

## Chicago Board of Trade Prices.

The prices below are board of trade quotations for Chicago No. 2 wheat, No. 2 oats and No. 2 corn, per bushel. Pork is quoted per barrel and lard and short ribs per 100 pounds.

Wheat was easy on Monday, influenced by large receipts at spring wheat points and easy cables, but export clearances were large. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.	July.
Wheat....	56½	59	59½
Corn.....	25½	28½	29½
Oats.....	17½	19½	19½
Mess Pork..	9 25	9 55	—
Lard.....	5 32½	5 62½	—
Short Ribs..	4 50	4 75	—

On Tuesday prices opened easy for wheat on weak cables, but advanced on speculative demand. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.	July.
Wheat....	56½	59½	59½
Corn.....	26	28½	29½
Oats.....	17½	19½	20
Mess Pork..	9 40	9 70	—
Lard.....	5 40	5 70	—
Short Ribs..	4 62½	4 87½	—

Prices for wheat were firm, and closed strong and higher, influenced by the strength in corn and speculative buying. Closing prices on Wednesday were:

	Jan.	May.	July.
Wheat....	57½	60	60½
Corn.....	26½	29½	29½
Oats.....	17½	19½	20½
Pork.....	9 75	10 00	—
Lard.....	5 50	5 80	—
Short Ribs..	4 75	5 00	—

On Thursday wheat was firm in the forenoon, influenced by firm cables, but prices broke in the afternoon on speculative selling. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.	July.
Wheat.....	57½	59½	60½
Corn.....	26½	28½	29½
Oats.....	17½	19½	20
Mess Pork..	9 90	10 17½	—
Lard.....	5 65	5 92½	—
Short Ribs..	4 90	5 15	—

On Friday prices were firmer, influenced by foreign buying and firm cables, and advanced later on speculative demand. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.	July.
Wheat....	57½	60½	60½
Corn.....	26½	28½	29½
Oats.....	17½	19½	20½
Mess Pork..	10 15	10 46	—
Lard.....	5 70	5 97½	—
Short Ribs..	5 00	5 25	—

Wheat was stronger on Saturday, opening at 60½c for May, and advanced to 60½c at the close. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.	July.
Wheat....	58½	60½	61½
Corn.....	26½	29	30
Oats.....	—	20½	20½
Mess Pork..	10 00	10 30	—
Lard.....	—	—	—
Short Ribs..	—	—	—
Flax Seed..	—	—	—

A week ago January wheat closed at 56½c. A year ago January wheat closed 54c.

## Duluth Wheat Market.

No. 1 Northern wheat at Duluth closed as follows on each day of the week:

Monday—Jan. 52½c, May, 57c.  
Tuesday—Jan. 53½c May, 57½c.  
Wednesday—Jan. 54½c May, 58½c.  
Thursday—Jan. — May, —  
Friday—Jan. 54½c, May 58½c.  
Saturday—Jan. 54½c, May, 59c.

A week ago to-day, (Saturday) prices closed at 57½c for May. A year ago May delivery closed at 62c. Two years ago May closed at 63c. No. 1 hard was quoted

at about 1c over No. 1 northern, No. 2 northern, 2 to 3c lower than No. 1 northern for cash wheat.

## Minneapolis Wheat.

No. 1 Northern wheat closed on Saturday at 55½ for January and May delivery at 56½c. A week ago May wheat closed at 55½c.

## New York Wheat.

On Saturday, Jan. 18, May delivery closed at 68c. and July delivery at —. A week ago wheat closed at 67c for May.

## A Merchant Arrested.

A short time ago The Commercial mentioned the failure of J. S. Douglas, dealer in furs and boots and shoes, Winnipeg. Creditors were not satisfied with the appearance of things in connection with this failure at the time it was made, and no correct idea of the position of the business could be had from the books, which were kept in a very careless manner, to say the least. While investigations were proceeding by the creditors, Douglas disappeared. He was located in New York state, whence he was induced to come to Montreal on a pretence of conferring with creditors, who were principally in Montreal. He was promptly arrested on arrival in Canada, on a charge of obtaining goods under false pretenses. It is alleged that Douglas secured goods to the value of \$1,300 from a Montreal firm, through a Winnipeg house, by misrepresenting his financial condition. A second warrant was taken out by Montreal parties on the same charge. A telegram from Montreal yesterday said Douglas has been admitted to bail there for \$2,500 surety.

Before leaving Winnipeg it is understood Douglas tried to compromise for 45 cents on the dollar. A chattel mortgage for over \$5,000 was found against his stock after his assignment here, held by a party in his employ, and it was the intention of the creditors to contest this mortgage. Unless this could be successfully done, the estate would pay hardly anything. Douglas is said to be interested in a lot of real estate in the city, but it is not held in his own name. He is alleged to have invested heavily in real estate and buildings in Winnipeg within a year or two.

About two years ago The Commercial had occasion to write up some of the business transactions of this man, and it is wondered that he obtained credit so freely.

## The Return and Exchange of Goods.

Retailers everywhere are affected by the habit that customers have of returning goods for slight reasons, and very often for no reason at all. Time is devoted and expense incurred in selling the goods, and if they are returned the time and expense thus incurred is lost. In addition to this goods are often returned in such condition that to take them back means an actual loss because of their decreased worth.

In taking back or exchanging goods the matter is rather one of policy than principle. Every merchant realizes that he must keep on the best possible terms with his customers in order to retain their patronage. Therefore, the question to be decided when an article is returned is not whether it is right or wrong for the customer to demand that it be taken back. It is a question of policy. If the customer's future trade is not worth as much as the article returned the merchant can refuse to accept it. Otherwise, he swallows his objections and refunds the money.

Some merchants whose business runs into millions of dollars annually are liberal to a

fault in their policy of taking back goods. The amount of goods thus taken back amounts every year to hundreds of thousands of dollars with some of the leading stores. The fact that such commercial giants find it necessary to use the utmost care in their treatment of their customers in this respect impresses small-merchants everywhere with the importance of this subject, and they should regard it as one of the factors which go to make up success or failure.

Customers often impose on the merchant, and exact things which are wrong for him to grant as a matter of principle. As a matter of policy such cases have to be considered from a liberal standpoint.

A redeeming feature of the situation in regard to the returning of goods is that the houses which are most liberal in their policy in this matter really profit thereby. Large quantities of goods may be returned, but much larger sales are made than would otherwise be the case. Therefore, the business, after all refunds are deducted, is larger than it would be under the policy of making no refunds whatever, or of making them under protest, and thus losing the customer's patronage.—Reporter.

F. H. Shelley, restaurant keeper, Winnipeg, is dead.

The Rome correspondent of the London Chronicle says: "The pope has made a semi-official proposal to President Cleveland to arbitrate the Venezuelan question." Now, if the belief of the papal infallibility were general, this would be a safe way of settling the dispute.

The most novel calendar received this year by The Commercial comes from the Thos. Davidson Manufacturing Co. of Montreal. It is a handsome piece of work, done in the establishment of The Thos. Davidson Co., who are manufacturers of pressed, stamped and enamelled ware. The calendar is a very handsome piece of metal lithographic work, in many colors.

The February number of the Delineator is called the Midwinter Number and covers the whole field of seasonable fashions with its accustomed thoroughness. A very pretty ballad, far above the ordinary magazine contribution, begins the number. Mrs. Roger A. Pryor concludes her admirable series on The Social Code with a discussion of the various ways of getting into society. A well-known New York dentist has an article at once scientific and popular on the care of the teeth. Dr. Aimee Raymond Schroeder brings personal experience to bear in telling of the facilities and obstacles before women who set out to study and practice medicine. Sara Miller Kirby explains the possibilities of Kindergarten Work at Home. A handsomely illustrated article by M. C. Frederick is devoted to Mexican Stamped Leather. A beautiful silk-embroider fan with a romantic history dating back to the French revolution is pictured and described. Emma Haywood begins instructions for ecclesiastical embroidery, and also explains how to make the new and pretty embroidery frames for photographs. How a House may be Artistically Furnished for the Least Money is told by Elma Weatherston. Mrs. A. B. Longstreet devotes critical attention to Adulterated and Deteriorated Foods, and the article on Seasonable Cookery supplements her conclusions with timely illustrations as to the use of canned goods. How a brother and sister organized and carried out a valentine party, is told by Henry C. Wood, and there are the usual pages devoted to the New Books, Tea-Table Chat, Knitting, Tatting, Crocheting, etc. Subscription price of the Delineator \$1 per year. The Delineator Publishing Co., 93 Richmond St., West, Toronto.