

WOOL.

Though there is nothing doing in wool at present, yet it is time to commence to figure on prices. The present prospect is that the market will open lower than last year. Last year's business it is claimed was not a profitable one to buyers. Latest reports from eastern wool markets were not satisfactory to sellers. It is thought that about 7c will be the price for ordinary long wools, unwashed, and about 14c for choice washed. Montana sheep, unwashed, is expected to range from 11 to 15c as to quality.

THE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

WHEAT.

With the opening of navigation at Port Arthur, wheat has commenced to go forward freely from the elevators there and at Fort William. Throughout the province there has been quite a little wheat delivered at some points, and farmers who have grain available for market have been bringing it in as fast as possible, on account of the recent climb in prices. There was a wide range in prices paid to farmers at the different markets, as high as 80c having been reached at one point for best samples, owing to competition. A good many country millers are not carrying much wheat ahead, and are now anxious to buy. Prices ranged from 67 to 75c for best samples, according to the market, with occasional advances over the latter figure at some points. As to the crops, there has yet been no rain of any consequence

to start growth, and rain is now badly needed. In some districts reports indicate that wheat is coming up irregularly on account of the drought. There can be little progress to the crops until rains come.

FLOUR.

Prices to the local trade now hold steady at last weeks figures, as follows: Patents, \$2.35; strong bakers, \$2.15; XXXX, \$1.55; superfine, \$1.30.

MILSTUFFS.

Bran is now quoted at \$10 per ton and shorts \$12 per ton.

OATS.

A few loads were occasionally offering on the street, and brought about 30 to 32c. On track values would be about the same, but almost nominal.

OATMEAL.

Prices still hold at old quotations as follows: Standard, \$2.45; granulated, \$2.60; rolled oats, \$3.00.

EGGS.

Case lots were going usually at 12c last week, which price may be held for some days. Receipts were coming forward more freely.

BUTTER.

Prices hold steady, the range for new being from 15 to 18c, the highest price for choice rolls, for the city trade.

LARD.

Best Chicago lard was firm at \$2.25 per 20 pound pail, with native held at \$2.25 to \$2.30. Inferior qualities of imported lard may be obtained from \$2.00 upward.

CURED MEATS.

Prices strong and steady at last quotations, as follows: Long clear, 11½ to 11½; breakfast

bacon, 14½ to 15c; rolls, 13½c; hams, 15 to 15½c

LIVE STOCK.

Good beef cattle appear to be less readily picked up than they were awhile ago, and prices are firm. About 4c may be quoted for good stock, with perhaps a shade higher obtainable for choice animals. Hogs have been arriving in small batches with cattle, and are usually quoted at 6c here, though as high as 6c has been paid in the country. No hogs have arrived for packing yet, supplies all being taken by butchers. A car lot for packing is expected to arrive early this week.

VEGETABLES.

Potatoes somewhat slow at 25 to 30c. Other prices are: Onions, \$1.50 to \$1.80 per bushel; cabbage, \$10 per 100 for good; celery, 50c to \$1 per dozen bunches, as to quality; carrots 50 to 60c per bushel; turnips, 25c per bushel.

Birtle Observer: During the week the river has been crowded with saw logs. A slide has been constructed at the mill dam and many thousand sticks have been sent down stream. It is generally believed that it will be impossible to take such a number as 40,000 logs from Birtle to the mouth of the Assiniboine river in the present low condition of the water. The bed of the stream is for many miles obstructed by large boulders that now stand partly above the water that passes between the stones. A Heavy rain might help the drive onward but the chances are that the logs will not get through.

The Virden cheese factory commenced operations last Tuesday with a good supply of milk. A much larger number of cows are being used this year than last.

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