THE MARKETS

Prices of Grain, Cattle, etc in Trade Centres.

Toronto, Dec. 24.—Wheat—The market is quiet, with prices about steady. No. 2 white and red winter quoted at 75 to 75½c outside: No. 2 goose nominal at 66½ to 67c low freights. Manitoba wheat easier; No. 1 hard is quoted at 87c all rail, via Sarnia; No. 1 Northern at 83c, and No. 2 Northern at 80c all rail, via Sarnia. Prices are 1c lower via North Bay.

Oats—The market is weaker, with demand restricted. Cars of No. 2 quoted at 43 to 43½c low freights, while locally sales are reported at 43½ to 44c.

Peas—The market is unchanged, with demand fair. No. 2 sold at 83c middle freights.

Corn—The market is quiet, with prices steady. Canadian yellow selling at 62 to 62½c west.

Barley—Market is firm. No. 1 quoted at 58c, and No. 2, 53 to 54c; No. 3 extra at 52c, and No. 3 at 51c middle freight.

Rye—The market is steady at 55 to 55½c middle freights.

Buckwheat—Market quiet, with prices firm at 55 to 55½c middle freight.

Flour—The market is firm. Ninety per cents., in buyers' bags, wanted at $2.85 middle freight, with holders asking $2.90. Locally and for Lower Province trade choice straight rollers, in wood, are $3.30 to $3.40. Manitoba flours steady, with Hungarians $4.10 to $4.30, and strong bakers' at $3.80, Toronto freight.

Oatmeal—Market unchanged. Car lots on track, $5.35 in bags, and $5.50 in wood. Broken lots 25c per bbl extra.

Millfeed—Bran continues firm at $19 to $19.50 outside and on track here. Shorts $21 to $22 outside. Manitoba bran, $20, and shorts, $22 Toronto freights, including sacks.

PRODUCE.

Potatoes—The market is firm, with offerings small owing to scarcity of cars. Cars are quoted at 70c per bag on track here, and the jobbing price 85c.

Dried Apples—Market is dull. Prices are 4½ to 5c per lb. Evaporated sell at 9 to 10c.

Hops—Business quiet, with prices steady at 13c; yearlings, 8c.

Honey—The market is unchanged at 10 to 10½c for strained. Combs, $1.50 to $2.50 per dozen.

Beans—The market is steady. Unpicked are jobbing at $1.40 to $1.45, and handpicked at $1.55 to $1.60.

Cranberries — Market unchanged, with Cape Cod at $8 to $9 per bbl. Canadian, $6.50 to $7.

Hay, baled—The market is firm, with good demand. Timothy quoted at $9.50 to $9.75 on track for No. 1.

Straw—The market is quiet and firm. Car lots on track are quoted at $5.50 to $6 per ton.

Poultry—Market is steady, with good supply. Turkeys, 8 to 9c per lb; frozen, scalded and half-fattened stock sold from 6½ to 8c. Geese, dry-picked, 6 to 7c. Ducks, 50c to 75c. Chickens, young, 50 to 60c; old, 35 to 40c. Rabbits 20 to 25c per pair.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—The market is firm for fresh made dairies and large rolls, the demand being good. We quote:—Selected dairy tubs, 16 to 17c; choice large rolls, 16½ to 17c; finest lb rolls, 18 to 19c; packages showing feed, 1 to 2c less than above quotations. Creamery prints, 21 to 22c; solids, 19½ to 21c.

Eggs—The market remains firm, with receipts light. Strictly fresh scarce, selling at 23 to 25c; cold storage, 17 to 19c as to quality; lined, 16 to 17c.

Cheese—Market firm. We quote:—Finest Septembers, 10 to 10¼c; seconds, 9¾ to 9½c.

HOGS AND PROVISIONS.

Dressed hogs are firm at $8 to $8.15 in car lots. Hog products steady. We quote:—Bacon, long clear, sells at 10½c in ton and case lots. Mess pork, $20.50; do short cut, $21.50.

Smoked Meats—Hams, 13c; breakfast bacon, 14c; rolls, 11c; backs, 14c; and shoulders, 10½c.

Lard—Market continues firm. We quote:—Tierces, 11c; tubs, 11¼c, pails, 11½c.

UNITED STATES' MARKETS.

Buffalo, Dec. 24.—Flour—Steady. Wheat—Spring lower; No. 1 Northern 81½c; winter nominal; No. 2 red, 88c. Corn—Dull; No. 2 yellow, 71¼c; No. 3 do, 70½ to 70¾c; No. 2 corn, 70¼c; No. 3 do., 69½c. Oats—Easy; No. 2 white, 51½c; No. 3 do., 51c; No. 2 mixed, 49c; No. 3 do., 48½c. Barley—65½ to 70c, good to fancy. Rye—Dull; No. 1, 70c, through billed.

Duluth Dec. 24.—Close:—Wheat—Cash, No. 1 hard, 76½c; No. 2 Northern, 71c; No. 1 Northern and December, 73½c; May, 77c. Oats—43¾. Corn—63½c.

Detroit, Dec. 24.—Wheat closed—No. 1 white, cash, 84c; No. 2 red, cash, and December, 83c; January, 84c; May, 85¼c.

Toledo, Dec. 24.—Wheat—Dull; December, 85c; May, 85½c. Corn—Dull; December, 67¾c; May 67¾c. Oats—December, 46c; May, 46¾c. Cloverseed—December, $5.75; March, $5.85.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Toronto, Dec. 24.—The receipts were small at the Western Cattle yards to-day; the total was only 36 loads of live stuff, including 500 cattle, 600 sheep and lambs, 1,100 hogs, and a few cows and milkers.

For good stuff the market was unchanged, but for light cattle it was decidedly more easy.

Export cattle was in good demand at from 4½ to 5c, with a few choice lots at 5¼c, though this was an exceptional price. Everything here went early.

The market is about played out for butchered cattle, as local dealers are quite stocked up. Good cattle sold well enough to-day, but all light cattle was easier, without prices being quotably changed.

Stockers are wanted at from 2½ to 3¼c per lb.

Choice feeders are worth 3¼ to 3½c per lb.

Milch cows sold well to-day, several fetching as much as $50 each; good cows are wanted.

Good to choice veal calves are also wanted up to about ten each.

Sheep are steady at 3½c per lb for choice.

Lambs are worth from 3¾ to 4¼c per lb.

All the small stuff sold out early to-day, and prospects are encouraging for next week.

The market all round was a seasonably good one.

Hogs are steady and unchanged.

The best price for "singers" is 6¼c per lb, and for light and fat, 6c per lb.

Hogs to fetch the top price must be of prime quality, and scale not below 100 nor above 200 lbs.

Following is the range of quotations:—

Cattle.		
Shippers, per cwt... ...	$4.50	$5.25
Butcher, choice... ...	4.00	4.50
Butcher, ord. to good.	3.25	3.75
Butcher, inferior... ...	2.75	3.25
Stockers...	2.50	3.00
Sheep and Lambs.		
Choice ewes, per cwt...	2.75	3.12½
Butcher sheep, each ...	2.00	3.25
Lambs, per cwt... ...	3.50	4.12½
Bucks, per cwt... ...	2.00	2.50
Milkers and Calves.		
Cows, each...	30.00	45.00
Calves, each...	2.00	10.00
Hogs.		
Choice hogs, per cwt ...	6.00	6.25
Light hogs, per cwt....	5.75	6.00
Heavy hogs, per cwt...	5.75	6.00
Sows, per cwt... ...	3.50	4.00
Stags, per cwt... ...	0.00	2.00

TALKING UNDER THE SEA.

Belgium and England Being Connected.

A despatch from Paris says:—The new submarine telephone line from Brussels to London is now being constructed. The line will be 290 miles long, of which nearly 66 miles will be under the sea, from La Panne, a little Belgian fort near the French frontier, to Ramsgate. By means of this line there will be direct telephonic communication between the great commercial cities of the two countries: Liege, Brussels, Anvers, London, Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham.

There are in existence two other submarine telephone lines, one between Paris and London, 262 miles long, and one between Buenos Ayres and Montevideo, 218 miles long.

REEL AND CAR COLLIDED.

Fireman Killed and Others Injured at Hamilton.

A despatch from Hamilton says:—While going to a fire at Keer & Coombe's foundry premises, in the west end of the city, shortly before seven o'clock on Thursday morning, the Bay street hose waggon collided with a street car at the corner of King and Bay streets. Fireman Theodore Smith, married, of 20 Stanley avenue, was almost instantly killed in the collision. Foreman Robert Wilson and Fireman Robert Aitchison and Robert Cameron were also badly injured, Wilson's injuries being of a very serious nature. The street car was badly wrecked and was thrown to the side of the street. Motorman, conductor, and passengers were uninjured. Aitchison is a son of the chief and Cameron a son of the editor of the Spectator.

COAL FAMINE IN CHICAGO.

Big Consumers Are Begging in Vain For Supplies.

A despatch from Chicago says:—Chicago is threatened with a coal famine. Throughout the entire city big consumers of hard and soft coal are begging shippers to supply them, but without avail. The severe weather and the floods throughout the coal mining districts have tied up railroads to such an extent that shipment is almost impossible. To add to the serious shortage, railroad companies are exerting their prerogative of confiscating car lots of coal as fast as they arrive here, and are putting them to their own use.

A NINTH CONTINGENT.

New Zealand Prepared to Furnish One.

A despatch from Wellington, N.Z., says:—Volunteers for the 8th New Zealand contingent for service in South Africa are already pouring in. The Christ Church Press, the leading newspaper, states that if the empire calls for it, it is certain the colony will cheerfully furnish a ninth contingent.

BUSINESS REVIVAL.

Prosperous Times Predicted for South Africa.

A despatch from Johannesburg says:—Mr Carl Hanau presided on Wednesday at the first meeting of the Johannesburg Consolidated Gold Mines Co. since the war began. He said he was impressed with the magnitude, vast interests, and brilliant future of the company. The balance sheets showed a surplus of assets over liabilities, excluding share capital, of £3,250,000. The liabilities in issued shares were £2,680,000. The reserve fund amounted to £1,000,000, and other liabilities totalled £850,000. The balance of profit was £67,000.

He said the company intended to build a residential hotel of a palatial description. The great demand even for private residences in Johannesburg already far exceeded the surply. When the population returned with the enormous influx that was expected, the demand would certainly increase. The company intended to import motors for tramway traffic for the convenience of residents.

Everything should be done to lighten the burdens of taxation, but when a profit was made let the Government have a share. He felt confidence in the instincts of the most important trading and commercial country of the world, and remembered that a settlement was in the hands of Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Milner, ensuring tact and business and financial ability and justice.

At present the industries of the country thought great, were in their infancy. New industries would spring up, and immigration, agriculture, commerce and industry would have importa. developments. Everything pointed to prosperity in the Transvaal and South Africa generally.

The chairman said that the amount of the war debt was a matter for friendly arrangement. He was of the opinion they could rely upon the Imperial demands being neither unjust nor oppressive. He added that the situation was improving daily, and he expected that in a few months industry would be in full swing, notwithstanding that possibly small remnants of the Boers would still be fighting.

NEW MAIL STEAMERS.

Canadian Vessels Will Be the Largest Afloat.

A despatch from London says:—Harland and Woll, the Belfast shipbuilders, have been asked to make a tender for constructing three steamers for the new Canadian mail service. The specifications require that the vessels shall be 825 feet long. The longest vessel now afloat is the Oceanic, which is 685 feet over all. The representatives of the promoters of the new company, who asked for the tender, are going to make a tour of the English and Scotch shipyards. It is understood that no order has yet been placed.

HARD TIMES HIT CHRISTMAS

Third Less Than Usual Spent for Gifts in Germany.

A despatch from Berlin says:—The most conservative estimates place Germany's Christmas spendings at one-third less than a year ago, as a result of her economic crisis. This decrease, however, is said to be accompanied only by a reduction in value, indications showing that there will be no diminution in volume. Merchants declare that this is conclusive evidence that the hard times have affected both the masses and the classes, all of whom, while intent on perpetuating the traditional splendor of the German holiday season, have found it necessary to indulge themselves on a considerably cheaper basis.

CANNOT CAST VOTES.

Disqualifications in Montreal for Not Paying Taxes

A despatch from Montreal says:—The City Treasurer has prepared a report showing that there will be no less than 21,330 persons in the city disqualified for the non-payment of water and personal taxes. The disqualifications mean that this number of people will not be allowed to vote at the approaching civic elections. The law is that if water and personal taxes are not paid before a given date that parties forfeit their right to vote in civic elections.

MONTREAL CUSTOMS.

Beat the Record This Month by $200,000.

A despatch from Montreal says:—The Customs receipts at Montreal this month promise to beat the record. Mr. White, the collector, says: "Up to the middle of this month our collections were $156,000 more than they were during the same period last year, and I expect at the end of the month to find that our business has been $200,000 ahead of what it was during the previous year. For the half-year ending December 31 the revenue will be $5,000,000. Last year it was $4,647,000."

PRINCE OF WALES' ADVICE

WHAT HE SAID AT THE GUILDHALL BANQUET.

Send Only the Best Emigrants to the Colonies.—The Tour Reviewed.

The Prince of Wales, in his notable speech at the Guildhall banquet, said, among other things, according to the report given in the London Daily Mail:—

Here, in the capital of our great Empire, I would repeat how profoundly touched and gratified both the Princess and I have been by the loyalty, affection and the enthusiasm which invariably characterized the welcome extended to us throughout our long and memorable tour. It may interest you to know that we travelled over 45,000 miles, 33,000 of which were by sea, and I think it is a matter of which all may feel proud that, with the exception of Port Said, we never set foot on any land where the Union Jack did not wave.

Leaving England in the middle of March, we first touched at Gibraltar and Malta, where, as a sailor, I was proud to meet

OUR TWO GREAT FLEETS.

of the Channel and the Mediterranean. Passing through the Suez canal, a monument to the genius and courage of a gifted son of the great friendly nation across the Channel, we entered at Aden, the gateway of the East. We stayed for a short time to enjoy the unrivalled scenery of Ceylon where we witnessed a gorgeous display by native races, and saw in what happy contentment its various peoples lived and prospered under British rule.

Perhaps there was something still more striking in the fact that the government, commerce and every form of enterprise in this country was under the leadership and direction of but a handful of our fellow-countrymen, and we realized the high qualities of the men who have won and kept for us that splendid possession.

Australia saw the consummation of the great mission which was the most immediate object of our journey, and you can imagine the feelings of pride with which I presided over the inauguration of the first representative assembly of the new-born Australian Commonwealth, in whose hands are placed the destinies of that great island-continent.

A TRIBUTE TO CANADA.

After speaking of their visit to Mauritius, New Zealand, Tasmania, Natal and Cape Colony, the Prince said:—To Canada was also borne the message already conveyed to Australia and New Zealand of the Motherland's love and appreciation of the services rendered by her gallant sons.

In the journey from ocean to ocean marvellous for its comfort and organization, we were able to see something of its matchless scenery, the richness of its soil, and the boundless possibilities of its vast and extraordinary fertile territories. We saw also the success which has crowned the efforts to weld into one community the people of two great races.

Our final halting place was, by the express desire of the King, Newfoundland, the oldest of our colonies and the first visited by His Majesty in 1860. The hard, seafaring population of these islands gave us a reception, the cordiality of which is still fresh in our memories.

LOYALTY, STRENGTH AND UNITY.

If I were asked to specify any particular impressions derived from our journey, I should unhesitatingly place before any others that of loyalty to the Crown and attachment to the Old Country. It was indeed touching to hear the invariable references to "home," even from the lips of those who never had been, nor were ever likely to be, in these islands. This loyalty was unmistakable evidence of the consciousness of strength, consciousness of unity and living membership in the empire, and the consciousness of power and readiness to share the burdens and the responsibilities of that membership.

Were I to seek for the causes which have created and fostered this spirit I should venture to attribute it in a very large degree to the life and example of our late beloved Sovereign. It would be difficult to exaggerate the signs of general sorrow for her loss and of love for her memory which we found among all races in the most remote districts which we visited. Besides this, may it not also be largely attributed to the wise and just policy which during the last half century has been continuously maintained towards our colonies?

AID FROM THE COLONIES.

As the result of the happy relations thus created between the Mother Country and the colonies, we have seen a splendid rally round the old flag in the defence of the nation's honor. I have ample opportunity of forming some estimate of the military strength of Australia, New Zealand and Canada, having had the pleasure of reviewing upwards of 60,000 troops. Abundant and excellent material is there available, requiring only that moulding into shape which can be readily effected by capable and experienced officers.

To the distinguished representatives of the commercial interests of the empire whom I have the pleasure of meeting here to-day, I venture to allude to the impression which seemed generally to prevail among our brethren across the seas—that the Old Country must wake up if she intends to maintain her old position of pre-eminence in colonial trade against foreign competition.

NEED OF POPULATION.

No one who had the privilege of enjoying the experience which we had during our tour could fail to be struck with one all-prevailing and pressing demand—the want of population. Even in the oldest of our colonies there were abundant signs of this want. There are great tracts of country yet unexplored, hidden wealth calling for development, vast expanses if virgin soil ready to yield profitable returns to settlers, and all this can be enjoyed under conditions of healthy life, liberal laws and free institutions in exchange for the overcrowded cities and almost hopeless struggle for existence which, alas, too often is the lot of many in the Old Country.

But one condition, and one only, is made by our colonial brethren, and that is "Send us suitable emigrants.—I would go further, and appeal to my fellow-countrymen at home to prove the strength of the attachment of the Motherland to her children by sending to them only of her best. By this means we may still further strengthen, or, at all events, pass on unimpaired, that pride of race, that community of sentiment and purpose, that feeling of common loyalty and obligation which knit together and alone can maintain the integrity of our Empire.

WARNING ISSUED.

Persons in Charge of Jails Must Hold Prisoners Tight.

The Provincial Secretary's Department, through the Inspector of Prisons for Ontario, has just issued a circular to all sheriffs and persons in charge of the prisons, jails, and lockups in the province that they must impress upon their jailers, turnkeys and guards the absolute necessity of exercising the greatest vigilance and adopting the strictest precautions to that end that the prisoners in their charge are kept safely and have no preventible opportunity to escape. In the case of known desperate criminals it will be regarded as inexcusably culpable to neglect to surround them with such vigilance and conditions of secure detention as cannot be evaded. In cases where investigation shows that a prisoner's escape is due to carelessness or neglect the services of the officials concerned will be dispensed with. This circular letter by the inspector is due to several escapes recently from jails and lockups in Ontario.

NATURE STUDY

Buildings to be Erected Probably at Guelph.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—The Nature Study school, to be established through the generosity of Sir W. C. Macdonald, to qualify teachers in rural schools for the teaching of advanced agricultural studies, will probably be erected at Guelph in coonection with the Ontario Agricultural College and Model Farm. Two buildings will be erected, and a plan has been prepared for submission to the several Provincial Governments proposing to establish the school on a sort of national basis.

The fund with which the school has been endowed will be used for maintenance, and the travelling expenses of pupils will be paid to and from the school on the condition that the Government of the province from which they come supplies substitutes for teachers during their absence.

TO VETO MATRIMONY.

Medical Men in Austria Desire to Have the Right.

A despatch from Vienna says:—A proposal has been made by the official organization of medical men in Bohemia to introduce a marriage qualification law.

It is suggested that persons who desire to marry must submit to medical examination to ascertain whether their state of health gives them the right to become husbands and fathers.

Medical certificates would then be as necessary in making arrangements for marriage as birth certificates now are, and it would be illegal for ministers of religion or registrars to conduct the wedding formalities in the case of couples who have not produced this evidence of good health.

The evening papers state that a bill embodying these clauses is ready for introduction in the Reichsrath.

TORTURING ARMENIANS.

Turks Continue Their Shocking Brutalities.

A Berlin despatch to the Cologne Gazette says the number of Armenians who are fleeing from Turkish territory is daily becoming greater. Their condition is terrible. Many show signs of shocking maltreatment. It instances the cases of a boy 1[illegible] who had his tongue cut out and his toes slashed through, and of ben[illegible] old men with their backs covered with wounds. The hapless wretches declare that the robbery and murder of Armenians are every-day occurences, of which no notice is taken by Turkish officials. The Gazette adds that if the statements are substantiated Russia will once more protest strongly to the Sultan.