

hogs went through to Montreal in box cars last week. 2½c was offered for the cattle here and 3½c for the hogs, but the shipper, Mr. McIntosh, of Oak River, thought he could do better east, thought this is doubtful. This is the first shipping business of the new year in live stock, and it is early for such shipments.

At Toronto on Tuesday cattle were rather easier. A few picked brought 3½c, and good to choice 3 to 3½c, common selling as low as 2½ to 2¾c. Good average loads brought 3 to 3½c. A few export steers and heifers sold for 3½ to 4c and 3 to 3½c for bulls. Hogs were 5c lower for bacon, while other sorts were about the same. Best bacon brought \$1.20, thick and light fats, \$1.10, stores, \$3.75 to \$1.10, stags, \$2.25 to \$2.50. Sheep for export brought 3½c and rams, 3c., heavy lambs 4 to 4½ lb. Butchers' sheep \$3 to \$3.75 per head.

### Chicago Board of Trade Prices.

Business was quiet on Monday in all commodities, wheat included. May Wheat ranged between 52½ and 53½c, closing ½c under Saturday, closing prices were:

	Feb.	May.	July.
Wheat .....	49½	52½	53½-3
Corn .....	40½	42½-43	42½-43
Oats .....	26½	28½	28½
Mess Pork ..	—	1 90	—
Lard .....	—	6 57½	—
Short Ribs ..	—	5 17½	—

The bulls were more active operators in wheat on Tuesday, and under fair buying prices advanced, May wheat opened at about 53½c and advanced to 53¾c, closing at about the top. Closing prices were:

	Feb.	May.	July.
Wheat .....	53½	53¾-3	53¾
Corn .....	41½	43½-3	43¾
Oats .....	27½	28½-29	28½
Mess Pork ..	—	10 00	—
Lard .....	—	6 62½	—
Short Ribs ..	—	5 25½	—

Wheat was irregular on Wednesday and was influenced mainly by corn, rising and falling with the latter cereal. May Wheat opened at 53½c and ranged from 53½ to 54c, closing at about the top price. Closing prices were:

	Feb.	May.	July.
Wheat .....	53½	54-54½	54
Corn .....	43	45½	45¾
Oats .....	27½	29½	29½
Mess Pork ..	—	10 20	—
Lard .....	—	6 67½	—
Short Ribs ..	—	5 92½	—

On Thursday wheat was dull and easy, ranging between 53½ and 54½c, making a net loss of about ½c for the day. Closing prices were:

	Feb.	May.	July.
Wheat .....	50½	53½	54½
Corn .....	42½	45½	45½
Oats .....	27½	29½-1	29½
Mess Pork ..	—	10 40	—
Lard .....	—	6 77½	—
Short Ribs ..	—	5 90	—

There was more strength in wheat on Friday, May wheat opened at 54c and ranged between 53½ and 54½c. Closing prices were:

	Feb.	May.	July.
Wheat .....	50½	53½-3	54½-3
Corn .....	42½	45	44½-3
Oats .....	27½	29½-1	29½
Mess Pork ..	—	10 17½	—
Lard .....	—	6 70	—
Short Ribs ..	—	5 80	—

On Saturday, Feb. 9, wheat made a trifling gain and closed at 50½c for February, 53¾c for May and 54½-¾c for July. A week ago February closed at 49½c and May at 52½c.

### Duluth Wheat Market.

No. 1 Northern wheat at Duluth closed as follows on each day of the week:

Monday—Feb. 65½ May 67½; July, 58.  
Tuesday—Feb. 66½ May, 68; July, 58½.  
Wednesday—Feb. 66½ May, 68½; July, 59.  
Thursday—Feb. 66½ May, 68; July, 58½.  
Friday—Feb. 66½ May, 68; July, 58½.  
Saturday—Feb. 66½ May, 68½; July, 59c.

A week ago prices closed at 55½c for February and 57½c for May. A year ago May wheat closed at 60c, and two years ago at 72½c. No. 1 hard is quoted at 1½c over No. 1 northern, No. 2 northern ¾c lower than No. 1 northern for cash wheat.

### Minneapolis Wheat.

No. 1 Northern wheat closed on Saturday at 55½c for February delivery, May at 55½c, and July at 56½c. A week ago February wheat closed at 51½c, and May at 55½c.

### New York Wheat.

On Saturday, February 9, May wheat closed at 58½c and July at 59½c. A week ago wheat closed at 58c for May and 58½c for July.

### Live Stock Markets.

The cable from Liverpool on February 4 says: There was a weaker feeling in the cattle market to-day and prices show a decline of ½c since this day last week, finest steers selling at 11c. The market for sheep was steady and values are unchanged. In London finest steers are quoted at 11½c, good to choice 11c, poor to medium 10c, and inferior and bulls 7½c to 9c. Best sheep are quoted at 14c, secondary 12c to 13c, merinoes 11½c to 12½c, and inferior and rams 9c to 10½c. Quotations are as follows: Finest steers, 11c good to choice, 10½c, poor to medium, 9½c, inferior and bulls, 7 to 8½c, Best sheep, 13c, secondary, 11 to 12c, Merinoes, 10½ to 11½c, Inferior and rams, 8 to 9½c.

The Montreal Gazette of February 4, says: "There has been considerable export business transacted during the past two weeks by Thompson, Sheridan & Dunn, of Toronto, one of our leading export firms, and we understand they have all the space taken for cattle for this month and part of next on the White Star line from New York, the Allan line from Portland and the Dominion line from Halifax. The rate of freight paid is said to be 35s from New York and 40s on the two Canadian lines. The above firm is shipping this week 1,210 head of United States cattle on the steamships Bovic, Cusic and Tauric, which sail from New York, 320 head on the steamship Morgolian from Portland and 182 head of Canadian cattle on the Oregon from Halifax. They have been paying 3½c to 4c for choice Canadian export steers and 3c to 3½c per lb for bulls."

At the Montreal stock yards at point St. Charles on Feb. 4 a large supply of cattle was offered, and as buyers generally showed little disposition to trade the market became weak and holders in order to make a clearance reduced prices ½c per lb, but this did not prove any great inducement as purchasers were well aware of the big run at the East end, and in consequence held off. The amount of business transacted was only fair at prices ranging from 2½c to 3½c per lb. live weight. There was a fair demand for sheep for export account, and all suitable stock for this trade met with a ready sale at 3½ to 3¾c, and butchers paid 3c per lb. live weight. A fair supply of lambs was offered for which the demand was good, and sales were made freely at 3½c to 3¾c per lb. live weight. The receipts of live hogs were small and prices ruled steady at 4½c per lb.

### Settling our Vacant Lands.

The movement started by the Winnipeg Board of Trade looking toward the settlement of the surplus population of the city upon the vacant lands surrounding Winnipeg, is being taken up heartily and is likely to achieve good results. Already responses have come in which indicate that the municipalities around the city are not only willing but anxious to do all within their power to assist in furthering any plan of action which may be decided upon in this matter. A leading spirit in one of the rural municipalities adjoining the city writes a private letter to The Commercial strongly endorsing the movement. He says: "In MacDonald and St. Francois Xavier municipalities there is enough vacant land owned by the municipalities to supply farms for all the unemployed persons who could be secured in Winnipeg. He thinks it would be in the interest of municipalities to grant these lands free to actual settlers, and even remit their taxes for a time.

This is encouraging for the commencement. It would certainly pay the municipalities in the end to have these vacant lands settled, rather than that they remain vacant indefinitely. The co-operation of the municipalities is greatly to be desired, and with this secured, there is no reason why excellent work should not be done in settling these vacant lands.

### Late Western Business Items.

John A. Gill, general storekeeper, Assinippi, Man., has assigned.

The Winnipeg city travellers met Saturday evening to complete arrangements for their "at home" to be held in Oddfellows hall on Tuesday evening.

The partnership existing between McLean & McBean, general merchants, Emerson, Man., has been dissolved. John McBean will continue the business and settle outstanding matters.

Williams & Son, of Montreal, who have been represented in Winnipeg by John Douglas, in the electrical and mechanical business, have decided to close their branch here for the present. Mr. Douglas and family leave for Montreal in a few days.

F. H. Findlay, formerly of Portage la Prairie, has leased the premises at Brandon formerly occupied by the Brandon Boot company. Mr. Findlay has bought the balance of the boots and shoes from Geo. H. Rodgers & Co., and will sort up the stock and add a full stock of dry goods in addition and open out about to first of March.

Sealed tenders marked "Tender for Bridge Debentures" will be received at the office of the Winnipeg city comptroller, up to 12 o'clock noon on Friday, March 29, for the purchase of \$10,000 of the City of Winnipeg debentures having 30 years to run, and bearing interest at the rate of four per cent per annum payable half-yearly.

A telegram on Saturday morning from Morden, Man., says: A terrific fire is raging here now. The Morden house, D. Kilgour's dry goods store, G. W. McLaren's drug store, Sparling's grocery store, Forrest's jewelry store, Heimen & Co.'s liquor store and the Commercial hotel were burned. Desperate efforts are now being made to save Shultz & Hansen's dry goods store and Geo. Ashdown's hardware store.