

**HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.**—No stir in the local trade and prices are about nominal in the absence of any movement. Leads are firm, according to advices from abroad, owing to advances in England. Paris green has advanced 1c at Montreal, per lb., to 14½c for casks up to 16½c for pockets.

**RAW FURS.**—There is not a great deal doing in furs in this market, though there is active competition for the lots that are offering. The following quotations give the range of prices here. The prices cover the range from small to large skins, size color and condition being considered though skins are sometimes offered which are not worth the minimum quotations, on account of being killed out of season.

Badger .....	\$0 15 to \$0 60
Bear, black or brown .....	5 00 to 26 00
Bear, yearlings .....	2 00 to 8 00
Bear, grizzly .....	5 00 to 25 00
Beaver, large .....	5 50 to 7 50
" medium .....	3 00 to 4 50
" small .....	50 c to 2 50
" cubs .....	25 to 60
" castors, per lb. ....	2 50 to 5 50
Fisher .....	3 00 to 8 00
Fox, cross .....	2 00 to 15 00
" kitt .....	10 to 40
" red .....	25 to 1 50
" silver .....	20 00 to 75 00
Lynx, large .....	1 50 to 2 50
" medium .....	1 00 to 2 00
" small .....	75 to 1 25
Marten dark .....	1 00 to 4 50
" Pale or Brown .....	1 00 to 3 50
" Light pale, .....	75 to 1 75
Mink .....	50 to 1 50
Musquash, winter .....	03 to 07
Otter .....	2 00 to 9 00
Skunk .....	25 to 80
Wolf, timber .....	1 00 to 2 75
" prairie .....	25 to 75
Wolverine .....	1 00 to 4 00

#### GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

**WHEAT.**—GENERAL SITUATION.—The Commercial reports this week will show that wheat has maintained a firm position in leading markets. Prices slumped off on Tuesday, but that was the only day which showed closing prices lower than last Saturday, and last Saturday was the highest market of last week. Easier European cables and foreign selling caused the slump on Tuesday. The success of the United States loan, unfavorable reports of the Argentine crop, export purchasing, etc., helped on the advance on the following days. A great deal will depend on the winter wheat crop outlook in the United States for the future of wheat. If the spring crop outlook is very unfavorable, The Commercial sees nothing to prevent a very strong movement in wheat. The present winter has been an open one in the winter wheat states, and that is generally taken to mean a poor crop, but this is only theory and the actual result may prove different. At any rate, The Commercial believes the present advance is warranted by actual conditions. Exports of wheat, flour included as wheat, from both coasts of the United States, this week amounted to 2,907,000 bushels, against 2,550,000 bushels last week, 2,020,000 bushels in the corresponding week a year ago, 2,678,000 bushels in the week two years ago and 3,931,000 bushels in the first week of February, 1903. Shipments from all exporting countries last week were 5,230,000 bushels.

**WHEAT.**—LOCAL SITUATION.—The advance predicted by The Commercial a week ago, went into effect in Manitoba country markets on Monday last, but it was 2c instead of 3c as expected. This brought the price of No. 1 hard to farmers up to 47c per bushel of 60 pounds at 18 cent freight rate points to Fort William. At a number of country markets, however, prices ranged considerably above

the general average, and as high as 50c was paid for choice hard wheats, to farmers, at several 18 and 19 cent freight rate points. The total advance from the lowest point is now about 8c in Manitoba country markets, which shows that prices here are keeping pace with the recent advances in outside markets. Farmers have not begun the usual spring delivery of wheat yet, but the time is now close at hand when they will have to begin to market their wheat actively, in order to get it out of the way before the busy spring season sets in. The difficulty before the trade is the lack of storage. If a heavy rush of deliveries should set in, there would soon be a great scarcity of storage at many points. There would have been a blockade before now, were it not that the farmers have been holding their wheat since the close of navigation last December. A considerable quantity of wheat is being shipped from Fort William, to Montreal, which has relieved the blockade at the lake port, and shipments are again going forward to Fort William. This wheat, it is understood, is being shipped on a through rate to British markets, via Montreal, on private terms. A rate of 35 cents per 100 pounds has been quoted from Fort William to Liverpool. There is nothing going through to winter seaports to speak of. Receipts at Fort William for the week ended January 25 were 168,919 bushels; shipments 224,967 bushels; in store 3,657,241 bushels. Receipts for the corresponding week a year ago were 5,681 bushels, shipments, 13,541 bushels, and in store 878,204 bushels. Stocks in store two years ago, 1,902,346 bushels. Stocks at lake ports, milling points and interior markets aggregate about 7,000,000 bushels, compared with about 8,500,000 bushels a year ago. In Manitoba country markets prices to farmers this week have ranged at 44 to 47c for No. 1 hard according to freight rates and conditions of the local markets. No. 2 hard and No. 1 northern, 2 to 3c under No. 1 hard. No. 3 hard, 36 to 40c, frosted wheats 23 to 38c. The regular price of No. 1 hard at 18 cent freight rate points to Fort William, was 47 cents, and other grades in proportion though there is a variation from this price, as high as 50c having been paid at a few points. Prices in the Winnipeg market have ranged on a basis of about 61c for No. 2 hard, c.i.f. Fort William. No. 1 hard held 2½ to 3c over No. 2 hard, No. 1 northern, 1 to 1½c over No. 2 hard. No. 3 hard about 5c under No. 2 hard. To-day, prices in Manitoba country markets were advanced to 50c per bushel, at all 18 and 19 cent freight rate points, and 49c at 20 cent freight rate points. This makes an advance in prices paid to farmers of 3 cents at 18 cents and 4 cents at 19 cent freight rate points or a total advance of 11 to 12c from the lowest point. This last advance only covers grades above No. 3 hard, and will throw these grades into the hands of millers. We quote prices here to-day: No. 1 hard, 69½c; No. 2 hard, 61c; No. 3 hard, 5c, under No. 2.

**FLOUR.**—The further expected advance in flour, predicted by The Commercial of last week, went into effect on Thursday, but it was not as great as was expected, being only 5c per sack of 93 pounds. An advance of 20c on Manitoba patents and 10c on bakers', per barrel, was reported at Montreal on Monday, and Ontario grades were also 5 to 10c higher in that market. Sales by millers here are now made at \$1.85 to \$1.90 for patents and \$1.65 to \$1.70 for strong bakers per sack of 93 pounds, delivered to city retail dealers; second bakers \$1.85 to \$1.45; XXXX \$1.20 to \$1.25, delivered. Brands of country mills are offered at 5 to 10c under these quotations. A further advance is expected in flour any moment.

**MILLSTUFFS.**—City mills are selling at \$9 per ton for bran and \$11 for shorts, delivered in the city, in small lots. Car lots are offer-

ed by country mills at about \$8 and \$10 per ton on track here and cut rate sales have been made at even lower prices.

**OATS.**—The market has continued firmer and prices have advanced about 1c all around, both for the local and shipping trade. Prices East have advanced in about the same proportion. At Manitoba country points, for shipment east, cars are worth from 12 to 14c, as to quality and freight rate, and as high as 14½c has been paid for cars of choice white, in the country. In the Winnipeg market dealers are paying 16 to 17c for farmers loads, per bushel of 31 pounds.

**BARLEY.**—This grain is still dull and very little is moving. Car lots at Manitoba country points quoted at 14 to 16c, as to quality and freight rates for from feed grade up to No. 3, but there is very little demand from any quarter. Winnipeg street market very dull at about 17c for feed barley, per bushel of 48 pounds, and 20 to 21c for malting samples.

**WHEAT.**—Local farmers' market.—The price paid at the city mills for farmers' loads is 50 to 52c per bushel of 60 pounds for best quality.

**GROUND FEED.** Prices range from \$11 to \$13 per ton, as to quality, the top price for rolled oat feed, and the lowest price for mixed mill feed.

**OATMEAL.**—Rolled oatmeal is selling at about \$1.25 per sack of 80 pounds in broken lots to retail dealers.

**OIL CAKE.**—Oil cake has declined to \$16 per ton.

**FLAX SEED.**—Prices to farmers in Manitoba country markets are about 60c per bushel. A part car sold on track here this week at 60c per bushel. Cash flax was quoted at 91½c at Chicago yesterday.

**BUTTER.**—We quote good to choice dairy tubs at 12 to 14c per lb, and lower grades at 8 to 11c. Good rolls 9 to 11c, but as high as 12 to 14c has been paid for fancy boxes of small rolls or bricks of uniform size, color and quality. Ordinary lots of assorted rolls are very slow however, at the lower range of quotations. Receipts are fairly liberal and the demand slow. There is very little demand from the west, and dairy butter is dull in Eastern markets.

**CHEESE.**—Cheese is jobbing here in small lots at 9½ to 10c for large and 10½c to 11c for small sizes.

**EGGS.**—The market is rather firmer. Dealers are paying 19c this week for receipt of good fresh stock, but the demand is slow.

**LARD.**—Prices are: Pure, \$1.80 for 20 pound pails, and \$1.50 for 50 lb pails; pure leaf lard in 3, 5 and 10 pound tins, quoted at \$6.50 per case of 60 pounds, tierces 8½c pound.

**CURED MEATS.**—Hog products are firm. Smoked meats are quoted: Hams, assorted sizes, 11c; breakfast bacon, bellies, 11½c; do., backs, 10½c; picnic hams, 8c; short spiced rolls, 7½c long rolls, 7½c; shoulders, 6½c; smoked long clear, 9c; smoked jowls, 5½c. Dry salt meats are quoted: Long clear bacon, 7½c per lb; shoulders, 5½c; backs, 8½c; barrel pork, heavy mess \$13.00; clear mess \$13.00; short cut, \$16.00; rolled shoulders, \$14 per barrel, pork sundries, fresh sausage, 7c; bologna sausage, 7c; German sausage, 7c; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 10c per package; pickled hocks, 2½c; pickled tongues, 5c; sausage casings, 30c lb.

**POULTRY.**—Prices are firm owing to light receipts. For native poultry dealers are paying 10 to 11c for turkeys, 9c for ducks, and 8 to 9c for chickens, according to quality and geese 10c. There is really a scarcity of poultry, and nice, tidy looking stock would bring ½c or more over these prices.

**DRESSED MEATS.**—There is no change in fresh meats this week, and there is very little selling. Hogs are firm owing to light offer-