

announced yet in regard to prices for the spring movement, but as prices are very firm south of the boundary, this would indicate a firm market here.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—The past week in the wheat markets has been characterized by a slightly firmer tendency, and prices have improved about 1-1c on the week. Trading, however, has been light, and perhaps the strength, such as it is, has been principally caused by the apprehension of damage to the growing crops of winter wheat. Crop damage reports from various parts of the United States winter wheat districts, have been very plentiful during the week, but for the most part there must be a good deal of guess work about them, as nothing very definite can be known as to the damage until growing weather arrives. It is in order to expect more or less, perhaps even considerable damage, from such weather as has prevailed, but in this connection it will be well to keep in mind, that according to the recent government report of the acreage under winter wheat in the United States for the crop of 1899, there are 4,000,000 acres more than were harvested in 1898, so that if a few millions of acres are killed out there may still be enough left to raise an average crop. A considerable change has to be noted in the usual statistics for the week. Thus, the export clearances from North America, both coasts, last week, were only 2,454,000 bushels, against 5,750,000 bushels the previous week. The American visible supply decreased 545,000 bushels against an increase of the previous week of 1,177,000 bushels, and the world's visible supply decreased 1,586,000 bushels, against an increase the previous week of 1,878,000 bushels. The shipments by exporting countries also were only 4,701,000 bushels, against 8,332,000 bushels for the previous week. This week the shipments from Argentine are reported to be 1,310,000 bushels, being slightly larger than the previous week. Latest advices give the surplus of the Argentine crop available for export, as at least 56,000,000 bushels and the surplus for the Australian crop is given as 13,000,000 bushels. The export shipments from Argentine to Europe in 1898 were 23,000,000 bushels, and Australia shipped no wheat to Europe the last three years but was herself an importer of both wheat and flour.

The local market has been dull and featureless, with very little trading doing. Transactions on the call board here have been unimportant. The price of 1 hard spot, Fort William, left off last week at 69c and opened this week at the same figure. The next two days it remained about the same figure, with a hardening tendency, in line with the course of United States markets. Wednesday finding buyers in the afternoon at 69 1-2c. On Thursday, with a little further strength small sales were freely made at 69 1-2 to 69 3-4c, and one or two old cars made 70c for 1 hard spot Fort William, and 66 1-2c for 1 northern in same position. Yesterday holders were able to tighten the screw still further, and nothing under 70c was quoted for spot 1 hard, sales being made at that, and as high as 72 1-2c was paid for May delivery. 2 hard and 1 northern remain at 31 1-2c under 1 hard, and

3 hard, 2 northern and 1 spring at about 6 1-2 to 7c under 1 hard. Dried wheat is in moderate request at about 60 1-2 to 61c for 2 northern, and 63c for 2 hard, but there are only one or two buyers for it. Remarkable on the situation in a general way it may be noted that there is at present no shipping demand for our wheat, other than is required to supply the wants of Ontario millers, which are neither urgent nor important, and the prices paid on this market since the middle of December have been and continue to be several cents per bushel above export values.

FLOUR—Prices here to retail dealers are as follows. Patents, \$1.95 strong bakers, \$1.75; XXXX, \$1.05 to \$1.15 per sack of 98 pounds. Discount of 5c per sack for cash.

MILLEFEED—Prices are steady. Bran is quoted at \$10 and shorts at \$12 per ton, with large lots at \$1 per ton less.

GROUND FEED—Prices vary widely all the way from \$7 to \$18 a ton as to quality. Oat chop is quoted at \$15 to \$16 per ton; mixed barley and oats, \$13 to \$14, and wheat and mill mixtures at \$7 to \$10 per ton as to quality; oil cake, \$23 per ton; ground corn, \$18 to \$19 ton.

OATS—The price of oats has continued very firm and higher prices are asked. Values, however, are very irregular and there is a wide range of quotations, which is partly owing to the great variation in the quality of the last oat crop, and partly to the varying views of holders. We have heard of sales of car lots on track here of feed oats at a range of 29c to 31c. One car was sold at the lower quotation, but it was poor quality, slightly damp. Most holders, however, are asking higher than the range quoted. Some have asked as high as 30c for cars at country points, equal to 35c on track here, but buyers have refused to pay these prices. A few cars have been bought in the Edmonton district for this market at 23 to 25c there, equal to 34 to 36c laid down here, the freight rate being nearly 11c per bushel from Edmonton to Winnipeg. These are expected to be fancy oats for seed purposes. For good milling oats high prices will be paid. Prices of oats have now reached a point where consumption will be greatly curtailed, as consumers will now turn to corn, which is already coming in in increased quantities.

BARLEY—Barley is stronger, owing to the advance in oats. We quote 26 to 28c per bushel of 48 pounds for car lots on track here, feed grades, and 28 to 30c for malting samples.

FLAX SEED—Nominal. This article is scarce and in a small way will bring 70 to 80c here, from retail dealers.

CORN—Car lots on track here would cost laid down about 40 to 43c per bushels of 56 lbs., as to grade on the basis of prices at Minneapolis this week.

WHEAT—Country markets—Prices to farmers in Manitoba country markets have ranged about 55 to 56c.

BUTTER—Creamery—The market is steady, and about nominal. Jobbers are quoting 22 to 23c as to quantity and quality.

Butter—Dairy—The market is easy. Jobbers are offering rolls and prints at 15 to 17c, the latter for choice pound prints. Good tubs will bring about the same prices. Some lots of fall butter are still held in the country. One round lot was offered

this week by a country holder for which 15 1-2c was offered last fall. Of course it would not bring this price now. In fact it would be hard to find a buyer at all for any large lots of held stock, in the present condition of the market. Buyers offer 12 1-2 to 14c for dairy tubs or rolls. Choice pound prints would bring 1c more.

CHEESE—Jobbers quote 9 1-2c for large and 10c for small sizes. The market is nominal.

EGGS—We quote 22c for fresh candled, and 15 to 16c, for lined. Hens, fresh are quoted at 18 to 20c, as to quality. Some lined were offering as low as 12 1-2c, as holders are anxious to clear out stocks. Buyers are offering 20c for Manitoba fresh. New laid, in a retail way, bring 25 to 40c per dozen.

POULTRY—Chickens are scarce, and higher again. Buyers are now offering 10 to 12c per pound for good mixed lots of chickens, as to quality. Turkeys, 10 to 12c, as to quality, geese, 9 to 10c; ducks, 10c.

GAME—Rabbits 8 1-2c each. Pigeons 20c per pair. Wild ducks 25c per pair.

VEGETABLES—Potatoes, 40c per bushel, turnips, 20c per bushel, parsnips, 11-12c per pound; carrots, 35 to 40c, beets, 35 to 40c per bushel; celery, 40 to 50c per dozen; cabbage, 1 1-2c per pound; onions, 2 to 3c per pound.

SENECA ROOT—Nominal at 21c.

WOOL—Nominal at 8 to 8 1-2c per pound.

HIDES—Hides are 1-2c higher, 7c having been paid this week for No. 1. Frozen hides are quoted 6 1-2c; bulls and oxen 1c less. Five pounds tare taken on frozen hides. Inspected hides are as follows: No. 1 7c, No. 2, 6c; No. 3, 5c. Branded hides grade No. 2, and bulls No. 3; kip 6c to 6 1-2c; calf 8c; deacon skins, 15c to 25c each; sheepskins and lambskins 40 to 65c as to length of wool; horsehides 50c to \$1 each.

HAY—Baled is quoted at \$6.50 to \$7.50 per ton on track here and loose on the street market at \$3 to \$7.50 as to quality. Owing to the large quantity of damp hay, an effort is being made to push it off before the weather turns warm, hence the lower prices quoted this week.

DRESSED MEATS—Dressed hogs continue to come in from the east, where prices have been a little higher recently. A little higher will be paid for Manitoba hogs than for eastern stock. Packers pay 53-4c for Manitoba hogs, and small lots are taken by butchers for cutting at 6c. Beef is firm. Western range beef is still being used in the local market. A load of beef from western range cattle was examined yesterday and showed fair quality, though pretty dark in color, indicating that the cattle are going off in condition, which of course could not be otherwise. The best frozen beef is quoted at 5 1-2c, and fresh killed at 6 to 6 1-2c; mutton 7 to 8c, lamb, 8 to 9c; veal, 6 to 7c. Hogs, country lots, 53-4c to 6c as to quality.

LIVE STOCK.

CATTLE—There is only a limited business doing in the local market, but the demand is increasing. Good cattle are scarce. Further lots of range cattle have been brought in for the local market, which is a very unusual thing to look to the range country as a source of supply for fat cattle at this season of the year. These range cattle are being put on the market here at 6 1-2c dressed weight. The highest price