Winnipeg Prices a Year Ago.

Following were Winnipeg prices this week last year:

Wheat—No. 1 hard, in store Fort William, $1.16 to $1.18.

Flour—Local price per sack: Patent, $2.90; best bakers', $2.70.

Millstuffs—Bran, $12 per ton; shorts, $14 in large lots.

Oatmeal—Dealers selling to trade at $2.20 per sack of rolled in small lots. Ontario meal, $1.85 nominally.

Oats—Per bushel, car lots on track, Winnipeg, 41 to 43c per bushel for feed oats.

Corn—Cars on track, Winnipeg, 44 1-2 to 45c per bushel.

Barley—42 to 43c for feed.

Butter—Dairy, jobbers' prices 17 to 18c for fresh; creamery, 23 to 23 1-2c.

Cheese—Jobbers selling at 9 3-4 to 10 1-2c.

Eggs—Dealers selling at 12 to 12 1-2c.

Hides—No. 1 green hides 6 1-2c.

Wool—8 to 9c for unwashed fleece.

Hay—Baled, on track, here advanced to $11 to $12 per ton.

Potatoes—35 to 40c per bushel.

Poultry—Chickens, 9c per lb; dressed turkeys, 15c, live chickens, 60 to 75c per pair.

Dressed meats—Fresh killed beef, city dressed, 6 to 6 1-2c; mutton, 8c; for frozen, 9 to 10c for fresh; hogs, 6 3-4 to 7c; veal, 7 to 9c.

Live Stock—Cattle, butchers 3 1-2 to 4c, yearling stockers, $10 to $13, hogs, off cars $5 per 100 lbs. for best bacon, sheep, 4 to 4 1-2c, lambs, $2.50 to $3.50 each.

Winnipeg's Assessment.

J. W. Harris, assessment commissioner, has presented his report of the completion and return of the assessment rolls. The total assessment for the current year amounts to $25,520,260, exclusive of the valuations placed upon the property exempt from taxation, which amounts to $4,965,100, showing a net increase in the ratable property over that of last year of about two-thirds of a million dollars. The total assessment by way of capitalized rental value for business tax is $3,470,390, being an increase in this class of assessment of about $290,000 over that of last year. The balance of the net increase of two-thirds of a million dollars is caused principally by the buildings erected during the year 1898, which have overbalanced the reductions made for depreciation in buildings g... throughout the city and losses occasioned by fire, which in one instance alone amounted to nearly $200,000, to the extent of over one-third of a million dollars. The land values, while changed considerably in different localities, show, upon the whole, about the same aggregate amount as last year. The total population of the city, which has, as usual, been carefully taken in connection with the assessment, is shown to be inclusive of a fair percentage added for transient or floating population—40,112, showing a substantial increase over last returns. Our population having reached the 40,000 mark, it is, I think, judging from the growth of other cities somewhat similarly situated reasonable to assume that our increase in population in the future, will be even greater proportionately than it has been in the past. I feel quite warranted in making the observation that Winnipeg has entered upon a period of development and progress of a lasting and permanent nature. Real estate values are becoming more fixed and definite in many localities, and the general business of the city is rapidly increasing. It is not to be expected that outlying, vacant properties will be in much steady demand for some time; but we frequently find owners of this class of property holding it at prices far in excess of the assessed valuation placed upon it, while, of course, others, forced to sell, may have to take much less. This condition of the real estate market is, however, not confined to the city of Winnipeg, but is a condition that prevails to a considerable extent at times in the history of all cities. Complete tabulated schedules will, as usual, be furnished after the close of the court of revision.

Crude Rubber.

According to a report recently received at Washington from United States Consul Kennedy, in Para, Brazil, there is not likely to be any shortage of rubber in the near future. The quantities gathered and brought in lately are double what they used to be and exploration of the rubber region show that the supply can be increased indefinitely by simply increasing the number of gatherers. Those of our people, the report says, who have gone down into Mexico and Central America to engage in rubber production may fare no better than those who expected to make fortunes in coffee raising; by the time they get their plantations bearing, the product may be so cheap as to yield little or no profit.

Change of Name.

The firm of Love, McAllister & Co., wholesale stationers, Winnipeg, have issued the following announcement.

We beg to intimate that on and after the first day of May next, this business will be continued and all trading done under the name of Clark Bros. & Co.

We take this opportunity of thanking you for the generous support accorded us during the past three years and trust we will be favored with a continuance of your patronage.

Very truly yours,

LOVE, McALLISTER & CO.

The May number of the Delineator treats very fully with illustration and description of appropriate gowning for commencement and graduation wear. The literary features are thoroughly enjoyable, and the household and social discussions crisp and piquant.

A bill has been introduced in the Dominion house to allow Domin on civil servants to be garnisheed for debt. It is to be hoped the bill will promptly became law. From a business point of view it is difficult to understand why dead beat civil servants should be sheltered in their crookedness and dishonesty any more than any other fellow.

The Winnipeg Elevator Co. has been granted incorporation under the Dominion act. The new company as previously reported, will continue the grain business of Bready, Love & Tyron, of Winnipeg. The parties forming the company mentioned in the letters of incorporation are T. T. W. Bready, John Love and C. R. Tryon, Winnipeg, and James Carruthers and Charles Walter Band, of Toronto.

GRAIN AND MILLING

THE ELEVATOR QUESTION.

Quite a heated debate occurred in the Territorial legislature at Regina lately on the elevator question. The debate was not heated in point of opposing elements, as all the speakers appeared to be on one side, and that in opposition to the present elevator arrangements. Several very extravagant charges were made against the grain dealers and elevator men, some of which were quite unreasonable. A resolution calling upon the federal government to compel the railway companies to permit anyone to build and operate elevators, grain warehouses or grain chutes, was carried unanimously.

The elevator regulations adopted by the railway companies in Manitoba and the Territories, The Commercial believes, have proved of great advantage to the country and a great benefit to the farmers. If any one had been permitted to build flat warehouses for the handling of grain, we would have had a lot of little, unsightly shacks at every railway station, instead of the splendid line of elevators which now exist, without which there would be very little storage and handling accommodation for the farmers in the busy season, resulting in frequent grain blockades and loss to the farmers. At the same time The Commercial has taken the ground that it would be better to remove the elevator restrictions than have a continual agitation kept up. Restrictions are distasteful, even when they are beneficial. At any rate, we have the elevators now. The only question is that of vested rights, in consideration of the fact that parties who put their money in these buildings, expected that the restrictions against cheap competing warehouses would continue in force. However, the theory as to the existence of vested rights in this case is a debatable question. The Commercial would not be disappointed if the restrictions were removed. At the same time we do not see any occasion for making so many violent and untruthful charges, as is often done by many of those who agitate for the removal of the present restrictions against the erection of a cheap class of elevators or warehouse for handling grain at country points.

DRYING WET WHEAT FOR MILLING PURPOSES.

There is very little milling value in artificially dried wheat, unless dried under what I term natural conditions, that is, by the action of the wind and sun, as when the wheat is exposed in the sheaf in the fields. I am satisfied that any artificial process that does not carry out these conditions cannot dry wheat to any real value for milling purposes; and the only really successful wheat drying for milling that I had been able to do in the past was by spreading wheat on a large dock, holding about 4,000 bushels, 2 1-2 inches deep, and having it exposed and turned to the strong sun and heavy wind. About 200,000 bushels of wheat dried in this manner were sold for milling purposes, and the miller was astonished at the quality of the flour this wheat produced; and he had no complaint from any of his customers who purchased the flour.

I have now adopted in our elevator—the Canadian Pacific, operated by Joseph G. King & Co.—a system which practically carries out this condition.