

prices unchanged. Business is quiet for the moment as retailers are pretty well stocked up, having mostly all bought earlier in the year in anticipation of advances.

SCRAP.

The scrap market has developed no new features this week so far as prices are concerned. Heavy shipments of metals have been made to the south. White ledger paper scrap is marketable at 1c per lb. Quotations f. o. b. Winnipeg are: No. 1 cast iron from wrought and malleable \$14 per ton; No. 2, \$7 per ton; wrought iron scrap, \$6.50 per ton; heavy copper, 10c per pound; red brass 8 to 8 1/2c per pound; yellow brass, heavy, 7 1/2c per pound; light brass, 4 1/2 to 5c per pound; lead pipe or tea lead, 2 1/2c per pound; zinc scrap, 1c per pound; rags, country mixed, 50c; rubber, free from rivets, buckles and articles, 3c per pound; white ledger paper 1c lb.

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

There have been no wholesale advances in prices since early in March, when prices were advanced sharply on nearly all lines of paper, as reported in The Commercial of March 10. The Canadian manufacturers appear to have made a very rigid arrangement to prevent cutting in prices, and there is little opportunity to secure any advantage in buying inside of the prices quoted by the associated manufacturers. Canadian cover papers have not been materially advanced, but United States cover papers, which have a considerable sale in Canada, have been advanced sharply, about 20 per cent. Canadian news and book papers, bags, etc., remain at the advance reported on March 10. Cotton twine has been advanced 10 per cent., and wood butter plates are 20 per cent. higher. The advance on writing paper amounts to 10 to 20 per cent., according to brand, etc.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—There has been more animation and activity in the wheat markets during the last three days than for some time previously, and yesterday finished up with an advance in values of about 1 1/2c per bushel. Information and statistics have for the most part been of a thoroughly bullish character yet there is an undertone of strength which overlooks these, and raises the market in spite of them. Whether this hidden motive will develop into patent reasons for strength in the future of wheat time alone can show. In the meantime the strength and activity is seen more in the speculative market than in the demand for actual wheat or flour. The demand for actual wheat is on a moderate scale, yet the movement is considerable. Primary receipts in the States are daily overrunning the quantity received for corresponding days last year, but the exports from both coasts are considerably under last year. The American visible supply continues to increase slightly, the increase for last week being 152,000 bushels, compared with an increase of 213,000 bushels previous week and an increase of 75,000 bushels one year ago. The world's shipments are larger, 8,361,000 bushels, compared with 7,429,000 bushels previous week and 7,400,000 bushels a year ago. The Argentine shipments are very large, last week they were over 4,000,000 bushels, and this week they are 3,800,000 bushels. These are the largest weekly shipments ever made from Argentine and

are around 50 per cent. of the total world's shipments to Europe for the weeks noted. The world's visible supply according to Bradstreet's decreased last week 765,000 bushels compared to a decrease of 1,235,000 bushels previous week and a decrease of 795,000 bushels corresponding week last year. Reports on the growing crops are conflicting. Recent weather in western Europe does not seem to have been propitious, much cold and wet weather being reported as delaying spring work, and in France the damage by frost to the winter wheat is still remarked on. Yet the French minister of agriculture publishes this week his report showing the acreage under wheat for 1900 to be 16,689,509 acres compared to 17,097,837 acres in 1899, and estimating the probable production at 344,000,000 bushels compared to 366,000,000 bushels last year. This does not speak of any widespread damage, besides which there is a large stock of old wheat in France left over from the large crops of 1898 and 1899. In regard to the winter wheat in the States, very glowing reports come from the southwest and from Kansas, and indeed all the States except Ohio, Indiana and Michigan where the fields are so badly infested with the Hessian fly, the Cincinnati Price Current, a much esteemed authority, gives this week a fairly conservative report as follows, viz: "Week mainly favorable for wheat crop, outlook maintained where previously good, not improved where unfavorable. Winter wheat possibilities equal annual average production past ten years."

The local market has been a little more active, influenced by the increased activity in the speculative markets, and the volume of business has been slightly enlarged during the last three days. The price of 1 hard spot Fort William closed at 66c last week and remained unchanged until Tuesday when 66 1/4c was obtainable. Wednesday saw an advance to 66 3/4c and Thursday to 67 1/2c, although 67 1/4c was last price the latter part of the day. Yesterday prices started at 67c and advanced to 67 1/2c, which was value at close of business. Some parcels for May delivery have been sold, the best figure being 69c, but there are few buyers for May delivery, shippers preferring to take the spot wheat at the difference in price. Two hard sells for 2 1/4c under 1 hard, and 1 northern 2 1/2c under 1 hard; 3 hard is 5c under 1 hard; 1 frost 55c and 2 frost 53c, all in store Fort William.

FLOUR—The Ogilvie Company advanced its prices 5c per sack this morning. We quote: Ogilvie's Hungarian patent, \$1.80. Glencora, \$1.70; Manitoba Strong Bakers, \$1.40; XXXX, 1; Lake of the Woods patent, \$1.55; Strong Bakers, \$1.65. Modora, \$1.40; XXXX, \$1.20 per sack of 98 pounds, delivered in Winnipeg.

MILLFEED—Stocks are very light and not equal to the demand. The Ogilvie company's mill is not running hence a further scarcity. Prices have advanced \$1 per ton, making bran \$14.50 and shorts \$15.50.

GROUND FEED—Oat chop is worth \$2 1/2 per ton; barley chop, \$17; and mixed feed of barley and oats, \$20 per ton. Corn chop, \$18; oikake, \$27.

OATS—Business has been even quieter than usual. The end of the month finds dealers supplied for immediate requirements and not anxious to trade. Prices are 1-2 to 1c lower at 31 1/2c per bushel for No. 2 white and 30 1/2c

for No. 2 mixed, carlots on track, Winnipeg. No. 2 white in carlots at country points is worth about 25 1/2c.

BARLEY—Offerings are very light. Farmers seem to be feeding any they have. All the way from 30 to 36c per bushel is being quoted for carlots on track here, but in the absence of business prices are largely nominal. At country points buyers are offering 22c per bushel and sellers asking as high as 30c.

CORN—No. 3 corn is worth 43c per bushel in carlots on track here.

WHEAT—Buyers are paying farmers 54c per bushel at 15c freight rate points.

FLAXSEED—No movement. Worth \$1 1/2 per bushel to farmers.

oatmeal—Manitoba meal is being offered at \$1.65 per 80 lb. sack to the retail trade by millers. For large lots the quotation is \$1.55.

HAY—The market is very dull. Fresh baled hay is worth \$5 to \$5.50 per ton; loose hay on the street, \$3 to \$4.

BUTTER—Creamery—The market is nominal at about 24c per pound.

BUTTER—About the only change to note in the situation is an increasing scarcity of choice, fresh butter and offerings of poor stock. It looks as if country merchants were using all fresh stock to supply their home trade and sending the old stock, which they have been holding, to the city for sale at whatever it will bring. Fresh butter should be getting more plentiful. Finest dairy, in tubs, is worth 20c per lb. here less freight and commission. Dairy prints 20c per lb. Rolls, 18 to 15c. Second grades 14 to 17c.

CHEESE—Stocks are low and the market firm. Small sizes are worth 14 to 14 1/2c per pound and large 14c.

EGGS—The egg market has slumped badly this week, and the highest figure now offered by commission houses is 12c per dozen for fresh case eggs, less expressage. This is a decline of 6c for the week. The market has been gradually going down since Monday. Some old eggs are still arriving for which only 6 to 8c is being paid less expressage.

VEGETABLES—Mild weather has stimulated deliveries of potatoes and prices have declined 5c per bushel since last Saturday. The top price now is fifty cents. Carlots continue to arrive from country points. From 25 to 30c per bushel is being paid for these at point of shipment. We quote: Potatoes, 45 to 50c per bushel; turnips 25 to 30c; carrots 55 to 60c; beets 40 to 50c per bushel; 11-2c per lb.; dry onions, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per bushel; cabbage, 2 to 2 1/2c per lb.; celery, 75c per dozen bunches; lettuce and parsley, 10c per dozen bunches; green onions, 25c per dozen; rhubarb 10c per lb.

DRESSED MEATS—Butchers are well supplied with fresh beef and have no trouble securing all they want. Cattle are in good shape for slaughtering and the absence of export demand leaves the supply practically at the disposal of butchers. Extra choice beef brings 7 1/2c in the city while it is 1-2c over our quotations of here before, but the general range of prices is from 6 to 7c. Veal is now offering more freely at from 8 to 9c per lb. Fresh mutton is obtainable in small quantities at from 9 to 10c per lb. Frozen mutton 8 to 9c. Hogs, weighing from 100 to 170 lbs., realize \$6.10 to \$6.50 per cwt. from 170 to 250 lbs., \$6.30 to \$6.40, and from 250 upwards, \$6.50 to \$6.20.