

THE MARKETS

WINNIPEG

WHEAT

The change in the weather which set in at the commencement of the week, had the object of curtailing receipts to some extent at provincial points. The snow which fell on Monday did not come heavy enough to make sleighing, whilst what did come was piled up in places. This made the wheeling rather bad, without making sleighing, and for a couple of days deliveries by farmers were light. However, wheat soon commenced to move in freely again, and taking the week together deliveries at provincial points have been quite large, and farmers seem disposed to market freely. Considerable wheat was taken east by the Lake route last week, but it was thought that Thursday or Friday would wind up the shipments in this way. Lake freights from Port Arthur to Sarnia were about 6c per bushel, including elevating at point of unloading. This week it is likely that eastern shipments will be light, but if prices east hold steady and at all firm, shipments will soon commence to move freely by the all rail route. Prices have held steady at last quotations. From 52 to 53½c is quoted for No. 1 hard in car lots, f. o. b., at provincial points, for through shipment. At the mills in the city No. 1 hard brings 59c, and No. 2 hard and No. 1 northern 56c.

FLOUR

The flour trade appears to be in rather a poor state at present. Dealers complain that prices in the city are cut down to the lowest notch, and that the competition with Minneapolis millers in eastern markets has greatly reduced profits in that direction. Prices for broken lots, delivered in the city, c. f. o. b., were unchanged as follows: Patents, \$2.35; strong bakers', \$1.80; XXXX, \$1.20 to \$1.30; superfine, 90c to \$1.00.

BRAN AND SHORTS

Steady at \$1½ for bran and \$1¼ for shorts.

BARLEY

Very little movement appears to be going on in this grain. For local use some lots have been taken at about 40 to 45c.

OATS

There has been very little doing in car lots, and stocks in the city appear to be ample. Prices were almost nominal at 40 to 42c on track, with the bottom prices most likely to be paid.

OATMEAL

Unchanged at \$2.60 for standard, and \$2.75 for granulated.

POTATOES

Two cars brought in realized 50c per bushel, and another car went into store. Street prices, 50 to 60c.

CHEESE

Unchanged at 13 to 14c.

EGGS

Prices hold steady at 22c for fresh, with receipts light. Lined sell more freely at 20c.

BUTTER

Prices hold very steady at last quotations. About 20c appears to be the usual prices for choice lots, in small quantities, and one choice lot of 4,000 pounds sold at this figure. Good would bring 18 to 19c, and mediums going at 12c and upwards.

BACON

Prices have held steady for all grades. Prices are: Long clear, 8½ to 9c; breakfast bacon, 12c; spiced roll, 11c.

HAMS

For the home product the regular quotation is 14½c.

LARD

Has sold in 20 lb pails at \$2.15 to \$2.25; 3 lb pails have sold at 43c each, and 5 lb pails at 65c each.

POULTRY

Chickens are lower, and last week's choice lots were going at 9c. Turkeys were unchanged at 15c and ducks and geese at 12½c. Lots coming to market were of better quality than earlier receipts, but still some lots were going under quotations, these last not being up to the standard in quality. Shippers would best consult their interest by observing the following instructions: Abstain from feeding poultry 24 hours before killing. Bleed thoroughly and pluck clean, leaving on the head and feet, as well as the feathers on wings and tail. Do not draw the entrails, nor scald the birds. The last process is readily detected by buyers who will not pay within one or two cents per lb of the prices they will give for dry picked goods. Avoid putting more than one kind in a package, as mixtures of geese and ducks, or chickens and turkeys are more difficult to sell.

DRESSED MEATS

There was quite a rush of dressed hogs to this market last week, and prices were decidedly easier, 5c being about the ruling price toward the close of the week. Some choice lots brought as high as 1c over this price, but for the present week not more than 5c can be expected. Packers expect the receipts to keep up heavily from this time forward until after the 1st of January, when they expect the supply will commence to fall off. For the present there is any quantity coming in, though all are taken readily. Prices are expected to continue easy for the next month or six weeks. From present indications there would appear to be an ample supply of hogs in the country to meet all expected demands, notwithstanding the large number of live hogs exported east during the summer. Those coming in are generally of good quality, and nearly all springers, going as high as 300 lbs. These are just what are wanted by packers. It is thought that last year's stock were mostly shipped east live, leaving spring pigs for winter killing. It may be that on account of the scarcity of feed—there being no damaged grain this year—farmers are rushing in their hogs earlier at the commencement of the season, and on this account some think receipts will not keep up through the winter as well as they did last year. Country shippers of hogs should pay special attention to the shipments to this market. After they are properly dressed too much care cannot be bestowed upon their selection, it being desirable that hogs of nearly equal weight and quality should comprise each lot. Well fattened, even clean and bright looking lots command a sale at top figures when buyers will not bid for mixed and uneven lots, although they may be well fattened. Each hog should have its weight neatly and distinctly marked upon it, and a list of weights of every shipment should be forwarded by mail as early as possible, so that no trouble may arise upon the arrival of the goods here. Country dressed beef is now offered freely on the market, with the price steady at 4½ to 5½c. Butchers selling city dressed 5½ to 6c. Prices for sides, Mutton, 9c. Choice pork sausage is quoted at 8c, and bologna at 10c.

LIVE STOCK

One choice lot of No. 1 hogs brought \$4.30, and another lot \$4.25. At the close of the week prices were decidedly easier, and not more than \$4 could be counted on for a good average lot, off cars. Some four or five car lots were brought in during last week, but were not sold live weight, and it was the intention to have them dressed before placing on the market. About 3 and 5 per cent off seems to be the unvarying price for good butchers' cattle, off cars.

MINNEAPOLIS.

The leading topic of a dull week, especially in western markets, has been the size of the crop of Minnesota and Dakota. The government report places the total at 62,000,000 bus, but it has long been known that this amount is far below the actual figures. A very good authority has published figures which indicate a total of 90,000,000 bus, and there are men who are as well posted as men can be, under the circumstances, and who have no object in misrepresenting things, who consider these things correct. Minnesota being credited with 55,000,000 and Dakota with 35,000,000 bus. It seems almost incredible that this enormous amount has been raised in the two commonwealths, and we have been inclined to place the total at 80,000,000 bus, but if it be no more than this there is but little wheat left in farmers' hands beyond what will be required for food and seed. The gross incorrectness of the government figures has been plainly demonstrated, however, and the size of the underestimate remains to be shown by the future movement.

The highest and lowest wheat prices by grade on change during the week ending Nov. 25th, closing prices, and the prices one year ago were:

| | | | | Nov. 18. |
|--------------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| WHEAT— | Highest. | Lowest. | Clos'ng. | 1885. |
| No. 1 hard | 72 | 71½ | 71½ | 87 |
| " 1 northern | 70½ | 69½ | 70 | 83½ |
| " 2 | 68½ | 68 | 68 | 77 |

Fluctuations in futures showed about the same range, December 1 hard closing at 72½c, and May at 79½c. December 1 northern closed at 70½c and May at 77½c. Coarse grains were dull and easy, corn closing at 36@37c, oats at 25@26½c, barley at 35@45c and rye at 42@45c, all by sample.

FLOUR.—The market seems to be in a very healthy condition. There is a good export inquiry for bakers' grades and domestic demand is fair, with prices firmer and a better outlook all around.

Quotations at the mills for car or round lots are: Patents, \$4.20@4.40; straights, \$4@4.20; first bakers', \$3.40@4.60; second bakers', \$2.80@3; best low grades, \$1.70@1.90, in bags; red dog, \$1.30@1.40, in bags.

These quotations are on flour in barrels, except as stated. The rule is to discount 25c per bbl for 250 and 140 lb jute bags, 20c for 95 lb cotton sacks, 15c for 49 lb cotton sacks, 10c for 24½ lb cotton sacks. In half barrels, the extra charge is 30c per bbl.

—Northwest Miller.

The Visible Supply.

The amount of wheat in store at principal points in Canada and the United States, on November 20th, was as follows;

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Total in store..... | 56,538,974 |
| Afloat— | |
| New York..... | 728,000 |
| Totals in store and afloat.. | 57,266,973 |
| On lakes..... | 1,127,479 |
| On canal..... | 1,168,000 |

Grand totals..... 59,562,453

Correspond'g week last year 54,267,869

By this statement it will be seen that the visible supply of wheat increased 1,253,319 bushels over the previous week.