

Wheat Stocks.

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains, for the week ended Mar. 28, 1896, shows a decrease of 300,000 bushels, against a decrease of 1,465,000 for the corresponding week last year, a decrease of 705,000 bushels the corresponding week two years ago, and a decrease of 551,000 bushels three years ago.

The following table shows the total visible supply of wheat at the end of the first trade week of each month for four years, as compiled by the Chicago board of trade and includes stocks at most important points of accumulation in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains. There are some important points not covered by this statement:

	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
Jan. 2...	83,581,000	80,228,000	81,285,000	45,907,000
Feb. 5...	83,376,000	79,583,000	81,303,000	43,181,000
Mar. 4...	78,765,000	75,569,000	79,083,000	41,558,000
April 1...	74,398,000	71,458,000	77,654,000	41,038,000
May 6...	62,196,000	65,158,000	73,089,000	38,100,000
June 3...	62,229,000	69,394,000	71,080,000	37,910,000
July 1...	41,610,000	64,857,000	62,316,000	24,282,000
Aug. 8...	38,517,000	60,010,000	59,424,000	28,079,000
Sept. 7...	30,754,000	69,168,000	68,140,000	33,760,000
Oct. 7...	41,832,000	73,614,000	69,376,000	61,256,000
Nov. 4...	51,930,000	80,041,000	71,396,000	61,717,000
Dec. 2...	63,903,000	85,179,000	78,091,000	72,530,000

The following shows the visible supply by weeks, for four years:

	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
Jan. 4...	60,842,000	87,338,000	79,953,000	81,780,000
" 11...	63,945,000	80,615,000	80,433,000	87,080,000
" 18...	67,958,000	85,228,000	80,392,000	82,227,000
" 25...	67,623,000	84,665,000	80,284,000	81,457,000
Feb. 1...	66,731,000	83,378,000	79,843,000	81,300,000
" 8...	66,119,000	82,372,000	79,680,000	80,973,000
" 15...	65,920,000	80,733,000	78,087,000	80,214,000
" 22...	65,011,000	79,476,000	77,257,000	79,443,000
March 1...	64,080,000	77,761,000	75,589,000	79,038,000
" 7...	62,696,000	77,717,000	74,697,000	79,103,000
" 14...	62,123,000	76,873,000	73,359,000	79,010,000
" 21...	61,818,000	75,773,000	72,104,000	78,208,000
" 28...	61,045,000	74,308,000	71,448,000	77,044,000

Bradstreet's report of stocks of wheat in Canada on March 21 is as follows:

	Bushels.
Montreal.....	893,000
Toronto.....	80,000
Kingston.....	7,000
Winnipeg.....	875,000
Manitoba interior elevators	8,060,000
Fort William, Port Arthur & Keewatin.....	4,272,000

Total stocks in the United States and Canada as reported by Bradstreet's were as follows, on March 21 1896:

	Bushels.
East of the Mountains.....	91,237,000
Pacific Coast.....	4,296,000
Total stocks a year ago were:	bushels.
East of the Mountains.....	93,707,000
Pacific Coast.....	11,801,000

Bradstreet's report for the week ended March 28, shows a decrease of 740,000 bushels in stocks of wheat east of the mountains, making the total 90,497,000 bushels on the latter date.

World's stocks on March 1, 1896, (United States, Canada, in Europe and abroad for Europe) were 154,052,000 bushels, which is about 16,500,000 bushels less than the corresponding total one year ago, more than 80,000,000 bushels less than were so held two years ago, about 24,000,000 bushels less than three years ago, but about 8,500,000 bushels more than were so held on January 1, 1892, 51,500,000 bushels more than on January 1, 1891, and about 53,000,000 bushels more than on January 1, 1890.

Winnipeg Wheat Inspection.

The following shows the number of cars of wheat inspected at *Winnipeg for the weeks ended on the dates named, compared with the number of cars inspected for the corresponding weeks a year ago, as reported by Inspector Horn to the Board of Trade:—

Grade.	Feb. 20	Mar. 7	Mar. 14	Mar. 21	Mar. 28
Extra Manitoba hard.....	0	0	0	0	0
No. 1 hard.....	132	179	143	188	43
No. 2 hard.....	50	46	35	86	51
No. 3 hard.....	37	34	30	42	30
No. 1 North'n.....	12	10	28	27	12
No. 2 North'n.....	2	1	2	5	0
No. 3 North'n.....	0	1	0	2	1
No. 1 white type	2	2	2	5	2
No. 2 white type	0	0	0	0	0
No. 1 Spring.....	2	14	5	3	2
No. 2 Spring.....	6	1	0	2	2
No. 1 frosted.....	22	32	24	31	25
No. 2 frosted.....	12	14	15	13	5
No. 3 Frosted.....	3	4	1	8	2
No. 1 Rejected.....	31	17	16	23	12
No. 2 Rejected.....	44	54	38	40	31
No Grade.....	2	4	1	9	4
Feed.....	6	4	1	5	8
Total.....	363	350	354	403	203
Same week last year.....	52	61	85	100	131

Oats—For week ended Mar. 28—No. 1 white, 7; No. 2 white, 10; No. 3 white, 0; No. 2 black, 0; No. 2 mixed 10; feed, 14; rejected, 2; total, 41.

Barley—For week ended Mar. 28—No. 2, 0; No. 3, 9; feed, 2; total, 11.

*Wheat inspected at Emerson going out via the Northern Pacific to Duluth, is included in Winnipeg returns. A considerable portion of the wheat moving is inspected at Fort William, and does not show in these figures.

Comparative Prices in Staples.

Prices at New York compared with a year ago.

	Mar. 27 1896.	Mar. 29, 1895.
Flour, straight spring.....	\$3.10 to \$3.50	\$2.75 to \$3.35
Flour, straight winter.....	\$3.25 to \$3.75	\$2.40 to \$2.90
Wheat, No. 2 red.....	78c	61c
Corn, No. 2 mixed.....	37c	56c
Oats, No. 2.....	25c	34c
Rye, No. 2, Western.....	45c	64c
Barley, No. 2 Milwaukee	43c	61c
Cotton, mid. upld.....	7c	6 1/2-16c
Print cloths, 64x64.....	2c	2c
Wool, Ohio & Pa., X.....	18c	15c to 16c
Wool, No. 1 combg.....	22 to 23c	20 to 21c
Pork, mess new.....	\$9.50 to \$10.00	\$13.60 to \$14.00
Lard, westn., stm.....	5.40c	7.25c
Butter, creamery.....	22c	21c
Cheese, ch. east liv.....	10c	11c
Sugar, centrif., 96°.....	4 1/2-16c	3c
Sugar, granulated.....	5c	3 1/2-16c
Coffee, Rio, No. 7.....	14c	1.14c
Petroleum, N. T. Co.....	\$1.27	7.10c
Petroleum, rid. gal., ..	7.35c	\$10.15
*Iron, Besse. pg.....	\$12.25	\$15.00
*Steel billets, ton.....	\$17.10	\$15.00
Ocean Steam Freights—		
Grain, Liverpool.....	1 1/2d	2d
Cotton.....	11-12 1/2d	7-6 1/2 to 1d

* Pittsburgh.

The School Question.

The conference at Winnipeg between commissioners of the Dominion and Manitoba governments, on the Manitoba school question, came to an end on Thursday, and it is understood that nothing has been accomplished. The full text of the deliberations was made known on Friday. The Dominion commissioners submitted a proposal, the main points of which are as follows:

Roman Catholics to have separate schools in cities and towns where there are twenty-five Catholic children. Text books satisfactory to Catholics to be permitted in these schools. Catholics to have representation on the advisory board. Catholics to have assistance in the maintenance of a normal school for the education of teachers.

The Manitoba commissioners refused to entertain this offer, but they submitted a proposition embodying the following conditions:

The public school system to be entirely secularized, and no religious teaching to be permitted during regular school hours. On permission of the trustees, religious exercise could be held between 3.30 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon, to be conducted by any clergyman or other person satisfactory to the trustees, different days of the week to be allotted to different denominations.

This proposal was, of course, not satisfactory to the Catholics, or the

Dominion commissioners. The latter held to the legal right of the Catholics to have separate schools, while the Manitoba representatives refused to recognize the principle of separate schools though professing to be very anxious to remedy every possible grievance which the Catholics have to the present system. The Manitoba representatives also offered in an informal way to give the Catholics representation on the advisory board, and also expressed a willingness to endeavor to make the text books satisfactory to the minority, if they would accept the public school system.

The question stands just in this way: The Dominion commissioners, representing the Catholics, were not willing to accept any proposition which did not admit the principle of separate schools. On the other hand the Manitoba government showed its willingness to make important concessions with a view to inducing the Catholics to accept the public school system, but the principle of having one set of schools for Catholics and another for Protestants, they will not admit. The line of division is therefore clearly drawn in this matter and we now know just where each party stands.

Sodas.

There is a little excitement in the city confectionery trade over cutting in soda biscuits. The price to city retail dealers has been 20 cents for cartoons, and retailer's sold at 25 cents. One retailer evidently obtained a lot at a cut rate from one of the city manufacturers, as he began selling at 20 cents. It is understood that he got them at 18 cents. Then the Hudson's Bay Co., advertised sodas at 15c to consumers, or 5 cents below the manufacturers' price. They of course had an immense run of sodas for a few days, and as the cutting has quickly reached an unprofitable point, it will likely soon be stopped. Two cents is of course too small a margin on a cartoon of soda biscuits, and it is hoped that the heavy cut in prices will lead to a quick restoration of old quotations. The cutting in the wholesale price was certainly not in the interest of the retail trade of the city, as it tends to deprive the retailers of a reasonable margin on the goods. A cut to 15 cents so as to enable retailers to sell at 20 cents would have been all right, but a cut to 18 cents, with the retail price at 20 cents, was of course an annoyance to the trade.

Meat Inspection.

Dr. Hinman, V.S., has been appointed meat inspector for Winnipeg. He will inspect meat offered for sale, and will have power to confiscate any meat, poultry, fish, etc., exposed for sale, which is not considered fit for food. He will also have authority to inspect slaughter houses, and animals which are to be slaughtered for food purposes. One great difficulty in the way of a proper meat inspection here, is the manner in which slaughtering is done, the different slaughtermen having establishments of their own, scattered about the suburbs of the city. A city abattoir is much needed, under the control of civic authorities, where animals could be slaughtered under proper conditions as to cleanliness, health, etc. This will no doubt come in time, and the city is large enough now to have a proper slaughtering establishment. The inspection of dead meats has been badly needed, particularly in the winter season, as there has been no check on the sale of diseased or damaged meats, and consumers have often been imposed upon, in purchasing stuff on the city market.

A. Davidson will give up possession of the Commercial Hotel at Indian Head, Assa., on July 1. W. B. Boyd, the proprietor, takes his place.