

WORLD'S BIGGEST CANNON

TO PROTECT NEW YORK.

The largest gun ever built is now being constructed at the Bethlehem Iron Works. This enormous piece of ordnance will weigh, when completed, 126 tons. It will exceed by six tons weight the monster gun which Krupp, of Germany, exhibited at the World's Fair, in Chicago, and which it will be nearly five feet taller than the German gun.

The monster gun is being fabricated under the War Department. It is the biggest order ever given to any establishment in the world.

The great gun is being built under superintendence of John F. Meigs, formerly a Lieutenant of the United States army and a standard authority in this country. Meigs is associated with Captain E. L. Dyer, United States army (retired). The Government inspection is in the hands of Captain Ira Hart, of the ordnance corps of the army.

All three gentlemen are on the spot and personally see to every detail of the immense undertaking as it progresses. The intention of the War Department, it is announced, is to mount the great piece on a specially built foundation on Romer Shoals. The protection for this gun will be a turret, which will wholly enclose the crew and the greater part of the gun. From position on Romer Shoals the great piece of ordnance will have a full view of the channels leading into New York Harbor. There is not, it is believed, a vessel afloat to-day with sufficient strength to resist

again as the weapon, while the cost for foundation will, it is estimated, round out a grand total of at least \$300,000. The foundation for the sixteen-inch gun will require a depth, it is said, of fifty feet if earth be the basis. This foundation must be constructed of concrete.

IDAHO'S WOMAN GOVERNOR.

For Two Weeks Miss Margaret Reeve Filled the Executive Chair.

The news that for two weeks a woman had filled the executive chair of the State of Idaho—a thing unprecedented in this country's history—created no end of lively comment throughout the Northwest.

The woman is Miss Margaret Reeve, who for several years has held responsible places about Idaho's State building, having for the last four years been private secretary to the Governor.

When Governor Stenness and Secretary of State Lewis were called to the northern part of the State on business of the greatest importance in connection with the State's vast domain of white-pine timber, they were at their wits' end to know whom they could safely leave in charge of State matters during their absence, as Attorney-General McFarland had preceded them from the State.

It seemed for a time the trip would have to be postponed, but that one of them would have to remain behind, when Secretary of State Lewis suggested to the Governor that Miss

ELECTRIC CABS IN NEW YORK.

Horseless Vehicles Have Become a Fixture in the Big City. Electric cabs, hansom and broughams are a success in New York, 60



ELECTRIC HANSON USED IN NEW YORK.

much of a success that the company operating them has just given out an order for 100 new vehicles. During June, the first month of their operation, a total number of 632 calls were received, averaging between thirty-two and twelve per day, carrying 1580 passengers 4603 miles at rates similar to the horse-cab system, and each month since that time has seen a steady increase in the service.

The best results obtained from these vehicles show that about 1.25 horsepower is sufficient for a propulsion of 2000 pounds over ordinary level roads at a speed of ten miles an hour. This consumption of power is a trifle over two and one-third times that of similar work on rails, which indicates that the equipment of the battery is carefully adapted to the total weight of the vehicle and just sufficient for practical traveling capacity. The maximum weight of a battery for a hansom weighing 6000 pounds is 1200 pounds for a distance of twenty-five miles at the maximum speed of twelve miles or at an average speed of six miles.

TWO HOTELS.

Both Expensive Structures, but Conducted on Different Plans.

Recently two new hotels were opened in New York on the same day. Each belongs to a millionaire and each is an expensive structure.

One of them, the Astoria, joins the Waldorf and is conducted in connection with that hotel. The Astoria is the most magnificent hotel in the world. Its lowest rate is enough to amaze the ordinary citizen, while it has one suite of rooms for which \$300 a day without board is charged.

The Mills house stands at the other end of the scale of prices. It was built and is conducted on the theory that a good hotel can charge very low rates and yet make profits. The Mills house is fully as well built as the Astoria. Its rooms are as well lighted, as well ventilated and quite as comfortable. Of course they are small and plainly furnished, but they are bright, clean and healthy. The regular price for a room in the Mills house is 20 cents a day. A good meal is served for 15 cents, but the restaurant offers a great variety and the guest may spend much more than 15 cents if he desires to do so.

It is already evident that this experimental hotel is going to be very popular, and it will probably prove a financial success also.

Before noon on the day the Mills house was opened 175 men had taken rooms and 100 more took dinner there that day. The average number of guests is now over 200 a day.

Mr. Mills insists that his hotel is not intended to be a charitable institution in any sense. It is conducted on business principles and its owner believes it will pay. He believes that there is a demand in New York for such a hotel as he has built and that it will be supported by clerks, students and small business men who want clean, well prepared food and well ventilated rooms, but who are not able to pay the usual hotel prices. It is an interesting experiment, and we hope to see it succeed.—Atlanta Journal.

WHAT BARBARIANS EAT.

Old Women on Cape Horn—Dogs in China—Dogs Always Thought Edible.

Darwin relates somewhere that when the inhabitants of Tierra del Fuego are pressed by famine they kill and eat their old women rather than their dogs. The Chinese, however, tend and fatten their cats carefully—to eat. They also consider the cat a choice dish. At Peking and throughout China there is no dainty repast without its fillet or leg of dog; the cat is rather a dish of the poorer classes.

History tells us that in early times dog was always regarded as an edible animal. The inhabitants of certain nomads of Egypt piously embalmed their dead dogs, but others considered that it was more in conformity to the doctrines of a wise economy to kill and eat them. Plutarch tells us that the dwellers in Cynopolis, where dogs were honored as divine, made war on the Oxyrinchis, who had committed the sacrilege of eating dogs.

The savages of North America, for lack of provisions, often sacrifice their companions of the chase. We are told that before the introduction of cattle the Spaniards in Mexico used the native dogs so freely as food that the species has now completely disappeared.

The Greenlanders and the Kamchatkans also sometimes eat their dogs, but only when reduced to this cruel extremity by famine. In Africa dogs form the food of certain tribes; in the Ashantee county the flesh is eaten both fresh and dried. And it appears that in the lower Congo region, among the Batekes, there is a custom that must make every friend of dumb beasts rage with indignation—before killing a dog for food it is maltreated and tortured, to make the flesh more tender.—New York Journal.

A Fishing Dog.

Man is not the only animal which indulges in fishing. Up at Vancouver there is a man who will back his dog to catch more fish in a day than any man can. The animal is a Newfoundland, six years old, and as a fisherman he is simply a wonder. Every morning he goes out on a dead log projecting into the water several feet. He never takes his eyes from the water as it rushes by. Suddenly he leans the fore part of his body and one paw far over the log and then, with tremendous force, strikes into the water with his paw, clinging to the log with the other three feet and the rest of his body. Seldom does he fail to hit the big fish with the stroke, and if the blow does not kill the fish outright, a crunch of his terrible jaws completes the work. The blow usually lands the stunned or killed fish back over the log into a quiet pool, from which it cannot easily escape.

A Clear Case.

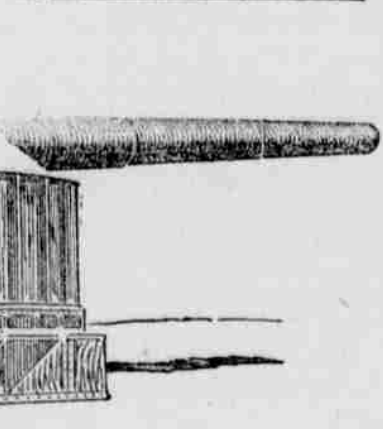
"If the court please," said the eloquent attorney for the defendant, reported by the Cincinnati Enquirer, "this reptile is clearly a liar of high degree. He claims that he was assaulted in my client's saloon, thrown into the street and his \$4 hat thrown after him. I can bring in a score of witnesses who will swear that if the villain had been assaulted as described my client would have kept the hat."

Strongly Developed.

Johnny's Teacher (making a call)—Of course Johnny is rather wild, but he is a bright, promising boy, and he has a decided taste for original investigation. You must have noticed that.

Johnny's Mother (listening uneasily)—Yes I have. I believe he is at the blackberry jam this minute.—Chicago Tribune.

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John F. Meigs estimates that the blow from the new gun would be striking energy equal to that of a battleship when running at full speed. The shot from the gun, he says, would smash, crack and batter any armor which it would be fired for a ship to carry.

The barrel will be sixteen inches in diameter, from breech to muzzle, and forty-nine feet two inches long. The breech in a vertical line will have a measurement of five feet. Mr. Meigs computes the weight of a shot for the new gun at 2300 pounds. That is more than a ton of metal. The shot fired in England was over 2000 pounds.

Under charge for the American weight nearly 1000 pounds. The extreme elevation for range is 45 degrees, a shot from the gun should be able to travel more than sixteen miles.

The range ever attained by the famous "jubilee" shot was twelve statute miles. The new gun has never before been fired with a heavier piece of ordnance than a twelve-inch caliber is approximately 1200 pounds. In the sixteen-inch gun served a jump of seventy-five per cent increase in weight.

The first ingot for the new sixteen-inch gun was cast recently at Bethlehem. It was for the tube forging and weighed 82,800 pounds. The jacket forging is also out. It weighs 90,000 pounds. Under the contract made with the War Department the Bethlehem works will turn out all forgings for the great gun. The tempering and annealing process will also be applied at the Bethlehem shops. When all the parts are out, the tube, jacket and hoops will be shipped to the United States arsenal at Watervliet, West Troy, N. Y. There they are to be assembled together, and the gun itself rifled and made ready for service.

All metal used is fluid compressed. The specifications which are being adhered to demand the most exacting physical tests. Specimen pieces of metal are taken from all forgings, are subjected to elongation, breaking and bending tests. Finally every part of the gun must be of forged metal. The tube, for instance, has been cast and rough bored. It will next have a mandrel introduced through its length and then be placed under the hammer.

For this latter stage the Bethlehem works have the largest hammer in the world. It is capable of delivering a blow of 180 tons, or some ten tons more than the famous Krupp hammer.

The building of the new sixteen-inch gun is an expensive undertaking. The gun itself will cost about \$120,000. For single guns the average cost to the Government for all fortification work in this country is roughly \$1000 per ton of gun.

The cost of the gun carriage and turrets will bring the cost up to as much

Reeve be left in charge. The Governor was almost stunned by the bold plan, but Miss Reeve had proved herself most efficient, being familiar with all the routine work in the building, and the Governor consented to the plan, and Miss Reeve was left at the State house clothed in full gubernatorial authority, which she exercised in a manner that not only gave satisfaction to the Governor, but has won her great distinction.

Before the Governor and party had been absent twenty-four hours matters of great importance were brought to Miss Reeve's attention. The Governor and Secretary of State had left a number of important blanks to which they had attached their signatures, and it was left to Miss Reeve's discretion to issue them or not—requiring, applications for extraditions from Governors of other States, and many other matters.

She sought legal advice, but the attorney informed her she must depend upon herself, as he did not "care to be mixed up in the acts of any female Governor." When the Governor returned he was surprised at the amount of executive business his fair substitute had turned out, and frankly admitted the excellence of her judgment,



MISS MARGARET REEVE.

although in one instance—the case of an application for extradition—he said he would not have issued it until he had given the protestants a hearing. He has announced his determination to defend with vigor every "Governor Reeve," including those quoted.

Church Made From a Rock.

Experiments have been going on for the past two years for the purpose of trying to learn something of the characteristics of the Atlantic ocean as a great moving body of water. As a result the whole Atlantic is shown to be slowly circulating round and round, like an enormous pool.

A vehicle to travel twice this distance could readily be built, but it would need to be twice its weight in order to accommodate twice the battery equipment. This type of vehicle is constructed with the view of a speed of from six to twelve miles an hour, but a vehicle can be built to approximate thirty miles an hour, although it would necessarily be made as a racing apparatus and not fit for street work.

Two one-and-one-half horse-power motors, weighing 17 1/2 pounds each, are found sufficient for a hansom, and are operated at a maximum speed of 1350 revolutions per minute.

Largest Cast Iron Pipe Ever Moulded. The largest pipe ever cast was turned out at Bessemer, near Birmingham, Alabama, the other day. The pipe was



FIRST 72-INCH PIPE CAST.

seventy-two inches in diameter on the inside, and seventy-six and one-quarter inches in diameter, outside measurement, and twelve feet six inches long over all. The metal in it weighed 20,000 pounds. The seventy-two-inch pipe was moulded for the New Orleans & Northeastern Railroad, to be used for culverts under their tracks. A small river can flow through one of these pipes. It is as large as the great sewers of Paris which were built of brick and stone.

A Church Literally Founded on a Rock. The tenth anniversary of the Presbyterian Church at Waterloo, Iowa, was celebrated a short time ago. There would be nothing remarkable about



CHURCH MADE FROM A ROCK.

that, only that the church is part of a solid rock, having been cut out of a big boulder ten years ago.

General Boulanger's black charger, on which he hoped to ride to a throne, now draws a Paris cab.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

A BLOOD-STAINED HAT.

Police Believe that a Minister has Been Murdered.

The Harrisburg police are trying to locate Rev. S. Spurrier, a Church of God minister at New Bloomfield, whose satchel and blood-stained deer hat were the other morning found along the Susquehanna river bank in the city. Spurrier was in the habit of wearing a silk hat, and the finding of a derby, cut with a knife across the side, a mystery to the officers. A blood-stained pocketbook was found near the satchel, which leads to the belief that the minister was murdered by highwaymen, and his body thrown into the river. Mr. Spurrier was about 75 years of age, and well-known in this locality as a preacher and book agent.

The following pensions have been granted: William Patch, Pittsburgh, \$6; George C. Kidder, Madisonburg, \$6; John E. Miller, Altoona, \$12; Jonathan Young, Bellefonte, \$8 to \$12; William Reed, Bellefonte, \$6 to \$8; David Gilbert, Pleasantville, \$10 to \$12; Thomas B. Schuder, Canton, \$5 to \$12; Peter Bruner, Flora, \$17; John B. Duran, Jefferson, \$17; Annie M. Lithgow, Allegheny, \$8; Rachel H. Carmer, Oil City, \$8; Simon Harr, Wells, \$12; Dorothea Weigold, Pittsburgh, \$8; Elizabeth Richter, Allegheny, \$8; John B. Crawford, Lamar, \$8; Henry Sharrad, Tyrone, \$8; David Wagner, Blanchard, \$5; Charles A. McConnell, New Castle, \$8; Charles Hayes, Pittsburgh, \$8; George W. Phillips, Allegheny, \$6; Clement Newton, Braddock, \$6 to \$8; Robert McMeans, Johnstown, \$8 to \$12; Lewis W. Armstrong, \$8 to \$10; George M. Jordan, Hamilton, \$6 to \$8; William W. Weeds, Emporium, \$6 to \$12; Annie Berkey, Alum Bank, \$8; Elizabeth Ray, Derry station, \$8; Mary Ann Hammond, New Castle, \$8; Brown M. Gorman, Pittsburgh, \$12; John L. George, (dead), South Bend, \$12; Anthony Miller, (dead), New Kensington, \$12; William Fox, Cheerful, \$8; Israel Townsend, (dead), Long Run, \$12; Jas. M. Shearer, Bearsburg, \$6; Joseph L. Ewing, Reynoldsville, \$4 to \$6; Jas. W. Odell, Bloomington, \$8 to \$10; John Arnold, Willow Hill, \$8 to \$10; Hugh Phillips, Adamsville, \$8; Alice Prosser, Pittsburgh, \$8; Mary K. Miller, New Kensington, \$8; minor of Jas. Dailley, West Finley, \$10; Ellen Hausbalter, Pittsburgh, \$8; M. E. Sheekler, Jamestown, \$8; Fanny H. George, South Bend, \$8; Louisa H. Weaver, Charleroi, \$8; Mills Campbell, New Albany, \$8.

Benjamin Lee, secretary of the State Board of Health, has sent to Dr. W. T. Bishop, of Derry, a letter reciting the difficulties under which the board is endeavoring to meet the many complaints brought to its notice. The explanation was brought about through a recent action of the Westmoreland Medical Society in censuring the State Board for refusing to make an analysis of a case of a fever-infected child, unless the expenses were borne by the district in which the disease was prevalent. Mr. Lee states that the appropriation to the board is only \$4,000 per annum, and adds: "It is virtually, therefore, the local board for the 40,000 square miles of territory, the 4,000,000 people and 1527 towns, cities and 200 villages and hamlets, outside the incorporated cities and boroughs, within the borders of the Commonwealth."

Seven prisoners escaped from the Franklin county jail a few nights ago by sawing through the roof. An underkeeper discovered their flight. He notified the sheriff, who in turn notified the town constabulary. The names of the prisoners are Albert Staley, Thomas Grant, Thomas Johnson, William Winters, William Burgess and "Dancing Kid" Tolson. Four of them were to have been taken to the Eastern penitentiary next week. Six years ago six prisoners escaped from the jail by digging through the floor. Five of them were afterward captured.

The application for an injunction, made by the Consolidated Gas Company, of Pittsburgh, against the governor and secretary of the Commonwealth, to restrain them from granting a charter to the Franklin Gas Company, of Pittsburgh, for the purpose of supplying gas to a portion of that city has been dismissed, the court holding that the Consolidated does not possess exclusive privileges.

During a dispute at the Exchange hotel at Shamokin last Friday James Chalney shot and mortally wounded William McNamara, the bullet passing through one of his victim's lungs. Before Chalney had run a block to escape he fell into a ditch and fractured his right leg. He was removed to the county prison. McNamara is 25 years old and has a wife and two children.

Mrs. George Whipple, of Connelville, took a lighted candle into the cellar the other morning, and a terrific explosion followed, every joint in the first floor being broken. She herself was blown out through the door, and was seriously burned. Her baby was lying in its crib, but was not injured, although one side of the cradle was carried away.

Rev. B. H. Irwin, an evangelist, condemned the use of tobacco, the wearing of whiskers and the wearing of feathers. He so worked upon the feelings of the women in his congregation at Chambersburg that some of them tore the feathers from their bonnets in sight of the audience.

Fred Winter, a 14-year-old boy, employed at the Harmony flouring mill at New Castle, was caught in the machinery and whirled around the shaft for several minutes before the machinery could be stopped a few days ago. His body was literally torn to shreds.

Lynn A. Brua, of Hollidaysburg, who scored the Gardner and Morrow people Saturday at the mass meeting of depositors, at Hollidaysburg, is made the defendant in a suit of \$50,000, by Omond W. Gardner, former cashier of the Gardner, Morrow & Co. bank.

Frank Shiffer, a well-known contractor, was arrested at Scranton a few days ago for forgery on 10 Scranton mercantile firms, amounting to several hundred dollars. He admitted his guilt and was sent to jail in default of bail.

At Loysburg, Jacob Bingham was killed by a falling tree last week. The foreman in Opp's sawmill, Moreland township, found the fireman fast in the driving belt with his leg completely torn from the body a few days ago. He had been caught by the shafting.

Maude Steel, a school teacher of East Finley township, was given a verdict of \$1575 damages against John McCoy for defamation of character. McCoy's two sons were punished by the teacher.

A man named Webb, engineer of a sawmill at Opp, was caught in the fly wheel and literally torn to pieces last Friday.

Irwin, 4-year-old son of Harrison Dittler, of Warwick, fell in boiling water and died the other day.

CONGRESS

Washington, Dec. 15.—Mr. Dingley, chairman of the committee on ways and means, reported at the opening of the house today a concurrent resolution providing for the holiday recess from the 18th inst. until Wednesday, January 5, and it was agreed to. Mr. Livingston of Georgia discussed the civil service law and asserted that it is a humbug and fraud as now administered.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 16.—The currency bill framed by Secretary of the Treasury Gage was introduced in the house to-day by Chairman Walker of the banking and currency committee, immediately after the committee hearing. The bill, as presented to the house, is identical with the bill as submitted to the committee, save for a few changes of no special significance, which were suggested by Mr. Walker.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The House today completed the consideration of the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bills, excepting the paragraph relating to the civil service. By agreement, the debate on this latter paragraph will go over until after the holidays.

Wash., Dec. 14.—Among the bills introduced after routine work in the senate this morning was one by Mr. Kyle (pop., S. D.) establishing additional regulations concerning immigration.

The routine morning business having been disposed of, Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts said: "All senators are aware that a great calamity has overtaken the household of the chief magistrate of the nation and that the funeral of his mother takes place about this time. As a token of sympathy and respect for him I move that the senate do now adjourn." The motion was agreed to and the senate therefor, at 12:30, adjourned till tomorrow.

Washington, Dec. 15.—In the senate to-day a bill was reported and passed directing the secretary of the navy to consider and report upon the subject of a statute to the late Admiral Porter, its general design and reasonable cost and appropriate location in Washington.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 16.—In the senate to-day Mr. Allen's resolution calling upon the president for information about the instructions given to the international monetary commission, and the report made to him by the commission was postponed on request of Mr. Wolcott (Col.), chairman of the commission, who said the commission had not made a report to the president, having been too busy with private matters.

Washington, Dec. 17.—A spirited debate was precipitated in the Senate today by the submission by Mr. Platt, of Connecticut, of the report of the special joint committee of the Senate and House appointed to investigate the use of alcohol in the arts. It developed that a wide divergence of opinion exists among Senators as to the practicability, from the point of view of Government revenue, of reducing the present tax upon alcohol used in the arts. The report will be further considered when printed. Under a special order, 138 private pension bills were passed.

Tore Feathers From Hats at a Revival.

The Rev. B. H. Irwin, an evangelist from Lincoln, Neb., who has been holding revival services in the King Street United Brethren Church, at Chambersburg, Penn., for a month past, at his last meeting condemned the wearing of feathers, and so worked upon the feelings of the women in his audience that some of them tore the feathers from their bonnets in sight of the audience.

\$77,000,000 is Lost.

The disastrous results of industrial wars in England are getting to be appalling. Figures have been produced which show that last year the loss to Great Britain owing to strikes and lockouts has reached the enormous figure of \$77,000,000.

MARKETS.

PITTSBURGH.	
Grain, Flour and Feed	
WHEAT—No. 1 red.....	90 3/4
No. 2 red.....	87 3/4
COBN—No. 2 yellow, shelled.....	33 3/4
No. 3 yellow, shelled.....	31 3/4
Mixed ear.....	30 3/4
OATS—No. 1 white.....	28 3/4
No. 2 white.....	28 3/4
RYE—No. 1.....	52 3/4
FLOUR—Winter patents.....	4 90 5 10
Fancy straight winter.....	4 65 4 75
Rye flour.....	3 25 3 50
HAY—No. 1 timothy.....	9 50 10 00
Clover, No. 1.....	7 00 7 50
Hay, from wagon.....	10 00 10 50
FEED—No. 1 White Mt.....	15 50 16 00
Brown middlings.....	12 10 13 00
Brn, bulk.....	12 50 13 00
STRAW—Wheat.....	5 25 5 50
Ons.....	5 25 5 50
SEEDS—Clover, 60 lbs.....	5 50 6 00
Timothy, prime.....	1 35 1 50

Dairy Products.	
BUTTER—Elgin Creamery.....	24 3/4
Ohio creamery.....	20 3/4
Fancy joint in.....	16 1/2
CHEESE—Ohio, new.....	9 1/2
New York, new.....	10 1/4

Fruits and Vegetables.	
BEANS—Hand-picked, 1/2 bu.....	1 15 1 20
POTATOES—White, per bu.....	70 75
CABBAGE—Home grown, bbl.....	91 1 00
ONIONS—per bu.....	70 75

Poultry, Etc.	
CHICKENS, 1/2 pair.....	35 1/2 45
TURKEYS, 1/2 lb.....	12 1/2
EGGS—Pa. and Ohio, fresh.....	21 21

CINCINNATI.	
FLOUR—No. 2 red.....	4 40 4 45
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	92 93
RYE—No. 2.....	46 47
COBN—Mixed.....	31 37
OATS.....	28 28
EGGS.....	21 23
BUTTER—Ohio creamery.....	21 23

PHILADELPHIA.	
FLOUR—No. 2 red.....	4 85 5 00
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	94 97
COBN—No. 2 mixed.....	34 35
OATS—No. 2 white.....	29 30
BUTTER—Creamery, extra.....	21 23
EGGS—Pa. firsts.....	20

NEW YORK.	
FLOUR—Patents.....	5 00 5 25
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	98
COBN—No. 2.....	34
OATS—White Western.....	37
BUTTER—Creamery.....	23 23
EGGS—State of Penn.....	21 25

LIVE STOCK.	
CENTRAL STOCK YARDS, EAST LEBANON, PA.	
CATTLE.	
Prime, 1,200 to 1,400 lbs.....	4 70 4 80
Good, 1,200 to 1,300 lbs.....	4 50 4 60
Fair, 1,000 to 1,150 lbs.....	4 35 4 40
Fair light steers, 800 to 1000 lbs.....	3 75 3 85
Common, 700 to 900 lbs.....	3 50 3 75

HOGS.	
Medium.....	3 80 3 90
Heavy.....	3