

HIDES.

Prices in outside markets show no signs of recovery. At each succeeding decline it has been predicted that rock bottom had been reached, but the solid rock seems to be very low down and there is no certainty that it has been reached yet. From 2½ to 3c is the usual range of prices for country frozen hides here, and up to 3½c per pound sometimes for good lots. Sheepskins, worth 50 to 80c each.

PAINTS, OILS AND GLASS.

The firmness in glass continues. The Toronto *Empire* says: "Without doubt prices will be higher. No advance has been made this week, but the higher figures may be confidently looked forward to next week." Locally there is scarcely any movement, and quotations are: Turpentine in barrels, inscribed gages, 85c per gal; turpentine, in barrels, guaranteed measurement, or in 5 gallon cans, 90c gallon; linsced oil in barrels, raw 72c; boiled 75c; benzine and gasoline, 50c; pure oxide paints, in barrels, 90c per gallon; coal tar \$6 a barrel; Portland cement, \$4.75 a barrel; Michigan plaster, \$3.40 a barrel, putty, in bladders, 3½c a pound, bulk in barrels, 3c; whitening in barrels, \$1.50 a cwt; Crown pure white lead, \$7.50; Royal Charter, \$7.00; Railroad, \$6.50; Alabastine, \$7.50 per case of 20 packages. Window Glass, first break, \$2.20 to 2.25.

RAW FURS.

Further cable reports of the London fur sales have been received, which confirm the reductions in prices as reported last week in *THE COMMERCIAL*. At the Hudson's Bay Company's sale, held on January 27, beaver sold 10 per cent. lower than January a year ago, muskrat sold 5 per cent. lower than January a year ago. At C. M. Lampson & Co.'s sales, prices realized were as follows: Beaver, 5 per cent. lower than in June, 1889; Northwestern coast fur seals, salted, same as in October, 1889; Australian opossum, 15 per cent. lower; monkey, 50 per cent. lower; marten, 35 per cent. lower than in June, 1889; Lynx, 30 per cent. lower than in June; wolf, 50 per cent. lower than in March, 1889; grey fox, 15 per cent. lower than in June, 1889; black bear 5 per cent. lower than in October, 1889; brown bear, 40 per cent. lower than October, 1889; grizzly bear, 40 per cent. lower than in October, 1889; opossum, 20 per cent. lower than in June, 1889; raccoon, 12½ per cent. lower than in June, 1889; skunk, 15 per cent. lower than in June, 1889; white fox, 25 per cent. lower than in Jan. 1889; mink, 10 per cent. lower; musquash, 10 per cent. lower. These figures do not differ materially from those published in this paper last week. Phillips, Politzer & Co., cable the following report of the London sales. Hudson's Bay Company's sale: beaver, Nos. 1 and 2, declined 5 per cent.; beaver, No. 3, declined 10 per cent. musquash declined 10 per cent.; C. C. M. Lampson & Co.'s sale: Northwest coast seals unchanged; marten, declined 30 per cent.; lynx, firsts, declined 10 per cent.; lynx, other grades, declined 35 per cent.; black bear advanced 15 per cent. on October, 1889, prices; opossum, declined 10 per cent.; raccoon, declined 15 per cent.; white fox declined 30 per cent.; gray fox, declined 10 per cent.; skunk, old, declined 20 per cent. on June, 1889, prices; skunk fresh, declined 7½ per cent. on June, 1889, prices; mink, declined 10 per cent. from June prices; musquash, declined 10 per cent. from June prices.

In order to make a comparison with the above, we give the following prices which were obtained in London at the sales last June: Black bear, best brought from 90 to 150 shillings; best brown bear, 100 to 115 shillings per skin; gray fox cased best firsts, 4½ shillings; marten, Hudson Bay Company's sales, 1889, northwest, large, 22½s.; small, 14½s.; pale, 12½s.; raccoon, 5½ to 10s. Skunk sold in March last at 6½s. for firsts, in June they were 10 to 15 per cent. lower than March, and now they have experienced another drop of 15 per cent., making in all 30 per cent. lower than March. Marten brought the same price last June as at the previous March sales. Mink brought 8s. for firsts last March and were a little lower in June.

GRAIN AND PROVISION MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

WHEAT.

There seemed to be a little more firmness in wheat last week in leading markets for the cereal. At least some attempts seem to have been made to advance prices, and on some days slight gains were made, but the improvement did not appear to have much solidity about it. The visible supply, Chicago estimate, decreased 455,000 bushels according to the statement last Monday. The total visible supply now amounts to 31,495,665 bushels. A year ago it was 34,874,548 bushels, two years ago 41,087,586 bushels, and three years ago 61,769,520 bushels. The Northwestern *Miller* says: "Figures collected this morning show a heavy falling off in the stock of wheat in private elevators here as compared with last Monday. The total amount is 2,000,000 bushels, a decrease of 265,000 bushels. This leaves the stock of wheat at three leading points as follows: Minneapolis public houses, 7,745,483 bushels; Minneapolis private houses, 2,090,000 bushels, St. Paul 315,000; Duluth, in elevators and afloat, 4,515,198; total, 14,665,681 bushels.

Locally the easier tendency noted last week has continued to increase. Millers have become very much less greedy for wheat, and in fact some apparently have almost soured on the stuff. Prices have accordingly been receding, though they are still far above a shipping value, in comparison with Minneapolis and Duluth quotations. Prices to farmers for best samples, at country markets, were quoted as follows on Thursday last: McGregor, 67c; Regina, Carman, Morris, Gretna, 68c; Stonewall, Manitou, Clearwater, Killarney, Boissevain, 70c; Carberry, Brandon, Alexander, Moose Jaw, 71c; Moosomin, 72c; Virden, Indian Head, 73c; Wapella, 74c; Deloraine, 75c. These prices are still abnormally high and away above a parity with United States markets, when relative freight rates are considered. There was, however, scarcely anything doing, and the heavy snow storm and wind of Thursday and Friday last will make roads almost impassible for some time.

FLOUR.

The local market has been very dull for the past week. There has been no further change in prices, which hold at the decline noted a week ago. Advices from the east last week reported that a good deal of United States flour was coming in. Quotations are as follows per 100 pounds to the local trade: Patents, \$2.60; strong bakers, \$2.35 second; bakers, \$1.90; XXXX, \$1.30; superfine, \$1.15; Graham flour, 2½s.; middlings, \$2.60 per 100 pounds.

MILLSTUFFS AND FEED.

The demand is reported to have been light, and prices are unchanged at the recent declines. Some bran has been brought in from Minneapolis, but an advance in prices there and lower quotations here has stopped further imports for the present. Good ground feed such as ground corn and oats, is held at \$20 per ton; bran, at \$12 and shorts at \$19 per ton.

MEALS, POT BARLEY, ETC.

Quiet and unchanged. Prices are now quoted as follows: Standard, \$2.30; granulated, \$2.40 per 100 lbs.; rolled oats, \$2.50 per sack of 90 lbs. Rolled oats are also obtained in 80 lb sacks at \$2.40. Cornmeal is held at \$1.65 per 100 lbs.; pot barley, \$2.75, and pearl barley, \$3.25 per 100 lbs.

OATS

Prices still hold at the old quotations of about 45c per bushel for lots selling from store, and held at 47 to 50c for retail quantities. It is reported that the Northern Pacific railway will reduce the freight rates on oats imported for seed, after the first of February, to one half the present tariff rate. The present rate from St. Paul or Minneapolis is 21 cents per 100 pounds, which would make the reduced rate 10½c per 100 pounds or say 3 cents per bushel. If the government would second the efforts of the railway company to give the farmers of Manitoba cheaper seed oats, by removing the duty of ten cents per bushel, the combined saving to farmers for seed grain would be 13 cents per bushel.

BARLEY.

Scarce, and likely to be in demand for seed later on, as seed is short in some districts. A very little is held in the city, and selling in small quantities at 60c per bushel; 50c is being paid at country points in Manitoba for any that can be got hold of.

BUTTER.

There is nothing further to note in the butter situation, nor is there any prospect of a change, at least in the direction of an improvement. Recent advices would lead to the belief that country merchants are holding even larger quantities of butter than was generally supposed. Every person it is said has more or less butter to dispose of, and a good many country dealers are known to hold large quantities. The bulk of this has been bought at prices considerably in excess of its real value, and holders are loathe to sell at a loss. On the other hand, city dealers do not care to take further quantities of the commodity, as there is no use in filling their storage accommodation up with an article which is so slow sale. There is some talk of making up a few car lots for eastern shipment, in order to relieve the market, but one seems to be waiting for another to make a move. A difficulty in the way of shipping out any large quantities is the fact that the views of holders are still in excess of prices which could be paid for shipping. Local prices for such small quantities as are selling usually range about 15 to 17c for fair to good dairy, and down to 10 to 14c per pound for poor to medium.

CHEESE.

Dull at 14c per pound; supply limited.

EGGS.

Fresh held at 23c and limed at 20c per dozen and sometimes quoted lower.

LARD.

Lard is unchanged and is still held in 20 lb. pails at \$2 per pail. Three pound tins 40c each.

CURED MEATS.

Trade quiet. Prices are as follows: Long clear dry salt bacon, 8½ to 9c; spiced rolls, 10 to 10½c; breakfast bacon, 11½ to 12c, the higher price for boned; smoked hams, 12½c per pound; bologna sausage, 7c per pound; fresh pork sausage, 8c per pound; pickled pigs feet, \$1.50 per kit of about 20 pounds; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 9c per packet.

DRESSED MEATS.

About the only thing moving is dressed hogs, and they are not now coming in very fast. Good packing lots bring 5½, and medium 5.