

THE MARKETS

WINNIPEG

WHEAT

Wheat was very flat last week. There was scarcely anything doing at provincial markets in the way of deliveries by farmers, and buyers were enabled to give almost their entire attention to the election contest. Now that the elections are over, it is hoped that farmers will speedily bring in wheat they may be still holding. As to the amount of available grain held in this way there is a great difference of opinion, many believing that there is scarcely any grain left in farmers' hands, whilst others think that quite a quantity may yet come out. The general belief is that the amount is very limited. Prices in some instances were little better than nominal last week, and notwithstanding the weakness in outside markets, there was scarcely a change in quotations here, owing to the very light movement. At the mills in the city, 65c was paid for No. 1 hard, and 62c for No. 2 hard and No. 1 northern, with but a very few loads offered.

FLOUR

The market holds steadily at the old prices for broken lots, delivered in the city. Quotations are: Patents, \$2.35; 'Strong bakers', \$1.80; XXXX \$1.20 to \$1.30; superfine, 90c to \$1. The Montreal Bulletin says of that market: "Buyers during the week have been scarce and values have inclined towards ease. Holders state that in order to sell round lots quotations would have to be shaded. In Ontario patents sales were reported to us of one car at \$4.50, and two cars at \$4.55 and \$4.60 respectively. The sale was also made of a part car of patents at \$4.65. Sales were also reported of patents at \$4.10 to \$4.25. In Manitoba strong bakers' we have been shown invoices at \$4.30 to \$4.35 which the buyer claims is equal in quality to anything in the market, medium grades having sold at \$4.05 up to \$4.20. A lot of Superior was placed at \$3.90 and another lot at \$3.95. Some holders, however, say they will not take less than \$4.00. In American strong flour, sales have been made to arrive at \$4.50 to \$4.60. There have also been some business in St. Louis flour, but the prices were not made public. Medium grades of Minnesota flour are quoted at \$4.10. There has been a fair country enquiry for city bags during the past few days. A car of Manitoba strong flour was sold in bags at \$2.15."

BRAN AND SHORTS

In good demand and steady at \$12 for bran and \$14 for shorts.

BARLEY

There is really nothing of consequence doing in this grain, nor is there likely to be for the balance of this season. Occasionally a lot is offered and taken for feeding purposes, and the balance goes to the breweries. From 43 to 44c, seems to be about the usual prices paid all around.

OATS

Prices hold at about last quotations. One car of Southern Manitoba brought 44c.

OATMEAL

Prices hold steady at \$2.60 for standard and \$2.75 for granulated, in trade lots.

EGGS

Some really fresh were in the market last week, and sold at 70c in case lots. Those usually termed fresh, however, would not bring over 25c. Pickled were held as before, at 22c in case lots.

BUTTER

There has been no appearance of greater firmness in this market, but rather the contrary. About 18c may now be considered the establish-

ed prices for best qualities, though a small lot of extra choice might be taken at an advance. Medium grades are in large supply considering the very light demand for such qualities. Medium range from 12c upward.

LARD

\$2.15 seems to be about the regular quotation for 20-pound pails in trade lots; 3 pound are worth 43c, and 5-pound pails 65c each.

DRESSED POULTRY

Prices hold weak for turkeys and geese at the decline noted last week, and until old stocks are cleaned out, there will be no better feeling in values. Quotations are: turkeys 10c; geese 8c; chickens 7 to 8c.

CURED MEATS

The boom in pork at Chicago, together with advancing prices east, has not been without its influence upon values here. On Friday long clear was advanced 1c, and is now quoted at 9c. Other prices were not changed, but values were very firm, with a possibility that prices might be raised this week. Quotations were: spiced roll, 10c; breakfast bacon, 11c; hams, 13c; mess pork, \$16 per bbl.

DRESSED MEATS

Hogs were fimer last week, and there was a decidedly sharp demand for all offered, and more wanted. It cannot be said, however, that sales have been made at higher prices. Some small lots may have been taken by butchers at a fraction advance on 51c, but large lots, taken by the packers were not bid over 51c. Some lots to arrive at the close of the week, would be held at 6c, with a possibility that, should they be extra good quality, they might bring that figure. On the other hand, small and thin hogs would not bring 51c, and some poor have sold as low as 5c. One car was sold to a packer here, delivered at a country point, for 5c, or equal to about 51c on the spot. A Montreal report says: "Two cars of Manitoba hogs have been received in this market, the quality being good and showing a light average. One car load was sold at \$6.22 1/2, and the figure which the other brought was reported at \$6.30 per 100 lbs." In dressed beef there is still a large supply of frozen held by the butchers, but still a fair demand exists, and receipts are generally readily taken. Butchers quote city dressed at 51 to 6c, with perhaps 61c for choicest sides. Country sides, poor, 4c; good 5 to 5 1/2c; extra choice might bring 6c.

LIVE STOCK

Nothing doing in live stock and scarcely any offered fit for beef. Butchers are after good beef cattle will be very scarce, and there is some talk of importing from the east in the spring. None are wanted at present, owing to plentiful supply of dressed beef on hand. Quotations may be placed at 3 1/2 to 4c for fair to good beef cattle.

MINNEAPOLIS.

Very slight fluctuations and general dullness have marked the markets the past week. Nobody seems to know which way to turn and speculators are content to make a scalp whenever they think they can, none daring to hang to a deal for any length of time. The winter wheat crop is doing well, the visible is decreasing very slowly, war talk is heard but little, and there is a general absence of bullish features, yet wheat advanced 1 1/2c in Chicago to-day. The flour market is as sick as at any time for two years, and must show a great improvement before wheat can hold much of an advance.

Speaking of the European situation, a careful observer said to-day: "They may get up a little flurry of war over there in April. Bismarck will probably ask France to disarm, France will refuse, Bismarck will spit on his hands, and the other powers will then step in and adjust the

matter without allowing a single shot to be fired. But the noise they make will put wheat up, and it will be a good time to sell."

Receipts and shipments have again been very light, but the movement from the country promises to be quite heavy the coming week.

The highest and lowest wheat prices by grade on 'change during the week ending Feb. 23, closing prices, and the prices one year ago were:

	Highest.	Lowest.	Closing.	Feb. 24, 1886.
WHEAT— No. 1 hard	70 1/2	76	76 1/2	87 1/2
" 1 northern	75 1/2	74	75	85
" 2 "	74	72 1/2	73 1/2	77

Futures showed about the same fluctuations, May 1 hard opening at 79c and closing at 78 3/4c.

FLOUR.—The market remains weak and inactive, it seeming impossible to induce buyers to take hold, even at liberal concessions. The only movement is for export, but the demand is moderate and at lower prices.

Quotations at the mills for car or round lots are: Patents, \$4.20@4.35; straights, \$4.00@4.20; first bakers', \$3.55@3.75; second bakers', \$2.90@3.15; best low grades, \$1.70@1.90, in bags, red dog, \$1.40@1.50, in bags.

MILLSTUFF.—Continues firm and in good demand, with bulk bran selling at \$10 to \$10.50 and shorts \$11 to \$11.50 per ton.

—Northwestern Miller.

The Visible Supply.

The following table shows the amount of wheat in store in the United States and Canada, on the dates named.

	Bush. 1887.	Bush. 1886.
January 1st.....	62,729,570	58,432,999
January 8th.....	63,345,595	57,780,320
January 15th.....	62,823,581	57,118,183
January 22nd.....	61,989,169	55,870,797
January 29th.....	61,885,068	54,989,050
February 5th.....	61,769,520	54,196,942
February 12th.....	61,319,982	53,562,382
February 19th.....	59,880,370	52,771,787

By this statement it will be seen that the visible supply of wheat decreased 1,439,612 bushels for the week ended Feb. 19th, 1887.

BREADSTUFFS AND PROVISIONS EXPORTS, ETC.

The following table shows the exports of breadstuffs and provisions from the principal Atlantic seaboard ports for the week ending Feb. 19th, 1887, and for the corresponding week last year:

	1887.	1886.
Flour, bbls.....	223,100	197,631
Wheat, bus.....	1,464,400	581,330
Corn, bus.....	901,100	1,763,777
Oats, bus.....	14,600	2,089
Pork, bbls.....	5,323	3,954
Lard, lbs.....	7,291,900	5,719,233
Bacon, lbs.....	12,248,200	11,694,048

A number of large land sales have lately been made in Alabama. The most important single transaction was that of the Tuscaloosa Iron and Land Company, which purchased 43,000 acres of coal land, which will be developed at once. The Selma Land and Insurance Company, capital \$3,000,000, will develop 12,000 acres of mineral land. Land has been largely purchased at Florence, upon which furnaces and foundries are to be erected. During the week ended Jan. 23, government land to the amount of \$5,850,000 was sold at the Montgomery land office.