

Daily Eagle

FINANCE AND COMMERCE.

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

New York March 19. MONEY—On call easy at 2 1/2 per cent. closed at 2 1/2. Sterling exchange dull, but steady at 12 1/2 for 60 days. Gold 104 1/2.

Chicago Grain and Produce. CHICAGO, March 19.—In spite of the fact that receipts of all grains were larger than the estimates, the opening hour on Chicago today was marked by firmness and slightly better prices.

There were a good many foreign buying orders in the wheat pit, and these held the market steady early. But when it was announced that the decrease in the visible was but 408,000, when twice that amount was anticipated and when the receipts in the northwest were very large, the tendency was downward prices, declining 1/2.

Corn was only moderately active today, and trading was mostly local. The feeling was firm early in the session, there being a fair demand for shorts, and prices were advanced about 1/2. The advance brought out more offerings and prices gradually receded.

Outs were dull and heavy and very little change occurred in values. May opened and closed at 51 1/2.

Little interest was manifested in the provision market, and no particular change occurred. Hedges and demand were light and fluctuations were confined to narrow limits.

The statement of the visible supply of grain on March 19 as compiled by the secretary of the Chicago Board of Trade was as follows: Wheat, 35,350,000 bu.; decrease, 40,342 bu. Corn, 9,228,280 bu.; increase, 85,886 bu. Oats, 4,259,590 bu.; increase, 129,489 bu.

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ANIMALS MAKE SOIL.

Twenty species of American mammals are burrowers. The wonderful work done by ants. Earthworms—What Larval Insects Accomplish—Activity of the Crayfish in Wet Ground—Observations.

Although the earthworms are undoubtedly very important agents in overturning and breaking up of soil, it appears to me that they are most effective in the tilled fields or in the natural and artificial grass lands. So far as I have been able to observe, these creatures are rarely found in our ordinary forests, where a thick layer of leaf mold, conmingled with branches, lies upon the earth. The character of this deposit is such that the creatures are not competent to make their way through it, and they, therefore, in the main avoid such situations. Moreover, the soil of a very young nature and present at this. These worms are practically limited to the soils of a somewhat decayed character, which have no coating of decayed vegetation upon them.

As the greater portion of the existing soil has been produced in forest regions, I shall first examine the action of various animals upon the soils of wooded countries. The mammals are of all our vertebrates the most effective in their action upon the soil of forests. Twenty species or more of our American mammals are burrowers in the forest. They either make their habitations in the ground or resort to the pursuit of food. Of these our burrowing rodents are perhaps the most effective, but a large number of other small mammals resort to the earth and make considerable excavations. In forming their burrows or in the pursuit of other burrowing animals these creatures often penetrate through the soil to a greater portion of the soil covering. The material which is withdrawn from the burrow is accumulated about its mouth. The result is the overturning of a considerable amount of the earth and a consequent commingling of the material with vegetable matter and the soil.

Considerable as is the effect of burrowing mammals, the principal overturning of the earth in our primeval forests is accomplished by the action of the earthworm. Where the woods are not very dense, and particularly where the soil is somewhat sandy, our largest species of ants are very effective agents in working over the soil. Their burrows extend to the depth of some feet below the surface, and each hill brings to the air several cubic centimeters of soil, as shown by the fact that the soil is much commingled with vegetable matter. Wherever these ant hills about they commonly exist to the number of a score or more on each acre, and the occupants of each hill, in many cases, bring as much as a cubic foot of matter to the surface in the course of a single year. The result is a constant rain of matter to diffuse the material on every side of the hill. We may often observe a thin layer of sediment extending for a considerable distance from the elevation.

As it is well known to all those who have inspected the soil within virgin forests, the soil is occupied by a host of larval insects, principally belonging to the class of beetles, but including also many other orders of insects. These creatures in the course of their life underground displace a good deal of soil, a portion of which is thrown upon the surface, the greater part, however, being merely dislodged beneath the surface. The effect, however, is to commingle the soil with the surface, and thus favor its commingling. Although the roots of trees do by far the larger part of the work which is accomplished in the soil layer, they do not bring about such commingling of the soil.

Where the woods are not so dense, and the soil is extremely dry, it probably exceeds that which is accomplished in our ordinary fields by the action of the earthworm. A single crayfish will often bring in the course of a single season's activity not less than half a cubic foot of soil to the surface. In certain districts where these animals abound there appear to be not less than 1,000 of each species on each acre, and their number it is evident that not less than 500 cubic feet of matter is brought to the surface from a considerable depth in the course of a year. As the action of the earthworm, the nature and castly dissolved in water it rapidly washes away and forms a thin sheet on the surface. I am inclined to believe that large areas of our wet woods and the open borderlands along our streams are completely overturned to the depth of two feet or more in the course of half a century by the actions of these animals.

In open grounds, in natural prairies or grass plains, the smaller species of ants are extremely effective agents in overturning the soils. Wherever the ground remains for some time unplowed it becomes occupied by these creatures. In our eastern Massachusetts the overturning accomplished by these creatures assumes a geological importance. For many years I have been puzzled by the fact that the glacial terraces and plains of this region were extensively covered to the depth of a foot or more by the remains of the creatures. It is not possible to explain these conditions through the action of earth worms, for the remains of the creatures are rarely found in soils of the description. From our observation I have become convinced that this coating of sandy material is to a great extent to be explained by the action of various species of ants, in the forest condition of the woods, the larger and smaller, and in the condition of open plains by the smaller species.—Professor N. S. Sailer in Popular Science Monthly.

Lee's Attack at Gettysburg. Gen. Slocum commanded the right of the Union line at Gettysburg, having his headquarters on Culp's hill. In speaking of Gettysburg he said: "It was undoubtedly the greatest battle of the war. Gen. Meade said to me on the field that if Lee attacked him at a certain point the attack was made in just the way that Meade wanted it, and Fickett's charge was delivered at the very point that Gen. Meade indicated in his conversation with me. I was somewhat apprehensive regarding the result of the fight, fearing a successful flank movement by the enemy. If Jackson had been there this would undoubtedly have been attempted."—Brooklyn Eagle.

Originated in America. Of the common garden vegetables, only two of them, the potato and two kinds of beans, are certainly known to have originated in America. All the others, whether the sweet potato be also exported, were introduced from Europe, and Europe got much of them from the East.—Good Housekeeping.

The statute forbidding car companies to have been on their horses on Sunday is well known, but a tiny contrivance, by which the law is observed, is not. It would be expensive and troublesome to remove the wheels of the cars at midnight on Saturday night, and a tiny rubber band, similar to those used on umbrellas, is quickly slipped around each wheel, and this explains why the bells on the barns on Sunday give out no jingling.—New York Sun.

It may take an smart man to be of Paski, but, after all, wisdom's good sense can't be bought.

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