THE WORLD'S MARKETS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES.

Prices of Cattle, Grain, Cheese, and Other Dairy Produce at Home and Abroad.

Toronto, Dec.22—Wheat—The market for Ontario grades continues to rule steady. No. 2 white and red Winter sold to-day at 77c low freights; No. 2 Spring steady at 72 to 73c east, and No. 2 goose at 70c. Manitoba wheat steady. At upper lake ports No. 1 Northern is quoted at 85½c, and No. 2 Northern at 83½c. No. 1 hard nominal at 88½c lake ports. For grinding in transit quotations are 6c higher than above.

Oats—The market is quiet, with prices firmer. No. 2 white sold at 27c west, and at 27½c low freights to New York. No. 1 white firmer at 28¾c east.

Barley—The market is quiet, with the prices steady. No. 2 quoted at 40 to 41c middle freights; No. 3 extra at 39c, and No. 3 at 37c middle freights.

Peas—Trade is dull, and prices unchanged. No. 2 white quoted at 61c middle freights, and at 62c east.

Rye—The market is dull, with No. 2 quoted at 51c west, and at 52c middle freights.

Corn—The market is quiet, and prices unchanged. No. 2 old yellow American quoted at 54 to 54½c on track, Toronto; No. 3 yellow, 53½c, and No. 3 mixed at 52½c Toronto. No. 3 new American yellow quoted at 51c on track, Toronto, and No. 3 mixed at 50c.

Buckwheat—The market is firm, with demand good. Sales of No. 2 at 45½c middle freights.

Flour—Ninety per cent. patents are steady at $3.05 middle freights in buyers' sacks for export. Straight rollers of special brands, for domestic trade, quoted at $3.40 to $3.50 in bbls. Manitoba flours are firm. No. 1 patents, $4.35 to $4.45, and strong bakers' $4.25 to $4.35 on track, Toronto.

Millfeed—Bran steady at $16.50, and shorts at $18.50 here. At outside points bran is quoted at $14 to $14.50, and shorts at $17.50; Manitoba bran in sacks, $18; and shorts at $20 here.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Apples—The market is fairly active at unchanged prices. Choice stocks job at $2 to $2.50 per bbl.

Beans—There is a quiet trade, with prices steady. Prime beans are quoted at $1.60 to $1.75 per bush.

Dried apples—The demand is fair, with prices unchanged at 4½ to 5c per lb. Evaporated apples, 6c per lb.

Hops—The market is unchanged at 29 to 30c.

Honey—The market is firm at 6½ to 7½c per lb for bulk, and at $1.25 to $2 for comb.

Hay—The market is fair, with receipts only moderate. No. 1 timothy quoted at $9 to $9.50 on track, Toronto, and mixed at $6.50 to $7.

Straw—The market is quiet at $5 per ton for car lots on track.

Potatoes—The offerings are limited and prices firm. Choice cars are quoted at 70 to 75c per bag on track here, and inferior quality at 65c per bag.

Poultry—The demand is good, and prices rule firm. Turkeys are quoted at 12 to 14c per lb. and geese at 8 to 9c per lb.; ducks, 10 to 11c per lb. or 90c to $1.25 per pair; chickens, 9 to 10c per lb. or 75c to $1 per pair; old hens, 55 to 65c per pair.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—The Butter Market rules fairly active, with supplies equal to the demand, and prices are steady. We quote:—Finest 1-lb rolls, 18 to 19c; choice large rolls, 16 to 17c; selected dairy tubs, 17 to 17½c; poor to medium grades, 12 to 15c; creamery prints, 21½ to 22c; solids, 19 to 20c.

Eggs—The market continues firm. We quote:—Strictly new laid, 27c; fresh, 23 to 24c' cold storage, 22 to 23c; limed, 20 to 21c.

Cheese—The market is dull. We quote: Finest, 11 to 11¼c; seconds, 10¼ to 10¾c.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Dressed hogs are unchanged, with offerings moderate. Sales at $6.30 to $6.50, delivered here. Cured meats are steady, with a fair demand. We quote:—Bacon, long clear 8½ to 9c, in ton and case lots. Mess pork, $17; do. short cut, $19 to $19.50.

Smoked meats—Hams, light to medium, 12½ to 13c; do heavy 11½ to 12c; rolls, 10c; shoulders, 9½c; backs, 13½ to 14c; breakfast bacon, 13 to 13½c.

Lard—The market is quiet, with prices unchanged. We quote:—Tierces, 8¼c; tubs, 8½c; pails; compound, 8 to 9c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, Dec. 22.—There is no change in grain or flour except a slight improvement in oats; quotations of other grains are merely nominal. Butter is still quiet, being quoted at 20c for Townships creamery; cheese continues dull. Poultry is scarce, and the demand continues good; turkeys have risen ½c in price. Grain—Peas, 71½ to 72c afloat here; rye, 53c east, 58c afloat here; No. 2 oats, 34½ to 34¾c in store; No. 3, 1c less; flaxseed, $1.15 on track here; No. 3 barley, 50c. Flour—Manitoba patents, $4.20 to $4.80; seconds, $4.30 to $4.50; strong bakers', $3.90 to $4.30; Ontario straight rollers, $3.90 to $4; in bags, $1.85 to $1.95; patents, $4 to $4.25; extra, $1.65 to $1.70; rolled oats $1.80 per bag, $3.80 per bbl. Feed—Ontario bran, in bulk, $17.50 to $18.50; shorts, $20 to $21; Manitoba bran, in bags, $18; shorts, $20 to $21. Beans—Choice primes, $1.50 to $1.55 per bush; $1.40 to $1.50 in car lots. Provisions—Heavy Canadian short cut pork, $19.50 to $20; light short cut, $18 to $18.50; American short cut clear, $17 to $17.50; American fat backs, $18 to $18.50; compound lard, 8c. Canadian lard, 8 to 8½c; kettle rendered, 10¼c; hams, 11½ to 13c; bacon, 14c; fresh killed abattoir hogs, $7.25; country dressed hogs in car lots, $6.25 to $6.40; live hogs, $5.25 to $5.40. Eggs—Candled selected, 25 to 26c; straight receipts, 21 to 22c; Montreal limed, 20 to 21c; refrigerator, 17 to 18c. Butter—Townships creamery, 20 to 20¼c; Quebec, 19½ to 19¾c; Western dairy, in tubs, 16c; Western rolls, 17 to 17½c. Cheese—Ontario, 10½ to 10¾c; Townships, 10½ to 10⅝c; Quebec (November). 10c.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Buffalo, Dec. 22.— Flour—Firm Wheat—Spring stronger; No. 1 Northern, car-loads, offered 89½c; Winter, good enquiry; No. 2 red, 88c through billed. Corn—Old quiet; No. 2 yellow, 51½c; No. 3 corn, 49½c asked. Oats—Firm; No. 2 white, 41c; No. 2 mixed, 39c. Barley—Small lots sold at 60 to 61c; track, through billed, 60 to 64c. Rye—No. 1 61½c.

Duluth, Dec. 22.—Wheat—To arrive, No. 1 hard, 80⅞c; No. 1 Northern, 79⅝c; No. 2 Northern, 76⅞c; December, 79½c; May, 80⅞c.

Milwaukee, Dec. 22.—Wheat—Irregular; No. 1 Northern, 83½ to 84c; No. 2 Northern, 81 to 82½c; May, 81⅜ to 81½c. Rye—Steady, No. 1, 56½ to 57c. Barley—Steady; No. 2 62c; sample, 33 to 59c. Corn—Quiet; No. 3, 45 to 46½c; May, 43⅜ to 43¾c.

Minneapolis, Dec. 22.—Wheat—December, 79c; May, 81⅛c; July, 80⅜c; on track, No. 1 hard, 81⅜c; No. 1 Northern, 80⅞c; No. 2 Northern, 78⅞c; No. 3 Northern, 71 to 76½c. Flour—First patents, $4.45 to $4.55; second do., $4.30 to $4.40; first clears, $3.30 to $3.40; second do., $2.30 to $2.40. Bran—In bulk, $13.

CATTLE MARKET.

Toronto, Dec. 22.—There was not a heavy run of cattle at the City Cattle Market to-day, but there was apparently enough offering for the requirements of the market. Buyers have been pretty well supplied the past two or three months, and some of them have about filled up. The receipts were 59 loads, with 756 head of cattle. 1,150 sheep and lambs, 900 hogs and 28 calves.

Export—There was a fair market for export, but there were no really choice export offering, and prices were but just about steady at $4.75, the top quotation. Under the present conditions of the export trade, shipping cattle were hardly worth over that figure, except for very choice fancy stock.

Butchers—Trade was slow, and prices on the whole quite a bit easier, though some good prices were paid for fancy cattle. Some very choice cattle were sold, however, on which money was lost by the shippers, one very choice load, for example, selling at $4.70, which cost in the country about $5. Good to choice butchers' cattle were selling at $4 to $4.25.

Stockers—Heavy feeders and good light stockers are about steady, with a not very active demand.

Sheep and lambs—Market steady for sheep; lambs firm.

Hogs—Steady and unchanged.

Export, heavy	$4.50 to	4.75
Export, light	4.00	4.25
Bulls, export, heavy, cwt.	3.75	4.25
do. light	3.00	3.50
Feeders, 800 lbs, and upwards	3.00	3.75
Short keep, 1,100 lbs.	3.65	4.00
Stockers, 400 to 800 lbs.	2.50	3.12½
do. 900 lbs.	2.75	3.50
Butchers' cattle, choice	3.65	4.25
do medium	3.30	3.40
do picked	4.50	4.70
do. bulls	2.75	3.00
do. rough	2.50	2.60
Light stock bulls, cwt	2.25	2.50
Milch cows	30.00	45.00
Hogs, best	4.75	.....
do. light	4.50	.....
Sheep, export, cwt	3.25	3.75
Lambs	4.00	4.60
Bucks	2.50	3.75
Culls	2.25	2.50
Calves, each	2.00	10.00

FORGED MONEY ORDERS.

Clever Piece of Swindling Comes to Light in the Capital.

An Ottawa despatch says: A clever piece of swindling came to light on Saturday when the Dominion Express Company ascertained that three money-orders, aggregating in all $125, had been forged and passed to three city merchants. One for $45, one for $40, and one for $40.50. The orders were drawn on the Dominion Express office at Spencerville, and had the name of the express agent forged upon them. It is thought the book of blanks from which these orders were written was stolen. It is the only case of forgery that has been tried on in Ottawa with express orders, and the confidence with which the orders were accepted was due to the fact that it was thought impossible to work a crooked game with them. The matter is causing considerable sensation, as money-orders are accepted as cash every day.

THE CO-OPERATION PLAN

ITS PRACTICAL WORKING IN FRUIT GROWING.

A Leader in the Movement in the United States Describes the Plan.

The principal of co-operation among fruit growers, which has been strongly advocated during the last two years by W. A. MacKinnon of the Fruit Division, Ottawa, received enthusiastic endorsation at the recent annual meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association at Leamington. The address of the president, the report of the secretary and all the most interesting and instructive papers dealt with the question of co-operation.

A typical example of the practical working out of the co-operative plan was described by Mr. W. H. Owen, Catawaba Island, Ohio, who is one of the recognized leaders in the movement across the line. He is manager of a co-operative fruit growers' union, which does business in a very large way. The Catawba association confines its attention mostly to peaches, though pears and grapes are also handled. The membership is thirty-four, controlling about one thousand acres, on which there are about one hundred and fifty thousand peach trees. The growers all live within seven and a half miles of the large central packing depot, where the grading is done under the manager's supervision. The growers do their own picking, and bring in from three to five thousand bushels of peaches daily. The fruit begins to arrive at the central depot at two o'clock p.m., and packing operations frequently continue all night. Each grower is duly credited with the amount of fruit of each grade which he contributes to the total amount, and he is paid in accordance,

AS SOON AS SALES ARE MADE.

Under the business-like system adopted it is possible to make most of the sales direct from the warehouse. Free use of the telegraph, telephone and mail service is made in collecting and disseminating information as to the quantity of each variety and grade available. In this way the fruit is disposed of practically as soon as produced. There is no refrigerator service at the packing house, but refrigerator cars are supplied by the railways, and the fruit is put into them as soon as possible. The cost of carrying on the business is about seventeen to nineteen cents per bushel of peaches, including cost of packages and transportation, as well as administrative expenses of the association.

Among the advantages of the plan which have become apparent during the twelve years that the association has been in existence are (1) It ensures better prices for the fruit. (2) It leaves the grower free to devote his undivided attention to the improvement of production. (3) It enables buyers to purchase at a central point large quantities of a uniform grade. Thus they can select precisely the sort of fruit to suit various markets. (4) It gives the members a much stronger position in dealing with commission men, merchants and carrying companies than they could possibly have as individual shippers. (5) It provides for the proper distribution of fruit, so that one market may not be glutted at the same time that another is left bare of supplies.

This latter point was emphasized by Mr. W. H. Dawson, the Toronto Commission merchant, by a reference to the co-operative system of handling the Texas tomato crop. This is handled by one man stationed at St. Louis, and the system is so thorough that market demoralization is absolutely avoided. The grading is so perfect that a man can order a car of Texas tomatoes by grade and feel perfectly sure of getting

JUST WHAT HE ORDERS.

Something has already been done along these lines in Ontario, and we are still far behind California, Ohio, Michigan and other States. One of the most progressive co-operative associations in Canada has its headquarters at Walkerton, in the celebrated Huron apple district. Mr. A. E. Sherrington, the manager, reported that last year the association made its first trial in the co-operative work by forwarding to Manchester, Eng., two cars of Duchess apples, which arrived in good condition. In addition to these three cars of winter apples were packed and sold. This year the association had prospered beyond all expectations. There are now about fifty-five members, with an average of four acres of apples each. Fifteen cars of apples have this year been shipped on the co-operative plan. Not only have the prices been better, but more fruit has been sold than would have been possible under the old system. Even the early varieties of apples were put upon the market in good condition. Just as soon as the Duchess, for instance, were ripe, all co-operators were notified to begin picking at the same time. In this way a car would be started with the fruit within two days of the time the apples were taken from the trees. If we can, said Mr. Sherrington, by this system, increase the general returns received from our fruit crop, the producer of poor fruit will almost certainly be led to improve the quality of his output. If he will not do this, he will have to get out of the association.

In the course of the discussion, Mr. MacKinnon said that, in his opinion, no system of co-operation would be complete which did not start at the beginning, and introduce uniform methods in the selection of varieties, in planting and top-grafting, in orchard management, including spraying, and even in the buying of supplies.

CANADIAN NORTHERN.

Mr. Mann Foreshadows the Company's Objects.

A Montreal despatch says: Mr. D. D. Mann, president of the Canadian Northern Railway, who is in Montreal, speaking on Wednesday of railway plans, said:— "It is our idea to eventually construct a third great railway system in Canada in spite of reports to the contrary, or stories that any of our property is for sale. None of our roads are for sale, nor are we negotiating with any persons for the sale of any of them."

It is the purpose of Mackenzie and Mann to combine the roads they already own into one system, and as business warrants it they will push their line further westward, until they reach the Pacific coast, and eastward to the Maritime Provinces. Combined, the lines will form a third railway system across the continent. Mr. Mann said there was no doubt but that the system would eventually be built, and concluded by saying that all the Mackenzie and Mann roads so far built had proved paying ventures. The opening of the Chateaguy and Northern between Quebec and Montreal is one of the steps leading to the accomplishment of the larger object.

NEW SMOKELESS POWDER.

An Interesting Announcement By British Expert.

A London despatch says:—Col. W. Hope announces that after nine and a half years' continuous work, in which he has calculated and recorded over ten thousand experiments, he has produced an absolutely safe and stable smokeless powder, which he calls veloxite. He says that it contains 73 per cent. more powder as a propelling agent, weight for weight, than the Government's present powder, yet it contains no nitro-compound, no sulphur, no phosphorus, no chlorate, in fact no dangerous ingredients. The flashing point of black powder is at 640 degrees; Fahrenheit, that of cordite and all nitro powders is only from 360 to 370 degrees, while that of veloxite is about 12,000 degrees. He says that veloxite stands the hammering of a sledge hammer on an anvil. The ingredients are stable and therefore the powder is stable. The setting up of chemical action is impossible in any length of time, and in any variations of climatic conditions. Veloxite can be made in the morning and fired in the afternoon, not requiring, as other powders do, several weeks to manufacture. It can be made cheaply, its ingredients can be purchased in unlimited quantities by the ton, and it is available for small arms as well as artillery.

IRISH HOME FORCE.

Volunteer System to be Extended to Ireland.

A London despatch says: Political conditions and religious feuds have hitherto induced the British Government not to allow the extension to Ireland of the volunteer system, which has for many years been established in England and Scotland. The matter has often been agitated in the press and in Parliament, but although the militia has been enrolled for a long time, and, like the Irish regulars, proved among the most valuable of Great Britain's troops, successive Governments at London would not sanction a home defence force for Ireland. The papers on Thursday morning state that the introduction of the system to Ireland has been decided upon. Twenty-six battalions will be raised in various parts of the country. Their formation will be provided for in the forthcoming programme of army reform, prepared by Mr. Arnold Forster, Secretary of State for War. The last volunteer force in Ireland was raised by the great land-owners more than a hundred years ago, when there were fears of a French invasion. The British Government did not support the movement, and the Viceroy of Ireland was greatly dismayed, although all the volunteers were Protestants. The present sanction can be traced to the splendid services of the Irish regiments in South Africa, and the improved political relations.

OUR GROWING NAVY.

Government May Buy Newfoundland Sealers.

A St. John's, Nfld., despatch says: It is understood that the Canadian Government is likely to purchase for a permanent cruiser the Newfoundland sealing steamer Neptune and that another ship is being sought for here. Both vessels will be used in enforcing the Canadian laws against American whalers.

TICKS FROM THE WIRE.

HAPPENINGS FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE.

Telegraphic Briefs From Our Own and Other Countries of CANADA.

The fire underwriters will not reduce London's insurance rates.

James Downey, turnkey of the Brockville jail, dropped dead on Saturday.

The King has approved of his birthday being celebrated in Canada on the 24th of May as a general holiday.

The Manitoba Government have purchased a site in St. Charles municipality for the proposed agricultural college.

A carload of prisoners, numbering thirty-five, have been sent sent from Stony Mountain Penitentiary, Man., to St. Vincent de Paul, Quebec.

Complaints have been received from commercial men in Toronto with regard to the administration of justice in Montreal, and an investigation is to take place.

Wholesale fruit men of Winnipeg, who had 7,000 barrels of apples frozen en route over the Canadian Pacific Railway, are suing the company for $15,000.

Expert safe-blowers robbed the office of the Harris Abattoir Company, at Toronto, on Friday night. The police suspect the men who robbed a jewellery store at Tilbury on Thursday night.

A. D. Decelles, general librarian of the Parliamentary Library, Ottawa, has been officially notified that he has been appointed to the Legion of Honor, in recognition of his valuable work of a journalistic and historical character.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Sir Thomas Lipton says he will again challenge for the America's Cup.

It is reported that the King and Queen will soon visit Ireland and attend the Puncheston races.

The Duke of Norfolk, the premier duke of England, is to marry Gwendolen, daughter of Lord Herries. She is 27, he is 56.

Although the lowest bids came from Belgium, the London County Council decided to order rails for train lines from British firms.

At auction in London the other day the manuscript of the Apocalypsis S. Johannis, executed by monks in the eleventh century, was sold for $4,550.

UNITED STATES.

Forty-one Detroiters committed suicide last year. Hot weather was the principal cause.

At Cleveland, on Saturday, R. W. Derby killed all the members of his family, and then committed suicide.

The Michigan Improved Live Stock Breeders' Association, has passed a resolution against reciprocity with Canada.

Michael W. Taylor, the largest man in Michigan, died at Detroit of rheumatism and fatty degeneration of the heart, weighing 425 pounds.

Arthur Raisback, of Baltimore, a lad of 12, who has been blind since infancy, dangerously shot himself because he couldn't see to play with his comrades.

Senator Heyburn of Idaho, has introduced in the Senate, a joint resolution, requesting the President to acquire by annexation the Island of San Domingo.

A crusade against alleged wholesale perjury in bankruptcy proceedings was inaugurated with the indictment and arrest of four men on that charge at New York.

A leading official of the United States Steel Corporation states that, beginning January 1st, about ninety per cent. of the employes of the corporation will suffer wage reductions ranging from five to twenty per cent.

England has served formal notice upon the United States Government that under the favored nation clause it expects that British sugar from the British West Indies shall be admitted into the United States on equal terms with Cuban sugar.

GENERAL.

It seems to be impossible to erradicate cattle disease in Rhodesia.

The Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs says the Sultan must yield to Macedonian reforms or see the downfall of his empire.

Sanguinary conflicts over customs collections between Persians and Turcomans are reported to have occurred on the Russo-Persian frontier.

The London Daily Mail's Pekin correspondent declares that a few Manchu nobles, under Russian influence, are delaying the conclusion of an alliance between China and Japan.

Crown Prince Frederick William of Germany was required by his father to remain in his room for three days, for having raced in a steeplechase against the Emperor's wish.

Bertillon has organized a new system for the detection of criminals. Heretofore the errors made were as high as seventy per cent., while a trial of the new system has reduced the errors to one per cent.

The diphtheria epidemic which has been raging for five weeks in the New York State Reformatory, at Elmira, here is over.