

THE MARKETS

Prices of Grain, Cattle, etc in Trade Centres.

Toronto, Dec. 31.—Wheat—The demand for wheat was limited to-day, and prices unchanged. White and red winter quoted at 76½c middle freights and No. 2 goose at 68c middle freight. Manitoba wheat firm; No. 1 hard sold at 89c all rail, via Sarnia; No. 1 Northern at 85c, and No. 2 Northern at 81c, all rail, via Sarnia. Prices are 1c lower via North Bay.

Oats—The market is quiet, with prices unchanged. There were sales locally at 43½c, but for export No. 2 are quoted at 43c low freight.

Peas—The market is unchanged, with demand good. No. 2 quoted at 85c middle freights, and at 84c west.

Corn—The market is quiet, with prices easier. Canadian yellow sold at 62c west.

Barley—Market is steady. No. 1 quoted at 57c, and No. 2 53 to 54c; No. 3 extra at 52c, and No. 3 at 51c middle freight.

Rye—The market is steady at 56 to 56½c middle freights.

Buckwheat—Market quiet, with prices steady at 54½c middle freight.

Flour—The market is steady. Ninety per cents, in buyers' bags, quoted at \$2.90 middle freights. 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.

Milled bran—Very scarce, and prices firm at \$19 to \$19.50. Shorts, \$21 to \$22 outside. Manitoba bran, \$20, and shorts, \$22, Toronto freights, including sacks.

PRODUCE.

Potatoes—The market is steady. Cars are quoted at 70c per bag, on track here, and the jobbing price, 85c.

Dried Apples—Market is steady, with demand slow. 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 doz.

Beans—The market is steady; un-picked are jobbing at \$1.40 to \$1.45, and handpicked at \$1.55 to \$1.60.

Cranberries—Market unchanged, with Cape Cod at 88 to 89 per bbl. Canadian, \$6.50 to \$7.

Hay, baled—The market is firm, with good demand. Timothy sold at \$9.50 to \$10 on track for No. 1, and at \$8.50 to \$9 for No. 2.

Straw—The market is quiet and firm. Car lots on track sold at \$6.

Poultry—Market is firm, with good demand. Turkeys, 9 to 10c per lb; frozen, scalded and half-fatted stock sold from 7 to 8c. Geese—Dry picked, 6 to 7c. Ducks—50 to 75c. Chickens, young, 50 to 65c; old, 35 to 40c. Rabbits, 25c per pair.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—The market is quiet, with prices unchanged. The supply of poor stuff is too liberal, and sales are difficult to make. We quote:—Selected dairy tubs, 16 to 17c; choice large rolls, 16½ to 17c; finest 1-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 is firmer, with receipts light. Strictly fresh scarce, selling at 25 to 26c; cold storage, 19 to 20c, as to quality; limed, 17 to 18c.

Cheese—Market firm. We quote:—Finest Septembers, 10½ to 11c; seconds, 9½ to 9½c.

HOGS AND PROVISIONS.

Dressed hogs unchanged at \$8 in car lots, with offerings fair. Hog products steady. We quote:—Bacon, long clear, sells at 10½c in ton and case lots; mess pork, \$20 to \$20.50; do, short cut, \$21.50 to \$22.

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

Lard—Market is unchanged, with fair demand. We quote:—Tierces, 11c; tubs, 11½c; pails, 11½ to 11¾c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, Dec. 31.—Grain—New crop No. 2 oats, locally at 48c; No. 2 barley, 56½ to 57c; No. 3 extra barley, 53½c; buckwheat, 53c east freight; peas, 82c, high freight. Flour—Manitoba patents, \$4.10 to \$4.20; strong bakers', \$5; straight rollers, \$3.45 to \$3.60; in bags, \$1.70 to \$1.80; Ontario patents, \$3.70 to \$4. Feed—Manitoba bran, \$20 to \$21; shorts, \$22 to \$23, bags included; Ontario bran in bulk, \$20.50 to \$21.50; shorts, in bulk, \$22.50 to \$23.50. Rolled oats—Millers' prices to jobbers, \$2.75 in bags, and \$5.50 to \$5.65 per bbl. Cheese—Ontario Septembers and Octobers, 10 to 10½c; Eastern counties, 9½ to 10c; Quebec, 9½c. Butter—Choice creamery, current receipts 20½c; seconds, 19 to 19½c; Western dairy, 16 to 16½c; rolls, 16c. Eggs—Selected cold storage, 17c; Montreal limed, 17 to 18c; best selected candied, 22 to 24c. Provisions—Heavy Canada

short cut pork, \$21.50; selected, \$22.50; compound refined lard, 8½ to 9c; pure Canadian lard, 11½ to 12½c; finest lard, 12½ to 13½c; hams, 13 to 14c; bacon, 12½ to 15c. Poultry—Turkeys, fresh killed, 10c; frozen, 7c to 8c; ducks, 8c to 9c; geese, 5 to 6½c; chickens, 6 to 7c; old fowls, 4 to 5c per lb for dry-picked birds, and scalded stock from 1 to 2c less.

BUFFALO GRAIN MARKETS.

Buffalo, Dec. 31.—Flour firm. Wheat, spring easier; No. 1 Northern, 85½c; winter, No. 2 red, 90½ to 91c. Corn easier; No. 2 yellow, 71½c to 71¾c; No. 3 do., 71c; No. 2 corn, 70½c; No. 3 do., 69½c. Oats, fairly firm; No. 2 white, 51½c; No. 3 do., 51 to 51½c; No. 2 mixed, 49½c; No. 3 do., 48¾c. Barley, 67 to 70c. Rye, No. 2, 70¾c.

ONLY FOUR WERE LEFT.

Boers Gained Kopje First, But Were Driven Off.

A despatch from London says:—Lord Kitchener, in a despatch from Johannesburg, sends reports of sharp fighting in the Orange River Colony and Transvaal Colony. The engagements occurred at points widely apart. The casualties, so far as known, aggregate about 150, equally divided; but, heavy British losses, the totals of which have not yet been reported, have occurred in the Transvaal. In this last-mentioned fighting, two hundred mounted infantry, in the neighborhood of Bergendervyn, were divided into parties, and were searching farms when they were attacked by three hundred Boers and forty armed natives, under Commandant Britz. The Boers charged determinedly in overwhelming numbers. The British casualties were severe, but no details have been received.

Lord Kitchener also reports that during General De Wet's attack on the British force commanded by Generals Dartnell and Campbell, at Langberg, the Boers charged bravely and

FOUGHT DESPERATELY

for several hours. De Wet was driven off with a loss of twenty men. There were twelve casualties on the side of the British.

M. Botha, with eight hundred Boers, surprised Colonel Damant's advance guard at Triefel Kop, Orange River Colony. The Boers rushed a kopje commanding the main body and the guns, but Damant rallied his men and drove the Boers from the kopje. The British casualties were heavy. Damant was dangerously wounded, two officers and twenty men were killed, and three officers and several men were wounded.

The Boers left six dead on the field and dispersed. The British pursued the enemy and captured a number of prisoners, including Commandant Keyter. Later, the Boers, under a flag of truce, asked permission to remove their dead. They admitted having buried twenty-seven men.

FOUGHT TO THE DEATH.

In the fight at Triefel Kop the Boers, dressed as British Yeomanry, engaged in a splendid race with the British in an attempt to be first in gaining the kopje. The Boers gained the summit first, and opened a heavy fire on the single troop of Damant's Horse which took part in the race for the kopje. These troopers took advantage of all the small amount of cover available immediately below the Boers, and fought until all but four of them were killed or wounded. By that time reinforcements of Damant's Horse came up and charged and captured the kopje.

ROYAL VISIT TO IRELAND.

Story That it Had Been Abandoned Is Incorrect.

A despatch from Belfast says:—The Lord Mayor has received a letter from Earl Cadogan, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, saying that he is unable to make a positive statement regarding the precise date of the Royal visit, but that he had been directed to give the fullest publicity to whatever arrangements might ultimately be made.

RELIGIONS IN MANITOBA.

Statement Issued by Census Department.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—A statement of the religions of the people of Manitoba prepared by the Census Department is as follows:—Presbyterians, 65,322; Methodists, 44,874; Roman Catholics, 35,620; Lutherans, 16,477; Mennonites, 15,222; Baptists, 9,118. The total population of the Province is placed at 254,945.

TO CHECK THE DISEASE.

Compulsory Vaccination By-law Passed in Montreal.

A despatch from Montreal says:—Compulsory vaccination will soon be enacted in Montreal in order to stay the ravages of smallpox. At a meeting of the City Council this afternoon a by-law was introduced providing for the compulsory vaccination of all employes of shops and factories, under the penalty of a fine and imprisonment.

DE WET'S SWOOP.

Boers Climbed Precipice and Caught British Napping.

A despatch from London says:—At the Battle of Zeefontein, which it now seems, was fought early on Christmas morning, the British suffered a severe defeat. This much is made quite clear by the information contained in Lord Kitchener's long despatch from Johannesburg, published on Sunday. The first official list of casualties shows six officers and fifty men killed, eight officers wounded, four officers missing, and the number of wounded and captive non-commissioned officers and men not yet known, but it is feared that the complete casualty list will be a very long one. Lord Kitchener states that about half the men of Firmans' column are prisoners; so it is evident that De Wet scored a bigger success than the officials of the War Department had at first imagined. The Boer victory was due to De Wet's daring plan of attack. The British column occupied an exceptionally strong position on the slope of a solitary kopje. The southern side was almost precipitous, and Major Williams, who was in charge of the column in the absence of Colonel Firmans, apparently never dreamed of the possibility of the Boers climbing the kopje from that side. But this is exactly what they succeeded in doing. The picket on outpost duty was taken completely by surprise, and before the men in camp could get clear of their tents the Boers rushed through, shooting them down as they came out. There was no panic and a resolute defence was offered, but the attacking force, which was estimated to number a thousand men, proved too strong, and soon had the column at its mercy.

Lord Kitchener, in his first message mentioned that the column had two guns. In his detailed account he only speaks of a 15-pounder, which fired two rounds and then jammed. It is noteworthy that the British commander-in-chief specially refers to the good behavior of the victorious Boers to the British wounded.

LOSS BY STORMS.

Canneries Damaged and Demolished in British Columbia.

A despatch from Vancouver, B. C., says:—It is estimated that nearly a million dollars' worth of damage has been done by storms along the Fraser River. Sea and Lulu Islands are reclaimed farm lands, and are bordered by canneries. The violence of the wind and waves broke the dykes, and the water rushed over the islands, covering them with four feet of water. Houses were swept into the raging flood, and those that remained standing were flooded to the top windows in many cases. Boats have to be used entirely.

The North Arm, Alliance, and Labrador Canneries were demolished, and every cannery on the River Fraser, was more or less damaged. Stacked crops were destroyed over a wide area, and the Cleve Canning Company's station, a very large concern, with a cold storage plant adjoining, was swept away.

All wires being down the news is coming in meagrely, but the total loss by the storm on the Canadian Pacific coast to shipping, buildings, crops, and dykes is said to be fully a million dollars.

So fierce was the storm that British Columbia was cut off from the United States to the south for two days, and will be cut off from Victoria for one week, as the cable is torn up at both ends.

A despatch from St. John's, Nfld., says:—Furious gales swept the coast of Newfoundland Thursday night, and wrought much destruction among the shipping and fishing properties at Bay of Islands, Newfoundland, where several American vessels were seeking cargoes of herring.

At Placentia, on the west coast, the fishing boats suffered great damage, and the wharves and waterfront buildings were destroyed. It is feared that the seas will inundate the entire hamlet. Both the breakwater and the railroad pier have been partly demolished.

WOMEN FARMERS.

The Russian Government Will Educate Them.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says:—Long continued agitation has induced the Government to authorize the Moscow Polytechnic Museum to open a course in agriculture for women. This step is regarded as a victory for women in their struggle for higher scientific education. It has been won largely by the capacity women have shown in the medical profession and in certain departments of officialdom, especially as famine inspectors.

The frequent famines of the last fifteen years have impressed the Government with the necessity for raising the national standard of agriculture. The number of Russian men of fairly high education is comparatively small.

Agriculture has no brilliant future in store for such as these, and most of them naturally prefer other occupations, and in consequence the movement started to permit women to engage in agriculture has at length been endorsed by the Government.

Shocking outrages are described in private letters as being perpetrated by the Russian Cossacks on the defenceless citizens of Manchuria.

SULTAN NEARING HIS END.

FRANCE AND RUSSIA INTEND TO FORCE REFORMS.

Conditions in Armenia and Macedonia Are Regarded as a Menace to Peace.

There are increasing signs that the great powers of Europe are concentrating definite plans for action towards Turkey.

Early this week the Russian Ambassador in Constantinople informed Said Pasha, the new Grand Vizier, that the condition of Armenia and Macedonia was regarded by Europe as a disgrace to the Ottoman Government and peril to universal peace. This significant announcement was followed almost immediately by a presentation of notes by all the Ambassadors with reference to the amazing attitude adopted by the Porte in the matter of the mining regulations.

UNDERSTANDING IS SOUGHT.

France and Russia are the leaders in this latest attempt to set the European steam roller in motion to make smooth the rough places of Turkey. What they are trying to reach is the basis of "an understanding for making representations to the Porte and for eventually taking action in order to oblige the Sultan not only to carry out the clauses of the Treaty of Berlin relating to both Macedonia and Armenia, but to give guarantees for the execution of these and further reforms and for the settlement of the numerous questions pending." So run the terms of what is undoubtedly a semi-official communication from Paris.

Russia, it is said, is discussing the question with Germany, the co-operation of Austria-Hungary and Italy can be taken for granted, and there is no doubt that Lord Lansdowne, the British Foreign Secretary, will combine in any genuine scheme to effect the objects which Lord Salisbury vainly endeavored to obtain some years ago.

NECESSITY OF UNITY.

There has never been the least question that the powers could speedily solve the problem of the Near East if they would speak with one voice and were animated by one fairly disinterested motive. But right here is the hitch.

France startled the world by her independent course at Mitylene. Papers now assert in Paris that French action was not more dramatic simply because the whole fabric of Ottoman administration is so rotten that a heavy blow might pulverize it. If this be so, all the more credit is due to M. Delcasse for forbearance. The Turkish flag waves over many millions of human beings, and the horrors that would follow the overthrow of the regime of Abdul Hamid until such time as an efficient substitute was ready can be more easily imagined than described.

What would be the attitude of the Sultan should the powers come to an understanding that would leave him no room to question their earnestness? No one can predict with certainty the course of this most remarkable and miserable of potentates, but the opinion in London is that, so long as the dread word "partition" remained unspoken, Abdul Hamid would offer nothing more than a conventional opposition to the demands of Europe.

He is getting on in years. By degrees he has drawn into his own hands all the threads of administration throughout his vast dominions. The Sultan is one of the hardest workers in the world, but no physique is capable of indefinitely sustaining the strain he imposes on both body and mind.

As a natural result intervals of absolute inertness overtake him, and the accumulated work, which he will allow no one else to touch, has fallen appallingly into arrears.

ALIENATES HIS SUBJECTS.

Moreover, Abdul Hamid trusts no one. He has alienated the whole Mussulman population of the capital. Individual freedom no longer exists in the capital, even for the faithful. Secret arrests and sudden disappearances increase. Within a fortnight seventy Turks, including several prominent men, have been denounced by spies and banished to Arabia. The troops are unpaid. If an Arabi appeared to-morrow the Yildiz would be sacrificed.

All this is known and fully appreciated by the Sultan. It all predisposes him to yield to the powers. The question resolves itself into one of method, and the plan which finds most favor among the advocates of Turkish reforms is the opening of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus to all the fleets of the world. Truly a simple remedy, but its very simplicity is the most formidable obstacle to its adoption.

SMALLPOX IN LONDON.

Spread of the Disease Raises Apprehension.

A despatch from London says:—The epidemic of smallpox in London is increasing steadily, and there are now 637 cases under treatment. The latest cases reported include two in the Probate Department in Somerset House. These are attracting considerable attention, owing to the danger involved to officers who handle wills and others who examine them, as these documents are often signed in sick-rooms.

NEWS ITEMS.

Telegraphic Briefs From All Over the Globe.

CANADA.

Winnipeg has eight cases of small pox.

The new directory in London Ontario, makes the population 45,937.

Oscar Taylor of East Hamilton was fined \$25 and costs for running a turkey raffle.

The McClurey Mfg. Co., of London, have secured control of the Copp Co's Stove Works at Hamilton.

Montreal Harbor Commissioners are laying plans for the erection of a million-bushel fire-proof elevator.

The new contrivance for preventing the canal locks being carried away by the boats was tested with great satisfaction on Tuesday, at Port Dalhousie, on the Welland Canal.

Recorder Weir of Montreal was on Tuesday presented with a pair of white gloves in memory of the first day in eighteen years in which there were no prisoners for him to try.

Mr. George Dawson, Inspector of Penitentiaries, reports that the number of prisoners confined in St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary has dropped from 446 to 393, and the skilled mechanic is so rare that there is a difficulty in carrying on certain departments of the work.

GREAT BRITAIN.

A great newspaper trust may be formed in England.

The English Government is preparing a new Irish land bill.

Lady Lyndhurst, wife of a former Lord Chancellor of England, is dead.

Electric signalling is to be used along the North-western Railway, England.

Wm. Waldorf Astor has given £10,000 for the National Rifle Association, England.

The coronation festivities will include a magnificent naval review at Spithead.

Cecil Rhodes has just bought the Dalham Hall estate, near Newmarket, for \$500,000.

The law hitherto in England, prohibiting men with false teeth from joining the regular army, has been repealed.

The North-Eastern Railway Company of Great Britain is about to establish automatic block signaling on its line.

The levees at St. James' Palace and the drawing-rooms at Buckingham Palace will in future be held in the evenings, instead of in the afternoon, as in the Victorian regime.

UNITED STATES.

Gas in San Francisco is to be furnished at 38½c.

The Government has decided to use wireless telegraphy in the navy.

The Wabash railway is building a \$1,000,000 bridge over the Ohio at Mingo.

James Potter, 12 years old, was dragged to death by a cow at Englishtown, N. J.

Wire-rope rigging for Emperor William's yacht is being made at Wilkesbarre, Pa.

Leslie M. Shaw, Governor of Iowa, will succeed Lyman Gage as Secretary of the Treasury.

In Chicago Alex. Sullivan was fined \$2,000 for trying to keep an indicted jury-briber away from the city.

The rural free delivery service is the most popular feature of the postal service.

Mrs. Clara Boss of Bernardsville, N. J., is dead from hydrophobia; the result of a bite from a strange dog she sheltered.

W. S. Carter, a Brooklyn lawyer, has given a plot of land for a cemetery, and \$7,000 for improvements to Barkhamstead, Conn.

James Hicks, steel manufacturer, of Piqua, Ohio, died on Tuesday of blood poisoning from a cut on the lip received while sealing an envelope.

The Governor-elect of Iowa proposes a commission of three men to form a non-partisan commission to determine the value of the railroads in the state with a view to taxation.

GENERAL.

The Canary Islands are overrun with a plague of locusts.

At a fire in Zacatecas, Mexico, 45 persons lost their lives.

Germany had a decline of export trade last month amounting to 60-130 tons.

Jews and Odessa laborers in Southern Russia are plotting against the Government.

The Grand Duke and Duchess of Hesse were divorced on the grounds of insuperable aversion.

Reports from Stockholm prove that working cows improve the quality of the milk, and that the butter is better, and no extra food is needed.

An agent of the Trans-Siberian Railway announces that by May next this railway will have a semi-weekly service between Paris and Pekin, and that the time from Shanghai to London will be three weeks.