

48c. Special brands of cigars are quoted: Reliance, \$50; Gen. Arthur, \$50; Mikado, \$40; Tertiary, \$30 per 1000.

#### HIDES AND TALLOW.

There is very little movement, and it is thought country outchers are probably holding and salting down their stocks. Prices are as follows: Winnipeg inspected, No. 1, 3½c; No. 2, 2½c; No. 3, 2c. Calfskins are quoted at 4 to 5c, but few are offering and most are classed at kip, which are worth 2c. Sheepskins 25 to 50c as to quality.

#### HARDWARE AND METALS.

Business has shown quite an improvement, owing to indications of an early spring. Travellers are now beginning to go on the road. There are no changes in prices to note, and none likely before navigation opens. Prices are generally firm. Iron is reported very firm in English markets. Prices here are: Cut nails, 10d and larger \$2.60; I. C. tin plates, \$5.75 to \$6.25; I. C. tin plates double, \$11.50 to \$12.00; Canada plates, \$3.75 to \$4.; sheet iron, \$3.75 to \$5.50, according to grade; iron pipe, 25 to 45 per cent, according to size, off list prices; ingot tin, 32½c per lb., bar iron, \$3.00 to \$3.50 per 100 lbs.; shot, 9½ to 6½; per lb.; tarred felt, \$2.30 to \$2.75 per 100 lbs. barbed wire, 6½ to 7c.

#### LEATHER AND FINDINGS.

Trade is described as quite active in this branch. Orders have been coming in freely for leather. The manufacturing department is especially active. A large demand for shoe uppers is reported. Harness leather is quoted slightly lower, and American oak butts is 5c lower in price. Quotations are: Spanish sole, 26 to 30c; slaughter sole, 26 to 30c; French calf, first choice, \$1.25 to \$1.50; Canadian calf, 75c to \$1.00; French kip, \$1 to \$1.10; B Z kip, 85 to 90c; Bourdon kip, 7c; slaughter kip, 55 to 65c; No. 1, wax upper, 45 to 50c; grain upper, 50c; harness leather, 26 to 30c for plump stock. American oak butts, 45 to 50c; buff, 17 to 21c a foot; cordovan, 17 to 21c; pebble, 21c; colored linings, 12c shoe uppers, from \$1.25 to \$2.75.

#### PAINTS, OILS AND COLORS.

Business is commencing to move in this branch, and from far western points, orders for immediate shipment are coming in. Orders have been freely taken throughout the province, also for spring stocks, but not for immediate wants. Prices are steady as follows: Turpentine, 90c in five-gallon cans, or 85c in barrels; harness oil \$1.00; neatfoot oil, \$1.25; linseed oil, raw, 68c per gallon; boiled, 70c in barrels or 5c advance in five-gallon lots; seal oil, steam refined, \$1; castor, 12½c per lb.; lard, No. 1, \$1.25 per gal. olive oil, pure, \$1.50; union salad, \$1.25; machine oils, black 25 to 40c; fine qualities, 50 to 75c. Coal oils, silver star, 26c; water white, 29c. American oils, Eocene, 34c; water white, 31c; sunlight, 28c. Calcined plaster, \$3.75 per barrel; Portland cement, \$5 to \$5.50; pure white lead, \$7.25; genuine do. \$7.00; No. 1 \$6.50; No. 2 \$6.00; window glass, first break, \$2.15. Alabastine, \$8 per case of 20 pkgs.

#### LUMBER.

The mild weather has brought signs of awakening in the lumber trade. Building is

already commencing at some points, and prospects are favorable for a good season's trade, at firm prices. Millmen have already commenced to make any contemplated improvements in their mills, to be ready to cut as soon as the season opens. In some instances the early break-up has inconvenienced operations in the woods, but to what extent is not fully known.

### GRAIN AND PROVISION MARKETS.

#### WINNIPEG.

##### WHEAT.

Wheat got down last week at Chicago to under the dollar price for May, for the first time for weeks. In Manitoba prices do not seem to be influenced greatly by the weaker feeling in Chicago and Duluth markets, and prices being paid here are now relatively higher than at any previous time this season. Prices had a wide range in the different provincial markets, from 95c at some points to \$1.05 at other places, these prices being to farmers for best hard samples. About \$1 per bushel would be the average price for No. 1 hard to farmers in provincial markets. At the mills in Winnipeg, \$1 was about the best price paid for loads, to farmers. In Eastern Canada markets big prices are occasionally asked for choice Manitoba wheat, and some lots are held away above the market value. Bids are usually under prices asked, and sales are therefore light. About \$1.37 to \$1.38 have been frequently asked for Manitoba No. 1 hard at Montreal, and bids usually about \$1.25. Eastern markets are influenced to some extent by the weaker feeling at Chicago, but prices, however, hold up fairly well. The reason for this is that Eastern Canada markets have been comparatively considerably lower than Chicago and Duluth, and have been slowly coming up to the level with the latter markets. The comparative difference between eastern Canada and Chicago and Duluth, markets is now considerably less than it was earlier in the season. Deliveries of wheat in Manitoba by farmers last week were not as large as the previous week, and showed a considerable falling off by the close of the week. The large increase in prices the week before last, and the early days of last week is thought to have pretty well exhausted wheat held by farmers. With the indications of an early spring, farmers have no doubt pushed in their surplus wheat, so as to be ready for seeding. Some wheat seeding was done in various parts of Manitoba last week, and a few fields were sown during the closing days of the week before last. The colder weather on the last two days of last week would probably stop further seeding for the present.

##### FLOUR.

Owing to the high prices ruling for wheat, millers have been forced to advance flour prices. Immediately after our last report was issued flour prices to the local trade were advanced 20c all around, and have since held strong at the advance. Quotations therefore are:—Patents, \$3.20; strong bakers, \$3.00; XXXX, \$2.40; superfine \$1.85; Graham flour, \$3.00; middlings, \$3.20.

##### MILLSTUFFS

Prices held unchanged at \$10 per ton for bran, and \$12 per ton for shorts, with \$1 per ton advance asked for small lots.

Some demand is reported, but generally this commodity may be described as rather dull. Stocks of good, however are not large, and probably less than what they have been at this season for the last year or two. However, with the demand light, there is enough to meet requirements. Not much fresh roll butter is coming yet, but receipts of this quality may be expected to increase right along, and the demand upon dealers from the city trade, which will be more fully supplied by farmers as the season advances, will therefore grow gradually less. About 19 to 20c per lb. is the general quotation for best qualities of dairy.

##### EGGS.

Prices were a little steadier last week, and 20c per dozen was the usual quotation in case lots, for strictly fresh. Sales were heard of, however, at as low as 18c per dozen on some days.

##### LARD.

Home rendered is usually held at \$2.40 in 20 lb. pails, and Chicago at \$2.35.

##### CURED MEATS.

The lower prices in the following quotations are for cash or very short time sales, mostly to the city trade. Prices are:—Mess pork, \$19 per bbl; long clear dry salt bacon, 10 to 10½c per lb; smoked breakfast bacon, 13 to 13½c; rolls, 12 to 12½c; hams, 14 to 14½c; pork sausage, 9c per lb.

##### DRESSED MEATS.

Receipts of hogs continue light. It was thought that the mild weather would bring out any stocks held at country points, but as receipts have not increased much it has been concluded that very few were held. Prices held at 7 to 7½c, with if anything a firmer tendency. A good deal of frozen beef is being offered, for which there is now scarcely any demand, as dealers are afraid to touch it at this late date, with mild weather prevailing. A good deal has been injured in appearance owing to getting soft. Prices for frozen beef can hardly be quoted, as the commodity is worth just what it will bring, but may be quoted at 5 to 4½c for good to choice. Fresh unfrozen beef is quoted at 6 to 6½c. Mutton, steady at 9 to 10c. Veal 8 to 10c.

##### POULTRY.

Chickens are not plentiful, and good fresh dressed fowl will bring 12 to 12½c. Stocks of turkeys and geese held are the balance of frozen lots, and worth 10 to 11c.

##### VEGETABLES.

There is not much change in this line. Potatoes usually bring about 30c per bushel in quantities; onions, \$1.20 to \$1.50; carrots, 60c; turnips, 25c; parsnips, \$1, beets, 50c, all per bushel. Celery scarce, 40 to 75c per dozen bunches, as to quality. Cabbage average 75c to \$1 per dozen for good.

### Sowing Wheat.

For a frozen country, such as Manitoba is considered to be by some ill informed foreigners, it is surprising how early seeding operations are commenced in the spring. Wheat seeding was reported as going on last week in various sections of the country, all the way from the Red River westward to the Rocky Mountains, and several fields of wheat were sown during the previous week. On the Government experimental farm, at Brandon, Man., a field of wheat was sown on Saturday, Mar. 2.

ALEX. TONGH, grain merchant, Montreal, has gone to Chicago. It is said he is in financial difficulties.

THE Ontario Government will assist in the establishment of a smelter at Port Arthur. This should give that famous mining region a great "boom."