

CHEESE.

There is no change to report. Small lots of fine taken at from 13½c to 14c, and medium from 12c to 12½c, with stocks very light and firmly held.

PORK.

There was a car load of mess sold at \$20 and small lots have gone off steadily during the week at \$21 to \$21.50.

BACON.

Quiet but firm. Long clear, in car lots, held at 10½c and sold in case lots at 11c, with some old going at 9½c; Cumberland, in case lots, at 10c; rolls quiet at 11½c to 12c; and bellies, in car lots, at 13c.

HAM.

There is no movement in round lots reported, but they could have been obtained at 13½c for smoked, and small lots have sold quietly at 14c.

LARD.

Market firm, and round lots of tinnets wanted at 12½c but no sales reported; small lots have sold quietly at about 13c.

APPLES.

No change in the market. Car lots of really choice have continued in demand at \$3.50, but none offered; street receipts are very small and prices are steady at \$3 to \$3.75 for good to choice.

POULTRY.

No box lots offered; receipts on the street are very small and prices are generally firmer at 75c to 85c for fowl, and 90c to \$1 for ducks per pair; geese, 90c to \$1 each, and turkeys \$1 to \$1.35 for hens, and \$1.50 to \$2 for gobblers.

SUNDRIES.

Dried apples are quoted at 8½c to 9½c; oat meal, per 136 lbs, \$4.10 to \$4.20; cornmeal, \$3.40 to \$3.50.

Russian vs. American Petroleum.

It begins to look as though we will find Russian petroleum a formidable competitor in the European market with the Pennsylvania product at no very distant period, or after transportation from the Caucasus has been increased and cheapened, as it no doubt will be. In the Baku Province and contiguous territory of Russia, on the Caspian sea, is a region so rich in petroleum, so extensive in area, and so cheaply worked as to make our interests seem insignificant in comparison. These fields, although known, and in a small way utilized for over two thousand years have only recently been systematically developed. Twenty-five years ago the amount of production was only about two million gallons per annum, but in 1872 the Government monopoly, which had long existed was abolished, and since then the business has made rapid strides, so that in 1882 the output was 200,000,000 gallons, notwithstanding everything was done in the most primitive manner. Now more scientific methods have been introduced, and Russian refined petroleum is being furnished not only to the markets of that country, but to those of Germany, Austria, and Turkey, in competition with the American product. The effect upon the trade of this country has not thus far been appreciable, but the probability is that the Russian competition will ere long cut down our exports of the article. A cargo of this petroleum, recently landed in Hamburg, is represented to have been as transparent as water, with a specific gravity of 0.817 and an Abel test of 88. We used to scout the idea that India

wheat would ever successfully compete with American in Europe, because of the advantages we enjoyed in cheap transportation and superior agricultural implements. But these superior advantages have been overcome, and India wheat has to a great extent supplanted American in the European markets. It may be that Russian petroleum will similarly supplant the American article in Great Britain, France, Germany, etc.—*N. Y. Shipping List.*

General Notes.

The grain, flour, and hog products now in stock in Chicago, including grain afloat, foots up a valuation just about \$32,000,000.

The *N. Y. Post* says:—The stock market was dull again to-day and under depressing influences, through the reduction of freight rates on the trunk lines, rumors of a possible dissolution of the North-western Traffic Association, and that the relations of the roads west of the Missouri were as unsatisfactory as ever, prices were lower. The reduction of freight rates on the trunk lines determined on, on shipments out of Chicago alone, is in ratio a reduction of \$7,200,000 on the year's business.

The British labor market, as reported to the *London Labour News* for the week ended February 6, continued unsettled. The miners' conference at Birmingham prevented an extended strike and left the decision to the various district associations. Reductions in wages of iron miners had caused dissatisfaction, but a few strikes only had resulted. In the textile trades the Lancashire weavers' strike continued, with no signs of termination. At Leicester in one factory there was a strike. At Nottingham there was a slight improvement in the curtain trade. In Bradford and Leeds there is no apparent change in trade, although it was hoped the near approach of spring might give an impetus to business.

EMERSON.

Robert Hamilton, hardware, is moving into the premises lately occupied by Walton & Bird.

The contract for repairing the ice brake of the old traffic bridge has been awarded to Mr. Robert Balfour, and a gang of men is now actively at work.

Business of all kinds is looking up, owing to the mild weather we are now enjoying; building operations have already commenced and lumber is in very good demand.

Messrs. G. G. Simcox and A. R. Irwin have purchased the customs brokerage and forwarding business of G. P. R. Harris, and will also act as agents for the American Express Co.

As stated in your last issue, it is expected that the Loop Line connecting Emerson with the Pembina Junction of C. P. R. Southwestern will be in operation within a week or ten days.

At the last meeting of the Council an offer of 55 cents, net, made by Drummond Bros. for the amount of the Emerson debentures \$356,000 has been accepted. The sale is considered an excellent one, and has created a great feeling of relief and confidence among the citizens; inasmuch as a large portion of that amount is to be paid immediately to residents of Emerson, it cannot fail to have a marked improved effect upon business.

Great consternation is felt in Emerson over the unexpected suspension of Mr. H. T. Lewis our Post Master; as far as the facts can be gathered, the Post Master, in order to provide for the very necessities of life, anticipated the salary coming to him at the end of this month to the extent of about \$100. It is not our desire, at this early stage of proceedings in this matter, to condemn or absolve any party or parties connected with it. We cannot help, however, to express our unlimited sympathy for Mr. Lewis and our gratification at the fact of this sentiment being universal here. Mr. Lewis has been Post Master for the last eight years, and nowhere could be found a more painstaking, affable and efficient gentleman than he proved to be in the position he occupied. From a small office the Emerson one became one of no mean importance, necessitating the employment of two clerks; with the increase of business naturally came a large increase of expense, which had to be borne principally by the Post Master; and for the last two years it has been a known and acknowledged fact that the remuneration was sadly and ridiculously insufficient. We understand that a memorial, as well as a largely signed petition has been forwarded to Ottawa, and we sincerely hope to soon see Mr. Lewis at his post again.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

D. S. McDonald intends removing his business to Minnedosa.

S. R. Markatt has purchased the lumber yard of H. R. Banks.

Ex-Councillor Fulton has gone to Brandon to take charge of an implement warehouse there.

Major McDonald has been appointed agent for the Globe Agricultural works of London, Ont.

Mrs. French has opened a millinery, mantle and dressmaking establishment in the terrace east on Saskatchewan avenue.

Mr. C. G. Woodside, sign painter, has three orders from Port Arthur, one from Virien, one from Minnedosa, and six for Portage.

George Craig filled the first order for the Neepawa grangers last week; he expects to supply them with all the goods they require.

On Monday the sale of Mr. Blake's farm was consummated; Messrs. Alex. McLean and John J. McRobie were the purchasers; the price paid was \$11,000. This farm is considered one of the best in the province, and consists of 640 acres, 200 of which are ready for crop.

BRANDON.

J. M. Reiberry has sold out his machinery business to Russell & McKenzie.

M. J. D. Kennedy has arrived from Winnipeg where he has spent the most of the winter. He will look after the interests of Shields & Co.

The fine weather of the last few days has almost completely demoralized the trails, and as a consequence there is little grain marketed. Prices are very firm, and frozen wheat is selling at from 45c to 65c, according to the amount of damage; fine sound wheat is readily taken at \$1 per bushel for seeding purposes; oats are in good demand, at firmer prices, good samples of white being easily disposed of at 23c.