

CROP AND MARKET REPORTS.

WHEAT.—Amount in store in New-York, 1,730,033 bushels, an increase of over 80,000 bushels; in Buffalo there is little change; in Chicago, 1,571,238 bushels, an increase of only some 12,000 bushels; in Milwaukee the wheat in store is 1,623,621 bushels—each of the above at latest dates received. F. W. Hart & Co.'s Price Current says receipts of flour and wheat in Milwaukee for the last two crops compare as follows: In 1868-9, flour 487,901 barrels, wheat 9,917,477 bushels; in 1867-8, flour 356,964 barrels, wheat 9,898,409 bushels. This, as at other ports, shows that it is not owing to excessive receipts or stocks that prices are so much lower.

The last Mark Lane Express reports a decline of 8s. to 4s. per quarter in London, but the fall is less in other markets; while in Paris, it is said, there is now no fear of another decline—at least that will be likely to continue. Also, that wheat has reached its minimum, and the offers are far from abundant and the prospect seems better.

Perhaps the decline in London may, in some measure, be owing to a paper by Mr. James Caird in the Mark Lane Express, in which it is estimated that the imported wheat and flour required in the United Kingdom during this harvest year, is 6,800,000 quarters; and it is stated that two-thirds of this amount has already been received. This is the same as saying light imports will be needed, and prices of course will be low. This appears to be the general tenor of the paper, while little is given of an opposite character. Indeed, Mr. C.'s paper is well calculated to keep down prices, which Harper's Weekly says the whole press of England is doing all it can to accomplish. But there are no accounts showing any large stocks of wheat and flour there, while the Farmer Market Circular gives the stock of wheat in London, March 1, as only 123,420 quarters, which is said to be less than at any time during the previous six months; and accounts from the country, in the Mark Lane Express, show that more than the usual amount of wheat is threshed. Many other facts and reasons can be given going to show that more wheat is needed than is called for in Mr. Caird's estimate; while if we add the usual average stocks carried over at former harvests—except the last, when it has been said stocks were used up dangerously close—I say if we add this, England will evidently need full average imports the rest of the season.

There is one point in favor of the American farmer that I am glad to see so well proved and illustrated by Mr. Caird—that is, the increase in the consumption of wheat in England. Attentive readers are aware that a very general increase of this nature is one of our principal reasons for contending that all the wheat is needed. Hence I am glad to see this point so well proved, while it is of more importance to us, as it is shown that this increased consumption must be supplied from abroad.

Mr. Caird states that, by dividing the last 16 years into two periods of 8 years each, during the first period each person in the United Kingdom consumed 311 pounds of wheat, and during the last period 335 pounds. The proportions in which this was furnished by the foreign supply, have changed from 79 pounds per head in the first to 134 pounds in the second period. Here, Mr. C. says, "two very important events are shown; first, that the people are able to buy, and do consume more bread, and second, that we must depend wholly on foreign countries for the increased supply to meet the growing consumption. An immense impetus seems to have been given to consumption by the general increase in wages;" (consequent, he says, on various reasons given.) "The foreign imports of wheat, which up to 1860 had not exceeded an annual average of 4,500,000 qrs., then rose to 10,000,000 and during the last 8 years have maintained an annual average of 8,000,000 qrs. But we have not only to provide for an increased consumption by each individual, but for an annual increase of 240,000 in the population. This, at 5½ bushels per head, is 165,000 qrs., at the same rate of progress. In ten years that will have swollen to nearly 2,000,000 qrs., and in ten years more to 4,000,000. This would indicate the need of a gradual rise in our foreign imports in ten years, from the present average of 8,000,000 qrs. a year to 10,000,000, and in twenty years to 12,000,000 qrs. a year. In one generation more, say thirty years hence, the imports will at this rate be more than the home growth." Now, as there are many reasons why this increase is much larger here than in England, in view of these facts and reasons, is there any good cause to fear that all the wheat will not be needed? F.

Reuth Goshen, the Arabian Giant, has settled down at Algonquin, Ill. He is 7½ feet high, weighs 614 pounds, and is, with one exception, the largest man in the world. He is a native of Jerusalem, and is said to speak twenty languages.

A SIMPLE GUTTER FOR FARMS.

EDITORS COUNTRY GENTLEMAN—A few years ago it was common in spring-time for the water from the melted snows and rains on the upper slopes of our farm, in passing over a lower field in its descent, to wash away a large amount of soil. Sometimes a channel was cut in places two feet in depth and of greater or less width. This was very apt to be the case when the field was under the plow. A drain constructed to obviate this difficulty must be an open one, in order to collect and carry off the water at all times, even when the ground was partly covered with snow, or but just beginning to thaw. It must be of sufficient size to contain a considerable stream, and so solid as to resist the force of a swift current. The accompanying sketch will suggest how these ends were secured.



We dug out a shallow ditch three feet or more in width, and filled the bottom with small or broken stones, rounding them up somewhat at the sides to within some eight inches of the top. Then selecting from the fields and old walls, heavy, flattened stones about twenty inches in length, we placed them upon this bed of small stones side by side in two parallel rows, the ends nearly meeting in the middle. If one end of a stone was thinnest, that was placed within; if not, the inner end of the stone was sunk in the bed, so that the two sides would form a channel somewhat like a letter V.

After the work settled into place and the interstices became filled with gravel or growing grass, it was not disturbed by the strongest current, and has worked with perfect success ever since. Though its capacity may appear small, the velocity is so great that it readily passes the flood of our heaviest thunder storms. Laid out in straight lines, the plow runs close to its edge. The waters at its upper end are gathered by means of a few ridges of earth. It would have been better to dig the ditch deeper—at least two feet—so that it might serve the purpose of an underdrain also. One sometimes meets with small brooks which are a great nuisance on a farm, owing to their sinuous course, and their washing away each year a portion of the surface soil, but which might be placed within such a curb as this, provided the fall is sufficient to keep it cleared of gravel and other impediments. C. G. P.

FENCING MARSH LAND.

MESSERS. L. TUCKER & SON—I had a piece of marsh pasture to fence against cattle, hogs, tide and wind. I went into the woods and split out a sufficient number of oak posts, and coated their ends which were to be put in the ground and about a foot more with coal tar and powdered slate heated and well stirred—¾ slate and ¼ tar by guess. I dug the post holes large enough to each hold two posts facing each other. The posts were split out light on purpose, and 7 feet long. I placed two posts in a hole, 6 inches apart, nailed a strip of wood 2 inches wide just at the surface of the ground, and filled up the hole, and so on until all the posts were set. I then tacked such a strip to the top of each pair to hold them steady. I then put in the first course of rails, each resting on the piece nailed at the surface. Then nailed on another strip all along, and then another course of rails, and so on. This fence has stood now about two years, and appears perfectly good so far. The posts are entirely sound. I was told that I could not get a fence to stand, as it had been tried several times and abandoned. I should say that after I got the fence high enough to keep out hogs, I put the rails quite wide apart, so as to let the tide and drift through readily. The fence is about one-quarter of a mile long. C. R. M. Prospect Hill, Va.

Notes About the Weather and the Crops.

(CORRESPONDENCE OF THE COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.)

Vermont—Charlotte, April 7.—Our winter, so very abundant in snow, is retreating but slowly. We had but one winter thaw, which was early in January. Since that time the snow-fall has exceeded five feet here, by accurate measurement; and farther north, as in Canada, more than twice that amount is reported. Considerable time will be required to remove so large a body of snow, but it is melting away both from above and from below, as there is scarcely any frost in the ground under so thick a blanket. As it melts, the water moves off very slowly, being impeded in its course by the deep snows in the valleys. This will doubtless save the bridges,

&c., or otherwise there must be great damage done; but the world appears in a semi-liquid state. The first of April, and no maple sugar yet, and the prospect of making much seems anything but flattering. The grass is starting beneath the snow, as the temperature of the earth is from six to eight degrees above freezing. We hope for early pasturage, since half of the farmers are buying hay. This is worth from \$12@15; corn about \$1.25; wheat, \$1.75; buckwheat, 90c.; and potatoes, 60c. C. G. P.

New-York—Branchport, Yates Co., April 1.—The weather during the past winter has been very mild, and much more favorable for winter grain and grass than in any winter since 1865. Wheat generally went into the winter small, but has grown under the snow and now looks fresh and strong. The grass upon the old sod pastures is large enough for sheep. The breadth of winter grain is nearly a quarter less than last year, but I should judge that most of the farmers mean to make up the deficiency with barley this spring. All kinds of farm stock are doing well. The "pelting" business last fall has pretty well thinned out the poor sheep. Hogs are scarce. Farm hands are offering rather more freely than last year, but they still ask wages that we cannot profitably pay, until wheat and wool do better than at present. Good hands, \$20 to \$25 and board, per month for seven months. Seed barley is the only fancy article in the grain market now. The price is so high that everybody is going into barley this season. Although this will bring down the price, I have no doubt it will be more profitable than wheat for a year or two. A sale of a few bushels of barley was made a fortnight ago, at auction, for \$2.25 per bushel. Everything else is at a price that would seem to indicate the reign of plenty. The thermometer did not go below 1° above zero all winter at my place of observation, which is the north side of a chestnut fence post. In October we had two inches of snow; in November 3 inches, making all together 77 inches. The average temperature for the first twenty-two days in March at 7 A. M., was 18.4-22°; at 9 P. M., 23.1-22°, which was a lower average than that for any other consecutive 22 days in the course of the winter. Grapes did well last season; the Catawba ripened in nearly every vineyard; the crop was large and as the recently planted vineyards come into bearing, will of course be much increased. The demand for new vines is good this spring, and the propagators of grapevines and their agents are reaping a rich harvest. The peach crop was the best we have had for five years. The apple crop a little short of the crop of 1867 in quantity and very inferior in quality. J. N. M.

Conquest, Cayuga Co., April 3.—The large body of snow which has covered the earth for 125 days has nearly all disappeared. Wheat looks very promising. The market for wheat is very dull. Good red wheat finds a dull market at \$1.25 per bushel; white, \$1.50. The larger part of wheat in this section is held by farmers. Corn 90 cents; potatoes 60c.; barley \$2; oats 70 cents; butter 40 cents. Good beef sells for \$7 per hundred, live weight. Good milk cows at \$70 and \$80. J. G. L.

New-Jersey—Downtown, April 6.—The weather during March has been cold and windy. Farmers have, however, been able to get on pretty well with their spring's work. I finished planting early potatoes the last day of March, and am nearly through plowing for corn. I have also just finished sowing clover seed. Here in this soil we have to harrow it in or it will not take. This harrowing is generally thought to be no disadvantage to the winter grain, but otherwise a benefit. Peach buds all right as yet. A. K.

Ohio—North Bass Island, Lake Erie, April 7.—The "ides of March" this year will be memorable among us islanders as the coldest day of winter, the mercury standing at sunrise at 2° below 0, and the day following at 0°. But little rain has fallen during the entire month. The lake has remained, since my last, firmly closed—the ice being about 13 inches thick. Our feathered visitors are yet few in variety. The bluebirds and robins came again in the middle of the month, but the cold has driven them southwardly. The blackbirds in countless numbers appeared on the 24th and abide with us. Wheat and rye look promising and our vineyards still give token of abundant crops. All varieties of grapes, thus far, have stood the winter unscathed. Large additions to vineyard area will be made this season. C. R. M.

Indiana—Eugene, April 2.—Ground frozen this morning—cold northwest wind, and not thawing any at 11 o'clock. Wheat looks well, but we have a great many croakers who are looking at the dark side of everything, and prophesying that something will be sure to cut off the crop. W.

Michigan—Plymouth, April 9.—We are having cold weather. The ground freezes hard every night. Snow all gone. Winter wheat looks well; so does clover of last spring's seedling. Hay and all kinds of fodder begin to be sought for. No plowing done yet. J. S. C.

Missouri—Dadeville, Dade Co., March 19.—The thawing during the day, this week, has injured wheat some where it was sown broadcast, but the drilled all looks well. The prospect at this time for a heavy wheat crop is far better than for many years past. I have often suggested pasturing wheat during the latter part of the winter, but our people are afraid to try it. Flour is \$4@5 a hundred; wheat, \$1.25; corn, 50c., shelled; oats, 50c.; bacon, 10@12½c.; potatoes, 75c.; onions, \$1; butter, 20c.; eggs, 10c.; milk cows from \$25@60; working oxen, \$100@125 a yoke. Horses and mules have begun to rise, and will now bring prices that pay well; a span of three year old mules, \$300. Our State legislature passed the Texas cattle law, but it will do no good, as the State will be filled with Texas steers. E. S. R.

Arkansas—Pine Bluff, March 28.—Our spring has so far been very wet, which puts farmers somewhat behind. Labor is very scarce and wages high. There will be more cotton planted than there has been for several years. On account of the high price of cotton, planters are looking up. I have heard of some who will plant all cotton and no corn. W. K.