

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

The fourth of February is over, and the trade breathes more freely. A canvass of the city shows that payments were met fully as well and in some cases even better than was expected. The closeness of the last few weeks has been in part due to the gathering up of all available resources against the date just past, and there should now be an easier feeling. There have of course been quite a number of part renewals, but altogether there is less reason to grumble about the showing than some have imagined. At the banks money is plentiful for all legitimate trade requirements, at steady rates, and with a steady export movement of products of the country, and a proportionate influx of cash, the outlook is by no means unfavorable. This is the present situation, and with the export movement bound to keep up at about the present rate for the next three months, there is every reason to take a cheerful view of the future, and look for a gradual easing of the financial situation.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

Our market reports are again largely curtailed this week, for one reason that there is nothing new to report in most staple lines. The lumber trade has not commenced to move yet. Hardware, paints, oils and glass, etc., have not begun to awaken from the winter nap. Leather and findings trade gives no indication of a movement. Drugs and groceries are steady and unchanged. The green fruit trade is very slow, and there is little in the market except apples and oranges, the former held at \$7 to \$8. per barrel for good stock. This is mostly southern fruit, there being few if any eastern apples obtainable. Fuel is plentiful and cheap, offerings being large, and the cold spells do not hold out long enough to make a sharp demand. In the dry goods branch a number of travellers returned last week from western trips. The general report is that they had a splendid trade in British Columbia, but in Manitoba, and in the territories especially, orders received have been decidedly light, and below expectations. A full report of the result of the London fur sales is given below.

RAW FURS.

Full cable reports have been received of the January fur sales held in London, England. The Hudson's Bay Company offered beaver and musquash only. Beaver sold 10 per cent. higher, and musquash 5 per cent. higher than January a year ago. At C. M. Lampson & Co's sales a full line of furs were offered, prices going as follows: Beaver 15 per cent. higher than June, 1890. Marten 20 per cent. higher than in October, 1890. Wolverine same as in June, 1890. Lynx same as in October, 1890. White fox 10 per cent. lower than in October, 1890. Skunk 25 per cent. higher than in October, 1890. Wolf 5 per cent. higher than in October, 1890. Japanese fox 20 per cent. higher than in October, 1890. Australian opossum 10 per cent. higher than October, 1890. Black and brown bear same as in October, 1890. Gray fox same as in October, 1890. Grizzly bear 10 per cent. lower than in October, 1890. Muskrat, old spring skins, 25 per cent. higher than in October, 1890. Muskrat, fresh spring and early winter, 10 per cent. higher than in October, 1890. Black muskrat 20 per cent. higher than in October, 1890. Mink 40 per cent. than in October, 1890. Skunk 25 per

cent. higher than in October, 1890. Raccoon 7½ per cent. higher than in October, 1890. Opossum 50 per cent. higher than in October, 1890. Hair seals, dry, 10 per cent. higher than in October, 1890. Salted fur seals—Alaskas, quality considered, same as in October, 1890. N. W. Coast 7½ per cent. lower than in October, 1890. Lobos Island seals 5 per cent. lower than in October, 1890. Cape Horn seals same as in July, 1890.

WHOLESALE PRODUCE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

WHEAT

Saturday appears to be a "boom" day in wheat. On Saturday, January 24, there was a sharp advance in prices as shown by THE COMMERCIAL report for that week. Again last week our reports showed a sharp advance of 2 to 3 cents in leading United States markets on Saturday, January 31. To-day, (Saturday, February 7.) the markets have not closed at the time of writing, but our reports on another page will show how they stand.

On Monday, February 2, the bulge of the previous Saturday was held, and a further gain made in prices. At Chicago May wheat stood ½c over the \$ mark, at the close of the market. Cables were firm on that day, and a decrease of 560,000 bushels was reported in Liverpool stocks. The visible supply statement showed a decrease of 440,021 bushels, which was nearly one-half smaller than was expected, and caused some weakness for a time. On Tuesday there was an easier tendency in prices, which were ½c lower. Snow was reported to have fallen generally all over the winter wheat belt, and thus the plant was protected from the cold dip, which it was expected would seriously damage winter wheat. This was the principal weakening feature of the day. The amount of wheat in passage, as reported by Beerbohn on Tuesday, showed an increase of 650,000 bushels, thus making another bear feature. On Wednesday prices were again slightly easier at Chicago, though cash wheat held up well. The report of snow throughout the winter wheat country was somewhat discounted by the official statement that the snow had not been general, and the inference would therefore be that winter wheat had suffered some from the very low temperature. There were various contradictory stories as to the extent of damage done. Wheat in California was also reported to be suffering from drought. *Braintree's* report on Wednesday showed a decrease of 1,158,000 bushels in available stocks of wheat in the United States and Canada east of the Rocky Mountains, and a decrease of 977,000 bushels on the Pacific coast. Another bull feature was the Russian official crop report, making the yield last year 195,000,000 bu of 55 pounds each, which is a very small crop. These bull features caused some strength early in the day, but wires of rain in California turned prices downward, closing lower. On Thursday there was general weakness in United States markets, under a big push from the bears, who evidently thought the top had been reached, and were selling heavily in most speculative markets. Liverpool cables were ½c lower for spot wheat, and ¾ lower on futures. The decline was continued on Friday, on reports of less damage than expected to winter wheat, and favorable

weather. Minneapolis and Duluth received 377 cars of wheat on Monday, against 225 cars a year ago. On Tuesday receipts at these two points were smaller, being 174 cars, against 173 cars a year ago. On Wednesday these two points received 103 cars, against 221 cars a year ago, and on Thursday they received 283 cars, against 175 a year ago. The smaller receipts at Minneapolis and Duluth is attributed to the very cold weather which prevailed up to the middle of the week, and therefore does not indicate a final falling off for the season in deliveries at those points. It is evident from the large movement, that the crop of these states has been considerably under-estimated.

In Manitoba the situation was influenced by the cold weather which set in on January 31 and continued up to Feb. 4. This decreased deliveries at country markets, but during the last three days of the week deliveries were considerably increased. Prices showed a considerable tendency to advance, and there were several bulges at some country points. This is a strong bull market, and the tendency is to follow any advances in outside markets. Prices in Manitoba country markets were higher, and the average prices in country markets to farmers would be about 65c for best samples offering. Some points were higher while a few were somewhat below this figure. This firmer tendency, however, was confined mostly to the better class of wheat marketing, such as could be classed as milling wheat fit for storage. Damaged and feed wheat must become slower sale as the season advances. A number of large shippers now refuse to touch this class of grain, and the prospect is that after a couple of weeks very few of the buyers will care to handle wheat which could not be safe for storage. It would take a considerable time to get this grain out of the country, and after the first of March it will be so risky to handle that buyers will not care to touch it. Stocks in store at Fort William increase slowly, the last statement showing a total in store of 474,984, being an increase for the week of 29,338 bushels. Cars were obtainable more readily in some instances last week. Rumors of a threatened strike on the eastern division of the Canadian Pacific caused intense alarm among grain men on Friday last, but telegrams on Saturday morning gave the assurance that an amicable arrangement had been made between the company and the men. A strike at the present time would paralyze the country and cause a daily loss of thousands of dollars to the trade here. It would have come at a most critical time in the movement of the crop.

FLOUR.

A firmer tendency is noted, but it had not developed into an advance up to the time of closing our report. Quotations in jobbing lots to the local trade, per 100 pounds are as follows: Patents, \$2.50; strong bakers', \$2.30; 2nd bakers', \$2.00; XXXX, \$1.35; superfine, \$1.17; middlings, \$2.50; graham flour, \$2.30; cracked wheat, \$2.30; buckwheat flour, \$3.75.

MILLSTUFFS.

In the Winnipeg market the price is firm and unchanged, at \$12 for bran and \$14 for shorts per ton.

MEALS, OIL CAKE, ETC.

Oatmeal is firm. Prices are:—Oil cake in bags, \$21 a ton; oil cake meal in ton lots, \$26.50; in car lots f. o. b. \$25; Oatmeal, standard, \$2.60; granulated, \$2.70 per 100 pounds; rolled oats, \$2.70 per sack of 80 pounds; Cornmeal is held at \$1.85 per 100 lbs. Pot barley, \$2.65 per 100 lbs. Pearl barley, \$3.00.