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. 29.—Wheat — The market for Ontario grades is unchanged. No. 2 white and mixed quoted at 77 to 77½c low freights, and No. 2 red Winter at 76½c. 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 88½ to 89c lake ports. For grinding in transit quotations are 6c higher than above.

Oats—The market is quiet, with prices steady. No. 2 white quoted at 27 to 27½c west, at 27½c middle freights, and at 28c low freights to New York. No. 1 white steady at 28¾c east.

Barley—The market is quiet, with the prices steady. No. 2 quoted at 41 to 42c, 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 61 to 61½c west, and at 62c east.

Rye—The market is steady, with No. 2 quoted at 52c east or west.

Corn—The market is quiet, and prices unchanged. No. 2 old yellow American quoted at 54c on track, Toronto; No. 3 yellow, 53c; and No. 3 mixed at 52c Toronto; No. 3 new American yellow quoted at 50c on track, Toronto, and No. 3 mixed at 49c.

Buckwheat—The market is firm, with demand good. No. 2 quoted at 45 to 56c middle freights.

Flour—Ninety per cent. patents are steady at $3.02½ 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, $4.65 to $4.75; No. 2 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, and shorts at $17 to $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 limited trade, with prices steady. Prime beans are quoted at $1.60 to $1.70 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 25 to 30c, according to quality.

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 dull, 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 to $5.50 per ton for car lots on track.

Potatoes—Offerings continue light, and prices rule firm. Choice cars are quoted at 75 to 78c per bag on track here, and inferior quality at 65 to 70c per bag.

Poultry—The demand is good, and prices are firm. Turkeys are quoted at 14 to 15c per lb., and geese at 9 to 11c per lb.; ducks, 10 to 12c per lb., or $1 to $1.40 per pair; chickens, 10 to 11c per lb., or 80c to $1.25 per pair; fowls, 7 to 9c per lb.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—The market is steady, with fair offerings. Demand steady for strictly choice parcels. Secondary grades are accumulating, and prices are being shaded to make sales. We quote:— Finest 1-lb. rolls, 17 to 18c; choice large rolls, 16 to 17c; selected dairy tubs, 16½ to 17½c; inferior to medium qualities, 13 to 15c; creamery prints unchanged, 21 to 22c; solids, 19 to 20c.

Eggs—Market still very firm. We quote:— New laid, 30c; selects, 23 to 25c; cold storage, 21 to 22c; limed, 20 to 21c.

Cheese—Market dull; very little trade doing. We quote:— Finest, 11 to 11¼c; seconds, 10 to 10½c.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Dressed hogs are a little easier, with offerings increasing. Sales, $6.40 to $6.50, delivered here. Cured meats are steady with a fair demand. We quote:— Bacon, long clear, 8¾ to 9c in ton and case lots; mess pork, $17; do., short cut, $18.-50 to $19.

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, 8¾c; compound, 8 to 9c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, Dec. 29.—The local markets are fairly active. There is no change in grain or flour. Cheese is quiet and likely to continue so until the New Year. Butter is rather weak. Eggs are still in good demand, and the supply is small. The Provision Market is steady; the receipts of poultry were fair; prices unchanged. Grain—Peas, 71½ to 72c afloat here; rye, 68c east, 58c afloat here; oats, No. 2, 34½ to 34¾c in store; No. 2, 1c less; flaxseed, $1.15 on track here; No. 3 barley, 50c. Flour—Manitoba patents, $4.60 to $4.85; 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.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Minneapolis, Dec. 29.—Wheat— December, 79⅞c; May, 82¼ to 82⅜c; July, 81⅞c; on track, No. 1 hard, 82½c; No. 1 Northern, 81½c; No. 2 Northern, 79½c; No. 3 Northern, 79⅜c. Flour—First patents $4.45 to $4.55; second patents, $4.30 to $4.40; first clears, $3.30 to $3.40; second clears, $2.30 to $2.40. Bran—In bulk, $13.-75 to $14.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 29.—Flour—Steady. Wheat—Spring dull; No. 1 Northern, 91c asked; winter, nothing doing. Corn—Firm; No. 2 yellow, 50½c; No. 2 corn, 48c. Oats— Good demand; unsettled; No. 2 white, 41½c; No. 2 mixed, 39½c. Barley — 51 to 65c c.i.f. in store. Rye—No. 1, 60½c.

Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 29.—Wheat—Firm. No. 1 Northern, 85c; No. 2 Northern, 80 to 85c; May, 83¼c. Rye—Firm; No. 1, 57c. Barley—Steady; No. 2, 63c; samples, 36 to 60c. Corn—Steady; No. 3, 40 to 45c; May, 44c.

FATAL EDPLOSION.

One Man Killed and Four Scalded at London.

A London despatch says :—Two of the hot water furnaces at Wolsely Barracks exploded shortly after midnight on Sunday morning, causing the death of Mess Sergt. Jas. Burnett, the probable fatal injury of Pte. Thomas Worswick, and the very serious injury of Pte. Walter Worswick and Quartermaster-Sergt. Dunlevy. The furnaces were those used to provide heat for the officers' quarters, and they had not been giving satisfaction, in fact a plumber had been engaged upon them but an hour previously, and had left in the belief that all was secure. It is believed that the pipes had somewhere become clogged, and as the night was a very cold one, with a blizzard raging without, the furnaces were kept going full blast. As a result, the blocked furnaces made steam.

The four men were in the furnace-room examining the furnaces, owing to a peculiar rumbling noise which the furnaces were making, and were about to leave for the night, when the explosion of one of the furnaces took place. Burnett was pinned beneath the boiler momentarily, and was frightfully scalded. The skin peeled from his body in patches a foot square, and, besides, he inhaled the deadly steam. The latter was the direct cause of his death, which occurred at Victoria Hospital six hours later. Thos. Worswick also inhaled the steam, and is not expected to recover. Walter Worswick's case is more hopeful.

TWENTY-TWO KILLED.

Terrible Accident on the Pere Marquette Railroad.

A Grand Rapids, Mich., despatch says :—The death list resulting from the head-on collision between two Pere Marquette Railroad passenger trains near East Paris on Saturday night stands at twenty-two, with twenty-nine persons injured, several of them probably fatally.

It was the most disastrous wreck in the history of the Pere Marquette system, and instead of being caused by a man's carelessness or mistake, is charged to the high wind, which extinguished the red signal light in the order board at McCord's Station, where the westbound train was expected to stop and receive new orders. Two minutes before the train rushed by McCord's the light was burning, says the operator there but in that brief interval the blizzard that was raging extinguished it, and train No. 5 flashed by the station to crash into east-bound train No. 6, near East Paris. The trains, which were two of the finest on the system, were reduced to a promiscuous pile of broken and twisted timber and metal, with dead and injured pinned down and crushed by the fragments of the heavy cars.

SEALS FOR LAKE SUPERIOR

Attempt to be Made to Propagate Them.

A Marquette, Mich., despatch says: —Preliminary steps for the formation of the "Lake Superior Seal Propagation Society" have been taken at Ashland, the object being to stock Lake Superior with fur-bearing seals. The principals of the organization are Seben Malroff, a Russian, with thirty years' experience as a sealer; ex-Lieut.-Governor Fifield of Wisconsin and J. S. Robbins of Rhinelander. It is estimated that ten male and forty female seals in the lake will increase to 1,000 in twenty years. The Apostle Islands, together with Isle Royale and the rocky shores of Lake Superior, would, it is believed, be ideal breeding places.

SIXTY-THREE KILLED.

Passenger Coaches Wrecked on Baltimore and Ohio.

A Connellsville, Penn., despatch says :—With a terrible crash and a grinding noise, the Duquesne Limited, the fastest through passenger train from Pittsburg to New York, on the Baltimore and Ohio, plunged into a pile of lumber at Laurel Run, two miles west of Dawson, at 7.45 o'clock on Wednesday evening, and sixty-three lives were lost, and thirty persons were injured. The train left Pittsburg Wednesday evening, running a few minutes late, in charge of Engineer William Thornley, of Connellsville. When passing Laurel Run, which is a particularly fine piece of roadbed the train was running at a high rate of speed. Suddenly the passengers were thrown from their seats by the lightning-like application of the air brakes, and a moment later there was a terrible crash.

The train was made up of two baggage cars, two day coaches, one sleeper and one dining car, and was carrying at the time at the lowest estimate 150 passengers. The train plowed along for a considerable distance, and the cars were torn to pieces, passengers jumping screaming from the wreck as it tore along. Suddenly the engine swerved to the left, and the coaches plunged down over the embankment to the edge of the Youghiogheny River. The minute the cars stopped roiling, there was a wild scene. Many persons were pinned beneath the wreckage, and the screams and cries that rent the air were beyond description. Many were injured in their mad excitement, and others plunged into the river. Others, pinned beneath the heavy timbers, pleaded in agonized tones for release. So terrifying was the force of the wreck that nearly every passenger suffered a moment's unconsciousness and many of the able-bodied men were unable to assist the injured from the wreck.

CONSUMPTION OF SPIRITS.

Quantity Used in Canada Is On the Increase.

An Ottawa despatch says :—The consumption of spirits in Canada is on the increase, while the use of malt liquors is falling off. That is the unmistakable evidence derived from comparison of the inland revenue returns for the fiscal year year ending June 30th last with those for the same period of the year previous. In 1902 there were 27,623,767 gallons of malt liquor manufactured. For the last fiscal year the quantity manufactured was 25,755,154 gallons, or a falling off of 1,868,617 gallons. In the fiscal year 1901-02 the quantity of spirits entered for consumption was 2,933,-182 gallons of the value of $5,613,-295. During the last fiscal year 3,207,748 gallons of the value of $6,158,275 were entered for consumption, being an increase of 274,-566 gallons in quantity and $544,-980 in value. A larger consumption of spirits than of malt liquors is not a healthful indication. To put the figures in another way : In 1902 the per capita consumption was as follows :—Spirits, .796 gallons; tobacco, 2.404 pounds. In gallons; tobacco, 2.404 pounds. In 1903 the per capita consumption was :—Spirits, .870 gallons; beer, 4.712 gallons; wine, .096 gallons; tobacco, 2.548 pounds. In 1902 the revenue per head was :—Spirits, $1.653; beer, $0.214; wine, $0.048; tobacco, 0.915. Last year the per capita revenue receipts were :—Spirits, $1.-812; beer, $0.205; wine, $0.051; tobacco, $0.992. The number of cigars taken for consumption in the last fiscal year was 151,780,516, as against 141,096,889 for the year previous. There were 22,677,302 pounds of tobacco taken for consumption, compared with 21,543,-301 in the preceding year.

HUGE RAILWAY MILEAGE.

Will Be 209,855 Miles in United States January 1.

A Chicago despatch says :—According to the Railway Age the total railway mileage of the United States Jan. 1, 1904, will be 209,-855 miles, the present year having added 5,723.45 miles. This mileage is consideranly greater than that shown by Poor's Manual, and probably is nearer correct, as it takes into account all of the new track laid up to the last days of the year. Compared with 1902 the present year is about on a parity in matter of railway construction. The construction reported was done on 380 lines and in 39 States and Territories, including Alaska. Early in the year it was shewn that there were 8,500 miles of railroad under construction, but labor troubles and financial flurries caused some of the work to be abandoned.

SMALLPOX IN BUFFALO.

Six Cases Discovered in a Dance Hall.

A Buffalo, N. Y., despatch says :—Nine persons suffering from smallpox were taken to the Quarantine Hospital on Friday. Six of the cases were discovered at a dance hall in Broadway, where a large number of persons were exposed to infection. The health authorities are working hard to stamp out the disease. Two buildings have been quarantined and placed under a police guard.

THE ANALYSIS OF SEEDS

THE CHIEF WEEDS IN CLOVER AND TIMOTHY.

Interesting Particulars by the Dominion Department of Agriculture.

The spread of noxious weeds can be attributed to no single cause. They seem to be naturally adapted to rapid spreading, and besides there are various natural and artificial agencies which aid in their dissemination. Not the least important among these agencies is the seed grain trade. Almost every farmer purchases yearly seed of grain or grasses and clovers with little thought of introducing weed seeds in this way. As a matter of fact, however, he seldom gets seed perfectly free from weed seeds of some kind. Occasionally these are not particularly injurious, but not frequently they are most undesirable, and, being introduced unconsciously, gain a strong foothold before their presence is suspected. In this connection some particulars of the analysis of seeds from the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa should be of interest as they show to what extent these conditions prevail.

Of over two hundred samples of Timothy analyzed during 1903 only four had no weed seeds in them; in the others over thirty different kinds of weed seeds were represented. Of these Cinquefoil, Peppergrass, Sheep Sorrel, Ribgrass, False Flax, Lamb's-quarters, Canada Thistle and White Cockle were most commonly present, often at the rate of several thousand per pound. In red clover and alsike, of each of which there were several hundred samples analyzed, there were upwards of forty species of weed seeds, those being commonest whose size approximated that of the clover seed. Thus in red clover were commonly found curled dock, Canada thistle, white cockle and ribgrass; while in alsike, false flax, white cockle, sheep sorrel, cinquefoil and black Medick were prevalent.

THE PRIMARY CAUSE

for this prevailing condition is no doubt the growth of weeds with the crop for seed, and the tendency of farmers to buy improperly cleaned seeds because they are cheaper than, and ' usual examiner, equally as good as dearer grades. It is usually safe to regard cheap seed as of inferior quality and on this account to avoid buying it.

Dodder was present in twelve samples of red clover at an average rate of 418 seeds per pound; this is considerably more than was the case a year ago and was no doubt due to more seed being imported from the south where this parasite thrives much better than here. The analysis of several samples obtained from Chili showed that dodder is a very common impurity in seed from that country, one sample having upwards of seven hundred seeds per pound and others somewhat less. There is no probability of Canada ever having to import seed from Chili, but as both countries have a common market for their surplus supply, the presence of this impurity in the Chilian seed should afford the Canadian produce a considerable advantage. Were it not for this circumstance the Chilian red clover seed would prove a dangerous competitor, as it is well colored, plump and of high vitality, and with few other objectionable impurities.

Several samples of exported Canadian alsike and red clover were obtained from English seed merchants. All these showed a uniform quality, none of them free from weed seeds, but had apparently been well cleaned as there was a notable absence of such impurities as light seeds, chaff, or weed seeds either larger or smaller than the bulk of the sample. Small numbers of cockle, black Medick and false flax still remained in the alsike, and of foxtail and ribgrass in the red clover. The germination was uniformly over ninety per cent. The average quality was therefore considerably better than that of the seeds retailed in our own markets. It should always be remembered, however, by buyers that, while the average quality of our seeds may be low, the highest grades are always offered for sale, and this quality is in the end the most profitable.

ALMOST AN EPIDEMIC.

Four Hundred Typhoid Cases in Pittsburg.

A Pittsburg, Penn., despatch says: —Typhoid fever is rapidly increasing in this city and threatens to take on the character of an epidemic. For the first 22 days of December there were 410 cases and during the last 24 hours 49 new cases were reported. This breaks all previous records. The disease is virvulent and a large proportion of those taken sick are dying.

BARKEEPERS MUST GO.

No Room For Them in Ohio Oddfellows' Lodge.

A Springfield, Ohio, despatch says: —Grand Master Charles C. Pavey of the Ohio Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Oddfellows has issued a circular to the effect that on January 1, 1904, all saloonkeepers, bartenders and professional gamblers shall either quit the order or those occupations.

TICKS FROM THE WIRE.

HAPPENINGS FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE.

Telegraphic Briefs From Our Own and Other Countries of

CANADA.

Henry Mullen was sentenced to six months in jail at Hamilton for forgery.

The Nova Scotia Steel Company will purchase extensive iron deposits in Cuba.

Mr. Alex. McPherson of Hamilton was run down by a street car and killed on Saturday.

Oakville Town Council passed a by-law granting a franchise to the Hamilton Radial Railway.

All hope of getting the steamer Monarch out of the ice near Sault Ste. Marie this winter has been abandoned.

The members of the Grand Trunk Pacific survey camp on Lake Nepigon ran out of provisions and suffered with hunger for nine days.

While Sir Frederick Borden was in England Mr. Arnold Forster, Secretary of State for War, suggested that a regiment of Canadians be sent to India to get the benefit of a military training there.

GREAT BRITAIN.

American capital it is said will within a year set every mine working in Cornwall, Eng.

All the important London police stations will at last be connected with one another, and with the new Scotland Yard.

Rails for London trains are being ordered from British firms, although Belgium gave the lowest tender. Another gain for Chamberlain.

It now appears that England's accepted offer of $9,375,000 for the two war vessels built for the Chilian Government was just $375,000 larger than Russia's offer.

A London curio shop proprietor has just sold for $125 what has since been proven to be the casket presented 350 years ago by Henry II., King of France, to his favorite Diana of Poitiers. It is said to be worth $25,000.

UNITED STATES.

One hundred and twenty-five boats have tied up for the winter at Detroit.

Steps are being taken to form a washerwomen's union in St. Louis, Mo., and district.

It is officially announced that the British Government has recognized the republic of Panama.

Cattle breaking through into a neighbor's field caused a gun fight at Ardmore, I.T., in which John Scott and Sam Victory were killed.

The Grand Jury at Chicago has voted nine indictments against members of the street car men's union, on charges of riot, conspiracy, malicious mischief and unlawful assembly.

Much excitement has been caused by reports of the discovery of beds of pure anthracite coal far beyond the limits of the southern boundary of the hard coal region in Pennsylvania.

The other day Samuel Turner was killed on the railroad track at Port Morris, N. J., at the same place and in the same manner in which his father and grandfather met their death, one in 1893 and the other in 1883.

Menominee, Mich., lumber mills manufactured last year 266,000,000 feet of lumber, 146,000,000 shingles and 65,000,000 lath. Two mills have been dismantled owing to the disappearance of pine in Northern Michigan.

GENERAL.

Guiseppe Zanardelli, former Premier of Italy, is dead.

Chinese coolies have looted and burned buildings of the Canton-Hankow railway.

It is said at Johannesburg that the Transvaal will be unable to take up its share of the war loan in February.

An arbitration treaty between France and Italy, along the lines of that between Britain and France, was signed at Paris.

The Pekin correspondent of The Times says the Japanese preparations for war are probably the most complete and detailed the world has ever seen.

Ibsen, the Norweglan dramatist, has aphasia—inability to use the right words in conversation. When he wanted a visitor to take a seat he said: "Take a cigar."

NEW SMELTING PROCESS.

Government Appoints Experts to Investigate.

An Ottawa despatch says :—The Government has appointed a commission to go to Europe to inspect the various plants that use the thermo-electric process for the smelting of iron ores and the making of steel. The commission consists of Dr. Haanel, Superintendent of Mines, and Mr. C. E. Brown, assistant and works engineer for the Canadian General Electric Co., Peterborough. A steel expert and a draughtsman will be added to the commission, but they will be selected in Europe. There are five establishments in Europe where pig iron and steel are commercially produced by electricity.