

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

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

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, March 4,

Business continues rather quiet, the season not being far enough advanced yet to cause business to open up. A good many failures have been occurring through the country of late, this being the usual time of year when failures are most frequent, the tendency being to weed out the weak concerns before sending out spring stocks. A number of compromises are also noted. The weather has held favorable here, though severe storms east and north were reported during the week, which delayed railway traffic. Here railway traffic is not heavy at present, the grain movement continuing quiet. The spring movement of immigration has begun, and a few parties are now arriving from the older provinces, the United States and from across the Atlantic. The first special settlers' excursion from eastern Canada reached here on Friday.

DRIED FRUITS—We quote: Dried apples 6 to 6½c; evaporated, 8½ to 9c; figs, layers, 10 to 18c; dates, 6½ to 9c. Valencia raisins, \$1.70 to \$1.80; London layers, \$2.70 to \$2.80 box; Sultanias 9½ to 10c lb. Currants, 6½ to 7c; prunes, 7½ to 9c. Evaporated fruits are quoted: Apricots, 19 to 20c; peeled peaches, 17½ to 18c; unpeeled peaches, 12 to 12½c; pitted plums, 11 to 11½c; cherries, 13 to 13½c; pears, 12½ to 13c.

Drugs—Opium is firm and has advanced. Blue vitrol is now coming into active demand for agricultural purposes, as it is used largely for deesting seed grain as a preventative for smut. It is sold at 5c in barrels, and 6 to 8c in smaller packages. Bromide and chloride of potash are higher and advancing.

FISH—The market is kept fairly well supplied with fresh fish. Oysters have been sold lower. Haddies have advanced. There is complaint of damaged fish being offered on the street market, and as the fish are in a frozen state, they are not detected at once. This refers to native fresh fish. Parties go out to Lake Winnipeg or Lake Manitoba and buy loads of fish and bring them to the city and sell them on the market. The fish are caught in gill nets through the ice, and as they are sometimes left in the nets for a long time they are in a partially decomposed state when taken out of the water. They soon become frozen hard when taken out of the water, and it is hard to detect the damage. In this condition they are thrown in with good fish and sold to the traders who visit the lakes to buy fish. There evidently should be an inspection of fish offered on the market to prevent the sale of these damaged fish. Prices for fresh fish are: Jackfish, 3c pickorel, 4c; whitefish 5½ to 6½c; trout, 9c; Cod 8c; halibut, 14c; B.C. salmon, 16c; tommy cods, 8c; herring, 50c dozen; smelts, 12½c. Cured fish are quoted: smoked herrings, 20 to 25c box; smoked haddies, 9c; Yarmouth bloaters \$1.50 per box; Labrador herrings, \$4.50 to \$4.75 per half barrel; boneless codfish 7½ to 8c pound; boneless fish, 6c lb; salmon, 10c lb; oysters \$1.90 per gallon for standards and \$2.00 for selects; can oysters 50c each for standards and 55c selects.

Green Fruits—Apples are getting reduced in stock for good qualities. Now that the weather is getting milder, and it is safer to ship, supplies will be brought in from the east. California Oranges are expected in a day or two and will be quoted about \$4.00 to 4.50 per box for seedlings. The California crop is said to be large and of good quality and prices are expected to be reasonable. Malaga grapes, are out of stock just now. Apples, \$4.50 per barrel, for fancy and other varieties \$3.25 to \$4 as to quality. Florida oranges of good quality,

held at \$5.00 to 5.50; Lemons, now Messina, good, at \$3.50 to 6.00. Cranberries, \$10.50 barrel; do boxes, about one third of a barrel, \$4, Apple cider, 35c per gal.

GROCERIES—Sugars are steady and unchanged. Canned goods are held firm east, owing to some export call from the States, particularly for corn and peas. Sugars are quoted in the Winnipeg market: Yellow at 4½ to 4¾c; granulated at 5½ to 5¾c, the inside price is for barrels, and ½c higher for bags. Lumps, 6c; icing, 6½ to 7c sugar syrups, 2½ to 3¾c; maple sugar, 9 to 12c a lb.

Lumber—Considerable interest attaches to the lumber trade just now, by the proposal to consolidate all the mills under one management. The lumber supply of Manitoba comes from the Lake of the Woods mills, situated at Rat Portage, Keewatin, and Norman, all points on the lake named. There are a few other mills at other points throughout the province, cutting mostly lumber, but their total output does not amount to much in the aggregate. The Lake of the Woods mills number seven in all. Notwithstanding that prices have been well maintained the past two years, since the closer formation of the lumbermen's association, it is claimed that the mill's have not paid fair returns. The movement to consolidate all the mills under one management is therefore a result of unsatisfactory profits, to some extent at least. Some details of the plan are yet to be worked out, but we may say the deal is practically accomplished. The liabilities of the various mills will be assumed by the new company, and the proprietors will be apportioned stock therein in proportion to their surplus. This surplus will be small in some cases. In fact it is said that pressure from the banks has had a good deal to do with the movement to consolidate, and thereby reduce expenses. The total annual cut of the seven mills is only 50,000,000 to 60,000,000 feet, the market here being yet limited to our sparse population. This is a small cut to be divided among so many, and by the consolidation a great reduction will be made in expenses. It is claimed that the saving in expenses alone will return a considerable interest on the stock, and thus without any advance in prices the stockholders will secure much larger dividends than if they were all working independently. The consolidation will not likely result in any advance in prices, as prices have been well maintained by the lumbermen's association, but credit business will be reduced, and a further saving will be made in this direction, in cutting off unsafe accounts. The old association, though able to maintain prices, has not been able to place credit business upon a satisfactory basis. With practically only one concern supplying pine timber, there will be less trouble in regulating credit business to within reasonable bounds.

NUTS—Prices range as follows: Almonds per pound, 16 to 18c; walnuts, per pound, 12 to 17c; pecans, 15c to 16c; filberts, 11 to 14c; Brazils 10 to 13c; peanuts, 14 to 15c; chestnuts, 14 to 15c; cocoanuts, \$9 to \$10 per 100.

GENERAL WHEAT SITUATION—Wheat was slightly lower in United States markets on Monday, and cables were irregular and mostly lower. The visible supply showed a decrease of 751,000 bushels, making the total 79,463,000 bushels, as compared with 80,214,000 bushels a year ago. The same week a year ago the visible supply decreased 362,000 bushels. On Tuesday wheat was steady, and higher in some United States markets, Chicago leading in firmness the latter market being governed mainly by local speculative influences. Cables were about all lower, Liverpool declining 1 to 1½d for spot wheat. Wheat and flour on ocean passage increased equal to 480,000 bushels. Chicago reacted on Wednesday and closed lower, and other United States markets were mostly weaker. Cables were weak. There were a considerable number of crop damage reports going about. On Thursday there was a bull movement at Chicago which influenced other markets and caused a general advance. The defeat of the anti-option bill

before Congress was credited with the increased activity in speculative trading, and this no doubt had something to do with it, as all speculative commodities were strong as well as wheat. Chicago advanced about 2c for May. On Friday the Chicago market was the centre of interest. Wheat there was strong, early in the session, but the market flattened quickly, and fell rapidly in price, on realizing sales. Other markets are easier, and did not follow the Chicago advance promptly. Cables were improved.

Total receipts of wheat at the four principal United States winter wheat points, Toledo, St. Louis, Detroit and Kansas City, from July 1 to date are 66,792,062 bus., against 56,456,873 bus. in 1891. The total receipts at the four principal spring wheat points since August 1, the beginning of the crop year, foot up: Minneapolis, 45,056,217 bus.; Duluth, 39,617,861 bus.; Chicago, 45,771,142 bus.; Milwaukee, 10,286,094 bus.; making a total of 132,731,314 bus., against 125,223,284 bus. during the same time last year, and 63,265,791 bus. in 1891.

Exports of wheat and flour from both coasts of the United States for the week ending Feb. 1 equal 3,059,311 bushels (about the weekly average since Jan. 1) as compared with 2,596,000 bushels last week, and 2,908,000 bushels in the same week a year ago. Stocks of available wheat in the United States, Canada, Europe and afloat for Europe (according to *Kraus's*) equalled 178,191,069 bushels on March 1st, against 173,088,000 bushels on February 1st. Like stocks decreased ten million bushels in February 1892. Stocks of available wheat in the United States and Canada are forty-three million bushels larger than a year ago and decreased only 3,019,000 in February against a February decrease in 1892 of 4,767,000 bushels. For two months the decrease is only 3,343,000 bushels, or one-third of the shrinkage in two months of 1892. Consumption and seed to June 30th will call for 120,000,000 bushels, to meet which we have 110,000,000 right and nearly as much more, probably 100,000,000 bushels still in the farmers' hands. At the present rate of export we should therefore carry over 50,000,000 bushels on July 1st next. Possibly liquidation by the Chicago bull clique is the heaviest drag on wheat prices at the moment.

LOCAL WHEAT—The local wheat movement continues light, though farmers' deliveries at some points were larger this week. Country roads, however, are not in very good shape, and a brisk movement is not looked for until after seeding, when there will perhaps be a spurt to market surplus held over. Winnipeg inspection shows considerably under one-half what it was a year ago. Prices show a sagging tendency once more, and range from 48 to 54c to farmers, in Manitoba country markets, for best samples of hard wheat. Stocks in store at Fort William Feb. 25 were 3,084,373 bushels, being an increase of 33,383 for the week.

FLOUR—Prices are about the same in eastern markets and no change locally. Unless wheat improves again, there may be a weakening in flour east, as late advices reported more pressure to sell. Prices here are quoted as follows to the local trade in small lots per 100 pounds: Patents, \$1.95; strong bakers' \$1.75; XXXX 75 to 95c; superfine 60 to 70c. Some brands nominally quoted 5c higher. Brands of some mills sell at 5 to 10c under these prices, even in small lots. Round lots at a discount under quotations.

MILLSTUFFS—Prices are strong in eastern markets, and as usual at this season of the year the demand is improving. Here prices are unchanged. We quote bran selling to local dealers at \$8 to 9 per ton, as to quantity, and shorts \$10 to 11 per ton.

OATS—Prices were easier east at last reports. Local prices are well maintained. The Winnipeg street price ranges from 24 to 26c per 34 pounds, some dealers refusing to pay over 24c for feed qualities. Car lots on track country points held at 18 to 20c.

BARLEY—Little better demand reported for feed, which is quoted at 19½ to 20½c on track at country points.