

and tomatoes are now out of the market, and the varieties to be had are being narrowed down to the regular winter sorts. Other prices are as follows: Carrots \$1; parsnips \$1 to \$1.25 per bushel, beets, 75c per bushel, turnips 60c per bushel, onions \$1.50 per bushel, cabbage 50c to \$1.25 per dozen as to quality, celery 25 to 40c per dozen, Hubbard squash, \$1.50 per dozen, pumpkins, \$1.50 to \$1.75 per dozen, citron, \$1.50 per dozen; sweet potatoes, 5c lb., or \$6.50 per barrel.

FUEL.

Tamarac wood is offered on track here in car lots at \$4.75 to \$5 per cord, or at 50c per cord advance on these prices delivered in the city. Coal unchanged at last quotations.

The Price of Wheat.

Farmers throughout Manitoba appear to be greatly dissatisfied with the prices offered for wheat by local grain buyers. In most cases there is a disposition to blame the local grain men, as the farmers cannot understand why prices should be so much lower this year than last. In some instances the views entertained by the farmers is adopted by the publishers of local papers. The Morden Monitor, for instance, breathes forth threatenings and slaughter against the grain dealers because they are not paying higher prices for wheat at that place. The Monitor intimates that the grain men have formed a ring, and advises the local merchants to chip in and build an elevator, to break up the ring. It is not at all likely the merchants will attempt anything of the kind, and they would certainly find it an unprofitable undertaking if they should follow the advice of the Monitor. The grain dealers of Manitoba

cannot be expected to pay more than the wheat is worth for shipment, neither can they increase the value of wheat in outside markets.

Now, just let us look at this question of the price of wheat in a reasonable spirit for a few minutes. Prices paid to farmers for wheat at Morden and Gretna last week were from 62 to 63c per bushel. These prices were not paid on a basis of No. 1 hard, but by sample for such as was offering. Out of sixty cars purchased at Gretna since the season opened, by one dealer, fifty two cars graded No. 2 hard, and eight cars No. 2 northern. This was bought at 62c per bushel, and not a single car graded No. 1 hard. Sixty-two cents per bushel for this wheat was equal to fully 65c for No. 1 hard. At Morden out of fifty-one cars purchased, twenty eight graded No. 2 hard, five cars No. 2 northern and two rejected, the balance of sixteen cars grading No. 1 hard. This wheat bought at 62 to 63c would be equal to 65c per bushel for No. 1 hard. Now, then, No. 1 hard wheat is worth afloat at Port Arthur from 80 to 81c per bushel. This is about the best price that can be quoted at Port Arthur. No. 1 hard as we have seen costs equal to 65c at Morden, the freight from Morden or Gretna to Port Arthur costs 12.60c per bushel, elevator charges at Port Arthur, 1.25c per bushel. Add these charges to the price of the wheat and we find that the wheat costs 78.85c per bushel afloat at Port Arthur. This is not allowing anything for the cost of buying and handling the wheat at the point of purchase, which amounts to from 2 to 3c per bushel. A fraction over 2c per bushel for the

cost of purchasing, added to the cost of 78.85c per bushel at Port Arthur, will make No. 1 hard wheat cost fully 81c afloat at Port Arthur. At the prices current at Morden last week it will be seen that the wheat actually costs the buyers 81c per bushel at Port Arthur, at the very lowest computation, leaving no margin whatever for profit to the dealer. If we compare with Duluth prices the same result will be attained, No. 1 hard being worth about 80c at Duluth. Higher prices were paid at some other points in Manitoba last week than at Morden and Gretna, but the quality of the wheat was better, prices being on a basis of No. 1 hard, whereas at the two points named prices were on a basis of No. 2 hard. It may be asked; why are Manitoba grain dealers paying actually more than the wheat is worth? The reason is that deliveries have been light, and that a few dealers, some of whom are working on bank capital, are buying on the speculative basis that prices may advance to such an extent as to leave them a margin later on. This, however, is speculation, and not legitimate business. Present prices paid farmers in Manitoba are actually beyond present cash values, as can be readily seen by anybody who can put two and two together. The losses made by grain dealers last year does not seem to have destroyed the speculative spirit entirely, as is evidenced by the prices now being paid.

WALTER BLANCHARD and Frank Newell have completed arrangements to open in the hardware and tinware business at Carman, Man.

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