

BARLEY

Another blank week in this grain none being offered.

PEAS.

Sales of a car lot or two are reported at 59c, which may be taken as the quotation of the week. No more were offered.

POTATOES.

There are no car lots offered yet and barrels have been selling on the street at \$1.50 to \$1.75.

APPLES.

Sales of imported were made at \$2.50, while natives were quoted in small lots at \$1.50 to \$2.

EGGS.

The supply has been on the increase and has produced an easier feeling. Round lots were freely offered at 12c.

BUTTER.

Receipts have been increasing especially of medium and lower grades, while the demand for these is slower. Good to choice sold at 13 to 14c, but could be had in plenty at these figures. Some lower grades sold at 9c, but were very little called for.

CHEESE.

The export demand has improved, and prices are firmer and higher. Good qualities sold freely at 9 to 9½c.

PORK

The feeling has been quiet and only small lots called for, which sold for \$13.50.

BACON.

Offerings have been light, and sales have been correspondingly so, and confined to small lots. Cumberland was firm at 8c, while long clear ranged from 8½ to 8¾c. Ribs were steady at 10c, and breakfast was held at 11c.

HAMS

The scarcity still holds out, and all offerings of smoked were freely taken at 14 to 14½c.

LARD.

The demand has been good and prices tending upwards. Round lots of pails sold at 9½c, and small lots at 9½c. Tierces were held at 9c.

HOGS.

The demand has been in excess of the supply, and all offerings have been freely taken at \$7.25 to \$7.50.

The State of Trade.

Special telegrams to *Bradstreet's* this week record a continuance of the favorable features in trade circles heretofore noted. The moderate increase in eastbound trunk line tonnage, backed by heavy lake shipments and rail around Chicago, is significant. Westbound shipments are also increasing, particularly of dry goods from New York and Boston. The movement of general merchandise at over twenty leading distributing centers is reported to be above the August average in late years, with a steady improvement noted in many instances. Stocks of merchandise at interior points are reported moderate. The total of clearings at twenty-nine cities for the current week, as wired to *Bradstreet's*, is \$868,004,556 against \$849,199,165 a week ago, and \$728,927,945 the second week in August, 1885, an increase of but \$18,805,091 this week over last, and of but \$39,076,611 against the corresponding week in 1884. Earnings of fifty-three railways (excluding companies not giving comparative data for three years) give totals \$122,324,000 in 1886, \$119,033,000 in 1885, and \$120,687,000 in 1884. The increase this year over 1884 being but one-eighth of the increase over 1885, indicates a recovery only

from the severe competition of last year. The large decrease in the New York bank surplus, caused by the demand for funds at the west, put up the rate of interest for loans to 5@6 per cent. This acted as a discouragement to bull speculation in the stock market, which is feverish and weak. Bonds are steady and firm, with transactions amounting to \$19,000,000, against \$15,000,000 last week. Foreign exchange is weak, quotations being on the verge of the gold importing point. Commercial paper is scarce, but rates are quoted higher. Share transactions aggregated 1,300,000, against 1,290,000 shares a week ago. The stronger money market at New York is reflected at almost all centers, discount rates being higher and firmer, in response to the decline in the supply and increase in the demand for funds. Staple dry goods at eastern markets are firm and in good demand. Some cotton brands are ½@¾c. higher per yard. Raw wool shows signs of weakening, after a steady advance during two months past. Some few concessions have been made, and makers' takings are light. There are no changes in iron or steel. Anthracite coal is 15@25c. higher, only a portion of which has been realized. Petroleum is depressed under the influence of increased new well output, and certificates are lower. Fears of serious effects from the drouth are stiffening corn prices. The actual yield of spring wheat appears to be in excess of the quality lately anticipated. Cotton is doing well in Arkansas, Tennessee and the eastern cotton belt, except Alabama, where worms have done some damage. In Texas the hot weather continues and has caused shedding. Rain is still needed in some sections of the western tobacco region. Special hop crop reports to *Bradstreet's* point to a probable total crop of 65,000 bales in New York state and the remainder on the Pacific coast. Old hops on hand aggregate 120,000 bales, and the probable consumption the coming year is placed at 140,000 bales. The old hops are of very poor quality. Sugar is again lower in price owing to heavy supplies in sight. Higher prices for coffee in Europe strengthened spots, but *Bradstreet's* Rio correspondent reports a larger crop there than last year. The total number of failures in the United States reported to *Bradstreet's* this week is 132 against 124 last week, last year, 160 237 in 1884. Canada had 20 against 12 last week and 17 last year. The total in the United States this year to date is 6,389 against 7,367 last year, a decline of 678 in seven and a half months. In a like portion of 1884 the total was 6,664; in 1883, 6,178, and in 1882, was 5,425.—*Bradstreet's*.

The M. & N. W. Ry. Country.

Proceeding westward from Minnedosa the next point of trade importance is the new town of Shoal Lake. The country hereabout is fairly well settled and has been for some years, owing to the fact that it was at one time expected that the C. P. R. would pass through the district. The country has every appearance of an excellent mixed farming district, similar to the greater portion of the land along the railway, and is dotted with bluffs and well watered. Shoal Lake is a pretty body of water about seven (7) miles long. The old Battleford trail

passed to the southern end of the lake, and here there were formerly a couple of stores and two hotels. These have now been deserted and the keepers moved to the new town on the railway, at the northern end of the lake. Shoal Lake has been built up entirely this year and already there are quite a list of business places. There are two licensed hotels, the Commercial and the Queen's, and in addition to these two good temperance houses. All the hotels were crowded and it was difficult to obtain a bed. The two general stores are kept by Thos. Parkinson and R. Scott, and both carry good stocks. A tin shop has also been opened by Geo. Raymer. In addition to these there are a photo studio, blacksmith, paint shop, a newspaper called the *Echo*, and two liveryies. A doctor had just arrived and located in the town, and A. E. Munson was about opening a drug store. The Hudson's Bay Co. have a building in course of construction which will be used for a general store, and another large building was going up, which will be fitted for two stores. It is also understood that the railway company contemplate erecting a large hotel, which will be used as a summer resort for tourists. The chief industry of Shoal Lake at present is a cheese factory, managed by J. G. Wellock. The factory commenced operations this year and 450 pounds per day are turned out. Next season it is thought there will be a sufficient number of cows in the vicinity to allow of doubling this amount, for which the factory is capable without alteration. The district is well adapted for stock and the grasses rich and prolific. A market for the cheese has been found principally in the territories. A prospective industry is a roller flour mill, for which a bonus has been granted by the district. Ground for the building had been broken. A pump factory was also contemplated. Beyond Shoal Lake is the village of Solsgirth. The railway had its terminus at this point last winter and the place was the scene of considerable activity. Since the railway passed on westward the place has been less active. It now contains two general stores and two hotels.

The old town of Birtle is the next point reached, and here there is considerable activity going on, the citizens having lately been aroused to new energy by the arrival of the iron horse. The country around Birtle has also been settled for some years, and the town is probably the oldest in western Manitoba. It has long been isolated from the outside world, but now that the railway has arrived the town is expected to improve rapidly. Already several buildings are in course of erection, and these will be occupied mainly by the old business men of the place, who now think they will require more modern conveniences and more commodious premises. Messrs. Manwaring & Wright, are building a commodious solid stone building, which they will occupy with their large stock of general merchandise. The vicinity provides plenty of building material of this description. A. Doig, hardware, and J. & W. Walley, grocers, have lately moved to new quarters. Logan & Dalton, have lately opened a livery, and they have one of the finest stables in the province. Richmond & Lepper, general store.