

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 reductions for large quantities, and to cash discounts.]

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, October 1.

There is not much change to note in the general current of trade. Farmers are through with the rush of their harvest work, and are coming into town more frequently, bringing their products in for disposal. The grain movement has assumed considerable proportion, but a large portion of the wheat brought in at country points is being stored by farmers, in the hope of an advance in prices. Considerable of the grain going into country elevators is therefore being held on account of farmers. Mercantile collections have not improved, and are close, but banks and loan companies appear to have plenty of funds at the usual interest rates of 7 to 8 per cent as to security. The very low price of wheat is the most discouraging feature. At present values there is not much in it for farmers.

The Labor Market.

There is no lack of work. Men are scarce for all kinds of work, and there is no need for any one being idle who wants work. From \$30 to \$35 per month is being paid threshing hands, which includes board, and a large number of men are engaged in this work. In the city there are no idle men, unless they are idle from choice. Work on sewers, buildings, street railway extensions, etc., give abundance of labor to those who have not gone to the country to assist in the fall work on farms. This week it has been a hard job to get a man for any kind of work in the line of manual labor.

FISH.—Warm weather was somewhat unfavorable to the fresh fish and oyster trade, but the prospect is better now with the cool weather that set in toward the end of the week. Fresh fish are quoted: Salmon, 14c; halibut, 15c; black cod, 15c; lake trout, 9c; whitefish, 5½ to 6c. Oysters, \$2.00 to \$2.50 per gallon. Cured fish quoted: salt Labrador herring, \$4.75 to \$5 per half barrel; boneless codfish, 8 to 8½c per lb; smoked herring, 22 to 25c per box.

FUEL.—Wood continues scarce and at high prices, nor is there likely to be any change for some time at least, until sleighing season sets in and new supplies can be brought from the woods. Mixed wood, called tamarac, but composed of jack pine, spruce and tamarac, is selling retail at \$6.50 per cord delivered in the city, and even \$7 is asked for alleged tamarac. Straight tamarac can hardly be had at all, and at any rate not to sell under \$7 retail, if indeed at that price. Some oak is selling at \$6.50 retail.

GREEN FRUITS.—The season for Ontario plums is thought to be about over, and it is not certain that any more of this fruit will be received. Receipts of plums have arrived in a damaged and unsatisfactory shape all the season, and shippers will have to adopt an improved plan of packing, if they expect fruit to arrive here sound. Grapes have arrived more or less spotted and damaged, and as a rule not fit to re-ship. Ontario grapes are arriving freely, and in very good order. Some of the poorer sort have sold as low as 35c per basket, and up to 75c for fancy stock. Ontario pears lower. Tomatoes, which are also Ontario stock, are getting scarce. The warm weather has been against apples, which have not been of extra keeping quality, but will now improve right along. Lemons are easier, and high prices which have ruled of late will likely be gradually reduced. Oranges are still an unknown quantity here. California pears are very scarce. Basket apples are about done. Prices are: Messina lemons, \$9 to \$10.00; bananas, \$2.75 to \$3.25 per bunch;

tomatoes, 80 to 90c per 20 lb basket; green tomatoes, 25c per basket. California peaches, \$1.75 to \$2 per box; California pears, \$3.00 to \$4.00 per 40 lb box; California grapes, \$2 to \$3.75 per 20 lb crate as to quality and variety; Ontario apples, early varieties, \$3.25 to \$3.50 per barrel, as to quality. Ontario basket apples, 35 to 40c per basket, Ontario pears, \$1 to \$1.25 per basket, Ontario grapes, 35 to 75c per 10 lb basket.

GROCERIES.—New canned goods are now mostly in stock. Tomatoes and corn are lower, but peas are slightly higher than old stock was quoted. Canned salmon have been advanced in this market. Sugars and syrups are unchanged. Granulated 5½ to 5¾c, yellows 4½ to 4¾c, powdered 7½ to 8c, lumps 6 to 6½c.

DRIED FRUITS.—Prices are high in new dried fruits. A few new Valencia raisins have been received in advance of general stock. Except in apricots, the following prices are for last year's stock. Dried apples 5½ to 6c; evaporated, 8 to 9c; figs, layers, 10 to 14c; figs, cooking, 3 to 5c; dates, 6 to 8½c. Valencia raisins, \$1.25 to \$1.60 per box; new Valencia, \$2.40; Sultanas, 10 to 11c per pound. Currants, 6 to 6½c; prunes, 6 to 9c. Evaporated fruits are quoted: apricots, new, 19 to 20c; peeled peaches, 17½ to 18c; unpeeled peaches, 12 to 12½c; pitted plums, 11 to 11½; cherries, 13 to 13½c; pears, 12½ to 13c; nectarines, 11½ to 12c.

NUTS.—Fancy stock is quoted: Almonds per pound, 16 to 17c; walnuts, per pound, 15 to 16c; pecans, 17c to 18c; filberts, 13 to 14c; Brazils, 10 to 13c; peanuts, 14 to 15c; Cocoanuts, \$9 to \$10 per 100.

PAINTS AND OILS.—Prices are steady. Linseed oil is unchanged at recent declines. There is a large supply of home manufactured oil on hand. The local mills are not now crushing, but will start soon on new crop.

GENERAL WHEAT SITUATION.—Wheat exhibited temporary strength this week, but declined and reached even a lower level than during the previous week. On Monday United States markets were stronger and closed fractionally higher than Saturday previous. Cables were also firmer. Indian shipments were smaller. The visible supply in the United States and Canada east of the mountains increased 3,590,000 bushels for the week, making the total 44,957,000 bushels, as compared with 26,862,000 bushels a year ago. The same week last year the visible supply increased 2,318,000 bushels. Duluth increased 300,000 bushels and Chicago 30,000 bushels. Minneapolis decreased 101,000 bushels. On Tuesday there was little change in United States markets. Cables were stronger. Liverpool was ¼ to 1d per cental higher. Continental markets also higher. The English visible supply increased 950,000 bushels. Duluth receipts were 768 cars, and Minneapolis 265 cars for the day. On Wednesday wheat was easier in the United States markets. Cables were lower. Duluth received 213 cars and Minneapolis 346 cars, Chicago 587 cars. There was little buying support to the markets. On Thursday wheat declined in United States markets under favorable crop and weather advices and lower cables. The decline was continued on Friday, when bottom prices for the season were again reached.

While there seemed to be some undercurrent of strength in the markets, there is a lack of buying support to give prices a permanent boost. The general feeling is, that wheat is cheap property and ought to advance, but large stocks and heavy receipts at primary markets curbs the bull sentiment for the present. Any stacking up of receipts, and decrease in stocks, would soon allow of stronger values.

Total receipts at the four principal United States spring wheat points since August 1, the beginning of the crop year foot up: Minneapolis 8,473,155 bushels, Duluth 5,757,125 bushels, Chicago 16,371,183 bushels, Milwaukee 3,594,772 bushels, making a total of 34,496,340 bushels, against 33,240,943 bushels during the time last year and 12,174,912 bushels in 1890.

The total receipts of wheat at the four principal winter wheat points, Toledo, St. Louis, Detroit and Kansas City from July 1 to date are 37,358,370 bushels, against 32,064,728 bushels in 1891 and 13,781,810 bushels in 1890. It is said that 60 per cent of the wheat in Minnesota and Dakota county elevators is stored by farmers.

LOCAL WHEAT.—A brisk movement has now set in, in deliveries by farmers at Manitoba country markets. A number of points were receiving from 2000 bushels per day upward to 6,000 and 7,000 bushels at some markets. Farmers deliveries are not general yet at all points, but total aggregate receipts were estimated at 50,000 to 70,000 bushels per day. The car lot movement has not reached this proportion yet, and amounted to about 50 cars per day. Considerable wheat placed in country elevators has gone in on store on account of farmers, and there will no doubt be a wide disposition to hold for higher prices. Prices have varied rather more widely than last week, and there has been a tendency to advance prices at some country points, above top range of last week for best samples. About 55c is as a rule the highest price paid for best samples of hard wheat, supposed to be above No. 2 in quality, but 1 to 2c higher was paid at a few points. 52 to 54c is the usual range of prices for No. 2 hard, those quotations being to farmers, in country market.

FLOUR.—Millers are working to a considerable extent on new wheat. The weather has been favorable to a hard, dry sample, so that new grain is fit for milling at once, while in general quality it is a vast improvement on the old stock. Quotations are unchanged. Prices are quoted as follows to the local trade in small lots per 100 pounds: Patents, \$2.26; strong baker's, \$2.00; XXXX, 90c to \$1.15; superfine, 70c to 90c. Less than 100 pounds sacks 5c extra per hundred. These are the usual prices to small buyers. Considerably closer quotations are obtained by large buyers.

MILLSTUFFS.—Prices are steady. There is a good demand for shorts at \$10 per ton. Bran is selling at \$3 per ton to dealers, in broken lots to the local trade.

OATS.—The price of oats is somewhat irregular, and there is considerable uncertainty as to future values. Further evidence is coming in that the crop is averaging very light weight in pounds per bushel, and this has a tendency to stiffen values for good oats. On the Winnipeg street market loads sold at 20 to 23c per bushel as to quality, under 22c being light and inferior stuff. Car lot values at country points seemed to be from 16c upward.

BARLEY.—No business in this grain learned of, beyond a few wagon loads sold locally at 20c, for dark, feed quality. The crop is low in point of color, so far as can be learned.

GROUND FEED.—Unchanged at \$13 to \$15 c as to quality and quantity.

MEALS, ETC.—Oatmeal holds at about the same range of values. Quotations have been marked down slightly on some brands. \$2 is now about the top range for rolled or granulated, being a reduction of 5c per sack. Rolled and granulated oatmeal held at about \$1.90 to \$2 per sack, according to brand and standard meal 5c lower, these being prices to retail traders. Cornmeal \$1.65 to \$1.70 per 100 lbs. Split peas \$2.60 to \$2.65 per 100 lbs. Beans \$1.75 to \$1.80 per bushel. Pot barley, \$2.60 to \$2.65 per 100 lbs. Pearl barley, \$4.15 to \$4.20.

BUTTER.—Butter continues to maintain a firm tendency and somewhat better prices have been paid. We quote good to choice dairy at 17 to 18c per lb, jobbing to retail dealers, but where a dealer is allowed to pick over a lot for a few tubs of his own choice, he is usually obliged to pay 1 to 2c higher. In round lots the ideas of buyers are up about 1c, and 15c would be paid for good round lots, or for the pick of a lot with second quality left out.

CHEESE.—Firm. Dealers say they have been able to buy some small quantities at 9c, but factories as a rule will not sell at this price.