THE WORLD'S MARKETS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES.

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

Toronto, Feb. 9.—Wheat—Trade continues quiet in Ontario grades, but prices are very firm on limited offerings. Deliveries are difficult to make, and prices above export value. No. 2 white and red Winter are quoted at 82½c high freights, and at 83½c low freights. No. 2 Spring steady at 76c east, and No. 2 goose at 73c. Manitoba wheat steady. At upper lake ports No. 1 Northern is quoted at 91c, and No. 2 Northern at 87½c. No. 1 hard nominal at 93c lake ports. For grinding in transit quotations are 6c higher than above.

Oats—The market is quiet, with prices firmer. No. 2 white quoted at 30c west, and at 30½c middle freights. No. 1 white quoted at 32c east, and No. 2 at 31 to 31½c east.

Barley—The market is quiet, with the prices steady. No. 2 quoted at 44c middle freights; No. 3 extra at 42c, and No. 3 at 41c middle freights.

Peas—The market is steady, with No. 2 quoted at 62c west, and 63c east.

Corn—The market is quiet, and prices unchanged. No. 3 American yellow quoted at 51c on track, Toronto, and No. 3 mixed at 49½ to 50c. Canadian corn, 43c on track, Toronto, and 37 to 38c west.

Rye—The market is firm, with No. 2 quoted at 53c east and west.

Buckwheat—The market is firm, with demand good. No. 2 quoted at 48c middle freights.

Flour—Ninety per cent. patents are steady at $3.15 middle freights in buyers' sacks for export. Straight rollers of special brands for domestic trade quoted at $3.50 to $3.65 in bbls. Manitoba flours are firm. No. 1 patents, $4.75 to $4.90; No. 2 patents, $4.45 to $4.60, and strong bakers', $4.35 to $4.50 on track, Toronto.

Millfeed—Bran steady at $16.75, and shorts at $17.50 here. At outside points bran is quoted at $15, and shorts at $17. Manitoba bran, in sacks, $18, and shorts at $20 here.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Apples—Trade here is quiet, with prices steady at $2 to $2.50 per bbl. for the best stock.

Dried apples—The demand is small and prices are unchanged at 3½ to 4c per lb. Evaporated apples, 6c per lb.

Beans—Trade is dull and prices steady. Prime beans are quoted at $1.30 to $1.50 per bushel.

Hops—The market is unchanged at 26 to 32c, 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 quiet, with receipts only moderate. No. 1 timothy quoted at $9 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—The market is quiet, with offerings moderate. Choice cars are quoted at 83 to 85c per bag on track here, and inferior quality at 75c per bag.

Poultry—The demand is fair, and prices unchanged. Chickens, 9 to 10c per lb. Turkeys are quoted at 12½ to 14c per lb., and geese at 9 to 10c per lb; ducks at 10c per lb., or $1 to $1.25 per pair; fowls, 7 to 8c per lb.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—The receipts continue moderate, and prices show no change. There is a fair demand for choice qualities. We quote:—Finest, 1-lb. rolls, 16 to 18c; choice large rolls, 16c; select dairy tubs, 16 to 17c; secondary grades, rolls aod tubs, 13 to 15c; creamery prints, 20 to 21c; solids, 18 to 19½c.

Eggs—The market is firm. We quote strictly new laid, 35c; selected cold storage, 30c; and limed 27 to 28c per dozen.

Cheese—The market rules steady. We quote:—Finest September's, 10¾ to 11c; seconds, 10c.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Dressed hogs are unchanged, with offering limited. Car lots sold at $6 to $6.20 delivered here. Cured meats are in fair demand. We quote:—Bacon, long clear, 8½ to 8¾c per lb. in case lots. Mess pork, $16; do., short cut, $18

Smoked meats—Hams, light to medium, 12½ to 18c; do., heavy, 11½ to 12c; rolls, 10c; shoulders, 9½c; backs, 13 to 13½c; breakfast bacon, 13c.

Lard—The market is quiet, with prices unchanged. We quote:—Tierces, 7½c; tubs, 7¾c; pails, 8c; compound, 7 to 7½c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, Feb. 9.—Advices on prices of Manitoba wheat, just received from Fort William state that No. 3 Northern cannot be had under 77½c, or No. 2 under 81½c; hardly any export business is being done. It is said that fully a third of the wheat inspected turns out to be feed. No No. 1 is offering; No. 3 Western inspection is valued about 85½c on track. No. 2 oats, Montreal inspection, are being dealt in at 37½c for carloads in store, for local account; the demand is good. There is no export demand for oats any longer, oats being now sold in England as cheaply as Montreal. No. 2 oats, low freights west, for export 30½c; No. 2 peas, 64c; rye, 52c; No. 2 barley, 43½c; No. 3 extra barley, 42½c; No. 3, 41½c. Flour—Manitoba millers are now about 15c apart from each other on quotations given out; patents range from $4.90 to $5; strong bakers', $4.60 to $4.70; Winter wheat patents, $4.25 to $4.35; straight rollers, $3.90 to $4; extras, $3.50 to $3.65; straight rollers in bags, $1.85 to $1.90, and extras in bags, $1.65 to $1.75. Feed—The demand is good and the market strong, it being expected that the consumption will be large from this out. Manitoba bran in bags, $18; shorts, $20, per ton; Ontario bran in bulk, $17 to $17.50; shorts, $19.50 to $20; mouillie, $26 to $27 per ton. Provisions—Heavy Canadian short cut pork, $18 to $18.50; light short cut, $17.50 to $18; American short cut clear, $17 to $17.50 American fat backs, $18 to $18.50; compound lard, 8c; Canadian lard, 8½ to 9c; kettle rendered, 10½c; hams, 11½ to 13c; bacon, 14c; fresh killed abattoir hogs, $7.75; country dressed hogs, $6.75 to $7; live hogs, $5.50. Eggs—Candled, selected, 31 to 32c; Montreal limed, 26c; Western limed, 22 to 23c; refrigerator, late Fall stock, 23 to 24c; Summer stock, 20 to 21c. Butter—Eastern, 21 to 22c; Western dairy, in tubs, 16c; Western rolls, 17 to 18c. Cheese—Ontario, 11 to 11½c; townships, 10¼ to 10½c.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Buffalo, Feb. 3.—Flour—Strong. Wheat—Winter, nothing doing; spring higher; No. 1 Northern, Duluth, $1.02¼; do. Chicago, 98¾c. Corn—Unsettled; No. 2 white, 47½c; No. 2 mixed, 45c. Barley—Western, 55 to 65c in store. Rye—No offerings.

St. Louis, Feb. 9.—Wheat closed—Cash, 92¾c; May, 87¾c; July, 81¾c.

Minneapolis, Feb. 9.—Wheat—May, 92⅜ to 92½c; July, 91⅜ to 91½c; September, 95⅜ to 95¾c; on track, No. 1 hard, 95c; No. 1 Northern, 93c; No. 2 Northern, 89½c; No. 3 Northern, 84 to 86½c. Flour—First patents, $4.75 to $4.85; second do. $4.65 to $4.75; first clears, $3.50 to $3.60; second clears, $2.50 to $2.60. Bran—In bulk, $14.25 to $15.

CATTLE MARKET.

Toronto, Feb. 9.—There were 41 cars of stock offering at the City Market this morning. This was not a heavy run in itself, but cattle have been coming irregularly in bunches every day, according as the railroads could deliver them. Trade was very fair to-day, but the butchers on the whole are fairly well supplied, and there is no tendency towards very high prices. There were a few export cattle, but no choice loads. All the dealers, it is reported, are taking advantage of the present low prices in the Chicago market and are buying there.

Sheep and lambs are steady to firm. Grain-fed lambs are quoted at $5.25 to $5.50, barnyard at $4.50 to $5, export ewes at $3.75 to $4, butchers' sheep at $3.50 to $3.75. Calves are firm at 4 to 6c per lb.

Hogs to-day were unchanged at $5 for the top, but prospects are lower for next week.

VICTIM OF HUNTER'S TRAP

Port Arthur Man Shot While Walking Through Bush.

A Port Arthur, Ont., despatch says: William Snyder, with two companions, was out hunting on Tuesday, following a hunter's trail. He inadvertently kicked a string which crossed the trail, and which was attached to a rifle suspended in a tree, at full cock. The rifle was discharged, the bullet entering Snyder's leg, inflicting a severe wound. He was carried through the bush to the railway track and brought into Port Arthur hospital, where he arrived some ten hours after the accident.

MULOCK AND DIAZ CONFER

Mexico is Anxious to Trade With Canada.

An Ottawa despatch says: The Government has been advised that Sir William Mulock has had an interview with President Diaz, of the Mexican Republic, at which many matters of interest to the two countries were discussed. The Republic desires to improve its means of communication with Canada. It has been arranged to have another interview to consider this subject, at which Signor Limentar, Finance Minister of Mexico, is to be present.

THE ORIGINAL DATE.

Collapse of Building Will Not Postpone Show.

An Ottawa despatch says: It has been decided to hold the Fat Stock Horse and Poultry Shows in Ottawa on the original dates, March 7th to 11th. The collapse of the new building at Lansdowne Park will not be allowed to interfere as was previously thought. It is the intention to hold the combined show in the horse and cattle barns at the park, as was done a couple of years ago. A gang of men has been placed at work about these buildings putting them in shape for the show.

SWORDS NOW DRAWN

Japan and Russia Break Off Negotiations.

A London despatch says: Japan withdrew her Minister from St. Petersburg on Sunday, before receiving Russia's official reply, which she had been awaiting for three weeks. Russia thereupon recalled her Minister at Tokio. Russia, in announcing the rupture to the powers, attempts to throw the whole responsibility for the consequences upon Japan.

It is possible to make a clear statement of the unofficial diplomatic history of the past fortnight, which will serve to throw important light on the situation. Russia's reply to the Japanese proposals was formulated and communicated unofficially to Japan, through the medium of the French Foreign Office, as long ago as Jan. 27. In effect, this intimation, as described in some of its details in these despatches three days later, conveyed Russia's willingness to accede to Japan's principal demands regarding Corea, but in Manchuria Russia reserved certain interests, expressed and implied, which virtually amounted to a denial of the Japanese contentions. The Tokio authorities, after careful consideration, decided that they could not accept the proposed reply. They, however, earnestly pressed Russia to communicate her reply officially in order that they might take formal action on it. When day after day passed without its delivery, Japan became convinced that Russia's reasons for withholding a decision which she had fully formulated and communicated to more than one outside power were not of a diplomatic nature, and were not in harmony with international courtesy. Japan considered that it was therefore entirely competent for her to take such action yesterday as would be taken in any event as soon as the reply was placed in her hands. Japan was unable, owing to the unofficial character of the communications, to bring forward the foregoing facts in answer to the Russian insinuation that she acted high-handedly in breaking off the negotiations before the reply was received, but they constitute a complete refutation of the implied accusation.

BALTIMORE ON FIRE

Flames Sweeping the City and Cannot be Checked.

A Baltimore despatch says:—A fire which broke out at a few minutes before eleven o'clock on Sunday morning in the wholesale dry goods house of John E. Hurst and Co., has raged with unrestrained fury since, and at midnight it is still unchecked, and is steadily eating its consuming way eastward on Baltimore Street, after having destroyed almost all the large stores and ware houses in the wholesale district around Hopkins Place and all the buildings on both sides of Baltimore Street from Howard to Holliday Street, from Charter and Baltimore to Charles and Lexington, and on Fayette Street from Charles to Holliday, including a total of about 20 blocks of the most modern and substantial business buildings in Baltimore. The loss cannot be estimated, but it has certainly already reached thirty of forty millions of dollars.

The fire department, although aided by engines from Washington, Philadelphia, Wilmington and the surrounding counties and suburbs, has been utterly powerless to make any impression on the all-devouring elements, although for hours over 400 streams of water were thrown into the flames.

So terrific has been the heat ever since the fire started and so dense and suffocating the volume of smoke, flying sparks and burning embers, that it is difficult for the firemen to stand long within fighting distance of the flames, while several trucks and engines were hopelessly disabled by flying timbers at an early hour in the action. At 7 o'clock the situation was so hopeless, so far as effective work by the firemen was concerned, that Chief Horton decided that the only thing left to do was to dynamite buildings at the threatened points and thus prevent, as far as possible, a further spread of the flames.

The Baltimore and Ohio office building has been destroyed, and the Maryland Institute of Art building.

At 11.45 o'clock the temporary Customs house adjoining the post-office caught fire. One hundred and fifty policemen from Philadelphia arrived here to assist the Baltimore police and military.

MILNER PESSIMISTIC.

Draws Gloomy Picture of South African Affairs.

A London despatch says: A blue-book on South Africa issued on Wednesday contains a pessimistic despatch from Lord Milner, British High Commissioner in South Africa, in which, referring to the Transvaal Legislature's approval of Chinese labor, Lord Milner says he realizes the gravity of the action, but there is not the shadow of a doubt as to its wisdom. The depression in business is increasing daily, the revenues are falling off, many people are out of work, and unless the situation soon changes a great exodus of whites is inevitable. Public opinion, he adds, is decisively in favor of imported labor.

STEAM PIPE BURST.

The Steamer Pretorian Had a Stormy Voyage.

A Halifax despatch says: The Allan Line steamer Pretorian, with the Canadian mails, arrived on Thursday night from Liverpool, after a most tempestuous voyage of fourteen days. She has on board the crew of the Newfoundland brigantine Dilver Spray, abandoned at sea on Jan. 8th. After leaving port there was good weather for four days, then came a fierce storm, that lasted for five days. When the storm was at its height the main steam pipe broke, and for fourteen hours she drifted helplessly till repairs were effected. The crack was only partially made good, and average speed could not be obtained for the rest of the voyage. The officers of the ship concealed from the passengers the fact of the damage to the machinery till they reached port on Thursday night, leading them to believe that the stoppage was on account of the storm. On Thursday, when in the vicinity of Sable Island, the steamer encountered the heaviest storm of the trip. The seas washed her decks continuously, and in the twenty-four hours she made only sixty-eight miles. The Pretorian will discharge and load here.

NEW ZEALAND BUTTER.

How It Has Gained Its Good Reputation.

Canadian butter suffers to some extent by comparison with that from New Zealand. Mr. J. A. wuddick, Chief of the Dairy Division, Ottawa, says the comparison is really not a fair one, because New Zealand butter is all grass butter, and it arrives fresh in Great Britain during our winter season, so that any Canadian butter which comes into direct competition with it must necessarily be winter made or held summer stock. New Zealand butter, however, has a reputation in England for keeping quality, and it will be of interest to Canadians to learn how that reputation has been acquired.

In the first place having no natural ice, the majority of the creameries are equipped with mechanical refrigerating machines. Their creamery refrigerators are kept fairly cold, but they have no refrigerator cars such as we have. The secret of their success is that butter is shipped from the creameries twice a week to cold storage, where it is immediately placed in a chamber at ten degrees and held there until forwarded to England. It must be at least four full days in store before it is shipped, to give time for thorough freezing to the centre of the package. Although the butter is sometimes carried several hundred miles to the London steamer, its temperature must be below the freezing point of water; otherwise it will be refused and sent to cold storage to be re-frozen. The temperature in the chambers of the steamer is about 10 degrees. It is placed in the steamer with the frozen mutton, which must be kept at a low temerature. It is easy to understand that butter handled in such a manner, although it is two months old when it reaches the market, will have more life in it than some of our butter which has been held two or three weeks in a creamery at a temperature of 40 to 50 degrees. If our creamery owners and patrons expect to compete with the Danes, who are so close to the market, and with the New Zealanders, who employ such low temperatures almost from the day their butter is made, it is time they were making a more serious effort to improve matters at their end.

FOUR VICTIMS ARE DEAD.

Fatal Fire on Cadieux Street, Montreal.

A Montreal despatch says: Three sleeping inmates of a dwelling at 778 Cadieux street were suffocated early on Friday morning. Four others were badly burned and injured. The dead are Mrs. Edward Crawford, 40 years of age, William Crawford, 15, son, Jas. Hogan, 23, son-in-law. The injured are Mrs. Ethel Hogan, 22 years, burned on hands, face and arms cut, Jas. E. Hogan, 8 months, infant son of Mrs. Hogan, badly burned, will die, Edward Crawford, 40 years, burned all over body, will probably die, Thos. Hare, 25 years of age, face and hands burned.

Three of the inmates, Mrs. Hogan with her infant, and Thos. Hare, jumped from the second storey of the burning building. The other occupant, Edward Crawford, was carried out after he was badly burned.

WAR OFFICE REFORM.

Heads of All the Departments Are Dismissed.

A London despatch says: In pursuance of the army reforms all the heads of departments of the War Office on Thursday received letters of dismissal and were notified that they will be employed elsewhere. Lord Roberts, Commander-in-Chief of the forces; Lieut.-General Grenfell, commanding the Fourth Army corps; Lieut.-General Sir John French, in command of the First Army corps, and Sir William Butler, commanding the west district, have been invited to join the new Army Council.

TICKS FROM THE WIRE.

HAPPENINGS FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE.

Telegraphic Briefs From Our Own and Other Countries of Recent Events.

CANADA.

A 50-ton floating crane to cost $60,000, will be added to the equipment of Montreal port.

Premier Roblin's resolution, endorsing Mr. Chamberlain's preferential trade proposals was adopted by the Manitoba Legislature.

The Toronto Civic Works Committee decided to ask Council to submit a by-law for $960,000 for waterworks improvement.

The homestead entries in western Canada for January numbered about 1,308, an increase of some 200 over the same month in 1903.

There were 260 cars of wheat loaded at Winnipeg last week, or 270,759 bushels. There are 2,581,493 bushels in Fort William elevators.

A person may be sued in Ontario for a debt contracted in the United States judgment is obtained there, and that judgment is sued on here.

The Government has introduced a bill in the Nova Scotia Legislature that men employed in the coal mines in charge of the operation of steam plants must pass an examination.

A. M. Chisholm, mine owner, Kingston, has received enquiries from Germany as to the cost of iron pyrites, feldspar and graphite, and a trade may be worked up between the two countries in these minerals.

Hamilton bricklayers have given notice that when the building season opens they expect to receive 50 cents an hour for an eight hour day from 8 to 5. The bricklayers' laborers have asked for 25 cents for 9 hours from 7 to 5, and there is likely to be trouble.

Right Hon. Arthur Lyttlelton, Colonial Secretary, has notified the Governor-General that one 9-pounder R. M. S. gun captured at Klipklop, 18th June, 1900, has been awarded to the Canadian Government, and that 15 guns and 2,500 rifles are available for distribution among the colonies who sent contingents.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Hon. Gerald Balfour hints that the British elections would be held soon.

Three of England's battleships are to be fitted for storage of oil and fuel.

Two elephants charged two other elephants in the streets of London the other day. The other two elephants were shadows in a plate glass window.

UNITED STATES.

Fire in a house burned to death five children of Peter Christiansen, in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

To get quick results, Mrs. Mary Healy, of Derby, Conn., drank a quart bottle of a patent catarrh medicine. She is now a raving maniac.

Miss Grace Whittaker, of Middleboro, Mass., 20 years old and probably worth over a million, has married Kendrick H. Tribon, a young laborer on the estate.

Crazed over the mystery surrounding the murder of the two Peterson children, which occurred at Des Moines, Iowa, over two years ago, Gordon Bowby, a detective, who has been working on the case, committed suicide.

A five-year-old boy, whose face is covered with a thick growth of black hair, and who is so deformed that he can only crawl on his hands and knees, has been taken to Bellevue Hospital, New York.

GENERAL.

Twelve people were killed by volcanic eruptions on the Island of Java.

San Domingo rebels killed one of a United States warship boat crew and summary measures for revenge have been ordered.

Princess Alexandria, of Isemburg, whose debts amount to many millions of marks, is on trial at Frankfort for her "questionable transactions."

An old woman has been found dead of privation in St. Petersburg. The officials who went to her room discovered the sum of $8,000 in a cupboard, and a further search resulted in the finding of securities valued at $1,000,000. The woman leaves no heirs.

BANDITS GET RANSOM.

Wealthy Sicilian Landowner Has to Pay $20,000.

A Rome despatch says: A rich landowner, Lanzafame, residing near Catania, Sicily, was attacked recently and sequestered by bandits, who obliged him to pay a ransom of $20,000 for his release. The police have not yet been able to find the culprits.

TO INCREASE THE FORCE.

Hundred Men to be Added to the Mounted Police.

An Ottawa despatch says: In view of the largely increased sphere of operations of the North-West Mounted Police, and the immense area of territory which they now have to patrol, the force is to be augmented by 100 men. At present the police number 800.