

**EASTERN MARKETS.**

**CHICAGO**

The visible supply of the Chicago board, as posted on Monday, showed a decline of 825,000 bushels of wheat for the week, and exports for the same time were, 2,500,000. May wheat opened at 82½c, and remained almost stationary during the day, once going down to 82c, and only reaching ¼c above the opening price. Other speculative commodities were dull. Closing prices were:

	April.	May.
Wheat .....	77	82½
Corn .....	34½	39½
Oats .....	23½	29½
Pork .....	20.75	21.00
Lard .....	7.25	7.32½
Short Ribs .....	8 02½	8.12½

There was no session of the board on Tuesday. On Wednesday wheat was firmer, under less favorable crop news and cables, which though not strong, were less bearish in tone. Prices started lower, but were given a turn upward by active buying from shorts. May going to 83½c and June to 81½c. Prices then fell away ½ to ¾c, but again advanced ¼c above the first bulge. In the afternoon the range was from 83 to 83½c for May, June closed at 81½c. Provisions were dull. Closing prices were:

	April.	May.
Wheat .....	78½	83½
Corn .....	34½	39½
Oats .....	24½	29½
Pork .....	20.75	21.00
Lard .....	7.22½	7.30
Short Ribs .....	8.05	8.15

On Thursday wheat was rather quiet. During the early part of the day prices were higher, but fell away toward the close. Cables were somewhat firmer in tone. May opened at 83½c, and ranged from 83½ to 83½c. June closed at 81½, July at 81c, and August at 80c. Provisions were dull, both for consumption and speculation. Corn was dull, but fairly firm. Oats were the most active on the list, at a slight advance. Closing prices were:

	April	May.
Wheat .....	78½	83½
Corn .....	34½	39½
Oats .....	23½	29½
Pork .....	20.75	21.00
Lard .....	7.27½	7.32½
Short Ribs .....	8.05	8.15

There was no session of the board of Good Friday. Wheat opened higher, on Saturday, but did not hold firm long. May started at 84c and sold down to 83½c. There was considerable selling off month, and the clique were supposed to be buying the long options, in preference to short futures. June closed at 82, July at 81½c.

	April	May.
Wheat .....	78½	83½
Corn .....	34½	39½
Oats .....	—	23½
Pork .....	20.75	21.00
Lard .....	—	7.37½
Short Ribs .....	—	8.17½

**TORONTO.**

**WHEAT**

No. 2 fall sold at the commencement of the week at 82c, and No. 2 spring at 83c, which prices were practically unchanged at the close. No. 1 spring for May sold at 87c for one offering, and No. 2 spring for May was offered at 85c, with 84½c bid.

**FLOUR.**

Sales slow as follows: Patents \$3.80; superior extra \$3.55; extra \$3.45.

**OATMEAL.**

Unchanged at \$3.60 to \$3.65 in car lots, or \$3.75 to \$4.25 in broken lots.

**OATS**

Light sold at 31½, and choice 32½c.

**APPLES.**

Street prices from \$2.50 to \$3.25. No cars reported.

**BUTTER**

Choicest eastern has brought 20 to 21c, for local trade. Rolls, good to fine 12 to 17c, choice new, 18 to 19c. Shipping lots of good medium, with white out, sold at 12 to 13c.

**CHEESE**

Steady at 13½ to 14c for fine in small lots.

**CURED MEATS.**

Pork firm at \$17.50. One lot of 400 sides Cumberland bacon sold at 8c; long clear in cases, 8½c and firm; smoked backs 8 to 9½c, rolls, 8½ to 9c; bellies 10 to 11c; hams 12 to 12½ for smoked, in small lots.

**LARD**

Selling in small lots of pails at 9½ to 10c.

**HOGS**

Street offerings taken at \$6.50 to \$7.

**HIDES AND SKIN**

Following are quotations: Hides, No. 1 inspected steers, \$7.00; No. 1 inspected cows, \$7.00; No. 2 inspected, \$6.00; No. 3 inspected, \$5.00; calfskins, green, 7 to 9c; calfskins, cured, 11 to 12c; sheepskins, green, 75c to \$1.40; wool, super, 22c to 25c; extra super, 28c; wool pickings, 9 to 10c; tallow, rough, 2c; rendered, 4 to 4½c.

**CATTLE**

The quality of butchers' cattle, while not so good as that offered last week, is better than the average; demand is easier, and most of the sales were made on a basis of 3½c per pound, but choice lots went at 3¾ to 4c, while common cattle sold down to 2½c per pound.

**DULUTH WHEAT MARKET**

The market was very quiet during the greater portion of last week, and on several days was decidedly dull, prices scarcely showing a change. The feeling, however, seemed to be fairly firm. Receipts for the week were very light, only amounting to 50,000 bushels. Closing prices on each day of the week for No. 1 hard were:

	Cash	May.	June
Monday .....	76½	78½	80
Tuesday .....	—	78½	80½
Wednesday .....	76½	78½	80½
Thursday .....	77½	79½	80½
Friday .....	—	78½	—
Saturday .....	—	78½	80½

**MINNEAPOLIS.**

The markets closed on Saturday as follows: On the local board the sample tables were fairly well covered with milling wheat and city millers were picking up a good share of it. Several of the mills have shut down and others are making arrangements to do so next week. There was a better inquiry for 1 hard and nearly all the samples of that grade sold at a shade advance over Thursday.

WHEAT.—No 1 hard in store was steady, being quoted at the close at 76½c for cash or April, 77½c May and 78½c June.

No. 1 northern in store was quoted at 75c for cash or April, 76c May and 77c June.

No. 2 northern in store ruled nominal at 73½c for cash or April, 74c May and 75c June.

Track stuff closed at 70½@77c for hard, 75½@76c for 1 northern and 73½ to 74c for 2 northern.

FLOUR.—The flour market continues slow, but prices are possibly hardening in sympathy with the late firmness in wheat. There is no lack of water now, but the advance in freight rates and the higher cost of wheat, make up a case against millers that they find a difficulty in successfully meeting. The result of it is that several mills are shut down for repairs and more of them will do so.

Patent, sacks to local dealers, \$4.20 to \$4.30; patent, to ship sacks, car lots, \$4.10 to \$4.30; in barrels, \$4.20 to \$4.40; bakers', \$3.40 to \$3.50; superfine, \$1.50 to \$2.25; red dog, sacks, \$1.15 to \$1.25; red dog, barrels, \$1.40 to \$1.50.

BRAN AND SHORTS.—Prices continue easy, with sales of both ranging from \$9.50 to \$10.—*Market Record.*

**Pork Packing.**

The Cincinnati *Price Current* publishes its 38th annual statement of pork packing in the west with full details. The total winter packing in the west is 6,349,000 hogs, against 6,298,495 last year. The average weight of hogs is 7.67 lbs lighter than a year ago. The aggregate production is estimated at 55,290 less than last year at same average weight. The yield of lard is 1.69 lbs per hog lighter. The production of mess pork shows a reduction of 156,939 barrels. The lard product equals 17,887 tierces less than last year. Stocks of meats on hand March 1, were 37,127,000 pounds less than a year ago, and a reduction of 145,069 barrels of pork and 51,344 tierces of lard in the comparison, packing for the summer season ending Nov. 1 was 5,644,003 hogs, or 679,431 more than in 1895.

**Grain and Milling News.**

Arnold Williams is fitting up the grist mill at Birtle and will shortly put it in operation.

At a conference of Scotch millers held at Glasgow last week, a resolution was adopted demanding that a duty be imposed upon foreign flour.

The scheme to erect a farmers' elevator at Portage la Prairie seems to be working satisfactorily. A large proportion of the shares have already been taken by the farmers of the surrounding country, who intend keeping the enterprise in their own hands.

From the report of Dunlop Bros., large grain handlers, of England, it appears that the United States contributed 81 per cent. of the total import of grain, and 84 per cent. of flour. The circular adds: "It should be noted that the finest wheat of the year was received from the rising territory of Manitoba.

Bradstreet's reports that the visible supply of wheat has declined 16,000,000 bushels since January 1, but is 17,000,000 bushels larger than the New York Produce Exchange reports, not including 5,600,000 bushels on the Pacific coast. Wheat flour stocks between millers and retailers at leading points of production and shipment are over 508,000 barrels less than one year ago, and 777,000 barrels less than on January 1, 1887.