

will bring 9c and turkeys 12 1-2c; geese 9 to 10c. Ducks would bring about 8c. Live chickens, 60 to 70c per pair.

**DRESSED MEATS**—Frozen beef is now pretty well worked off, and any held is slow sale. Fresh beef is firm. Mutton is steady with liberal supplies of frozen held in cold storage. Hogs steady and firm. Frozen beef 3 to 4 1-4c as to quality. Fresh killed beef 6 to 6 1-2c. Mutton, good to choice, 6 to 7c; hogs, round lots, 6 1-4 to 6 1-2c. Choice hogs in small lots to butchers, 7c.

**CURED MEATS and LARD**—Prices are firm. See quotations on another page.

**HIDES**—The market is weak, but there is so little business doing that values are almost nominal. Prices would certainly be lower if there were any quantity offering. Even as it is the tendency is downward, and some buyers have reduced their limits 1-1 to 1-2c, owing to the weaker tendency in other markets. Advances from Chicago were weak. We quote green frozen hides 6 1-2 to 6 3-4c flat; 5 lbs tares; kip, 6 1-2c to 7c; calf, 8 to 9c per lb; deacon skins, 15c to 25c each; sheep pelts will average 4c to 75c each; horse hides, 75c to \$1.75 each, colts, 25c each.

**WOOL**—Nominal at 8 to 10c here for unwashed fleece. At the auction sales of wool which opened in London this week, merinos were 5 per cent higher than the close of the last sale, and cross-breds up to prices of last sales.

**TALLOW**—Quoted at 3 1-2c for No. 1, and No. 2 to 2 1-2c for other grades as to quality.

**SENECA ROOT**—The market is weak. About 16c is now offered.

**VEGETABLES**—Prices as follows: Potatoes, 35 to 40c per bushel; carrots, \$1 to \$1.20 per bushel; onions, native, 2 to 2 1-2c per lb; imported, 3c; celery, 60 to 75c per dozen bunches; cabbage, 40c to \$1 per dozen; beets, 30 to 40c per bushel; turnips, 20c per bushel; parsnips, 1 1-2 to 2c.

**HAY**—\$6 to \$6.50 per ton is quoted for baled hay f.o.b. country points. Loose hay on the street market here \$6 to \$8 per ton.

#### LIVE STOCK.

**CATTLE**—A good many cattle have been bought up throughout the country for shipment later on, but no actual shipping of export cattle has been done yet. The local demand for cattle is increasing slowly, as stocks of frozen beef are getting worked off. We quote 3 1-4 to 3 1-2c for the ordinary run of butchers. About 4c is an outside price that anything would bring, and this only in a limited way.

**SHEEP**—There is nothing doing in sheep. No sales made here yet this season. Large stocks of frozen mutton are held.

**HOGS**—The market is steady at 5c for best bacon hogs. The packing factory will be closed for a few weeks for repairs, and consequently not many hogs are wanted for immediate delivery, but 5c is offered for future delivery. We quote choice bacon hogs weighing 150 to 250 lbs at \$5 per 100 lbs; 250 to 300 lbs \$4.25 to \$4.50; heavy hogs over 300 lbs, \$3.25 to \$4, as to quality, live weight.

**HORSES**—A good many horses are being brought in from Ontario and the States, to supply the usual spring demand. Prices are rather higher this spring than last, ranging from \$200 to \$300 for working teams, and a \$200 team is not up to much.

#### Minneapolis Markets.

Flour 5 to 10c lower. Corn 1 1-4c lower. Oats 1 1-4c lower. Butter 1c lower. Eggs 2c lower.

Flour—Prices in barrels. First patents, \$5.10 to \$5.15; second patents, \$4.85 to \$4.95.

Millfeed—Shorts in bulk, \$9.50 to \$9.75; bran in bulk, \$9.75 to \$10.00; corn feed, \$11 to \$13 per ton, as to quality.

Corn—Quoted at 26 1-2c for No. 3. Oats—Held at 25 1-2c for No. 3 white.

Barley—Feed quoted at 31 to 32c. Flax seed—\$1.19 per bushel.

Eggs—So for strictly fresh, including cases; seconds, 6c.

Cheese—Choice to fancy, 8 1-2 to 9 1-2; fair to good, 6 1-2 to 7c.

Butter—Creamery, 16 to 18c; seconds, 13 to 14c; dairy, 13 to 16c.

Dressed meats—Mutton, 4c to 6c; lambs, 5 to 8 1-2c; hogs, 4 1-4 to 4 1-2 for heavy and 4 3-4c for medium and light.

Potatoes—Car lots mixed, 36 to 38c; choice named varieties, 40 to 55c.

Poultry—Chickens, 6 to 9c; old fowls, 4 to 7 1-2c; turkeys, 9 to 11c; ducks, 9 to 9 1-2c; geese, 8 1-2 to 9c.

Hides—Green, frozen hides, 7 to 8c; bulls, oxen and brands, 6 to 7 1-4c; sheepskins, 40 to 70c each; tallow, 2 1-4 to 3 1-4c; seneca root, 18 to 22c.

Sales. 8 stockers, av 380 lbs, \$4.25; 20 cows, av 1,025 lbs, \$3.50; 20 steers, av 1,140 lbs, \$4.35; 3 cows, av 990 lbs, at \$3.00; 23 av 984 \$3.50; 4 steers, av 1,200, \$4.20; 6 heifers, av 706 \$3; 74 stockers, av 390, \$4.75; 20 stockers, av 715, \$4.30.

Hogs—Sales: 49 hogs, av 268 lbs, \$3.77 1-2; 6 hogs, av 106 lbs, \$3.35; 73 av 221, \$3.75.

Sheep—Sales: 428 lambs, av 93 lbs, \$5.50; 30 lambs, av 83 lbs, \$5.00; 80 mutton, av 107, \$3.75; 4 bucks, av 132, \$3.00.

#### Business at Toronto

Toronto, March 18.—Beautiful spring weather greatly contributed this week to the expansion of business. Travelers are sending in many orders for the spring trade and the sorting trade this season promises to be the largest in five years. It was feared the cut in some lines of cottons would extend, but as there has been no further reduction in values by the mills, confidence in the market is somewhat restored, and purchases are being made more freely. Values of dry goods generally are very firm. Stocks of English goods will doubtless by the first of July when the duty is to be reduced 1-4c, be pretty well exhausted. The demand for Klondike supplies here has fallen off a little.

Retailers in the country report large sales, but those in the border towns complain of competition from smuggled goods, the operations of smugglers being facilitated by cut rate fares on the railways.

The large exodus of Ontario farmers to Manitoba and the Northwest Territories this spring is attracting attention. One excursion this week took 500 settlers and a large quantity of effects and much live stock. This drain on Ontario is not relished by business men in this province.

E. K. Strathly and J. B. Alcock, of Hartney, Man., has bought in a couple of carloads of fine working horses from Ontario. They found a ready sale for them, and are bringing in another car.

## FINANCIAL

#### BANK STATEMENT.

London, March 17.—The weekly statement of the Bank of England shows the following changes, compared with the previous account: Total reserve, increased £38,000; circulation decreased £317,000; bullion decreased £279,425; other securities increased £557,000; other deposits increased £484,000; public deposits increased £287,000; notes reserve decreased £160,000. The proportion of the Bank of England's reserve to liability, which last week was 43.35 per cent, is now 42.84 per cent. The bank's rate of discount remains unchanged at 3 per cent.

#### FINANCIAL NOTES.

The Merchants' Bank of Canada is opening a branch at Souris, Man. H. M. P. Eckardt, of the Winnipeg office, has been appointed manager.

The Union bank is taking over the business of A. W. Law & Co., at Melita, Man., A. T. Broderick, of the former firm will remain as manager.

The British Columbia legislature has adopted a motion for the appointment of a committee to devise a scheme for securing loans for farmers at lower rates than can be secured at present in the usual way.

The first block of the defunct Farmers' Loan Co. mortgages, amounting, with interest, to \$104,000, was sold at Toronto to the Central Canada Loan and Savings company for \$96,000. These mortgages are all on farm property, and are the best assets of the company.

A by-law to raise \$100,000 for public school purposes will be submitted to a vote of the ratepayers of Winnipeg on April 12. The rate of interest for the debentures will be 3 1-2 per cent, which is 1-2 per cent reduction from former school board issues, but is the same rate as other city debentures.

#### Making History.

Eight years! What has the world accomplished in that time? What important legislation has been passed? What diplomatic disputes settled? What wars fought out and ended? What political and social changes wrought, and their significance? What scientific wonders achieved? What great lives have disappeared from the stage? And what are the forces now at play in the world of labor, diplomacy, political and social reform? etc., etc. The answers to these and a host of other questions are given clearly and minutely, with all requisite facts, figures, and dates—put literally at your fingers' end—in "Current History," which presents every three months a carefully prepared historical review of the world's progress, arranged for permanent preservation as a work of reference. The current number rounds out the record for the last quarter of 1897. It is elegantly printed and illustrated with 61 portraits and 9 maps. Price, \$1.50 a year; single numbers, 40 cents; specimen pages free. Boston: The New England Publishing Co.

Trotter Bros., general store, Laurier, Man., have assigned to S. A. D. Bertrand, Winnipeg.