

HARDWARE AND METALS.

During the winter season dealers expect but little in this particular line of business. Still there is always a certain amount of business being done, and we are happy to say sufficient to meet the expectations of dealers. With spring opening a fine trade is anticipated, and there is little chance of disappointment in this respect. Prices are unchanged, and are quoted: Tin plate, 14x20, \$7.75 to \$8.00; 20x28, \$15 to \$15.25; bar iron, \$3.75 to \$4.00; sheet iron, 3½ to 7c; iron piping, 35 per cent off price list; ingot tin, 32 to 35c; pig lead, 6½ to 7c; galvanized iron, No. 28, 8½ to 9c, according to brand.

LUMBER.

No change in prices, and demand simply for local supply. Prices are: Sheeting, \$28; common dimensions, \$30 to \$32; fencing, \$28 to \$34; stock, \$33 to \$40; flooring, \$35 to \$45; graded clear, \$50 to \$70; shingles, \$4 50 to \$6; laths, \$5.

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

Numerous small sorting orders are being filled. Prospects for spring trade good. Collections are fair, and not much to complain of in this respect.

FUEL.

A good supply is on hand and prices have not changed materially. Quotations are: Coal, egg, stove and nut by the car-load on track, \$14; soft coal, according to quality, \$10 to \$12. Poplar wood rates from \$5 to \$6 per cord, ash, oak and tamarac from \$7 to \$8.

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

The state of the money market remains very much as it was. The fourth of March, a dreaded day in mercantile circles, whether wholesale or retail, has passed, and with much more satisfactory results than had been anticipated. The notes falling due on that date, although much larger in amount than on any other day in the year, were met very fairly. Of course there had to be a great many renewed in part, but still there was a general effort made by dealers all through the country to strain every effort to meet, as far as possible, their liabilities on that day. The effort was tolerably successful, and now all are breathing more freely. That the banks are still very careful in their dealings and decline to extend business beyond its present limits is true. Regular customers are the only ones dealt with, and funds are not provided even for these without careful consideration and full investigation. There has as yet nothing transpired this season to carry money into the country. The money obtained for grain that has been brought to market has been wholly required to settle up accounts around home. A portion found its way into the local merchants' hands, and from them it was reached the whole-sale men in the city, and then the banks have been relieved from some of the responsibility they were carrying. With the opening up of navigation and the consequent influx of money into the country, better times are confidently expected. There are few in business now who will not be carried through by the banks, although they will have to pay pretty well for the accommodation. Rates are about as they were last week. The finest gilt edged cannot be ne-

gotiated at less than 0 per cent, and it is only very seldom that it can be done at this rate. The ruling figure is 10 per cent for the best commercial paper; ordinary, from 10 to 12, the latter figure being more general than the former.

Money for purposes of real estate payments cannot be obtained from the banks upon any terms, and requirements in this direction have to be obtained entirely from private sources. As might be expected, high rates have as a rule to be paid; unless it happens to be a last payment of small amount on some valuable piece of property. Upon such as this money can be obtained at a fair rate.

To sum up, it may be safely said that a better feeling pervades financial circles generally, and the general impression is that we are well out of the woods, and another week or two will place things on as easy footing.

THE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

There has been a little more activity in the grain market during the week, especially in oats. Wheat receipts have been on the light side. Provisions have held firm at old quotations. The fluctuations that have characterized Eastern markets have not excited any influence here.

WHEAT.

The receipts for the week have not been heavy, but the mills have sufficient on hand to keep them running for some time. The want of elevators or storehouses in the country is much felt. At Manitoba City, for instance, there are now fifteen or sixteen car loads in sacks piled up in the open air. Prices have not changed from those quoted last week. Good hard wheat brings from 77 to 78c, and for an exceptionally fine sample as high as 80c has been paid.

OATS.

Receipts both by rail and off the street have been heavier than for some time past. The demand is good and all offered finds ready sale at from 38 to 41c. There is still a big supply in the country, which, if the weather continues favorable, will find its way to the market during the present month.

BARLEY.

There is scarcely any barley offering, and quotations may be said to be nominal at 40 to 50c. The acreage under this grain last summer was very limited, and the local demand will have to be to a large extent supplied from outside.

FLOUR.

The mills are running full time, and there is a steady shipment east. The local demand keeps up to about the usual standard. Quotations are: Patents, \$3 to \$3.20; xxx or strong baker's, \$2.50 to \$2.60; baker's, \$2 to \$2.10; trader's or xx, \$1.50.

BRAN.

Prices remain as they were, and the supply is fully equal to the demand. Quotations are \$12 per ton on track, and \$13 delivered.

SHORTS.

There is no change in quotations to note, \$13 per ton on track and \$14 delivered still being ruling figures.

CHOPPED FEED.

There is a fair demand and good supply on the market. Quotations are \$30. per ton, and are firm at these figures.

POTATOES.

The moderate temperature of the last week has given farmers an excellent opportunity to open their potato pits and bring the contents to market. The better supply has kept prices down to what they were last week. The ruling figures are from 80c to \$1 per bushel, although some dealers are holding their stock firm at \$1.10.

EGGS

The supply is very light, in fact they are almost out of the market. The Lenten season creates a keen demand, and prices hold firm at 50c per dozen. The receipts from the street amount to scarcely anything, and consignments from the south have to be relied upon for supply.

ONIONS.

There is a light supply in the city, which are held at 3½ cents per pound.

HONEY.

Comb is worth 35c; strained, 20 to 25c. The demand is light and the supply fair.

MAPLE SUGAR.

Considerable quantities are held by dealers in the city. The best quality comes from Vermont.

BUTTER.

There is an abundant supply of butter in the city, and prices are hardly so firm as they were a week ago. Choice dairy is quoted at from 25 to 28c; superior grades, 19 to 22c. Ontario creamery is scarce, and a fine article brings as high as 32c.

CHEESE.

The supply is good, and prices are steady at 15c.

CANNED MEATS.

Higher prices are being asked for canned meats. An active demand for this class of goods is expected in the spring.

MESS BEEF.

A little more activity in this line has brought up the price to \$19, a dollar higher than it has been quoted for the past few weeks.

CHICAGO.

During the week prices of all the leading varieties of produce steadily advanced. There were some slight fluctuations, but not of any account. On Tuesday the market was slightly more active than the day before, caused chiefly by lighter receipts than had been expected. Provisions fluctuated a little during the day but closed firmer. Towards the close quotations were:

Wheat,	March,	\$1.08	April,	\$1.09
Corn,	"	56½	"	57½
Oats,	"	40½	"	40½
Pork,	"	18.12½	"	18.32½
Lard,	"	11.45	"	11.60

On Wednesday the market was active and generally stronger. Provisions were strong. Towards the close quotations were:

Wheat,	March,	\$1.08	April,	\$1.09½
Corn,	"	56½	"	57½
Oats,	"	41	"	40½
Pork,	"	18.27½	"	18.47½
Lard,	"	11.47½	"	11.60

On Thursday the market was fairly active and stronger. Wheat fluctuated considerably, but closed firm at an advance of 2c over the previous day. Other grain were stronger, and provisions were firm. Quotations near the close were:

Wheat,	March,	\$1.08½	April,	\$1.09½
Corn,	"	57½	"	58½
Oats,	"	41½	"	41½
Pork,	"	18.25	"	18.45
Lard,	"	11.50	"	11.60