THE CANAL REPORT

Commission Recommends the Nicaragua Route.

THE PANAMA LINE IS NOT ACCEPTABLE

Estimated Cost of the Canal Is Over Two Hundred Millions—Ten Years Required to Complete It.

Washington, Dec. 6.—The report of the Isthmian canal commission, submitted by the president to congress today, gives as the unanimous conclusion of that body that "the most practicable and feasible route for an isthmian canal under the control, management and ownership of the United States is that known as the Nicaragua route."

The commission estimates the cost of this canal at $200,540,000. This estimate is much in excess of any heretofore made and is due to increased dimensions and other features not heretofore considered. The commission also estimates the cost of a canal by the Panama route at $142,342,579, according to one route, or $156,378,258 according to another route.

As between the Nicaragua and Panama routes, the commission sums up a number of advantages favorable to the former. It states also that under the concessions given by the government of Colombia to the Panama Canal Company that government is not free to grant the necessary rights to the United States except upon conditions made by the company.

POPULATION OF RUSSIA.

Now Calculated to Be More Than 136,000,000 by the Minister of Finance.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 6.—The population of Russia was estimated at about 75,000,000 in 1861, the year of the emancipation of the serfs. It is now calulated to be more than 136,000,000, according to a statement just published by the minister of finance. This estimate is obtained by adding the calculated annual excess of births over deaths, which is 2,000,000, to the total of 129,000,000 given by the census of January 28,1897, which was 126,000,000, without the grand duchy of Finland, or 129,000,000 including Finland. The Slavic population is 73 per cent of the whole, Russians alone numbering 86,000,000, or 7 per cent. The total Finnish population is over 6,000,000, and the Lithuanians almost reach the same figures, numbering 5,000,000. Various Turkish people of the Volgal, the Crimea, the Caucasus and Siberia number 11,000,000, or about 9 per cent of the whole. There are 4,000,000 Hebrews, and about 1,000,000 persons of German descent or birth.

RAN INTO A WORK TRAIN.

Collision on the Southern Pacific Near Suisun, Cal., Kills Nine Men.

Suisun, Cal., Dec. 6.—During a very heavy fog this morning, freight train N. 201, west bound, collided with a work train of five cars and an engine, going east, in a deep cut about 600 yards beyond Vanden station, causing the death of nine workmen and injuries of a more or less severe character to about 20 others. The victims of the disaster were asleep in their bunks in one of the cars of the work train when the trains came together.

Anglophobia at Cologne.

Cologne, Dec. 6.—An Anglophobe demonstration took place today in front of the British consulate here. Mounted police dispersed the rioters and arrested the leaders. Serenades and ovations of Mr. Kruger planned by various societies have been forbidden in the interests of public safety.

Los Angeles Election.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 6.—Complete returns of yesterday's election in this city show that M. P. Snyder, the Democratic nominee for mayor, was elected by a plurality over Herman Silver, the Republican candidate, of 2,000. The Republicans elected seven of the nine councilmen and five of the eight other municipal officers.

Castle Rock Assassin.

Kalama, Wash., Dec. 6.—Martin Stickel was arraigned in Justice Smith's court tonight at 11 o'clock for the murder of William B. Shanklin at Kelso a year ago, and with the murder of Cornelius Knapp and wife at Castle Rock last Wednesday night. The prisoner waived examination and was held for trial in the superior court.

Trains Crash Together.

Seattle, Dec. 6.—A special to the Post-Intelligencer from Spokane says: A light engine on the Great Northern crashed into the rear end of a special freight at Chiwaukum, near Leavenworth, this morning. Conductor Sicksafoos, who was riding in the caboose, was instantly killed, and Brakemen Forgey and Dirah were severely injured.

Boers Headed Off.

London, Dec. 6.—General Kitchener reports from South Africa that the mounted troops of General Knox were engaged all day Sunday, with part of General Dewet's forces, north of Bethulie. The Boers, he added, were headed off and retired in a northeasterly direction.

General Mercier says France could easily invade England.

ROBBED OF $4,700.

Western Lumber Company Held Up—Secured the Monthly Pay Roll.

Portland, Or., Dec. 7.—Five masked men, by the exercise of the coolest kind of nerve and daring, robbed the Western Lumber Company of $4,728 shortly before 6 o'clock last evening. The deed was planned and executed with the most consummate skill. In a flash the men had entered the main office of the lumber company, at the foot of Seventeenth street, compelled all the employes to hold up their hands, dumped the till, containing the pay envelopes full of money into a gunny-sack, and vanished in the darkness and murky fog that admirably covered their retreat. The men had chosen their time well. It was the company's monthly payday. The men on the night crew had been almost entirely paid off. In a few minutes the rush of the day workers for their hard-earned coin would have commenced. Between these two times of danger the masked robbers acted, and acted quietly and quickly.

FIGHT IN THE WOODS.

Small American Force Routed a Band of Filipinos—Sixteen Were Killed.

Manila, Dec. 7.—A dispatch has been received from General Funston giving an account of a two-hours' fight in the woods of Santo Domingo between an American force and 300 rebels commanded by Sandico. The American force, consisting of 30 native scouts, commanded by Lieutenant Joinigan, attacked the rebels, who retreated, leaving on the field 16 men killed, including the rebel leader Auilar and an American negro. It was at first thought the latter was a man named Fagin, a deserter from the Twenty-fourth infantry, but this turned out to be a mistake. Not one of Joinigan's men was wounded.

STILL INDECISIVE.

General Kitchener's Report of Operations Against Guerrillas.

New York, Dec. 7.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London say:

Lord Kitchener's report of Knox's, Settle's and Paget's skirmishes show that the operations against the guerrillas under the system are still indecisive. While Dewet has been headed off in one direction he has doubled in another.

The text of Lord Roberts' farewell order to the army is eloquent enough to stir to enthusiasm today's leader writers. It is the strongest possible summary of the sufferings and heroism of the British army in a campaign unexampled for severity, more than 14,300 officers and men having died from wounds, fever and exposure.

General Clery, who commanded a division under General Buller in the Ladysmith campaign, has returned to London, and is enjoying the hospitality of his Aldershot friends. While he did not redeem his reputation as chief strategist of the staff college, he escaped the fate of Generals Gatacre, Methuen and Warren in the early period of the war.

Dr. Jamieson still remains in retirement at London.

Hatchery on Ohanah River.

Oregon City, Dec. 6.—E. R. Greenman, superintendent of the Upper Clackamas hatchery, is home from Seaside, where he assisted State Fish Commissioner Reed to locate a salmon hatchery, about one mile north of that place, on the Ohanah river. Mr. Greenman will return the latter part of this week and take charge of the work at the new hatchery. A temporary structure will be erected and if the catch of salmon eggs justifies the expenditure, a permanent structure will be erected.

Guatemala Railroad Damaged.

New York, Dec. 7.—The Herald's correspondent at Gautemala City, Gautemala, telegraphs that only 60 miles of the Northern railroad remain in operation, 40 miles having been rendered inaccessible owing to broken bridges. As the part in working order is situated at either end, the line in the middle sections being damaged by the heavy rains and swollen rivers, the road is almost useless for traffic at present. No repairs are being effected, and the whole line is in a deplorable condition.

Charged With Bigamy.

San Francisco, Dec. 7.—Mrs. Evaliza Johnson, of Walla Walla, Wash., today secured a warrant for the arrest of her husband, William J. Johnson, on the charge of bigamy. She alleges that he was married in this city last September to Minnie O. Winters, of Seaside, Or. Johnson was for several years in the confectionery business at Walla Walla.

Rich Strike in Yukon District.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 7.—A rich strike is reported on the Yellow river, 300 miles from Holy Cross Mission, on the Yukon. Two Swedes are said to have brought out $34,000. There are only 12 men in the district and all are said to have done well.

Pacific Squadron's Winter Cruise.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The battleship Iowa, flagship of the Pacific station, in company with the Philadelphia, has been ordered to leave San Francisco for the usual winter cruise southward.

Plurality in Massachusetts.

Boston, Dec. 7.—The Republican plurality for presidential electors, official count, was 182,194.

ARMY BILL PASSED

The House Disposed of It by a Party Vote.

MANY AMENDMENTS WERE ADOPTED

The Liveliest Fight Was Made on a Substitute Offered by Littlefield, of Maine, for the Canteen Provision.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The house today, at the end of a long session, passed the army reorganization bill by a vote of 166 to 133. Three Democrats, Hall (Pa.) and Underhill and Slayton (N. Y.), voted with the Republicans for the bill, and McCall (Rep. Mass.) with the Democrats against it. Otherwise it was a strict party vote.

The proposition to which some of the Democrats attempted to commit their side in caucus, an extension of the present temporary army until July 1, 1903, which was voted upon indirectly on a motion to recommit, commanded the votes of only about half the opposition and two Republicans, McCall and Mann (Ill.), Many of the Democrats, however, voted against the motion because they were opposed not only to the reorganization bill, but also continuing the temporary army at its present strength.

Quite a number of amendments were placed upon the bill before it was passed. The liveliest fight was made upon a substitute offered by Littlefield (Rep.), for the canteen section. The substitute absolutely prohibited the sale of intoxicants at military points.

Large delegations from the W. C. T. U., which is in session in this city, watched the fight from the gallery. When the vote was taken, the prohibition amendment was carried by an overwhelming majority—159 to 51. Bartholdt attempted to secure a record vote in the house, but the peculiar parliamentary statutes shut him out.

Among the amendments adopted were those providing for 50 voluteer surgeons and 150 assistant surgeons for service in the Philippines; for 30 dental surgeons and for a veterinary corps with actual rank. The officers of the pay corps were increased 11, and of the signal corps 23. The age limit was removed from volunteer officers eligible to appointment as first and second lieutenants, and the provision for retiring officers who served in the civil war on the next higher grade was stricken out.

In the Senate.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The ways and means committee voted to report the revenue reduction bill as introduced with an amendment making the act take effect on its passage instead of 30 days thereafter. There were but two absentees—Babcock (Rep.), and Robinson (Dem.). When the beer section was reached, fixing the rebate at 20 per cent instead of 7½ per cent, which makes the rate $1.60 per barrel. Richardson, ranking member of the minority, moved a further reduction of all the increase made by the revenue act. The effect of this motion, if carried, would have been to make the rate $1 per barrel. The motion was defeated by a party vote.

NOT A PEACE TREATY.

The Pekin Agreement Only a Statement of the Powers' Terms.

Washington, Dec. 8.—All the ambassadors and nearly a majority of the ministers resident in Washington called upon Sceretary Hay today, this being diplomatic day. In the case of the representatives of those powers interested in the Chinese question, it is understood there was some exchanges on that subject respecting the latest developments in Pekin.

There has been no word from Mr. Conger since the dispatch to him of his instructions to sign the agreement. It is assumed here that several days must elapse before the formal signatures of all the powers can be obtained to the agreement. Then it will be laid before Prince Ching and Li Hung Chang, who probably will be supplemented by the viceroys of Nankin and Han Kow, the latter, acting by telegraph, constituting the board of commissioners to represent the Chinese government.

This agreement in not a peace treaty in any sense of the term. It is nothing but a stacement of the terms on which the powers will negotiate with China for a final settlement. It will be laid before the Chinese officials rather as a matter of form, for there is not the least doubt entertained that they will be obliged to accept its provisions. Still they may require a week or two for its consideration, and then the way will be cleared for the initiation of fresh negotiations at Pekin between the ministers and the Chinese commissioners for a final settlement.

Henry Russell, Song Writer, Dead.

London, Dec. 8.—Henry Russell, composer of over 800 songs, including "A Life on the Ocean Wave," and "Cheer, Boys, Cheer," died yesterday, aged 87 years.

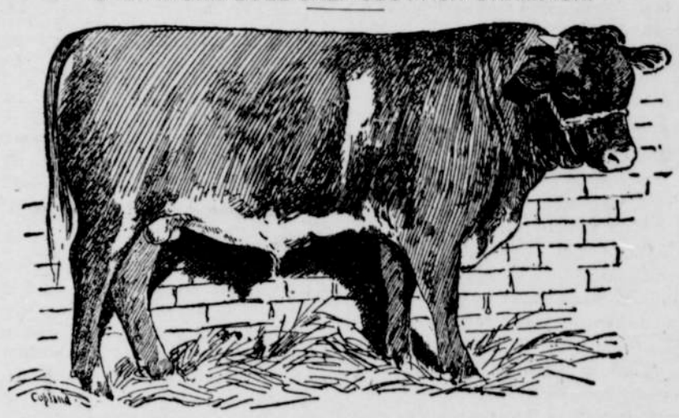
Saw Twenty-two Beheaded.

Youngstown, O., Dec. 8.—Walter Kennedy, contractor and expert engineer, who has just returned from completing some contracts in China, said that he saw 22 Chinamen beheaded for no reason other than that they were in his employ. During the time he was erecting extensive machinery he was practically a prisoner, and did not know what moment he would be taken from his work and executed.

Value of Irrigation.

Prof. Voorhees, of the New Jersey Experiment Station, has decided that there is a need for some method of irrigation in the Eastern States as well as in those west of the Mississippi Valley. He estimates that the loss of hay in New Jersey by reason of the drought of May and June, 1899, amounted to not less than $1,500,000, while that on small fruits and vegetables was much larger. He gives these figures from the Experiment Farm. In 1897 and 1898, both wet seasons, the hay crop averaged two tons, 1,300 pounds per acre. In 1899 it was but a little over one ton. This was a loss of over $400 on twenty-five acres. Crimson clover for forage averaged for the two wet years eight and one-half tons per acre, and for the dry year the yield was but five tons. The oat and pea forage gave six tons per acre in the two first years, and but three tons 600 pounds in 1899. On small fruits the plats that were irrigated produce at the following rate per acre more than those not irrigated, blackberries 1,038 quarts worth $93.42, raspberries 329 quarts worth $32.90, currants 852 quarts worth $85.90. Thus, on an acre of each there would be a gain of $211.52 by irrigating. The year 1899 was an exceptional one for earliness and duration of drought.

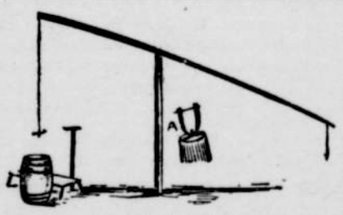
SHORTHORN BULL CALF SCOTTISH CHAMPION.



The above illustration, reproduced from the London Live Stock Journal, shows the Shorthorn bull calf Scottish Champion, bred by Mr. W. S. Marr, Uppermill. He was sold in October last to Mr. W. Duthie, Collynie, for 330 guineas, this being the highest price at auction for a bull of the breed, during the year.

A Hog Hanger.

An Ohio farmer writer sketches an arrangement for hanging hogs when scalding, etc. It is made by taking a large pole about fifty feet long for lever and another about sixteen feet long for post. Set this post four feet in ground and have made a clevis-shaped iron (A) to support lever on the post. This clevis is about one foot long and wide as post after squaring, with a crosspiece welded on near middle of bottom or round part. A three-quarter-inch hole is made through bottom of clevis and center of crosspiece, through which an iron pin is run and driven into top of post, so as to permit clevis to revolve on post. Make a five-eighths-inch hole in the long pole or lever about twelve feet from large end. Raise lever up and hang in clevis. Attach a strong chain to large end, and have the scalding vat directly beneath this chain. Set



FOR HANGING HOGS.

a bench or platform beside vat, to scrape hog on, and next to this platform erect a post with four crosspieces on top to hang hogs on. Fasten a small rope to small end of lever to pull it down with when lifting the hog in and out of scalding receptacle on bench and to hanging post.

Petroleum Spraying.

The use of a mixture of one part of crude petroleum with three parts of water in spraying fruit trees during the winter months, seems to be proving an effectual remedy for the San Jose scale, cottony scale, and other scale insects. It needs one of those pumps which keep the oil and water mixed or those that supply both in the proportions desired. It may be well to make two applications, one early in the winter and the other as late as possible before the buds swell. This makes a very sure job of it, as some points may be untouched at first spraying. There appears to be a difference in crude petroleum, and while some have successfully used it undiluted, others have injured their trees by so doing. It is said to be quite as effectual in the 25 per cent. solution, and water is not as expensive as the oil. It is said to cost about $100 to treat 1,000 large bearing trees, or ten cents per tree, and its use destroys many other insects or their eggs in the tree.

Vigorous Plants.

We often see as a recommendation of plants, especially the strawberry, that "the plants are very vigorous with heavy foliage." Other things being equal, this is a desirable feature, because the strong growing plant has more vitality than the weak, half starved looking one, and may be expected to put out more fruit buds. But often those who are growing plants to sell put a little extra amount of nitrogenous fertilizer or manure on the new and high priced varieties to grow more and thriftier looking plants. Such plants when removed to an ordinarily good soil with the usual field cultivation prove disappointing because they fail to carry out the promise of their early days, and sometimes have not strength enough to develop as much fruit as they have set fruit buds for. It is well to know the treatment the plants had when growing, and give them quite as good when they are set in a new location.—American Cultivator.

Good Blood Needed.

That there is now a greater need for good blood and straight breeding in the Middle and Eastern States than in the West will be admitted by every man who is acquainted with the live stock in both sections. The average quality of the thin stock which comes to market in the West is far superior to that in such a market as Pittsburg. Sales at the latter point of late have included a large number of low priced cattle. They were low priced because they were worth so little. As a rule they lacked the essential qualities of good stockers or feeders. They were not and never will be good beeves. More good blood and a little more feed are the things those who breed cattle in this country must provide.—National Stockman.

Thick or Thin Seeding.

Almost every farmer knows that the closer grain is sown or stands when growing usually the greater the proportion of the straw to the grain, the only exception being when conditions are such that the straw is very short while grain is large and plump. This may depend in part upon the season, but in some cases is due to there being but little nitrogen in the fertilizer to stimulate growth of straw and plenty of phosphoric acid to increase size of grain. This may serve as a hint for the proper fertilizer to use. But now the Maine Experiment Station has ascertained another point by growing one, five and eight stalks of grain in pots of the same size, using oats and spring wheat. They found that the grain where there were five stalks in a pot containing but 80½ per cent as much nitrogen and 85.42 per cent as much nutritive value as those where one stalk grew alone, while where eight plants are in the pot there was only 70.1 per cent nitrogen and 76.91 per cent nutritive value a scompared with the single stalk.

Beef or Butter.

The Minnesota Experiment Station tested the cost of food for producing beef and butter, and found that four steers made a daily gain of 2.52 pounds and on food worth $8.51 they gained 425 pounds, a cost of about 2 cents a pound. Four cows fed on the same amount and kind of food used $11.84 cents worth in the same time, and produced 255.43 pounds of butterfat, equal to 298 pounds of butter, at a cost of about $3.97 per hundred pounds. It took of dry matter in the food 8.2 pounds to make a pound of gain on the steer, and 16.28 pounds to make a pound of butter. If food were all that had to be taken into consideration butter would be most profitable at present rates, but more care is necessary in selecting cows of a dairy type than steers for feeding. Better buildings and more utensils are required for butter making than for fattening cattle, and much more labor is required in making butter. But again this is in part offset by the value of the skimmilk and buttermilk for feeding to calves, pigs or poultry, which might amount to nearly as much meat as was produced of butter. This would help pay for the labor, and often the farmers desire to find a profitable market for their labor.

Circumventing the Hessian Fly.

J. Troop, of the Indiana station, gives advice for circumventing the Hessian fly in that State, which is sugestive also for other sections: The active period of the fall brood in the northern counties extends approximately from the last of August to about the last of September, gradually getting later as they go south, so that in the southern portion they will be found at work probably as late as the middle of October. It is evident, then, that in order to avoid the fall brood of the fly the proper time to sow wheat in the northern counties is between Sept. 20 and 30, and in the southern counties from the first to the middle of October. The station will not sow earlier than the first week in October this year, as the flies were active throughout September in 1899. Decoy strips should be sown in the north the last week in August, and in the south the first ten days of September, plowing these under deeply before sowing the main crop.

TRADE IN WINTER GOODS.

Weather Conditions Form a Slight Drawback—Holiday Trade Is Excellent.

Bradstreet's says: There is a quieter tone and reduced volume of business doing at wholesale in many lines, but this is not unusual at this season, and is partly balanced by a larger interest in retail and holiday distribution. Weather conditions are still a drawback to the trade in winter-weight goods, but it is notable that a better report comes from the Northwest than for some weeks past. Southern trade advices remain good, but retail business at Eastern markets is still reported backward. In the larger lines of trade new features are not numerous. Textiles are quiet and rather dull with agents, pending the opening of the spring season. Wool and woolens are still quiet. Cotton is irregular and the market is at a balance pending the publication of the next government crop report, which, however, is expected to approximate 9,750,000 bales. The high cost of raw cotton has not yet been equalled by the advance in manufactured goods. A hopeful feature this week was the taking of a large lot of brown cottons for export for China. The higher trend of values in November has been duplicated in the first week of December, and cereals, long backward in this respect, have led the advance which, however, has not been steadily maintained.

A better report comes from the flour milling industry, but the demnd is hardly what was expected.

Sugar is higher for raws, but the refining branch presents the old appearance of irregularity, and another price war is foreshadowed.

Failures for the week number 214, against 184 last week.

Canadian failures number 27, as against 28 last week.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Seattle Market.

Onions, new, 2c.
Lettuce, hot house, $1 per crate.
Potatoes, new, $16.
Beets, per sack, 85c@$1.
Turnips, per sack, $1.00.
Squash—1¼c.
Carrots, per sack, 60c
Parsnips, per sack, $1.25.
Cucumbers—40@50c.
Cabbage, native and California, 1¾c per pounds.
Butter—Creamery, 30c; dairy, 18@22c; ranch, 18c pound.
Eggs—34c.
Cheese—14c.
Poultry—12c; dressed, 14c; spring, 13@15c turkey, 13c..
Hay—Puget Sound timothy, $14.00; choice Eastern Washington timothy, $18.00.
Corn—Whole, $23.00; cracked, $25; feed meal, $25.
Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, $20.
Flour—Patent, per barrel, $3.30; blended straights, $3.25; California, $3.25; buckwheat flour, $6.00; graham, per barrel, $3.00; whole wheat flour, $3.25; rye flour, $3.80@4.00.
Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, $14.00; shorts, per ton, $14.00.
Feed—Chopped feed, $19.00 per ton; middlings, per ton, $20; oil cake meal, per ton, $30.00.
Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef steers, price 7½c; cows, 7c; mutton 7½; pork, 8c; trimmed, 9c; veal, 9@11c.
Hams—Large, 13c; small, 13¼; breakfast bacon, 12c; dry salt sides, 8½c.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 54@54¼c; Valley, nominal; Bluestem, 56½c per bushel.
Flour—Best grades, $3.40; graham, $2.60.
Oats—Choice white, 45c; choice gray, 42c per bushel.
Barley—Feed barley, $15.50 brewing, $16.50 per ton.
Millstuffs—Bran, $15.50 ton; middlings, $21; shorts, $17; chop, $16 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, $12@12.50; clover, $7@9.50; Oregon wild hay, $6@7 per ton.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 50@55c; store, 32½c.
Eggs—30c per dozen.
Cheese—Oregon full cream, 13½c; Young America, 14c; new cheese 10c per pound.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, $2.75@3.50 per dozen; hens, $4.00; springs, $2.00@3.50; geese, $6.00@8.00 doz; ducks, $3.50@5.50 per dozen; turkeys, live, 11c per pound.
Potatoes—50@65c per sack; sweets, 1½c per pound.
Vegetables—Beets, $1; turnips, 75c; per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cabbage, 1½c per pound; parsnips, 85c; onions, $1.75; carrots, 75c.
Hops—New crop, 12@14c per pound.
Wool—Valley, 13@14c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 10@12c; mohair, 25 per pound.
Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 3½c; dressed mutton, 6½@7c per pound.
Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, $5.75; light and feeders, $5.00; dressed, $5.00@6.25 per 100 pounds.
Beef—Gross, top steers, $3.50@4.00; cows, $3.00@3.50; dressed beef, 6@7c per pound.
Veal—Large, 6@6½c; small, 7@8c per pound.

San Francisco Market.

Wool—Spring—Nevada, 11@13c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 10@14c; Valley, 15@17c; Northern, 9@10c.
Hops—Crop, 1900, 13½@17c.
Butter—Fancy creamery 26@26½c; do seconds, 25c; fancy dairy, 22@23c; do seconds, 21c per pound.
Eggs—Store, 40c; fancy ranch, 30c.
Millstuffs — Middlings, $16.50@19.50; bran, $13.00@13.50.