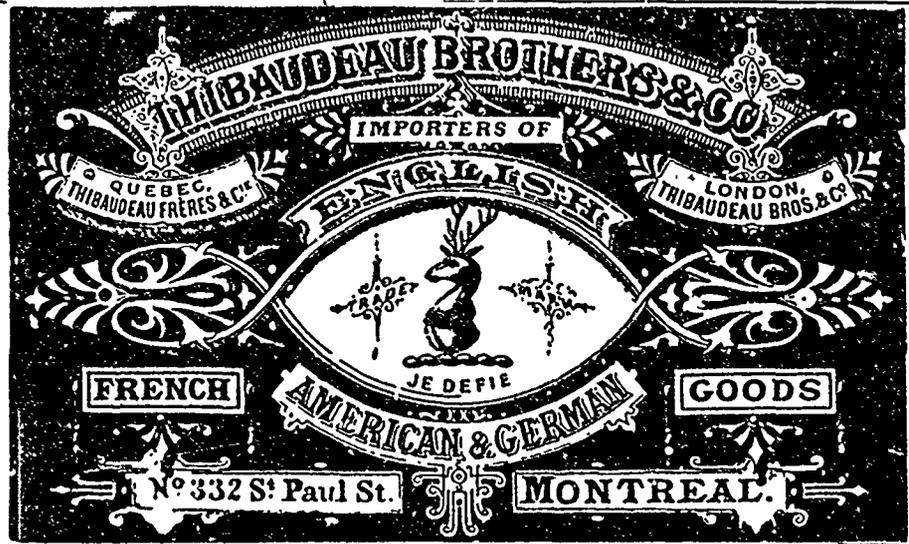
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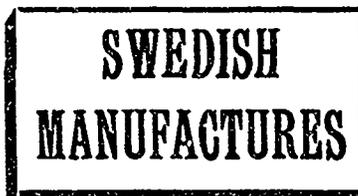
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Send Large Samples and Name Prices Wanted.

THOMAS McLAUGHLIN,
Board of Trade, Toronto, Ont

the quality has been impaired. Very few factories or country dealers have proper accommodations for holding dairy goods, even for a very short time. The quality of the goods will sometimes be badly impaired by holding for a few days only, under the conditions existing at most factories or country stores. If Manitoba butter and cheese is to take a good position in the markets of the world, this plan of holding will have to be discontinued. The establishment of an exchange here, with proper cold storage in connection, would have a tendency to induce factories and country dealers to ship in their goods at frequent intervals, thus enabling them to take advantage of the storage facilities afforded, as well as the opportunity of selling their goods at the weekly or semi-monthly sales. This is the most favorable point we see in favor of the proposed dairy exchange.

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, Jan. 22, 1896.

Trade has revived and is even better than before the holidays. Collections are good. Rain and snow have been falling all week, but the weather is mild and springlike, so that the retail trade is not affected. The lumber trade continues brisk, several new charters are reported. The salmon catch has been disposed of satisfactorily, and there is scarcely enough stock for local requirements. There is a gold excitement at Bowen Island a few miles from Vancouver, several rich ledges having been struck. The ore is low grade, but is found in large quantities and is easily smelted. There are some changes in the market in provisions. Cured meats remain the same but weak. Sugar has taken a sudden advance of one quarter of a cent per pound. The flour and feed trade is dull owing to the inclement weather, the market is steady. The fruit and vegetable trade is reported brisk. The last Oriental steamer brought in a large consignment of Japanese oranges. Ashcroft potatoes are quoted at \$15.00.

British Columbia Markets.

(BY WIRE TO THE COMMERCIAL.)

Vancouver, January 25, 1896.

Changes this week have been confined to grain, flour and feed. Oregon flour has advanced 20c, and a general rise is expected. Oregon wheat has also advanced sharply, and ground feed is higher. There is a decline in oatmeal.

Butter.—Dairy butter, 18 to 20c; creamery 25 to 26c; Manitoba cheese 11½c per lb.

Cured Meats.—Hams 12c; breakfast bacon 12½c; backs 11½c; long, clear 8½c; short rolls 9c; smoked sides 10c. Lard is held at the following figures: Tins 10½c per pound; in;ails and tubs 10c. Mess pork \$14; short cut \$15.

Fish.—Prices are: Flounders 9c; smelt 5c; sea bass 4c; black cod 6c; rock cod 4c; red cod 4c; tommy cod 4c; herring 4c; salmon 9c; halibut 7c; whiting 6c; soles 6c; crabs 60c dozen; smoked halibut 10c; bloaters 10c; kippered cod 9c; sturgeon 6c.

Game.—Mallards, 50c; pintails 40c; widgeons, 35c; venison, 5c.

Vegetables.—Potatoes new, \$10 per ton; onions silver skins, 1½c; cabbage, 1½c; carrots, turnips and beets, ¼ to 1c a lb.; sweet potatoes, \$2.50 per 100 lbs.

Eggs.—Fresh, local, 85c; Oregon, 27c per dozen.

Fruits.—California seedling oranges \$3.00, navels, \$4.00; native apples \$1.00; Cali-

fornia lemons \$1.00 to \$1.50 California apples, \$1.20 to \$1.30, Jap oranges 50c.

Evaporated Fruits.—Apricots 11c per lb; peaches 7½c; plums 1c; prunes, French, 4c; loose Mission raisins 4c; London layer raisins \$1.65 box.

Nuts.—Almonds, 18c; filberts, 12½c; peanuts, 10c; Brazil, 12½c; walnuts, 10 to 16c lb.

Flour.—Manitoba patent, per bbl., \$1.40; strong bakers, \$1.10; Oregon, \$1.00; Oak Lake patent \$1.20; do strong bakers \$1.00.

Meal.—National mills rolled oats, 90 lb sacks, \$3.00; 45 pound sacks, \$3.10; 22½ pound sacks, \$3.80; 10.7 sacks, \$2.00. Oatmeal, 10-10's, \$3.00; 2-50's, \$2.75. Off grades, 90 lbs, \$2.25; 2-45s, \$2.85.

Grain.—Washington State wheat \$27.00 per ton f. o. b. Vancouver, duty paid. Oats 16.00 per ton.

Ground Feed.—National mills chop, \$22 to \$23 per ton; ground barley, \$22 ton; shorts, \$18.50 ton; bran \$16.50, oil cake meal, \$26 ton; F. O. B. Vancouver, including duty paid on import stuff.

Hay.—Nominal at \$8 per ton.

Dressed Meats.—Beef, 7c; mutton, 7½ to 8c; pork, 6 to 7c; veal, 7 to 9c per lb.

Live Stock.—Steers, 8 to 8½ lb; cows 2½ to 3c; sheep, \$3.25 to \$3.50; hogs, 4½ to 5½c; lamb, per head \$3.00 to \$3.50.

Poultry.—Chickens, \$4 to \$6 per dozen.

Sugars.—Powdered and icing, 6c; Paris lump, 5½c; granulated, 4½c; extra C, 4c; fancy yellows 8½c; yellow 8½c per lb.

Syrups.—30 gallon barrels, 1½c per pound; 10 gallon kegs, 2c; 5 gallon kegs, \$1.25 each; 1 gallon tins, \$3.75 per case of 10; ½ gallon tins, \$1.50 per case of 20.

Teas.—Congo: Fair, 11½c; good, 18c; choice, 26c. Ceylons: Fair, 25c; good, 30c; choice, 85c per lb.

British Columbia Business Notes

The stock of W. J. Van Houten, hardware, Nanaimo, is offered for sale.

Howard & Co., hotel, Rossland, have sold out to Mrs. Josephine Ward.

R. N. Taylor, drugs, Vernon, has sold out to S. A. Muir.

T. H. Baker, of R. Baker & Son, feed, etc., Victoria, is dead.

The bailiff is in possession of the stock of Howell & Beskwith, grocers, Victoria.

J. D. McNeil, butcher, Victoria, has admitted Oscar Scarf as partner.

The stock of L. A. Murphy, cigars, Wellington, is advertised for sale.

J. G. Worth, butcher, Wellington, has sold out to S. Godfrey.

J. Brown & Co., blacksmiths, Armstrong, have dissolved; J. H. Schnieder continues the business.

Toronto Grain and Produce Market.

WHEAT.—Cars of red wheat sold f.o.b. on the Northern to-day at 72c, and red and white are quoted at 70c. Manitoba wheat is firm; No. 1 hard is quoted at 75 to 76c North Bay and No. 1 northern at 74 to 75c; No. 1 hard is quoted at 76 to 77c, grinding in transit, and No. 1 northern at 75 to 76c. On 'Change here to-day No. 1 hard was offered, Toronto and west at 74c, and No. 2 hard at 72c.

Flour.—There is quite a good inquiry for Ontario grades and prices are firm; cars of straight roller are held west at \$3.25 and at \$3.40, Toronto freights.

Millfeed.—A car of shorts in bulk sold to-day at \$18.50. The city mills are selling ton lots of shorts at \$14 and bran at \$18.

Barley.—A round lot of better than No. 1 sold east to-day at 45c; No. 2 is quoted east

at 89c; No. 1 at 48 to 44c; and fancy No. 1 at 45 to 40c.

Oats.—Cars of white sold west at 23c; mixed are quoted west at 22½c, white east at 24c, and cars on the track Toronto at 25½c.

Butter.—Stocks are accumulating and sales are hard to make. Shading in prices is frequently resorted to. Good creamery is quoted at 19 to 20c for tubs and 21 to 22c for rolls. Large rolls are easy at 13 to 15c, and dairy pound prints are in fair demand at 16 to 17c. Fresh made dairy tubs bring 14 to 16c and medium low grade are slow, selling at 7 to 12c.

Eggs.—Five and ten case lots of pickled sell at 14½ to 15c, and single cases bring 15½c. Cold storage offer at 16c to 18c and late gathered at 18 to 20c. Strictly now laid are quoted at 21 to 23c.

Poultry.—We quote:—Turkeys, 6 to 8c; geese, 5 to 6c; ducks, 50 to 75c; chickens, 25 to 50c.

Baled Hay.—The market is firm. The demand is good and car lots of No. 1 are offered at \$15 to \$15.25, and No. 2 at \$14.25 to \$14.50 on the track here.

Dressed Hogs.—Car loads of mixed hogs sell at \$1.55, and cars composed entirely of light weights bring \$1.60 to \$1.65.

Hides.—There is a firm demand and the market is firm. Dealers are paying 5c for No. 1 green, 4c for No. 2 and 3c for No. 3, and cured are held at 6c to 6½c for No. 1, 5 to 5½c for No. 2 and 4c to 4½c for No. 3. Sheepskins are quoted at 80c. Calfskins.—Nominal at 6c for No. 1. Tallow.—Dealers are paying 4c to 4½c and selling at 4½ to 4¾c.

Seeds.—Prices are steady. We quote:—Alsikio, \$2.75 to \$1.25, according to quality; red clover, \$4 to \$4.50, and timothy, \$1.25 to \$2.25.—Globe, Jan. 21.

A Territory Cattle Law.

There is a law in effect in the Territories, to apply to the range country, where cattle are branded, regarding the sale of stock, to prevent stealing cattle. On the open ranges it would be an easy matter to "run off" cattle, hence the precaution. The following is a summary of the law:

Sec. 1.—No purchaser shall purchase or kill any head of neat cattle until the same is distinctly marked or branded, or both; and every person engaged in slaughtering neat cattle in any such stock district shall keep a record of all cattle so slaughtered, naming the person of whom purchased, and his or their place of residence, and the age, sex, brands and marks of neat cattle slaughtered: which record shall at all times be open for the inspection of the public.

Sec. 2.—requires purchasers of hides to keep a record of same, with name &c., of persons from whom purchased.

Sec. 3.—every butcher slaughtering neat cattle shall keep the hides of such cattle for a period of not less than seven days, and such hides shall be open to the inspection of the public.

Sec. 4.—All persons, other than butchers, who occasionally slaughter neat cattle for beef, shall exhibit the hide or hides of such beef at the time and place the beef is offered for sale.

Sec. 5 prohibits the skinning of cattle found dead, by anyone but the owner, or his agent, or employee.

Sec. 6 refers to all persons, other than butchers, who occasionally slaughter beef, either for home consumption or other purposes, and requires them to keep the hides intact for 30 days, with the right of the public to inspect them. They may, however, within that time be sold to such person or persons as under Sec. 2 are required to keep a record of them.

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Wholesale Grocery and Liquor
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PARSONS PRODUCE COMPANY,
WINNIPEG, MAN.

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, Jan. 25, 1896.

A slight improvement is beginning to manifest itself in some branches of wholesale trade, but the general situation is dull. This is not exceptional, but is simply the usually prevailing condition during the early weeks of the new year. Grain movement has dropped off, owing to the elevators at lake ports being full. Farmers are marketing very little grain and at the present rates of deliveries, there is plenty of storage room at the various country points to take all receipts for a long time. Reports from the ranges say that cattle are in good shape. Though there have been some very cold snaps, they have not lasted long at a time, and the average weather has been mild and free from storms. The principal feature of the local trade is the strength in wheat and hogs. Hides are also higher. Bank clearings at Winnipeg, though continuing to show a decline as compared with recent weeks, are still considerably greater than a year ago, clearings this week being 21 per cent greater than the corresponding week of 1895.

There were 52 business failures reported in Canada this week, against 74 last week. One year ago the total was 38, and 48 in each of the corresponding weeks in 1894 and 1893, and 44 in 1892.

In the United States the principal feature is the advance in iron and steel. The recent decline has been checked, and an advance of \$1 to \$2 per ton has been made.

Stock markets at New York and London have been nervous and irregular this week, owing to various political rumors. The principal feature of excitement this week has been the unconfirmed rumors of an alliance between Russia and Turkey.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Jan. 25.

(All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are wholesale for such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reduction on large quantities and to cash discounts.)

COAL—Winnipeg prices are the same, and we quote: Pennsylvania anthracite \$8.50 per ton, delivered to consumers; Souris lignite \$1.25 per ton, delivered to consumers, and \$3.85 at the yard here; Lethbridge bituminous \$6.50 to consumers; western anthracite, \$3.50 per ton to consumers.

CEREALS—National Food preparations in cartons: Deseccated rolled oats, 2 doz., 2 lb pkgs, per case, \$2.90; deseccated rolled wheat, 2 doz. 3 lb. pkgs per case, \$3.25; Deseccated wheat, 1 doz., 2 lb pkts., per case, \$2.75; Snowflake barley 2 doz., 2 lb pkgs., per case, \$2.90, Buckwheat flour, 1 doz., 5 lb pkgs per case \$2.75; Buckwheat flour 2 doz., 2 1/2 lb pkts., per case \$2.90; breakfast hominy, 1 doz., 3 lb pkts., per case, \$3.25; prepared pea flour 1 doz., per case, \$2.50, gluten flour, 1 doz., per case, \$3.50; rolled wheat, in bbls., 180 lbs. \$4.50.

CORDWOOD—There has been a good demand for wood fuel, owing to cold weather. Prices are firm. The Winnipeg school board may not call for the wood by tender, spoken of last week, as the contractor to whom the tender was first awarded has now agreed to fill the contract. We quote the following prices for car lots on track here: Tamarac \$4 per cord; pine \$3.50 per cord; spruce \$3.25; poplar \$2.25 to \$2.50 per cord; oak, \$3.75 to \$4; birch, \$4 to \$4.25. There

is a little variation from these prices as to quality, poor quality being sometimes obtainable a little lower. Some are holding good tamarac at \$4.25.

DRYED FRUITS AND NUTS.—Grenoble Walnuts, 16c; Tarragona almonds, 16c; princess paper shell almonds, 22c; Sicilly filberts, large, 12c; Brazil nuts, 15c; peanuts, roasted, 15c; peanuts greens, 13c; Ontario black walnuts, 8c, butternuts, 9c, hickory nuts, 10c per pound, figs, old, 14 oz. boxes, \$1 per dozen; figs, new, 9 lb. boxes, 11c; figs, superior, 35 lb. boxes, 19c; figs, fancy imperial, 55 lb. boxes, 22c per lb; dates, new, 6 and 7c per lb.

DRY GOODS.—There is very little stir about the warehouses yet, but orders are being taken by travellers for spring stocks, delivery of which will begin to a limited extent next month. The recent decline in raw cotton is not expected to affect manufactured lines, the latter having been below a parity with the raw material.

DRUGS.—Following prices are for small parcels, and will be shaded considerably for full package orders: Allum per pound, 3 1/2 to 4 1/2, alcohol, \$4.75; bleaching powder, per pound; 6 to 8c; bluestone, 4 1/2 to 5c; blue vitrol, 5 to 8c; borax, 11 to 13c; bromide potash, 55 to 75c, camphor, 75 to 85c, camphor, ounces 80 to 90c; carbolic acid, 40 to 65c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chloride potash, 28 to 35c; citric acid, 55 to 65c, copperas 3 1/2 to 4c; cocaine, per oz., \$7.50 to \$8.00; cream tartar, per pound, 28 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; epsom salts, 3 1/2 to 4c; extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 18c; do., boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 30 to 40c; glycerine, per pound, 20 to 25c; ginger, Jamaica, 25 to 40c; do., African, 20 to 25c, Howard's quinine, per ounce, 35 to 45c, iodine, \$5.50 to \$6.00, insect powder, 35 to 40c; morphia sul., \$1.90 to \$2.25, Opium, \$1.50 to \$5.00, oil, olive, \$1.25 to \$1.40; oil, U. S. salad, \$1.25 to 1.40; oil, lemon, super \$2.25 to 2.75; oil, peppermint, \$1.00 to \$1.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.25 to 2.75 per gallon; oxalic acid, 13 to 16c; potass iodide, \$4.25 to 4 50; paris green, 17 to 18c lb; saltpetre; 10 to 12c; sal rocnello, 30 to 35c; shellac, 45 to 50c; sulphur flowers, 3 1/2 to 5c; sulphur roll, per keg, 3 1/2 to 5c; soda bicarb, per keg of 112 pounds, \$3.75 to \$4.25; sal soda, \$2 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55c.

FLUID BEEF, ETC.—Following are prices of the goods put up by the Johnston Fluid Beef Company of Montreal.—Johnstons Fluid Beef—No. 1, 2-oz. tins, per dozen, \$2.70, No. 2 4oz., \$4.50; No. 3, 8oz., \$7.83; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.83; No. 5, 2 lb., \$24.30. Staminal—2oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do, 4oz., \$5.10; do, 8 oz., \$7.65; do, 16oz., \$12.75. Fluid Beef Cordial—20oz. bottles, \$10. Milk Granules—In cases of 4 dozen, \$5.10. Milk Granules with Cereals—In cases of 4 dozen, \$4.25

FISH.—Fresh fish are quoted here:—Cod 9c a lb, haddock 9c a lb; salmon 14c; halibut 12 1/2c; smelts 9 to 10c; Lake Superior trout 9c; whitefish 5c; pickerel 4c; pike 2c; perch 2 to 2 1/2c; sturgeon 7c; finnan haddies 7 1/2c, or \$2.25 per box; kippered gold-eyes 30c doz., oysters \$1.90 to \$2.00 for standards and \$2.15 to \$2.25 selects, per gallon, extra selects \$2.35 to \$2.45; oysters, in cans, selects, 55 and standards 60c per can, shell oysters, \$7.50 to \$8 per barrel. Cured fish are quoted: Boneless codfish, 40lb boxes 7c, do crates 7 1/2c; boneless fish, 40lb boxes, 5c; smoked herrings, 19c box; dry cod \$6 per box of 100 lbs.; salt whitefish \$5 per barrel of 100 pounds; salt lake trout \$3 per barrel.

GROCERIES.—The firm tone which has prevailed in the sugar market for some time, still prevails. New York advanced prices last Saturday again and Canadian refiners advanced 1/2c all around on Monday of this week. At Montreal refineries on Monday prices were advanced to 1/2c for large lots and

1 1/2c in small lots, and yellows to 3 1/2 to 4 1/2c as to quality. Late estimates of the Cuban sugar crop are much smaller than earlier estimates. Willett & Gray say: "A summary of the statistical position of sugar shows Stocks in the United States and Cuba together of 215,921 tons, against 229,400 tons last week, and 189,350 tons last year. Stocks in Europe of 2,171,100 tons, against 2,179,900 tons last week, and 1,690,100 tons last year. Total stocks of 2,193,871 tons, against 2,516,100 tons last week, and 1,925,457 tons last year at the same even date, or 2,233,874 tons at the even date last year of January 1. The surplus of stock is now 568,417 tons, against 580,637 tons last week, and 753,218 tons December 27. The beet crops remain 662,520 tons deficiency by Mr. Licht, and Cuba, 731,000 tons deficiency." A report from Montreal on Wednesday says: The molasses market is very strong and advices, from New Orleans state that the crop there is 50 per cent short of last year's, while some grades on that market have advanced 6 to 8c per gallon. During the last month also Porto Rico stock advanced in New York from 2c to 3c per gallon. Stocks here are not heavy." California raisins are firm, and are being held 1/2c higher at the coast.

GREEN FRUITS.—Choice apples are held firm. California oranges are offering freely. Cranberries are firm. Prices are: Lemons, New Messinas, \$6.50 to \$7.00 per box; California navel oranges, \$4 to \$5 per box, as to size; Bananas \$3 to \$4 per bunch as to size; Apples, eastern Canada choice red varieties, \$5 per barrel; Greenings and russets, \$4.50 per barrel; Southern red apples, \$4 per barrel; Malaga grapes \$7 to \$9 per keg as to size; Cranberries \$12.50 per barrel for choice unfrozen stock, Frozen berries, \$12 to \$12.25 per barrel; Apple cider, 35c per gallon, in 30 gallon barrels; Fresh comb honey, 22c per lb.

HARDWARE, METALS, PAINTS, ETC.—Trade locally is very dull. Some changes in prices are reported from Eastern Canada markets, the most important of which is the reduction of 1/2c in barb and plain fence wire by eastern manufacturers, with terms remaining the same as before. The list on tacks has been remodelled. Turpentine, which was reported higher a week ago, has again advanced 1 to 2c per gallon at Montreal, influenced by strong advices from the South and light stocks on hand there. Linseed oil is firmer again, owing to higher prices in England. Glass is very firm and discounts have been reduced, which is equivalent to an advance in prices. Canadian refined oils were easier East, some quotations showing a reduction of 1/2c. Prices are as follows:

TIN, lamb and 56 and 28 lb. ingots, per lb, 20 to 21c.

TIN PLATES.—Charcoal plates, I. C., 10 by 14, 12 by 12 and 14 by 20, per box, \$4.50 to \$4.75; I. X., same sizes, per box, \$5.75 to \$6; I. C., charcoal, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$3.50 to 9.00; I. X., per box, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$10.50 to 11.00.

TERNE PLATES.—I. C., 20 by 28, \$3.50 to 9.00.

IRON AND STEEL.—Bar iron, per 100 lbs. base price, \$2.50 to \$2.65, band iron, per 100 lbs., \$3.00 to \$3.15; Swedish iron, per 100 lbs., \$5.25 to 6; sleigh shoe steel, \$3.25 to 3.50; best cast tool steel, per lb, 12 to 13c; Russian sheet, per lb, 12 to 13c.

SHEET IRON.—10 to 20 gauge, \$3.00; 22 to 24 and 26 gauge, \$3.25; 28 gauge, \$3.50,

CANADA PLATES.—Garth and Blaina, \$3.00 to 3.10.

GALVANIZED IRON.—Queen's Head, 22 to 24 gauge, per lb., 5c; 26 gauge, per lb., 5 1/2c, 28 gauge, per lb., 5 1/2c.

IRON PIPE.—50 to per 60 cont. off list.

CHAIN.—Best proof coil, 3-16 inch, per lb. 6½ to 6¾c; ¼ inch, per lb, 6 to 6¼c, 5-16 inch, per lb., 5½ to 6c; ⅜ inch, per lb., 5½ to 5¾c; 7-16 inch, per lb., 4½ to 5c, ½ inch, per lb., 4½ to 5c.

LEAD.—Pig, per lb., 4½c.

SHEET ZINC.—In casks, 5½c lb., broken lots, 6c.

SOLDER.—Half and half (guar) per lb, 14 to 16c.

AMMUNITION.—Cartridges—Rim fire pistol, American, discount, 95 per cent.; rim fire cartridges, Dominion, 50 per cent.; rim fire military, American, 5 per cent. advance; central fire pistol and rifle, American, 12 per cent.; central fire cartridge, Dominion, 30 per cent.; shot shells, 12 gauge, \$6 to 7.50; shot, Canadian, soft. 5½c; shot, Canadian, chilled, 6c.

AXES.—Per box, \$6.50 to 15.50.

WIRE.—Galvanized barb wire, plain twisted wire and staples, \$3.50 per 100 lbs.

ROPE.—Sisal, per lb., 8 to 8½c base; manilla, per lb., 11 to 11½c base; cotton, ¼ to ½ inch or 1 larger, 16c lb.

NAILS.—Cut, per keg, base price, \$2.85 to \$3; common steel wire nails, 5 to 6 inch, \$3.50 per keg, 3 to 4 inch. \$3.80 keg; 2½ inch, \$4.09 keg; 2 inch, \$4.38 keg.

HORSE NAILS.—Pointed and finished, oval heads. List prices as follows: No. 5, \$7.50 box; No. 6, \$6.75 box; No. 7, \$6 box; No. 8, \$5.75 box; No. 9, 10 and 11, \$5.50 box. Discount off above list prices, 50 to 50 and 10 per cent.

HORSE SHOES.—Per keg, \$4.50 to \$4.75; snow pattern horse shoes, \$4.75 to \$5.

WHITE LEADS.—Pure, ground in oil, association guarantee, 5.75 per 100-lb; white lead, assorted 1 to 5-lb. tins, per lb., 9c.

PREPARED PAINTS.—Pure liquid colors, per gallon, \$1.15 to \$1.25.

DRY COLORS.—White lead, per lb., 8c; red lead, 5½c; yellow ochre, 2½c; golden ochre, 4c; Venetian, red, French, 3½c; Venetian, red, English, 9½c; English purple oxides, 4½c; American oxides, per lb., 3 to 4c. These prices for dry colors are for broken lots. ½ per lb. less when full kegs or barrels are taken. American vermilion, kegs, 15c, English vermilion, in 30-lb. bags, 90c per lb.; less than bags, per lb., \$1; Paris green, 18 to 20c.

VARNISHES.—No. 1 furniture, per gal., \$1; extra furniture, \$1.35; pale oak, \$1.50, elastic oak, \$1.75; No. 1 carriage, \$2; hard oil finish, \$2; brown Japan, \$1; goldsize Japan, \$1.50; No. 1, orange shellac, \$2; pure orange shellac, \$2.50. These prices are for less than barrels, and include cost of cans.

SUNDRIES.—Glue, S.S., in sheets, per lb., 12½ to 15c; glue, white, for kalsomining, 17 to 18c. Stove gasoline, per case, \$1.00; benzine, per case, \$1.00; benzine and gasoline, per gallon, 50c. Axle grease, Imperial per case, \$2.50; Fraser's axle grease, per case, \$3.75; diamond, do, \$2.25 per case. Coal tar, per barrel, \$8; Portland cement, per barrel, \$4.00; plaster, per barrel, \$3.00; plasterer's hair, 90c. per bale; putty, per lb., 2½c. for less than barrels; barrels, per lb., 2½c.

WINDOW GLASS.—1st break is quoted at \$1.65 per box of 50 feet.

LINSEED OIL.—Raw, per gal., 63c; boiled, per gal., 66c in barrels.

TURPENTINE.—Pure spirits, in barrels, per gallon, 60c; less than barrels, per gallon, 65c.

OILS.—Range about as follows. Black oils, 25 to 30c per gallon; clear machine oils, 33 to 40c; cylinder oil, 50 to 75c, as to quality; castor oil, 10c per lb.; lard oil, 70c per gal.; tanner's or harness oil, 65c; neatfoot oil, \$1.00; steam refined seal oil, 55c; pure winter bleached sperm oil, \$2 per gallon.

REFINED PETROLEUM.—There is no change in burning oils. Prices here are as follows. Silver star, 24½c; crescent, 27½c; oleophone, 29½c in barrels. In car lots 2c per gallon discount is allowed off prices in barrels United States oils in barrels are quoted at 34c for eocene and 30c for sunlight.

RAW FURS.—Advices have been received by cable from the fur sales held in London this week. The principal feature of this sale is the heavy decline in bear all around, ranging from 40 to 55 per cent under prices paid at the sales last March. A decline in bear was expected by some buyers here, and prices have been lower of late in expectation of this decline. An advance in rat was expected, and it was secured. Only beaver and rat are offered at the Hudson's Bay Co's. January sales, and both advanced, though only slightly for beaver. The next sales occur in March, and these will be the most important of the year. Following are the prices received at the London sales this week as compared with previous sales.

HUDSON'S BAY CO'S SALE.

Beaver 5% higher than January 1895
Muskrat 35% " " " "

C. M. LAMPSON AND CO'S SALE.

Bear, black 40% lower than last March
" brown 55% " " "
" grizzly 55% " " "
Fox, red 7½% " " "
" white 40% " " "
Lynx 20% " " "
Marton 10 to 15% higher than last March
Mink 10% " " "
Wolf 10% " " "

The following quotations give the range of prices here. The prices cover the range from small to large skins, size color and condition being considered though skins are sometimes offered which are not worth the minimum quotations, on account of being killed out of season.

Badger	\$0 15 to \$0 60
Bear, black or brown	5 00 to 26 00
Bear, yearlings	2 00 to 8 00
Boar, grizzly	5 00 to 25 00
Beaver, large	5 50 to 7 50
" medium	3 00 to 4 50
" small	1 50 to 2 50
" cubs	25 to 60
" castors, per lb	2 50 to 5 50
Fisher	3 00 to 8 00
Fox, cross	2 00 to 15 00
" kitt	10 to 40
" red	25 to 1 50
" silver	20 00 to 75 00
Lynx, large	1 50 to 2 50
" medium	1 00 to 2 00
" small	75 to 1 25
Marten dark	1 00 to 4 50
" Pale or Brown	1 00 to 8 50
" Light pale,	75 to 1 75
Mink	50 to 1 50
Musquash, winter	03 to 07
Otter	2 00 to 9 00
Skunk	25 to 80
Wolf, timber	1 00 to 2 75
" prairie	25 to 75
Wolverine	1 00 to 4 00

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—GENERAL SITUATION.—This has been the most active week experienced in wheat for some time. Prices have taken a sharp turn upward, and altogether the bulls have had much the best of the situation. Prices have ranged from 1 to 5c per bushel higher than last week, in leading United States markets. Unfavorable news regarding the Argentine crop, which is now being harvested, decreasing stocks, good export buying, etc., all contributed to help on the advance. Yesterday one of the strong features was the rumored sending of the British squadron to the Mediterranean,

growing out of the unconfirmed report of an alliance between Russia and Turkey.

Total Exports of wheat, flour included, from both coasts of the United States this week amount to 3,819,000 bushels, as compared with 3,202,000 bushels last week; 2,310,000 bushels in the week one year ago; 2,917,000 bushels two years ago; 2,531,000 bushels in the corresponding week of 1893, and as contrasted with 3,557,000 bushels in the like week in 1892. World's shipments from all exporting countries last week were under 6,000,000 bushels. The United States and Canadian visible supply decreased 897,000 bushels last week.

WHEAT.—LOCAL SITUATION.—The movement from Manitoba interior points to lake ports has flattened out in consequence of the filling up of all the elevators at our Lake Superior ports. In the country farmers are marketing very little wheat, and there is plenty of room in interior elevators at nearly all points for the present. It is acknowledged, however, that farmers are holding a large quantity of wheat, and should they begin to rush the grain to market, it would not be long before many interior points would become congested, unless some means of relieving them can be devised. It is reported that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company will build some temporary storage warehouses at Fort William at once, and it is also stated that the railway company will allow dealers to move wheat from one interior point to another interior point eastward, in order to relieve any congested points. This would simply be allowing dealers to store in transit at country points, and would be of advantage in case of blockades at some western points. Farmers may be expected to resume deliveries sometime next month, as they hold a lot of wheat which they should get off their hands before the busy spring season starts in. The limited movement of wheat to the East continues at about the same proportion. The damaged wheat held in the country by farmers in some western districts ought to be marketed now, as it is doubtful if shippers will care to handle this class of grain late in the season. The closing of the lake elevators has not had any effect on prices here, owing to light deliveries by farmers and the existence of plenty of storage room at interior points. Receipts at Fort William for the week ended January 13 were 307,071 bushels; shipments 46,612 bushels; in store 3,624,973 bushels. Receipts for the corresponding week a year ago were 61,868 bushels, shipments 3,540 bushels, and in store 870,000 bushels. In store two years ago, 1,598,000 bushels. Stocks at lake ports, milling points and interior markets aggregate about 6,400,000 bushels, compared with about 3,400,000 bushels a year ago.

Though business has not been very active, the local market has been excited in consequence of the strong upward movement in United States markets. In Manitoba country markets prices to farmers this week have ranged the same as last week at 33 to 42c for No. 1 hard, according to freight rates and local conditions of the local markets. No. 2 hard and No. 1 northern, 2 to 3c under No. 1 hard. No. 2 hard, 30 to 31c, frosted wheats, 25 to 30c. An advance of 3c per bushel, however, went into effect this afternoon on above quotations, making the top range 45c for No. 1 hard to farmers. Prices in this market have been irregular and higher, ranging from about 58 to 61 for No. 1 hard, afloat Fort William basis. Yesterday sales were reported early at about 59½c for No. 2 hard, but later was held higher, and to-day No. 2 hard is quoted at about 55c. We quote to-day. No. 1 hard, afloat basis Fort William, 61c; No. 2 hard, 2 to 2½c under No. 1; No. 1 northern, 1 to 1½c under No. 1 hard. No. 3 hard, 7c under No. 1 hard.

FLOUR.—Prices are firmer in sympathy with wheat, but quotations here are the same. There were reports of advances on some grades in Eastern markets. It is reported that staple brands of Manitoba flour will be advanced 15c per barrel in Eastern markets on Monday, and an advance in the local market is looked for the first of the week. Sales by millers here are now made at \$1.70 to \$1.75 for patents and \$1.50 to 1.55 for strong bakers per sack of 98 lbs. delivered to city retail dealers; second bakers, \$1.30 to \$1.35; xxx, \$1.10 to \$1.15, delivered.

MILLSTUFFS.—City mills are selling at \$9 per ton for bran and \$11 for shorts, delivered in the city. Small lots \$1 per ton more. Car lots are offered by country mills at about \$8 and \$10 per ton on track here.

OATS.—The market is a little firmer, but no very material change is reported. At Manitoba country points, for shipment east, cars are worth from 11 to 13c as to quality and freight rate, and 13½c and even 13¾c has been paid for cars of No. 2 white. In the Winnipeg market dealers are paying 15 to 16c for farmers' loads, per bushel of 34 pounds.

BARLEY.—Car lots at Manitoba country points quoted at 14 to 16c as to quality and freight rates for from feed grade up to No. 3. The market is dull and sales are slow even at the prices quoted. In fact we can quote No. 3 at 15 to 16c for cars at Manitoba country points per bushel of 48 pounds. Winnipeg street market very dull at 16 to 17c.

WHEAT.—Local farmers' market.—Farmers' loads are being taken at the mills here at 40 to 43c per bushel of 60 pounds for milling, as to quality. Smutty wheat for feed 30 to 35c per bushel.

GROUND FEED.—Prices range from \$11 to \$13 per ton, as to quality, the top price for rolled oat feed, and the lowest price for mixed mill feed.

OATMEAL.—Rolled oatmeal is selling at about \$1.25 per sack of 80 pounds in broken lots to retail dealers.

OIL CAKE.—Ground oil cake meal is quoted at \$20 per ton in sacks.

FLAXSEED.—Prices to farmers in Manitoba country markets are about 60c per bushel.

BUTTER.—The local market is very dull and the situation generally unchanged. Receipts are fairly liberal for the season. An export car lot shipment of dairy was made this week by a local produce firm. Rolls are not wanted, as the supply of these are much in excess of the local demand, and they are not wanted to ship. They only have to be packed in tubs after reaching here. We quote round lots of good to choice dairy tubs at 12 to 14c and rolls at 12 to 13c.

CHEESE.—Cheese is jobbing here in small lots at 9½ to 10c for small and 10½ to 11c for large sizes. This is an advance this week.

EGGS.—The market is irregular and prices are uncertain. From 18 to 19c was paid for receipts this week, with some prospect of an advance next week, though this is uncertain.

LARD.—Prices are: Pure, \$1.80 for 20 pound pails, and \$1.50 for 50 lb pails; pure leaf lard in 3, 5 and 10 pound tins, quoted at \$6.50 per case of 60 pounds, tierces 8¾c pound.

CURED MEATS.—Hog products are firm, in sympathy with the general advance in hogs and hog products in leading markets. Our quotations last week and this shows a sharp advance at Chicago in cured stuff, and hogs are higher in Eastern markets. In the Winnipeg market both live and dressed hogs are higher, but cured products are not changed. Smoked meats are quoted: Hams, assorted sizes, 11c; breakfast bacon, bellies, 11½; do., backs, 10¾c; picnic hams, 8c; short spiced rolls, 7½c long rolls, 7¾c; shoulders, 6¾c;

smoked long clear, 9c; smoked jowls, 5½c. Dry salt meats are quoted: Long clear bacon, 7½c per lb; shoulders, 5½c; backs, 8½c; barrel pork, heavy mess \$13.00; clear mess \$13.00; short cut, \$16.00; rolled shoulders, \$14 per barrel, pork sundries; frosh sausage, 7c; bologna sausage, 7c; German sausage, 7c; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 10c per package; pickled hocks, 2½c; pickled tongues, 5c; sausage casings, 80c lb.

POULTRY.—Prices are firm owing to light receipts of all lines. The market was practically cleaned out of everything this week, but further supplies of Eastern poultry are on the way. The small quantity of Manitoba poultry marketed this season has been a surprise to the trade. For native poultry dealers are paying 10 to 11c for turkeys, 9c for ducks, and 8 to 9c for chickens, according to quality and geese 10c. Even 10c has been paid for choice ducks and chickens.

DRESSED MEATS.—Hogs are still characterized by light offerings, and in consequence of light supplies, prices have been higher. \$5.10 and \$5.15 per 100 pounds has been paid by local packers and we quote \$5 to \$5.15. We quote country beef at 3½ to 4½c as to quality, good frozen beef has brought 4½c. The bulk sells at about 4c to 4½c per lb. by the side or carcass. Fresh, unfrozen, city dressed beef, 5 to 6c, as to quality. Mutton steady, and we quote 6 to 7½c for choice mutton, and about 5 to 5½c cents for country mutton. There is still very little business doing in dressed meats of any kind.

GAME.—Rabbits, 6c each; jack rabbits, 50c each.

VEGETABLES.—Following are prices on the street market: Potatoes, 20c per bushel; cabbage 25 to 40c per dozen, as to size; celery 25 to 40c per dozen bunches; onions 40 to 50c per bushel; turnips 10 to 15c per bushel; parsnips, 40 to 50c bushel; carrots 25c; beets 25c bushel.

HIDES.—Prices are higher here, owing to local competition, but outside markets do not warrant the prices now paid here. 5c is being paid for frozen hides, all around, as they run, which is equal to fully 5½c for No. 1 cows. This is 1½c above a parity with Toronto, counting freight. Some local dealers, however, say they will not pay over 4½ cents for frozen hides. We quote prices here as follows: Green frozen hides, 4½ to 5c, 5 lbs tare off. We quote: Calf, 8 to 15lb skins, 5 to 6c per lb; deacons, 15 to 20c each; kips, 4 to 5c; sheep and lambskins recent kill, 50 to 60c. Tallow, 4 to 5c rendered and 2 to 3c rough.

WOOL.—Manitoba fleece, nominal 10 to 12c per lb. The London sales maintain firm prices.

SENECA ROOT.—Nominal at 18 to 20c per lb.

HAY.—Baled prairie is quoted at about \$5.50 to \$6 on cars here. Loose hay on the street market, \$4.50 to \$5 per ton.

LIVE STOCK.—The markets are simply nominal, in the absence of any business. The only thing doing is in hogs, which are ¾c higher, owing to light offerings and higher prices in other markets. Butchers are buying next to nothing. Prices are nominal at 2½ to 3½c for fair to choice butchers' cattle. Sheep nominal at about 3 to 3½c. Hogs are firmer at 4c off cars here.

Montreal Grain and Produce Market.

Grain.—There was no change in the grain market, business being quiet at steady prices. Prices were: No. 2 oats, per 34 pounds, 29 to 29½c; barley, feed, 88 to 89c; barley, malting, 53 to 55c.

Flour.—The demand for flour was fair and the market was moderately active and steady.

Prices were: Winter wheat, \$3.60 to \$3.80; spring wheat, patents, \$3.75 to \$3.85, straight roller, \$3.80 to \$3.40; straight roller, bags, \$1.00 to \$1.05; extra, bags, \$1.40 to \$1.45; Manitoba strong bakers', \$3.40 to \$3.65.

Bran.—A fair amount of business was done in feed at quotations: Bran, \$14 to \$15, shorts, \$15 to \$16.

Cured Meats.—Canadian short cut, clear, \$13.50; Canadian short cut mess, \$14; hams, city cured, per lb, 9 to 10c; lard, Canadian, in pails, 8c; bacon, per lb, 9 to 10c, lard, common, refined, per lb, 6½c.

Dressed Hogs.—The demand for dressed hogs was good, and the market active and firm. Car lots of fresh stock sold at \$1.90 to \$3.10 per 100 lbs, and in a jobbing way \$5.25 to \$5.50 was paid.

Cheese.—The cheese market maintained its firm tone. For finest goods 9½c is confidently asked for Western, and a fraction less for Eastern makes. There is enquiry for summer goods at a range of 8½ to 8¾c.

Butter.—The butter market continues steady, with a good demand for local jobbers. Sales of parcels of creamery at 21c, and some lots down to 20½c, but for anything choice, the outside figure would have to be paid.

Eggs.—We quote: Boiling stock at 18c to 20c, Montreal limed at 14 to 15c, Western limed at 13½ to 14c, and held fresh at 13½ to 14c per dozen.

Hay.—Prices declined 50c per ton, owing to the decline in the States. No. 1 held at \$14 in car lots and No. 2 \$13.

Poultry.—There continues to be a good demand for poultry. Turkeys sold at 7½c to 8c, chickens at 6 to 6½c, ducks at 7c to 7½c, and geese at 5c to 5½c per lb.—Gazette, Jan 21.

Live Stock Markets.

The cattle market at Liverpool on January 20 was steady. Best States cattle were quoted at 10½c, Argentine at 9½c. The market for sheep was strong, and values showed an advance of 1 to 1½c with a firm trade at 11½ to 12c.

At Montreal on January 21 the offerings of cattle were heavy. The glut of inferior stock had a depressing effect. Best beefs sold at 3½c, good at 3 to 3½c, fair at 2½ to 3c, common at 2 to 2½c, and inferior at 1½ to 2c per lb, live weight. The supply of sheep and lambs was only moderate, and the demand good. Sheep sold at \$2.50 to \$5 each, and lambs at 3 to 4c, live weight. In live hogs notwithstanding the increased receipts prices advanced 15 to 30c, and sales were made freely at \$4 to \$4.15 per 100 lbs.

The principal feature of the Toronto market on Tuesday was the advance in hogs which sold at \$3.85 to \$3.87½ off cars per 100 pounds for best bacon hogs. Heavy 15c lower. Stores \$3.50 to \$3.60. Choice cattle sold at 3c, but most sales were at 2 to 2½c. Market overstocked with poor cattle. Lambs were ¾c lower 3 to 3½c per lb.

At Chicago yesterday receipts of hogs were again small. Common to prime droves sold at \$3.90 to \$1.20, mostly at \$4.10 to \$4.15. These prices show an advance of 15c per 100 pounds over a week ago.

British Grain Trade.

The Mark Lane Express of January 20, in its weekly review of the British grain trade, says:—English wheats have been firm; foreign wheats have declined 3d; California wheats have been quoted at 27s 3d and Oregon at 27s 9d. To-day English wheats were held for 6d advance. Foreign wheats have risen 6d, flour 8d.

Mr. Rogers, of the Parsons Produce Co., Winnipeg, has returned from an eastern trip.

Chicago Board of Trade Prices.

The prices below are board of trade quotations for Chicago No. 2 wheat, No. 2 oats and No. 2 corn, per bushel. Pork is quoted per barrel and lard and short ribs per 100 pounds.

Wheat was firm on Monday, under foreign buying and visible supply decreases. Prices showed a net gain of 3/8 over Saturday. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.	July.
Wheat.....	59 1/2	61 1/2	62 1/2
Corn.....	27 1/2	29 1/2	30 1/2
Oats.....	18	20 1/2	20 1/2
Mess Pork..	10 50	10 80	—
Lard.....	5 75	6 02 1/2	6 17 1/2
Short Ribs..	5 12 1/2	5 37 1/2	5 50

Prices were easy at the opening on Tuesday, but advanced on large exports, declined again on speculative selling. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.	July.
Wheat.....	58 3/4	61 1/2	61 3/4
Corn.....	26 3/4	29 1/2	30 1/2
Oats.....	17 3/4	20 1/2	20 3/4
Mess Pork..	10 92 1/2	10 62 1/2	—
Lard.....	5 72 1/2	6 00	6 12 1/2
Short Ribs..	5 07 1/2	5 32 1/2	5 47 1/2

Wednesday witnessed the strongest movement wheat has experienced for some time, influenced chiefly by unfavorable crop news from Argentine and speculative buying. Prices show a sharp advance. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.	July.
Wheat.....	60 1/2	63	63 1/2
Corn.....	27 1/2	29 3/4	30 3/4
Oats.....	18 1/2	20 3/4	20 3/4
Mess Pork..	10 22 1/2	10 5 1/2	—
Lard.....	5 62 1/2	5 90	6 05
Short Ribs..	5 02 1/2	5 27 1/2	5 40

On Thursday wheat was irregular opening firmer, but declined for lack of support, recovering partially on better late export demand. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.	July.
Wheat.....	60 1/2	62 1/2	63 1/2
Corn.....	27 1/2	29 1/2	30 1/2
Oats.....	18 1/2	20 1/2	20 3/4
Pork.....	10 80	10 62 1/2	—
Lard.....	5 62 1/2	5 95 1/2	—
Short Ribs..	5 05	5 30	5 42 1/2

Wheat made further advances on Friday, particularly in the closing hours, influenced by export buying and rumors regarding the Eastern question. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.	July.
Wheat.....	61 1/2	64 1/2	64 1/2
Corn.....	27 1/2	29 3/4	30 3/4
Oats.....	18 1/2	20 3/4	20 3/4
Mess Pork..	10 40	10 65	—
Lard.....	5 67 1/2	5 92 1/2	6 07 1/2
Short Ribs..	5 10	5 30	5 45

Wheat continued strong on Saturday, though lower at the start. May opened at 63 3/4c and advanced to 65 3/4c. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.	July.
Wheat.....	62 3/4	65 3/4	65 1/2
Corn.....	28 3/4	31	32
Oats.....	19 1/2	21 1/2	22
Mess Pork..	10 65	10 92 1/2	—
Lard.....	—	—	—
Short Ribs..	—	—	—
Flax Seed..	—	—	—

A week ago Jan. wheat closed at 58 3/4c and May at 60 3/4c. A year ago January wheat closed 49 3/4c, and May at 53c.

Duluth Wheat Market.

No. 1 Northern wheat at Duluth closed as follows on each day of the week:

Monday—Jan. 56 1/2c, May, 59 1/2c.
Tuesday—Jan. 56 3/4c, May, 59 1/2c.
Wednesday—Jan. 57 1/2c, May, 60 1/2c.
Thursday—Jan. 56 3/4c, May, 60 1/2c.
Friday—Jan. 58 c., May 61 1/2c.
Saturday—Jan. 59 1/2c., May, 63c.

A week ago to-day, (Saturday) prices closed at 59c for May. A year ago May delivery closed at 57c. Two years ago May closed at 62 3/4 c. No. 1 hard was quoted at about 1c over No. 1 northern, No. 2 northern, 2 to 3c lower than No. 1 northern for cash wheat.

Minneapolis Wheat.

No. 1 Northern wheat closed on Saturday at — for January and May delivery at 60 3/4c, and 62 1/2c for July. A week ago May wheat closed at 56 3/4c.

New York Wheat.

On Saturday, Jan. 25, May delivery closed at 71 1/2c, and July delivery at 71. A week ago wheat closed at 68c for May.

Dairy Trade News.

The Manitoba Dairy Association meets on February 19.

The Winnipeg dairy school is now in full working order. A series of lectures have been arranged for on general agricultural subjects, in addition to the regular dairy course.

The annual meeting of the Dairymen's association of the Northwest Territories will be held in the town hall, Regina, on Tuesday the 28th day of January at 2 p.m., for the election of officers, adoption of by-laws, to consider the advisability for the holding of conventions at various points in the Territories and for the transaction of such other business as may be deemed necessary. All farmers and others interested in the extension and welfare of the dairying interests of the Northwest are invited to attend.

Foreign Crops.

The Corn Trade News, Jan. 7, reports as follows:

Argentina—Our cable of last Saturday confirmed the report that the weather has taken a favorable turn for harvesting operations.

Australasia—More shipments of California wheat to Australia are reported. The New Zealand crop outlook, however, is said to be very satisfactory.

Russia—Our Kieff correspondent writes that before hard freezing occurred, the country was well covered by snow. This correspondent also says that he thinks that the official estimates of the 1895 crop were too low for wheat and too high for rye. The quality of the grain is good and the natural weight heavy.

A Creditable Production.

The new year number of the Canadian Architect and Builder, Toronto, just published, is one of the most artistic and altogether creditable publications of the season. It consists of 55 pages of letter press and architectural illustrations enclosed in a beautiful cover, the design for which was modelled in clay by A. Beaumont, the well known Montreal sculptor. By this novel method a highly artistic and pleasing effect has been secured. A number of writers connected with the architectural interests contribute to the number on a variety of subjects. With this number the Canadian Architect and Builder enters upon its sixth year of publication.

British Columbia Legislature.

The British Columbia legislature was opened on January 23. Measures are promised for the encouragement of the farming and dairying industries, and an extension of the fishery enterprise, as well as for the assistance

of mining by the improvement of avenues of communication with interior districts. An act for the conservation of forests is promised, besides an act amending the general assessment act. It is announced that the provincial three per cent. inscribed stock has been at 95, an evidence of the high credit of the province; that complete consolidation of the provincial statutes has been secured; and that a settlement has been obtained of the long pending dispute between the provincial and Dominion governments of the railway lands question.

Boston Wool Market.

The tone of trade is quiet, sales for the week ruling small, but the market holds firm. The London auction sale opened Tuesday, with prices on choice grades of merinoes about 5 per cent higher, while American buyers were active in the competition. This has strengthened the market on this side, although buyers are holding back at any advance. Fleece wools felt the effect of the foreign market more than territory grades, as the former come more closely in competition with Australian grades. Sales of fine merino Australian wools have been made at 25c. in the grease, while some very light shrinkage lots are held at 26 to 27c. This is a sharp advance on these wools compared with a year ago. Territory wools are held firm at former prices, but sell slow. Carpet wools are quiet but steady. Next auction sale of East India carpet wools opens in Liverpool Monday.—Bradstreets.

Mexico's Census.

The Mexican Financier says: "Although not all the census returns have come in from the remote parts of the republic, the department of statistics has tabulated those already at hand, with the result that the 14,000,000 inhabitants mark has already been passed. So far the census shows the following interesting items: The republic has 193 cities, 496 villages, 5,218 towns, 8,872 haciendas, 26,607 ranches, 2,479 small ranches and 902 hamlets. The states which have most cities are Jalisco 16, San Luis Potosi 16, Guerrero 15, Puebla 14 and Zacatecas 11. The state which has the least number of cities is Colima, having only the capital. Chiapas has the largest number of haciendas, numbering 1,393; Yucatan comes next with 1,214, Tabasco 753, Sonora 664, Guanajuato more than 400, and then follows the states of Mexico, Puebla and Sinaloa."

Value of the Silver Dollar in 1895.

The Philadelphia Record says that "the price of silver during the past year has shown great steadiness, notwithstanding the fluctuations incident to speculations based upon the probable effect upon prices of the war between Japan and China. The lowest price per ounce in the London market was 27 3/16d., equivalent to \$0.59824 in United States money. The highest price was 30 3/4d, equivalent to \$0.68077. The average for the year was 29.01d, equal to \$0.68798. The bullion price of our silver dollars, based on these quotations, ranged during the year from \$0.46270 to \$0.52653—an average of \$0.49163. From this it is apparent that to call our Bland dollars "fifty-cent dollars" is to speak with sufficient accuracy. There is nearly 50c worth of silver in them the greater part of the time."

The wholesale fancy goods firm of Robertson & Co., Toronto, is in the hands of receivers. The assets and liabilities are each about \$30,000.

J. Y. Griffin & Co., wholesale produce, etc., Winnipeg, have arranged with the Winnipeg dairy school to handle the butter and cheese of the school, a considerable quantity of which will be made during the winter.



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Winnipeg Clearing House.

Clearings for the week ending January 16 were \$926,586; balances, \$142,700. For the previous week clearings were \$1,153,995. For the corresponding week of last year clearings were \$752,097, and for the week two years ago, \$800,208. For the month of December clearings were \$6,641,454, as compared with \$5,199,672 for December, 1894, and \$4,970,725 for December of 1893.

Following are the returns of other Canadian clearing houses for the weeks ended on the dates given:

	Jan. 16.
Montreal	\$10,953,406
Toronto	6,874,777
Halifax	1,890,806
Winnipeg	1,153,995
Hamilton	681,862
Total	\$21,053,846

Wheat Stocks.

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains, for the week ended Jan. 18, 1896, shows a decrease of 947,000 bushels, against a decrease of 1,329,000 for the corresponding week last year and a decrease of 51,000 bushels the corresponding week two years ago, and an increase of 147,000 bushels three years ago.

The following table shows the total visible supply of wheat at the end of the first trade week of each month for four years, as compiled by the Chicago board of trade and includes stocks at most important points of accumulation in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains. There are some important points not covered by this statement:

	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
Jan. 2	88,681,000	80,228,000	81,238,000	45,907,000
Feb. 5	83,376,000	79,583,000	81,390,000	43,161,000
Mar. 4	78,765,000	75,569,000	79,088,000	41,656,000
April 1	74,308,000	71,458,000	77,054,000	41,038,000
May 6	62,196,000	65,168,000	73,069,000	38,190,000
June 3	52,229,000	59,394,000	71,080,000	27,910,000
July 1	44,581,000	54,657,000	62,316,000	24,262,000
Aug. 3	38,517,000	60,401,000	59,424,000	26,079,000
Sept. 7	38,764,000	69,168,000	66,140,000	33,760,050
Oct. 7	41,832,000	73,614,000	63,275,000	51,256,030
Nov. 4	52,920,000	80,047,000	71,396,000	61,717,000
Dec. 2	63,908,000	85,179,000	78,091,000	72,580,000
Jan. 4	69,842,000	87,838,000	79,953,000	81,786,000
" 11	63,945,000	80,615,000	80,433,000	87,000,000
" 18	67,989,000	85,226,000	80,382,000	82,227,000

Bradstreet's report of stocks of wheat in Canada on January 18 is as follows:

	Bushels.
Montreal	252,000
Toronto	89,000
Kingston	20,000
Winnipeg	283,000
Manitoba interior elevators	2,310,000
Fort William, Port Arthur & Keewatin	3,628,000

Total stocks in the United States and Canada as reported by Bradstreet's were as follows, on January 18, 1896:

	Bushels.
East of the Mountains	99,035,000
Pacific Coast	8,276,000
Total stocks a year ago were:	bushels.
East of the Mountains	111,707,000
Pacific Coast	

Bradstreet's report for the week ended Jan. 20, shows an increase of 177,000 bushels in stocks of wheat east of the mountains, making the total 99,262,000 bushels on the latter date.

Worlds stocks on January 1, 1896. (United States, Canada, in Europe and afloat for Europe) were 169,973,000 bushels, which is nearly 15,000,000 bushels less than the corresponding total one year ago, more than 20,000,000 bushels less than were so held two

years ago, nearly 13,000,000 bushels less than three years ago but nearly 14,000,000 bushels more than were so held on January 1, 1892. 58,000,000 bushels more than on January 1, 1891, and about 55,000,000 bushels more than on January 1, 1890.

Comparative Prices in Staples.

Prices at New York compared with a year ago.

	Jan., 17 1896.	Jan. 18, 1895.
Flour, straight spring	\$3.00 to \$3.40	\$2.75 to \$3.25
Flour, straight winter	\$3.00 to \$3.45	\$2.40 to \$2.80
Wheat, No. 2 red	71½c	60½c
Corn, No. 2 mixed	56½c	51½c
Oats, No. 2	24 to 24½c	31c
Rye, No. 2, Western	45c
Barley, No. 2 Milwaukee	46c
Cotton, mid. upld.	83-10c	6½c
Print cloths, 64x64	8c	2½c
Wool, Ohio & Pa., X	18 to 18½c	16½c
Wool, No. 1 comb.	22 to 23c	20 to 21½c
Pork, mess new	\$10.60 to \$11.00	\$12.75 to 13.25
Lard, westn. sim.	6.05c	7.00c
Butter, creamery	22½c	23c
Cheese, ch. east far.	10c	11½c
Sugar, centrif., 96°	8½c	8c
Sugar, granulated	4½c	3 13-16c
Coffee, Rio, No. 7	14½c	16½c
Petroleum, N. T. Co.	\$1.44	90c
Petroleum, rd. gal.	7.90c	6.90c
Iron, No. 1 anth.	\$13.00	12.00
*Iron, Bes. pg.	\$11.00	\$9.80
*Steel billets	\$16.50	\$15.00
Occa. Steam Freight—		
Grain, Liverpool	3d	1½ to 1d
Cotton	1 to 9 6½d	7.6½d
	* Pittsburgh	

Winnipeg Wheat Inspection.

The following shows the number of cars of wheat inspected at *Winnipeg for the weeks ended on the dates named, compared with the number of cars inspected for the corresponding weeks a year ago, as reported by Inspector Horn to the Board of Trade:—

Grade.	Dec 21	Dec. 23	Jan. 4	Jan. 11	Jan. 18
Extra Manitoba	0	0	0	0	0
hard	66	54	17	27	34
No. 1 hard	70	61	29	34	32
No. 2 hard	51	57	10	18	32
No. 3 hard	10	6	5	6	6
No. 1 North'n	4	9	2	2	0
No. 2 North'n	0	0	0	1	0
No. 3 North'n	1	0	0	0	0
No. 1 white ftye	0	0	0	0	0
No. 2 white ftye	4	1	4	0	0
No. 1 Spring	0	0	0	0	0
No. 2 Spring	41	43	17	16	13
No. 1 frosted	20	19	0	16	9
No. 2 frosted	0	0	0	0	2
No. 3 Fro-ted	14	13	6	10	11
No. 1 Rejected	73	75	28	43	32
No. 2 Rejected	0	3	1	0	1
No Grade	3	6	6	1	3
Feed	357	352	139	175	175
Total	357	352	139	175	175
Same week last year	120	74	66	31	51

Oats—For week ended Jan. 18—No. 1 white, 4; No. 2 white, 11; No. 3, white, 0; No. 2 black, 0; No. 2 mixed 10, feed, 5; total, 47. Barley—For week ended Jan. 18—No. 2, 1; No. 3, 4; feed, 3; total, 8.

*Wheat inspected at Emerson going out via the Northern Pacific to Duluth, is included in Winnipeg returns. A considerable portion of the wheat moving is inspected at Fort William, and does not show in these figures.

Montreal Grocery Market.

The tone of the local sugar market has been firm and prices are fully maintained, in sympathy with the firmer cables on the raw article, and the advance in price since this day week. The demand here for refined has been limited, and the market is quiet, with only a small volume of business doing. The stock of yellows in refiners' hands is not large, in fact, one factory is about cleaned out, and they are not in operation at present, and won't be for two or three weeks yet, owing to some alterations being made. In New York the market is quiet, and granulated rules steady at 4 11-16c. We quote granu-

lated, in 250 barrel and upwards, at 4½c, smaller quantities at 4½c, and yellows at 8½ to 4c, as to quality, at the factory. A private cable from London this morning reports the market for raws firmer on account of the light receipts from Cuba. Cane firm, little offering; Java, 18s; beet firm, rather dearer; January and February, 11s.

There has been no change in syrups, business being very quiet. Stocks are light and Prices firm at 1½ to 2½c per lb., as to quality, at the factory.

The market for molasses is without any new feature of note, business being principally of a jobbing character at steady prices. We quote: Barbadoes at 86 to 87c, and Porto Rico at 85c, round lots of the latter offering at 81c.

The tone of the rice market is firm, and values are maintained. The demand continues good for small quantities. The following quotations are what millers sell at: Japan, standard, \$4.25 to \$4.40; crystal Japan, \$1.75 to \$5; standard B., \$3.45; English style, \$3.80; Patna \$1.25 to \$5; and Carolina at \$6.50 to \$7.50.

In spices the usual amount of business is reported for this season of the year, and prices show no material alteration. The following quotations are what jobbers can buy at only: Penang black pepper, 6 to 7½c; white pepper, 10 to 12½c; cloves 7½ to 9c; Cassia 8½ to 9½c; nutmegs 60 to 90c; and Jamaica ginger 15½ to 18½c.

There has been no improvement in coffee, sales being principally in small lots, to fill actual wants. We quote:—Maracaibo, 19 to 20c; Rio, 18 to 18½c; Java, 24 to 27c; Jamaica 17½ to 18½c; and Mocha, 27½ to 30c.—Gazette, Jan. 18.

Winnipeg Markets A Year ago.

Wheat.—No. 1 hard, c.i.f. Fort William May, 70c and 50c to farmers, Manitoba country points.

Flour.—Local price, per sack, Patents, \$1.65; Bakers, \$1.85.

Bran.—Per ton, \$11.

Shorts.—Per ton, \$13.

Oats.—Per bushel, car lots, 28 to 29c.

Barley.—Per bushel, feed 30 to 35c.

Flax Seed.—95c to \$1.

Butter.—Round lots country dairy 12 to 13c.

Cheese.—Small lots 11c.

Eggs.—Fresh, 16 to 17c round lots.

Beef.—Frozen country, per lb., 8 to 4c, unfrozen butchers, 5½c.

Mutton.—Fresh, and lamb, 5 to 5½c.

Hogs.—Dressed, 4 to 4½c.

Cattle.—Butchers, 2½ to 3c.

Hogs.—Live, off cars, 8½c.

Sheep.—\$2.25 to \$2.50 per 100 pounds.

Soneca Root.—19 to 20c.

Poultry.—Chicken, 5c, turkeys, 9 to 10c, geese, 7 to 8c, ducks 6c.

Hides.—Frozen Hides, 8½ to 9½c.

Potatoes.—40 to 45c per bushel.

Hay.—\$4.50 per ton, car lots.

Freight Rates and Traffic Matters

The Chicago Trade Bulletin of December 20 says: Rates are said to be well maintained at 20c per 100 lbs on flour and grain and 80c on provisions to New York. Foreign freights were dull at 30½ to 31½c for flour and 42.66 to 44.06c per 100 lbs on provisions to Liverpool.

Literary Notes.

The Colonist for January is out. It contains an extended write up of the town of Portage la Prairie, Man., with numerous illustrations. The original story "His first Canadian Girl" is completed. Miscellaneous matter, editorial, etc., complete the number.

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British Milling in 1895.

It is probable that millers will look back with mixed feelings on the year that is gone. The imports of foreign flour have been rather less than the imports of the year preceeding, which themselves showed a marked improvement on the statistics of 1893; but, on the other hand, foreign competition is far from constituting the only bugbear of the British miller. In some, and we may say in many, parts of this country, the competition between native miller and native miller is so keen as to reduce profits to the finest possible margin, if not, indeed, to the absolute vanishing point. Moreover, the serious scarcity of English wheat, which was the most patent result of the late harvest, must have brought great anxiety to many a country miller. Looking abroad, it may be doubted whether our foreign competitors have had much reason for rejoicing throughout 1895. The merchant millers of the United States have found, to their deep indignation, that the double-edged weapon of protection was being sharpened by more than one nation, at the expense of the American export trade in flour. Shut out of Cuba by a discriminating Spanish tariff, American flour has now had one of the few doors left open on the continent of Europe closed in its face by the Belgian protective duties. Denmark, another free trading country, seems not unlikely, owing to the pressure exercised by its merchant millers, to follow, at no distant date, in the steps of Belgium. It is remarkable how stoutly the protective system, which Cobden and his school pronounced dead half a century ago, maintains its ground. The farmers of France have got a duty of some dozen shillings on the quarter, and are evidently determined to keep it. Such measures in regard to agriculture as the French government are now concerned with, tend rather in the direction of maintaining than loosening what have been termed the shackles of protection. Germany, after discussing and rejecting the Kanitz Bill, an ingenious, but apparently unsound, scheme for transforming the State into a monopolist dealer in foreign grain, is now being asked by the pertinacious agrarians to reconsider its decision and look at the latest amended version of the Kanitz Bill. It is curious to contrast the strong persistence of the agricultural party on the continent of Europe with the feeble and flickering existence of its analogue in this country. In Austro-Hungary there is also a powerful agricultural party, which it would appear, has eventually prevailed on the Hungarian Minister of Agriculture to curtail some of the privileges of the merchant mills of Hungary in respect of drawbacks on foreign wheat. Not the least remarkable feature of the past year has been the quiet, but unceasing, effort made by Russia to develop a great flour exporting industry. The congresses of Russian merchant millers, referred to in this review, were organized by the Ministry of Finance, which keeps a watchful eye on the steps of the infant industry. It should not, however, be supposed that the assistance afforded to Russian millers is entirely extraneous, as the milling school, which has lately been inaugurated, was the outcome of the generosity of Mr. Weinstein, a merchant miller of Odessa.—London, England Miller.

Proposed Dead Meat Trade.

In his address before the dairy convention, at Waterloo, Prof. Robertson, the Dominion dairy commissioner, gave the following outline of the proposal to ship dressed meats from Canada:

"I am of opinion that relief should be sought, and I am confident that it can be gained, by the opening up of a trade by which the cattle may be slaughtered in Canada, and the dressed beef supplied direct to

the consuming purchasers in Great Britain. There are many difficulties in the way, which I think, no private individual, or joint stock company, can overcome. The business is one which is urgently and essentially important to the welfare of Canadian farmers; and because the government can overcome the difficulties successfully without the expenditure of a large, if any, sum of money, it seems befitting that the government should take it up.

When our cattle are shipped alive by rail and afterwards by steamship, they arrive in a jaded condition. They look their worst and are at about their worst for killing beef. Both of these conditions enable the British buyers to beat the prices down. Formerly, when the cattle could be rested and fed on grass or succulent fodders on British farms, for even a few weeks, they gained tremendously in weight and recovered in quality. That alternative avenue for marketing the cattle caused a relatively higher price to be obtainable, and also gave a steadiness to the prices and the demand, which are now wanting.

The Canadian shippers, with the cattle at the port where they have been landed, have no alternative but to sell at once, or within two weeks, at whatever price they can get. If they hold over for even a fortnight, the cost of feeding becomes a large item of expense, and the arrival of fresh shipments by the next steamers gives the buyers an additional argument, which they use most effectively in further depressing the market and lowering the prices.

The beef from Canadian cattle, when shipped and handled in that way, does not reach the consumers in a condition which permits it to secure a good reputation for the excellence of quality which it would have if the consumers were able to purchase the beef at best from such cattle as are fed in Canada.

As a matter of fact, a considerable quantity of the beef from the Canadian fed cattle does not reach the British consumers under the name of "Canadian beef." The misrepresentation which finds a place in that practice works directly and continuously to the injury of Canadian interests. It prevents us from establishing the trading connections between the consumers and our producers for Canadian products under their own name, which alone can assure a satisfactory continuity to the demand.

The cattle buyers and retail butchers in Great Britain get more than their proper share of the ultimate price paid by the consumers for the beef from Canadian cattle. The profits which they exact, as between the consumers and producers, and which mainly come out of the pockets of Canadian farmers, are little short of extortion. Their voice and influence have been joined to that of the scarcely veiled hostility of the landed interests of Great Britain against the withdrawal of the regulations scheduling Canadian cattle.

Dressed beef has not been snipped from Canada, heretofore, because cold storage service, in warehouse in Montreal and on board ocean steamships, was not provided, of an adequate sort, for any of our perishable food products, until it was taken up by the government during the current year. Even a greater measure of success than has attended the cold storage service for the putting of Canadian creamery butter on the British markets, can attend the shipments of dressed beef, and other meat products to Great Britain. That this matter cannot be inaugurated by private enterprise is evident, from the tremendous disabilities from which the great United States packers and shippers, backed by millions of dollars, have not been able to escape. The question of sentiment on the part of British consumers is a powerful and far reaching factor in determining the way they buy, and the prices they pay, for the articles of food which they consume. The name "frozen beef," and the stories set agog

about the abominations of slaughtering houses, diseased animals, etc., are powerful to keep the best class of customers from buying, or from letting it be known they do buy anything but the best English and Scotch beef. If beef as good and as cheap as the best English and Scotch beef could be obtained from shops or depots in Great Britain under the name and supervision of the Canadian government, for one year, as an object lesson and introduction of the business, the best class of buyers and consumers in each of the large cities, could be attracted to give preference to Canadian products. The beef could be sold at prices for a similar quality of English and Scotch beef, and an ever growing demand for our beef could be created, at such prices as would leave it possible for Canadian farmers to obtain higher relative prices than they have been getting during the past few years.

The prime object should be to put Canadian beef and other meats within reach of the British consumers, in their best condition, under their own name and in such a way as to attract the best class of purchasers to be our permanent customers. In shipments of beef and other meats, from Canada, it is necessary that they should be chilled only. The distance and the time required for shipment are not more than sufficient to permit the beef and other meats to be properly cured when they would reach the stores and depots in Great Britain. The meats might be designated "chilled Canadian beef," "chilled Canadian mutton," and "chilled Canadian poultry." When the quality and reputation of Canadian meats under their own names are recognized and established, we could continue in competition with the producers and sellers of meats from all other countries upon an equal footing, and with a fair chance of securing the best customers—particularly, if we could offer better value in better meats at even the same price per pound.

To permit this to be done, and as an object lesson to the producers and shippers of meats from Canada, I recommend that provision be made for the purchase of about 500 head of cattle per week during the shipping season at the port of Montreal, and that the dressed beef from such cattle be sent as chilled Canadian beef to Great Britain, and distributed through retail depots in Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and London, in such a way as to secure recognition of its good qualities; other cities, such as Glasgow, Dundee and Edinburgh, might be included.

Arrangements could be made for the slaughtering of the cattle at abattoirs in Montreal. The beef should be covered by distinctively Canadian wrappers of attractive appearance; it should be chilled in cold storage chambers; it should be carried in cold storage compartments on board the ocean steamships; it should be taken into cold storage chambers at the port of landing, and from there distributed to and through the depots in the cities mentioned.

The distribution through retail shops or depots in Great Britain could be effected, notwithstanding the competition of retail butchers. The prices at which the different cuts should be sold to the consumers should be fixed by the commissioner in charge of this work on behalf of the Canadian government. These should be advertised widely and effectively in the several cities. Canadian meats only should be sold in these depots.

The administration of the whole matter should be taken up by the government. The actual net cost to the government for the management of the whole business would depend upon the prices which may prevail in Canada for cattle during next season. If the prices in Canada be relatively low, compared with former years—which would be most unfortunate,—then I am confident that the whole plan and business could be managed without any cost, loss or charge to the government, and would show a profit. But in

case the price of Canadian cattle in Canada should be relatively higher than in former years—which would be a good thing for the country,—then I estimate that the sum of \$80,000 might be required to meet the extraordinary and unusual expenses, which are inseparable from the inauguration of the business, at the abattoirs, on board the steamships, at the depot, at the port of landing, and at the depots, or shops, for the distribution of beef, and other meats in Great Britain.

The government control of this business would win for it a status and name in Great Britain at once, which no private individual or joint stock company could ever secure. The prestige of powerful government administration, the reputation of the government in having successfully assisted in having placed Canadian cheese and Canadian butter on the British markets in the best way, would vanquish the active hostility of the retail butchers, without any keen commercial struggle involving loss. The government would be in a position to select the pick of the cattle at Montreal, and it would effectually prevent any such sentiment being foisted upon the consumers in Great Britain towards the dressed beef trade from Canada as would make them think of it as the "Cheap John" affair for the disposal only of the beef from the refuse cattle of the country, which were not fat enough, fine enough, or large enough to be shipped alive.

It need not be managed by the government for longer than one year, when doubtless a joint stock company could be formed to carry it on thereafter.

A beginning could be made, also, in a trade for the shipment of "chilled Canadian mutton" and "chilled Canadian poultry," through the same agencies. Associated industries, such as the rendering of the tallow, the tanning of hides, the making of glue, and others, would be created by the establishment of this major business.

Immediately after the close of navigation, at the port of Montreal exports of cattle from Canada practically cease. That results in great lowering of the price of fat cattle, until the opening of navigation during the following season. During the present month, it is reported that quarters of beef are being sold in Toronto and other markets as low as 2 cents per lb.

A profitable demand, such as would be created by the inauguration of a dressed beef trade from Canada, and continued during every month of the year, would take all surplus fattened cattle in the western provinces and Quebec for Great Britain.

Review of the Wheat Market

Continued from Page 405.

was the case in the United States and Canada is unquestionable. France had garnered a grand harvest. Conflicting reports came from Russia; but the reticence of Black Sea and Azov exporters gave colour to the rumour that the wheat crop was smaller than its immediate predecessor. It is now known that the surmise was correct, but it has not prevented exports (according to official returns) of 6,125,000 qrs. between August 1st and December 28th, in comparison with 6,330,000 qrs. in the corresponding period last year. All through the month the market was held in a depressed state by large imports and feeble inquiry. The American markets were singularly inert, and the f.o.b. quotation for No. 2 Red Winter at New York went down to 21s. 9d.; but ere the close of the month it had recovered to 28s. 6d. per 480 lbs., in consequence of the improved tone of trade.

October for the most part remained inert in sight of large stocks which could not be realised except at a loss. The market across the Atlantic exercised its customary influence upon the trade over here, and the protracted dullness at New York and Chicago, chiefly

brought about by big deliveries of Spring wheat, depressed and stifled business, both in this country and on the Continent. However, towards the close of the month, there was some return of strength, and a fair measure of business was transacted in parcels and cargoes at about 6d. advance.

November—The steady increase in the visible supply, east of the Rocky Mountains, the falling of needed rain in the winter wheat belt, taken in conjunction with the good reports of the Argentine crop, and the extensive reserves piled up in South Russian ports, all combined in effacing the firmness noted in the previous month, without, however, affecting quotations. Throughout the month, transactions were on a modest scale, and followed pretty closely the fluctuation in American spring wheat.

December—Russian exporters, with national tenacity, held firmly to their grain stocks, and secure in the enjoyment of government loans which are not repayable for several months, made no efforts to attract buyers except in cases where the grain was already shipped, and therefore had to be provided with a home. American quotations, as a matter of course, have varied from day to day, with the result that the close of the month found them about 9d. per qr. lower. No. 1 northern spring, on November 30th, was quoted as equivalent to 24s. and on December 30th the figure was 23s. 3d. per 480 lbs. f.o.b. The monotonous and uneventful course of trade was disconcerted by President Cleveland's message to Congress, which coming like a bolt out of the blue, served to remind merchants and millers that the unexpected has often to be encountered in the corn trade, and that it behoves everyone engaged therein to be watchful and circumspect, and ready to act when occasion offered. The warlike excitement so prevalent in the United States had small effect upon trading on this side, but the panic in Wall Street and the acknowledged unfavorable financial situation, quickly developed a bad time in the produce markets, quotations fell, and United Kingdom millers and others bought largely on the decline; the sales in New York on 20th reached 110,000 qrs., mostly for early shipment; but the war scare quickly passed, and quotations have reacted upwards about 3 cents, say 1s. per qr. The United Kingdom market since the holidays has been steady, and if the American trade, freed from parasitical "professionals," who "bull" or "bear" quotations, with the instincts of a gambler, were left for one week to bona fide operators, business in all directions should quickly run on more wholesome lines, and the basis of dealings would be the satisfaction of requirements, and, perhaps a return to moderate and legitimate speculation, with the intention of taking delivery of the purchase.

Grain and Milling Notes.

It has been proposed in the German Reichstag to establish a government monopoly of the sale of grain.

Over 200 cars of wheat have been received by the Canadian Pacific from farmers in payment upon lands sold by the company to settlers in Manitoba and the Territories. The company have shipped all the wheat they have received and which has not yet been sold, from the Fort William to the Montreal elevators, and all shipments of wheat now received on land payments are being made direct to Montreal.

A report from Ottawa says: "Senators and members from Manitoba and the Northwest Territories will have a conference early next week with the comptroller of inland revenue on the subject of wheat grades. They want to have the number of grades limited to four, and fixed permanently by statute. If the government declines to deal with the

matter as western members desire, they will bring a bill before parliament and have the matter thrashed out on the floor of the house.

It is assumed, says the London Miller, that the United Kingdom in the year 1895-96 will require at least 29,000,000 qrs., some authorities say 29½ million qrs. of wheat; now of this amount the home grown contribution can hardly exceed 4,000,000 quarters, thereby imperatively compelling millers and merchants to obtain from other countries wheat and flour equivalent to about 25½ million qrs.—that is to say British enterprise must provide every week, as cheaply as possible, 485,000 qrs. of foreign wheat to feed our population of 40,000,000 souls. The ratio of weekly receipts between September 1st and December 28th has not exceeded 413,000 qrs.; therefore, in order to maintain stocks at a normal level and to meet consumptive requirements, the imports for the remainder of the cereal year must surpass an average of 500,000 qrs. per week.

T. B. Williamson, representing M. & L. Samuel, Benjamin & Co., wholesale hardware and metals, Toronto, will call on the customers of this well known firm in Winnipeg and the west about the latter part of February. This firm carries in stock in Winnipeg quite a few lines of metals, such as galvanized iron, tin plates, Canada plates, etc. Mr. Williamson will also show samples of the celebrated bicycle "King of Scorchers" and "Crawford." Mr. Williamson says his prices are right and he hopes the trade will learn his figures before placing their orders.

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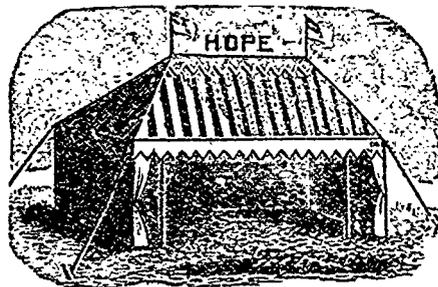
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A Valuable Book.

The report of the select standing committee of parliament on agriculture and colonization has been issued and contains a great deal of useful and valuable information. Dr. Saunders, director of the Dominica experimental farms, relates the results of experiments carried on at the farms, giving a great deal of valuable testimony in relation to various agricultural and live stock matters. In the same way, Mr. Robertson, Dominion dairy commissioner, relates much that is interesting in connection with dairy matters. Entomology is discussed by Jas. Fletcher, horticulture by John Craig, chemistry by F. T. Shutt, and poultry by A. G. Giltert, all of the experimental farm staff. These discussions are all of a practical nature and give the experience of men who have made scientific life study of the different departments of farm work and kindred subjects. It is unnecessary to say that a vast amount of valuable information is drawn out.

In part two of the book a number of exporters and manufacturers also give evidence on the commercial side of the dairy question.

Part three treats of immigration and colonization, being chiefly evidence submitted by A. M. Burgess, deputy minister of interior.

Altogether the book is of much more value and interest than the ordinary official blue book, and is well worthy of perusal by those interested in agricultural and dairy matters, and kindred subjects.

The Production of Gold and Silver.

In his annual report R. E. Preston, the United States Director of the Mint, estimates that the world's production of gold for the year 1894 amounted to 8,705,800 fine ounces, of the value of \$35,993,000, and the production of silver to 166,602,000 ounces, of the commercial value of \$21,051,000. And how this output of the precious metals with that of previous years will be seen from the following statement:

Year.	Estimated world's production of—	
	Gold. £	Silver. Fine ounces.
1894	35,993,000	166,602,000
1893	31,459,000	165,166,000
1892	29,363,000	153,152,000
1891	26,180,000	137,171,000
1890	23,780,000	126,095,000
1889	24,699,000	120,214,000
1888	22,139,000	108,827,000
1887	20,155,000	97,124,000
1886	20,120,000	93,276,000
1885	21,680,000	91,652,000

As compared with 1893, the production of gold in 1894 shows an increase of £1,534,000, of which South Africa contributed £2,265,000; Australasia £1,214,000; the United

States £709,000; and Mexico £689,000. Most of the other gold-producing countries also slightly increased their output, the only prominent exception being Russia, whose production is set down at £735,000 less than in 1893. The only reasonable doubt as to the correctness of his estimate of the world's output of gold relates, Mr. Preston says, to the production of the Transvaal. There is a good deal of uncertainty, he points out, as to the actual value per ounce of the Transvaal gold. That is commonly taken at 70s, but the average fineness of African gold assayed at the London mint is .847 $\frac{1}{2}$, which corresponds to a value of 72s per ounce, and Mr. Preston has adopted this latter figure in his estimate. In 1893, the United States ranked first in the list of gold producers, but in 1894 it had to take third place, being outstripped both by Africa and Australasia. And in this connection it may be of interest to show what was the output of the chief producing countries in each of the past three years:

	VALUE OF GOLD OUTPUT.		
	1894. £	1893. £	1892. £
United States ..	7,900,000	7,191,100	6,600,000
Australasia	3,552,200	7,137,700	6,831,800
Africa	8,051,200	5,783,700	4,846,400
Russia	4,826,700	5,561,600	4,961,200
China	1,711,400	1,378,600	1,685,200
India	797,400	782,700	663,700
Columbia	578,000	578,600	691,400
British Guiana ..	462,000	513,500	479,800
Brazil	413,000	443,900	443,900
All other countries	2,866,700	2,103,000	2,156,600

In his previous report Mr. Preston had hazarded the prediction that in all probability "the value of the world's output of gold in 1894 would equal that of both metals in the years 1861-65, and in 1895 or 1896, that of the years immediately preceding the depreciation of silver, i.e., the average of 1866-73 inclusive." The first part of that prediction has already been more than realized, as the gold output of £35,993,000 in 1894 considerably exceeds the average of £34,095,000 at which the output of both gold and silver for the years 1861-5 is valued. And there is no doubt whatever that this year the gold output will exceed the £38,162,000 at which the average value of the gold and silver produced in the years 1866-73 is estimated. We know how the gold production of South Africa has increased during the current year. If not advancing with equal strides, that of Australasia is also growing, and will increase much more rapidly when such of the new companies formed within the past year or so as have a legitimate existence proceed to work. And a considerable increase in the output of the United States is looked for. The reports of the special mint agents in the various states and

territories appended to Mr. Preston's own reports, nearly all speak of a revival of the gold mining industry. In California, Colorado, South Dakota, Montana, and elsewhere, active prospecting is stated to be going on, new and promising discoveries had been made and gold mines previously abandoned are being again brought into working order. Great therefore as has been the increase in the production of gold in recent years, there is every prospect of a still larger expansion in the near future. Yet the bi-metallists do not cease to propound theories based on the assumption that the supply of gold is insufficient, and that the currencies of the world need to be increased by the incorporation of large quantities of silver at a fictitious value.

While the production of gold jumped up so largely in 1894, that of silver remained practically stationary, the estimated output of 166,602,000 ounces comparing with 165,166,000 ounces in 1893. It is estimated that the production of Bolivia increased by full 8,300,000 ounces, that of Mexico by 2,600,000 ounces, and that of Peru by about 1,500,000 ounces. But in regard to these countries a good deal of conjecture enters into the estimates, whereas the decline of about 10,500,000 ounces recorded in the production of the United States and that of nearly 2,500,000 ounces in the Australian output, may be accepted as definitely ascertained facts. And in the United States to a still further contraction, enterprise being now directed to gold rather than silver mining, which at present prices has ceased to be profitable.

From inquiries instituted by his department Mr. Preston estimates that in the United States consumption of the present precious metals for industrial purposes amounts to \$2,132,000 of gold and \$2,170,000 of silver annually, and he gives calculations, according to which the world's industrial consumption works out at £10,486,000 of gold and £6,668,000 of silver per annum, the silver being taken at its coining value. These estimates, however, make no pretence at accuracy, and Mr. Preston himself is of the opinion that they are too low. While, therefore, we reproduce his figures, we do not recommend anyone to pin his faith to them. So too, with the estimate of the world's coinage, which is that in 1894 there were minted gold coins to the value of \$45,120,000, and silver coins of the face value of \$21,399,000. Mr. Preston is careful to point out that "it must be borne in mind that the total of these coinages does not correctly represent the amount of new gold and new silver made into coins during the year, for the reason that the coinages as reported include the value of domestic and foreign coins melted for re-coining, as well as old material, plate, &c., used in coinage." In fact, the question as to the amount of the annual consumption of gold and silver is one which, with the existing data, it is impossible to answer.—The Economist.

Adulterated Goods.

The United States Government has long been doing a quality and quantity of work admirable to the highest degree in the examination of every kind of food and drink imported, as well as of many kinds produced at home; the suppression, confiscation or destruction of unwholesome and injurious goods, and the punishment of offenders. The Government employs a score of skillful chemists, who are attached to the Custom Houses of leading ports of entry. Second in importance is the National Board of Health. The dishonest merchant and manufacturer are men of brains, and rely upon science to increase their profits. Under various pretexts, they retain great savants to solve chemical and technical questions, whose solutions means a new way of deceiving the public. In the tea trade, for instance, black tea has been found to be adulterated with sloe and other leaves, and green tea to be weighted with impurities and colored with copper salts. When the Government declared war on both frauds, they dwindled away immediately. As cheap teas remained as universal, another investigation was made, resulting in the discovery that over twenty domestic concerns were buying spent and damaged tea leaves, recurring and recoloring them, and then selling them as a first-class article. Within a few years pure pepper was the rule and impure the exception. Foreign dealers began to adulterate their goods, until the condition of affairs was reversed. The Government finally took a hand in it, and the bogus pepper business forthwith began to decline.

An analysis by the Massachusetts Board of Health showed that several leading dealers in cocoanut were increasing their profits by pulverizing broken cocoanut shells and mixing with ground pepper. When the attention of the authorities was called to this swindle the general quality of ground pepper all over the country took a sudden rise. Trade price lists had hardly reached Europe when some enterprising French and Italian manufacturers began to send huge bags of "poivrete," a compound made by grinding up almond shells, olive stones, cherry twigs, and other ligneous fibres, flavored with a few drops of pepper extract. When the wholesale grocers and spice dealers found out about "poivrete," the loudest denunciations of the new adulterant came from the lips of the worthy cocoanut-shell grinders.

At one time, when the sugar duty depended upon the color of the article, being lowest upon the raw, dark brown, and highest upon pure white, the officials noticed a sudden falling off in the imports of the latter and an immense increase in the former. To the eye, and judged by ordinary standards, the stuff seemed the poorest and impurest raw sugar imported. The chemists in a short time demonstrated that the raw sugar had been refined in the West Indies, and then, to make the tariff light, had been mixed with fine clay, until it looked like mud. It only needed to be dissolved in water, filtered, boiled down, and then it was as pure and white a sugar, as can be produced.

In examining what was sold all through New England as powdered cinnamon, Massachusetts chemists were amazed to find that it did not contain a particle of that bark, and they could not discover a trace of the substance with which powdered cinnamon is usually adulterated. Finally, in the red powder, they found something green, which turned out to be a fragment of an internal revenue stamp such as is used for tobacco. This gave the clue, and enabled them to show that the mysterious stuff was old cigar boxes, dried and ground up, and flavored with a few drops of essential oil. The authorities not only published the discovery forthwith, but attacked the brand so vigorously that in the

next month, all in the market had been confiscated or destroyed.

In Boston a man has a machine which takes the favorite food of that city, splits each bean into two grains, channels and finishes these so much like coffee that, when roasted, they deceive the average grocer. In Chicago another commercial crook has a machine which makes a roast coffee bean out of coarse and damaged wheat flour. The dies which cut out the grains are so well contrived, that out of 20 no two are alike.

Sophisticated wines and liquors were formerly very common. One house in Hamburg and one in Bremen, not very long ago, did a large business with the United States. They were quite honest in their dishonesty, and squared the government by announcing in their bills of lading that their champagne was "carbonated gooseberry," their old cognac, flavored with "potato spirit," or "industrial alcohol," and their Benedictine "medicinal cordial." They left the lying to the American customers, knowing, probably, that the New World is far superior in this regard to the Old World.

In spite of the cheapness and wholesomeness of American wines, the officials occasionally run down people who make a scant livelihood by compounding poor imitations. The New York Board of Health, for example, found a "vineyard" in the cellar of an old warehouse in the heart of the business centre. It consisted of a lot of old hogheads, in which the proprietor was fermenting damaged raisins and decayed currants. The resulting wine, after being filtered and fortified, was then altogether vile. The officers threw several gallons into the sewer and arrested the vintner. His defence was novel, if not ludicrous. He said: "I am a gentleman and a Christian, that wine may not seem good, but it is splendid. And I wish it distinctly understood that it is respectable, because I sell it to a thousand churches for Communion wine."

In the manufacture of jellies, confectionery and bonbons the soul of the adulterator runs riot. A cheap crab-apple jelly made in New York, but sold by the trade, generally consists of water, glucose, burned sugar, cider vinegar, oil of vitrol, and vegetable gelatin. It is sold as cheap as 5 cents a glass, and is said to cost less than three, the tumbler included. Of the Turkish fig paste, Arabian delight, and jujube paste, much of which was once, and all of which is still believed to be imported, nearly every ounce is made in the great manufacturing cities of the country.

Of 200 brands of chocolate, plain on confectionery, examined officially, not twenty are pure. Sugar, starch, glucose, terra alba, barytes, brown ochre, clay, Venetian brown, and other adulterations are added to it until, in some cases, there is not more than 15 per cent. of the genuine article in what is offered under its name. Some years ago in the factory of one of the largest makers in this country, the Board of Health found a ton of Venetian brown in the workroom, with the workmen busy mixing it in the machines with the chocolate.—Philadelphia Times.

Breadstuff Stocks.

According to the report of Broomhall's Corn Trade News, Liverpool, cabled to the Daily Trade Bulletin, the aggregate supplies of breadstuffs in Europe and afloat at the opening of the new year, exhibited an increase of only 400,000 bushels during December, against an increase of 8,600,000 bushels in December, 1891—the aggregate being 89,800,000 bushels on January 1, against 89,400,000 bushels on December 1, and 78,500,000 bushels on January 1, 1891. The aggregate quantity afloat was reported at 29,700,000 bushels, against 27,200,000 bushels on Decem-

ber 1, and 83,000,000 bushels on January 1, 1891—showing an increase of 2,500,000 bushels during the past month. The aggregate quantity of breadstuffs in store in the principal countries of Europe on January 1 was 2,100,000 bushels less than reported on December 1, but 14,600,000 bushels more than reported on January 1, 1891. Stocks in the United Kingdom were reduced 2,700,000 bushels during December. On the other hand, France enlarged her supplies 200,000 bushels, and Russia reported an increase of 1,600,000 bushels. Compared with the returns of one year ago, the stocks in store in the United Kingdom are 3,600,000 bushels larger; in Belgium, Germany and Holland, 400,000 bushels smaller, and in Russia 10,600,000 bushels larger. The aggregate supplies in store and afloat for the United Kingdom on January 1, 1891, were 600,000 bushels larger than reported one year previous, while those credited to the continent were 11,600,000 bushels larger. The quantity afloat "for orders" was 900,000 bushels less than reported one year previous.

The supplies of breadstuffs in the United States and Canada, at the points reporting to the Daily Trade Bulletin of Chicago, and the Daily Market Record, of Minneapolis, exhibit an increase equal 5,610,400 bushels, against an increase of 12,729,400 bushels in November, and an increase of only 518,000 bushels during December, 1891. The aggregate stocks of flour were reduced 7,950 barrels, against an increase of 27,600 barrels during November, while in December, 1891, they were enlarged 7,107 barrels, and in December, 1893, were enlarged 155,200 barrels. The aggregate supplies of flour at all points reported were 309,300 barrels larger than returned one year ago.

During December the aggregate supplies of wheat in the United States and Canada in second hands, were enlarged 5,616,000 bushels, against an increase of 11,750,200 bushels in November, and only 485,900 bushels in December, 1891. The aggregate supplies of wheat on hand on January 1 were 15,869,100 bushels smaller than reported one year ago, of which 4,971,000 bushels may be credited to the Pacific coast, 6,844,000 bushels to New York, 2,195,000 bushels to Ohio, 5,867,000 bushels to Illinois, 4,011,000 bushels to Missouri, while the supplies in the Northwest are 9,967,000 bushels larger, and in Canada 1,259,000 bushels larger.

The aggregate stocks of wheat and flour on hand in the United States and Canada on January 1, 1891, were equal 14,477,500 bushels less than on January 1, 1890, and 4,832,300 bushels more than on January 1, 1891.

The aggregate supplies of flour and wheat on passage to Europe and in store in the principal countries abroad, as reported by the Corn Trade News, Liverpool, combined with the returns made to the Daily Trade Bulletin and the Minneapolis Market Record of the stocks in the principal markets of the United States and Canada on January 1, 1891, were equal 224,797,000 bushels, against 218,787,000 bushels on December 1, 227,975,000 bushels on January 1, 1890, and 232,065,000 bushels on January 1, 1891. Stocks during December were enlarged 6,010,000 bushels, against an increase of 9,118,000 bushels in December, 1891, and a reduction of 5,323,000 bushels in December, 1893.

The supplies of wheat in first hands in the United States on January 1, 1891, probably did not vary much from that of one year previous, while the quantity in second hands is probably 10,000,000 bushels less, consequently supplies may be regarded as that much less in the aggregate.

In Europe, the stocks are considerably larger than reported one year ago. There is little change in the supplies in England, France, Germany, Belgium, and Holland, but in Russia they are nearly sixty per cent. larger.

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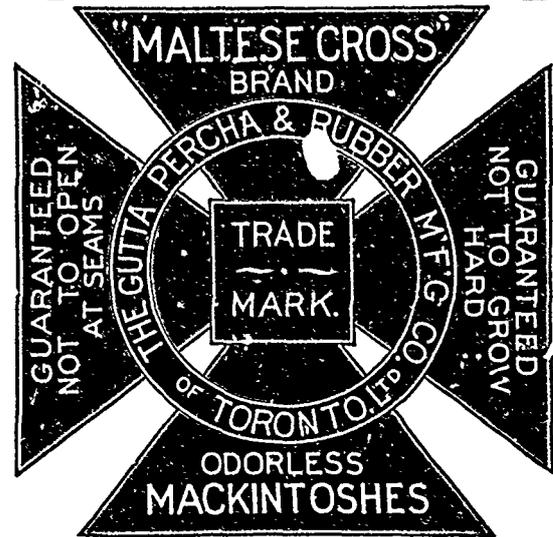
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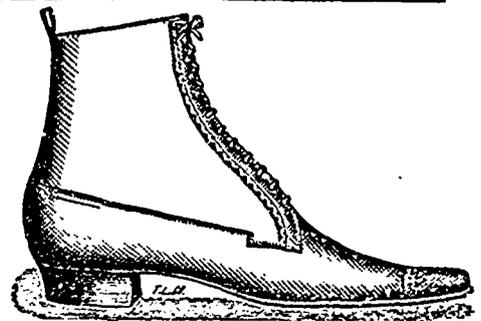
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Railway Construction in 1895.

The Railway Age says. "Railway building in the United States reached last year a lower point than in any of the last twenty years indeed, in only two years since 1865, thirty year ago, has so small a mileage been built. Our records for 1895 now show only 1,782 miles of track laid, a tremendous decline from the great year of 1887, when almost 13,000 miles were put down. In the eight years since that time the decrease in construction has been great and continuous, and this year the total built was only about 100 miles more than in 1855—fifty five years ago. How the new track laid in 1895 is distributed will be seen from the following table, to which it is possible final returns may make a slight addition:

TRACK LAID DURING 1895.

	Lines.	Miles.
Alabama.....	6	53.49
Arizona.....	2	63.90
Arkansas.....	5	92.00
California.....	7	95.50
Colorado.....	2	35.90
Florida.....	8	71.25
Georgia.....	7	81.75
Indiana.....	4	16.92
Indian Territory.....	3	149.71
Illinois.....	8	78.93
Iowa.....	1	11.66
Kansas.....	2	17.70
Kentucky.....	4	25.00
Louisiana.....	4	50.83
Maine.....	4	85.14
Maryland.....	2	2.70
Michigan.....	10	76.90
Minnesota.....	7	33.96
Mississippi.....	3	13.00
Missouri.....	2	33.43
Montana.....	2	10.10
New Jersey.....	1	5.00
New York.....	8	68.81
North Carolina.....	5	39.30
Ohio.....	10	87.65
Oklahoma.....	1	47.83
Pennsylvania.....	13	86.57
South Carolina.....	1	6.33
Texas.....	13	224.22
Utah.....	2	10.00
Virginia.....	3	43.00
Washington.....	1	2.61
West Virginia.....	7	85.92
Wisconsin.....	5	35.50
Total in 34 states and territories.....	163	1,782.39

SUMMARY BY TERRITORIAL GROUPS.

	No States	Lines	Miles
New England group.....	1	4	86
Middle Atlantic group....	4	24	164
Central northern group....	5	37	295
South Atlantic group.....	6	31	327
Gulf & Mississippi valley group.....	4	17	142
Southwestern group.....	7	23	540
Northwestern group.....	3	10	56
Pacific group.....	4	12	172
	34	163	1,783

For the neighboring countries on the north and south our record show:

Canada, 14 lines.....miles added, 192.75
Mexico, 4 lines.....miles added, 75.65

"Not only are the mileage and number of new lines for 1895 smaller than the annual totals for many years, but the number of states in which no track was laid is larger. Of the forty-nine states and territories into which the country is now divided fifteen made no increase of railway mileage last year, namely, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, Tennessee, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho and New Mexico.

"Only one New England state added any track. The largest mileage laid was in Texas, 224 miles, followed by Indian Territory with 150, California with 96, and Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maine and Georgia with between 80 and 90 each. The southwestern group of seven states added 540 miles on 28 lines, while the ten states in the south Atlantic and Gulf and Mississippi valley groups come next with 452 miles on 43 lines, the greater part of the new mileage thus being in the south and southwest. The new construction in general consisted of short branches and extensions, the average for the 164 lines built being only a little over 10 miles each.

The rapid decrease in railway building in the last years may be seen in the following figures from our record of actual construction:

	Track laid, Miles.
1837.....	12,983
1838.....	7,106
1839.....	5,230
1890.....	5,670
1891.....	4,281
1892.....	4,192
1893.....	2,635
1894.....	1,919
1895.....	1,782

"The bottom has been reached, and a moderate revival of railway building may be looked for. Materials are exceedingly cheap, labor is abundant, practicable enterprises are numerous, and on some of them much work has been done; business is reviving in spite of terrific assaults from political and speculative quarters. The railways of the United States on December 31, 1895, aggregated a little over 181,000 miles."

United States Trade with Britain.

What war between the States and the British Empire would mean, in the interruption of commerce, is illustrated by the following table of imports and exports.

In response to a Senate resolution the Secretary of the U. S. Treasury sent to the Senate last month a statement, showing during each of the last five years, and for the whole period, the gross amount of the imports from ports of Great Britain and her colonies and dependencies, into the republic, together with the amount of the exports to such ports. The totals for the whole period of five years are as follows:

United Kingdom, imports from\$	800,340,150
Do., exports to.....	1,184,043,634
Bermuda imports.....	2,222,463
Do., exports.....	3,620,675
British Honduras imports.....	902,554
Do., exports.....	2,050,967
Canada, including Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia, etc. imports.....	170,184,682
Do., exports.....	237,760,759
Newfoundland and Labrador imports.....	2,103,627
Do., exports.....	7,493,483
British West Indies imports.....	67,556,590
Do., exports.....	42,220,435
British Guiana imports.....	21,021,262
Do., exports.....	9,913,067
Hong Kong imports.....	3,873,663
Do., exports.....	2,842,235
British India and East Indies imports.....	110,191,321
Do., exports.....	18,410,214
British Australia imports.....	30,635,933
Do., exports.....	49,471,244
British Africa imports.....	37,372,725
Do., exports.....	19,428,824
All other British dependencies, including Aden, Falkland Islands, Malta, etc., imports.....	9,319,532
Do., exports.....	2,840,060
Total.....	\$2,787,157,107



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	7.15 pm	Lv. Ashland Ar	8.15 am	
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