

The Week's Commercial Summary.

The stock of barley in Toronto is only 11,418 bushels as against 61,498 bushels a year ago.

The stocks of wheat at Toronto are 57,369 bushels as against 50,833 bushels last week and 217,457 bushels a year ago.

There is quite an active trade in Ontario wheat, although prices are a shade off. Large quantities are going for export.

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada increased 2,072,000 bushels the past week, and the total is now 29,046,000 bushels as against 59,923,000 bushels a year ago. The amount afloat to Europe increased 1,280,000 bushels last week, and the total is 29,200,000 bushels as against 30,720,000 bushels a year ago. Combined the total is now 58,246,000 bushels as against 90,643,000 bushels a year ago, a decrease of 32,397,000 bushels.

The trade situation at Montreal may be called tolerably healthy though in some lines there may not be as much activity as a week ago. Payments, however, continue to be well spoken of, and complete returns of retail dry goods payments due on the 4th. inst. show an unusually good proportion of paper provided for, several leading houses reporting from 80 to 85 per cent. of customers' paper being taken up. Country failures continue comparatively few, and of unimportant character.

Trade conditions at Toronto have undergone little or no change this week. There is a fairly satisfactory business reported in jobbing lines, and merchants seem to realize the fact that better times are to continue. The small number of failures this week in Ontario is most encouraging. The number reported is the smallest for any single week in several years. This indeed is evidence that better times are here already. Manufacturers of woolens, underwear, etc., as well as workers in iron, report considerable activity, and prices generally have a firmer tone. A good trade in fancy goods, notions, etc., is reported.

What is alleged to be the discovery of Mr. Garton, an English agriculturist, has been tested exhaustively with the greatest success at the Earl of Winchelsea's experimental farm at Sleaford. It consists of applying the principle of cross-fertilization to grasses, clovers, cereals and other food plants. The Earl of Winchelsea's secretary says that the experiments were made, not only with plants grown in the United Kingdom but with those of all foreign agricultural countries. Special varieties that are best suited to any particular soil or climate can therefore be produced. The experiments have not been made public hitherto, in order that a sufficient quantity of seed might be raised to supply the demand when the important results were made known. Mr. Garton has already received application from some foreign governments for seed. The United States have effected crosses of wheat, but not attempted to cross barley or oats. Mr. Garton has succeeded in all his efforts, and Great Britain is thus enabled to take the lead in supplying the world with new varieties of grains. This will be a potent factor in restoring prosperity to British agriculture. Dr. Goodfellow, an expert, writes that Mr. Garton's methods of producing marvelous permanent types of cereals are most unique and original, and that comparatively useless cereals are converted thereby into the most valuable food plants.

Ask for Minard's and take no other.

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