

WHOLESALE PRODUCE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

WHEAT.

The week has not been a favorable one for wheat. There has not been much change in prices, and the close in leading American markets on Friday, Jan. 9, was only a trifle under a week ago. There has, however, been a heavy and dull feeling. Improved weather conditions in the winter wheat region of the west was one cause of weakness. Cables were irregular, some days reporting slight gains, followed by declines. The visible supply continues to increase, whereas a year ago it was showing a weekly decline. Receipts at leading spring wheat points up to Wednesday were 1,594 cars, against 1,125 cars for the corresponding period a year ago. These liberal receipts, increasing stocks, with the wheat harvest commenced in Australia and Argentine, were not reassuring features to those who have believed that there would yet by a sharp export demand: high prices for American wheat before the new year had grown very old. At Chicago on Tuesday May wheat was 15c higher than a year ago, while Liverpool was only 7c higher than a year ago. Receipts of Pacific coast wheat at eastern points was another feature of weakness. St. Louis millers are reported to be grinding Pacific states wheat.

In Manitoba there was if anything an easier tendency in prices. No. 2 hard held at about 60c in Manitoba country markets, this being the price to farmers, but at fewer points was there an inclination to go above this figure than noted a week ago. The unsettled feeling, owing to the expected advance in freight rates, was removed by the official announcement early in the week that there would be no advance in rates from Manitoba to seaboard points. Rates from Manitoba to Toronto and western Ontario points will be restored on Jan. 12 to the tariff in force up to December last. This is 1c advance from Winnipeg on wheat and flour, and 2c advance from Brandon. This will not affect the situation materially, as there is little movement of wheat on these rates. The principal movement of wheat is through to the seaboard, and for this the rates will not be changed. The fact that very little wheat is going into store at Lake Superior elevators, is one of the peculiarities of the season. An explanation for this is found in the close financial situation. With the scarcity of money, banks are not disposed to advance on wheat going into winter storage. This has a tendency to force the wheat right through to market, where it can be realized upon sooner. The movement to Ontario points is light, the demand from millers there for Manitoba wheat, being supplied from store at Owen Sound, etc., from water shipments before the close of navigation. Deliveries at Manitoba country points have continued fairly large, and the amount already marketed makes it indisputable that Manitoba will turn out a large quantity of wheat this year, for on account of low prices there has been a strong tendency to hold among farmers, and many have marketed only to meet pressing needs. About 2,500,000 bushels of Manitoba wheat is in sight, west of the lakes. Cars were scarce last week, which decreased the movement, and with the long haul through to the seaboard, which keeps cars

long on the road, there appears to be danger ahead of a blockade.

On the Winnipeg exchange there was a little more activity than the previous week. On Monday No. 2 hard sold at 96 cents per bushel, on a basis of Montreal freights, No. 2 frosted sold at 41c here on Tuesday. A sale of feed wheat was made on Wednesday at 29c per bushel at a country point. On Thursday, three cars of No. 3 hard, Montreal freight, sold for 85c; feed wheat, Brandon freight, brought 30c. The closing days of the week were very dull, and there were no transactions on Saturday.

FLOUR.

There has been no change in the local situation of flour, prices here being held as before. Easier prices were reported from eastern markets, where Manitoba brands were offered some lower. Quotations in jobbing lots to the local trade, per 100 pounds are as follows: Patents, \$2.60; strong bakers', \$2.40; XXXX, \$1.40; superfine, \$1.20; middlings, \$2.60; graham flour, \$2.50; cracked wheat, \$2.50; buckwheat flour, \$3.75.

MILLSTUFFS.

There is some improvement in the city demand for millstuffs, but the main movement is eastward, Manitoba bran bringing \$17 to \$18 and shorts \$19 to \$20 per ton at Montreal. In the Winnipeg market the price is unchanged, at \$12 for bran and \$14 for shorts per ton.

MEALS, OIL CAKE, ETC.

Cornmeal is higher, on account of the high price of corn in the States, and it could not now be laid down at former prices quoted here. Oatmeal is unchanged. An advance in oatmeal is reported in Ontario markets. Prices are: Oil cake in bags, \$21 a ton; oil cake meal in ton lots, \$26.50; in car lots f.o.b. \$25; Oatmeal, standard, \$2.60; granulated, \$2.70 per 100 pounds; rolled oats, \$2.70 per sack of 80 pounds; Cornmeal is held at \$1.90 per 100 lbs. Pot barley, \$2.65 per 100 lbs. Pearl barley, \$3.00.

GROUND FEED.

Most chop feeds are a mixture of barley, oats and damaged wheat, and are worth from \$13 to \$16 per ton as to quality. Wheat feed alone brings the lowest quotation.

OATS.

There has been a decrease in farmers' offerings in this market on account of lower prices. Buyers were also less active during the week. On the market about 27c was the ruling price for ordinary quality, and 28c was paid for milling oats, with a few choice taken at 29c per bushel of 34 pounds. At country points prices to farmers ranged at 25 to 27c per bushel, and car lots on track at 28 to 29c. Latest eastern advices were rather easier, and quoted at 44 to 45c per bushel at Montreal. Manitoba shippers have been realizing better prices at north shore points. A sale at equal to about 29c on track here, was made on the Winnipeg exchange on Thursday.

BARLEY.

Hardly enough moving to make a reliable quotation, but feed lots worth about 25 to 29c per bushel of 48 pounds. At these figures it can be shipped eastward. There is little or no local demand for malting barley, breweries being supplied with all they require.

BUTTER.

Movement very slow, with round lots as they are received from the country, of mixed quality, worth about 14 to 16c per pound. Selected dairy butter is sold by dealers in a small way to the city trade at 17 to 20c, and common to medium 12 to 16c.

CHEESE.

Jobbing at about 12c per pound, and slow sale.

EGGS.

A few fresh country eggs keep coming in all the time, the mild weather making the supply larger than usual at this season. Fresh bring about 25c per dozen. Lined are still selling in some instances at 21c, though 22c is also asked. Eggs are still quoted high east, Toronto prices being 24 to 25c for fresh and 22 to 23c for lined.

CURED MEATS, SAUSAGE, ETC.

There is a generally easier tendency in cured meats. Local packers are now offering home curing more freely, mostly from imported hogs, with what native hogs have been picked up. Quotations all around, it will be noticed, are fractionally lower. Quotations here are as follows: Dry salt bacon, 9c to 9c; smoked long clear, 10c to 10c; spiced rolls, 11c to 12c; breakfast bacon, 12c; smoked hams, 13c to 14c; mess pork, \$17 per barrel. Sausage are quoted: fresh pork sausage, 10c lb.; bologna do., 8c lb.; German do., 9c lb.; ham, chicken and tongue do., 9c per 1/2-lb. packet.

LARD.

Pure lard is held at \$2.20 to \$2.25 per 20 pound pail, with compound lard at \$2 per pail. There are two factories in Montreal now preparing compound lard, which cuts the import of this article from Chicago.

HIDES.

Several buyers have been out on the road picking up lots in the country, and as there is rather keen competition among dealers, some comparatively high prices have been paid. From \$3.75 to \$4.25 per 100 pounds has been paid at country points. Where a large lot could be secured at one point, sufficient to make up a car load for through shipment east, even higher prices have been paid, up to \$4.50 having been reported. In fact all sorts of prices have been paid, the condition of the lots bid upon making a difference, some lots being partly dry and partly green frozen. Sheepskins are quoted at 50 to 75 cents each as to quality; merino skins being worth 50 to 60 cents.

VEGETABLES.

All sorts are in plentiful supply except onions, which are somewhat scarce. Potatoes are held at about 30c per bushel. Other vegetables are quoted: Turnips, 20c per bushel; parsnips, 1c per pound; carrots, 60c per bushel; beets, 40c per bushel; cabbage, 40 to 60c per dozen; onions, 3 to 4c per pound; Spanish do., \$1.60 per crate of 30 lbs. nett; celery, 25 to 50c doz. heads.

DRESSED POULTRY.

There is not much held in the line of dressed poultry, but what there is, is very slow sale. A couple of dealers held the remnant of car lots brought in from the east before the holidays. There is scarcely any native poultry offered. Chickens will sell better than any other sort. We quote turkeys at 13 to 13c; geese, 10c; chickens, 8 to 9c per pound.

DRESSED MEATS.

Beef very slow sale and normal at 5 to 5c for city dressed, and 2 to 4c for country frozen. Several car lots of hogs have been brought in from the east, for which rather stiff prices have been asked, dealers asking 7c to 8c per pound to sell out in small lots. Packers have been bringing hogs in from Ontario at a cost of 6c to 6c, and even at lower prices a short time ago, and are therefore not disposed to offer over 7c for native country hogs at the outside. Prices have advanced in eastern markets, and the prospect is that any further importations, if made, will cost higher. Mutton is quoted at 9 to 10c.

HAY.

The demand for baled hay is very light so far this year. Men have not been able to go into the woods yet with teams, for the usual winter work in the woods, on account of the absence of snow, and this cuts off the call for baled hay very largely. In the country cattle are feeding out on the prairie, and the consump-