

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, March 26.

[All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are wholesale for such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reductions for large quantities, and to cash discounts. See additional quotations on inside back cover.]

The strike of railway employees of the Canadian Pacific railway, continued to absorb all attention in business circles the greater portion of the week. Express trains were kept moving fairly well, but there was practically no movement in freight, and the situation was fast becoming serious for business. As intimated last week, the strike of conductors and brakemen was not long confined to this division. On Sunday night, March 20, the conductors and trainmen were called out on the Pacific division, extending from Donald to the coast, making the entire line from Lake Superior to the Pacific coast under strike, together with the numerous branch lines connecting therewith. On Monday night the men on the Eastern division, extending from Fort William to Chalk river, nearly to Ottawa, were called out, thus spreading the strike over 780 miles more of main line, making in all over 2,600 miles of main line under strike. The men on these divisions were called out as an assistance to the strikers on this division. The probability is that the strike would soon have extended to other divisions, and also to other branches of the railway service, had not a settlement been arrived at as explained elsewhere in this issue, whereby the men returned to work on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning. This caused general satisfaction in business circles, and the clogged wheels of commerce began at once to revolve again. During the continuance of the strike a great deal of business had accumulated, and during the balance of the week there was great activity in rushing forward the accumulated traffic, and in endeavoring to catch up with the work. Orders which had accumulated at wholesale houses for a week, for Canadian Pacific points, were rushed as fast as possible. The early termination of the strike is a matter for general thankfulness. Though there has been some inconvenience and loss, it is nothing to what it would have been, had it continued a week or two longer. The interests most immediately affected were the incoming settlers. Many train loads of incoming settlers and their effects were on the way, and trains of live stock and effects were delayed at North Shore points, where it was difficult to obtain feed for the animals. Points east of Winnipeg, such as Rat Portage, Lake Superior and North Shore points, which depend for their supplies solely upon the railway, were in a precarious position. The implement houses, who have their spring rush on hand, and who had car lots of goods on the way which were needed here for the spring work, were also considerably alarmed over the situation. Lake of the Woods lumbermen, who are commencing their spring shipments, were also feeling nervous. Goods, such as implements, which had not left eastern factories, could, of course, be forwarded to Winnipeg via United States railways, but there were considerable quantities of goods on the way via the C. P. R. when the strike started, which were

side-tracked along the latter road at inaccessible points. Then in the case of implements required immediately at country points here, there was the trouble of distributing them even after arrival at Winnipeg. Wood was scarce in the city, as there were but very light stocks ahead to draw upon, when the strike started. Prices were advanced about 50c or so per cord, but the demand was not very large, and no great inconvenience was felt on this score. Grain business was at a complete standstill, but grain would have been dull without the strike. At one or two country points elevators were full of grain, and as no shipments could be made, farmers were obliged to pile their wheat up in bags outside, or haul it home again. At nearly all points, however, there was elevator space for all the wheat marketed. Some of the flour mills were talking of closing down on account of shortage of storage for their output.

The rush of incoming immigration has been large, and greatly in excess of recent years. About 1,000 persons arrived at Winnipeg on Friday, mostly from eastern Canada. British and foreigners are also arriving in considerable numbers, and the season promises to be one of the most active in the history of the country. The number of immigrants coming in has assisted in supplying the demand for farm help to a considerable extent. Most of those coming from eastern Canada are securing land for themselves at once, but a few are accepting employment. A larger number of the British and foreign immigrants go out to work. Wages for men for farms range at about \$18 to \$25 per month, including board. There is still a good demand for farm help, and some applicants want to engage men by the year. Domestic servants are wanted, the wages for good help usually ranging between \$10 and \$15 per month, and in special cases even higher.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS — Implement firms were in quite a ferment on account of the railway strike, and when the strike was declared off on Wednesday afternoon there were none more pleased than the dealers in this branch. All the houses had car lots of implements on the way, which are wanted immediately for the spring trade, and they could neither get them in or ship out to supply the numerous branch warehouses at country points. The situation was beginning to look very serious for them and for the country at large. If they had not been able to get these goods in in time for the spring trade, they would have to be held over, and would not sell this season at all, while the lack of supplies would have been serious for our agricultural interests. A few cars which were side-tracked en route, on account of the strike, have not been located yet, but the danger is now considered past. The implement firms have every prospect of a brisk season before them, the large immigration of agricultural settlers being a welcome feature, and a sure indication of a good season's trade. Early spring implements are now coming into demand, and in a very short time the call for spring lines will be at its best. Some threshing outfits are still going out.

DRIED FRUITS — Dried apples, 6 to 6½c; evaporated, 8½ to 9c; figs, layers, 11 to 15c; figs, cooking, 5 to 7c; dates, 6 to 8c. Valencia raisins, \$1.75 to \$2 per box. Currants, 6½ to 7; prunes, 6 to 10c. Evaporated fruits are quoted; apricots, 11 to 13c; peeled peaches, 17½ to 18c; unpeeled peaches, 12 to 13c; pitted plums; 11 to 11½c; cherries, 13 to 13½c; pears, 12½ to 13c; nectarines, 11½ to 12c; raspberries, 19 to 20c.

FISH — The market is well supplied with a considerable variety of fresh fish, in both salt and fresh water varieties. Local varieties of fresh water fish are quoted: Whitefish, 5½c; pickerel, 4 to 5c; sturgeon, 6; pike, 2 to 2½c; Lake Superior trout, 9c; Lake Superior herring, 35c per dozen; Eastern brook trout, 20c per lb. Fresh salt water fish: Salmon, 11; smelts, 12c; halibut, 14c; cod, 8c; haddock, 10c. Cured fish: Smoked haddock, 8½c; boneless cod, 7 to 7½c. Salt mackerel, 15c lb; herrings, 35c doz; dry cod, 8c lb. Oysters are quoted at \$2.15 for standards, and \$2.35 for selects per gallon, for Providence river stock, with Baltimores at \$2 to \$2.20.

GREEN FRUITS — Business was slow, for which the strike was blamed. Apples hold firm and choice to fancy red stock are quoted at \$1.25 to 5.00 per barrel. Greenings may be had at \$3 to 3.75 per barrel as to quality. Florida oranges are becoming scarce and advancing, quoted at \$4.75 to 5.75 per box; California oranges are now of better quality than earlier arrivals. Navels are held at \$1.75 to 5., and seedlings at \$3 to 3.25 per box. Lemons, lower, at \$5.75 to 6.50 for Mexican per box. Cranberries, \$9 to 9.50 per barrel; Malaga grapes, large size, kegs, \$10 to 10.50. California winter pears, \$3.25 to 4 per box of 40 pounds. Bananas are arriving in small lots by express, and are worth \$3.75 to 4 per bunch.

GROCERIES — It has been confirmed that Speckles will go into the sugar refinery combine in the United States, which will end the sugar war there. Eastern Canada refineries were reported to be very busy, and feeling firmer, but eastern jobbers, owing to cutting, are not making a profit. Toronto jobbers have been selling at 4½ to 4¾c for granulated, and yellows at 3½ to 4½, which are unprofitable figures, based on prices at refineries. The fighting starch manufacturers have probably decided that it is foolish to sell at losing price, and they have commenced to advance their figures. Winnipeg sugar prices are granulated 5c and ½c higher in 50 lb bags, while 100 lb bags it is quoted at 5 to 10c per 100 lb under barrels. Yellows, 4 to 4½c. lumps, 6 to 6½c; powdered, 7½ to 8c; syrups quoted 2½ to 3½c.

RAW FURS — The week has been a very important one in furs, on account of the annual March sales being held in London this week, opening on March 21. Following is the Hudson's Bay Co.'s collection which was offered this week: Black bear, 11,560; brown bear, 1,720; gray bear, 225; white bear, 122; badger, 3,458; cross fox, 2,656; red fox, 11,119; mink, 41,030; lynx, 8,266; white fox, 9,486; silver fox, 632; pit fox, 549; martens, 73,000; fisher, 5,070; otter, 9,689; raccoon, 130; skunk, 10,115; wolf, 1,690; rabbit, 21,688; musk ox, 1,946; wolverine, 1,091; fur seals, salted, 410; hair seals, do., 548, and dry hair seals, 1,500. Beaver and musquash were sold in January. The COMMERCIAL has received the following telegraphic advice via New York regarding the result of the Hudson's Bay Co.'s sales this week:

Fisher declined	10	per cent.
Cross fox "	10	"
Silver fox "	15	"
White fox "	25	"
Otter "	15	"
Bear "	7½	"
Skunk "	10	"
Marten advanced	15	"
Red fox "	12½	"
Lynx "	40	"
Mink "	17½	"
Wolverine "	25	"

The advance in lynx was expected, and was stimulated by the small collection. Red fox was also expected to advance. The advances in red fox and lynx especially will be very acceptable to traders here. The Winnipeg market is receiving a few lots, but mostly small assortments. A fine lot of furs from the Lake Superior district was offered this week.