

## EASTERN MARKETS.

## CHICAGO.

The past week in the wheat market here has been one of more than usual activity, as compared with the stagnation which has existed for some time. The contending elements have been more evenly balanced than for many a week, and instead of a gradually falling market, the past week has been characterized by several sharp spurts. This has occasioned considerable excitement on some days and awakened new interests in the situation. However, there did not seem to be much stability about the market, and the least turn in the tide was generally sufficient to send prices back to the start, after an advance had been scored. This was owing to the very nervous feeling, and the uncertainty as to the probable course of the market. The bulls, however, were out in greater force, and seemed to display more than usual confidence. It was also evident that genuine buying was going on on a larger scale than for some weeks, and a larger decrease in the visible supply was used as a strong bull argument, indicating the commencement of a better export movement. The decrease in the visible supply in the United States and Canada, for the week ending April 17, was 1,862,745 bushels. The amount of wheat on passage showed an increase of nearly 2,000,000 bushels. Corn and oats have moved steadily and moderately, prices sometimes changing in sympathy with wheat. In provisions the week has been a dull one. Very little trading has been done in pork and prices have continued in a depressed condition.

On Monday trading was active in wheat but, the feeling was nervous, and the market seemed to be lacking in tone and stability. Liverpool cables came in strong at the opening and prices started  $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ higher than the close on Saturday. News of a war-like situation in Eastern Europe also had some influence upon the market. The advance soon brought out large offerings, which had a quieting effect upon the market. Added to this were fears of more railroad difficulties, and fine weather in the west and northwest. These combined to produce a weakening effect upon the market and prices fell away fully 1¢. At this juncture a report from New York stated that 370,000 bushels represented the clearings from that port on Saturday, and buying commenced actively again, prices advancing  $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢. This change was of short duration and prices soon settled back  $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢, closing  $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ under Saturday. The corn market was firm, and considerable trading done at a fraction higher, prices standing the same as Saturday at the close. Fair trading was done in oats at steady prices. Provisions were rather quiet. Pork was firmer at the opening, but later prices went back to the commencement. Closing prices were:

|               | April.           | May.                  |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Wheat .. .. . | \$0.78           | 79 $\frac{1}{2}$      |
| Corn .. .. .  | 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 37 $\frac{1}{2}$      |
| Oats .. .. .  | 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 29 $\frac{1}{2}$      |
| Pork .. .. .  | 9.15-20          | 9.15-17 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Lard .. .. .  | 5.90             | 5.90                  |

On Tuesday wheat opened about  $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ higher, with June at 81 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ and soon declined  $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢. The

decline brought forward good buying orders, and as the offerings grew smaller prices became firmer, going up to the opening. Cables reported steady foreign markets, but were not relied on to any extent. Foreign selling orders were displayed freely and had a quieting influence upon the market. Corn was fairly active in a speculative way, without special features. Oats were unchanged. Provisions were dull and easier. Closing prices were:

|               | April.             | May.               |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Wheat .. .. . | \$0.79             | \$0.80             |
| Corn .. .. .  | 36 $\frac{1}{2}$   | 37 $\frac{1}{2}$   |
| Oats .. .. .  | 28 $\frac{1}{2}$   | 29 $\frac{1}{2}$   |
| Pork .. .. .  | 9.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 9.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Lard .. .. .  | 5.90               | 5.90               |

Wheat opened stronger on Wednesday and about  $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ higher than the close of the previous day, advancing a trifle above the opening figure. The market then eased off and sold down slowly about  $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢. Telegrams announcing a more serious situation in Europe over the Grecian affair commenced to come in later on, and scalpers began buying eagerly. May advanced  $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ and June advanced to 83¢. Trading on the upward scale was heavy. Agents for New York houses were heavy buyers, and other domestic markets were generally strong. Corn advanced  $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ in sympathy with wheat but settled back before the close. Oats were also more active, but in a less degree than corn. Pork was weak owing to heavy receipts of hogs and prices broke to \$8.95 for May, recovering something before the close. In the afternoon wheat was again strong and higher, closing at the top. May advanced  $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ and June  $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ to 82 $\frac{1}{2}$ -83¢. Corn and provisions were also slightly higher. Closing prices were:

|               | April.               | May.                 |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Wheat .. .. . | \$0.80 $\frac{1}{2}$ | \$0.81 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Corn .. .. .  | 36 $\frac{1}{2}$     | 38 $\frac{1}{2}$     |
| Oats .. .. .  | 29 $\frac{1}{2}$     | 30 $\frac{1}{2}$     |
| Pork .. .. .  | 9.05                 | 9.05                 |
| Lard .. .. .  | 5.90                 | 5.90                 |

On Thursday there was a fairly active business in the wheat market, but the feeling was nervous and prices irregular. Fluctuations, however, were not great, and confined within a range of about 1¢. Cables reported firmer British markets, and American spring was quoted 6d to 1s higher, but nevertheless the feeling here was generally weak. The market opened lower, May selling at 80 $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢, and advancing to 80 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. News of the increasing range of the strike had a depressing effect and prices receded to 79 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ for May. On a denial of a portion of the news regarding the strikes, a portion of the loss was recovered. Corn was only in moderate trading request, and closed easier. Oats steady and firm. Provisions were neglected and a shade lower. Closing prices were:

|               | April.             | May.             |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Wheat .. .. . | 79                 | 80 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Corn .. .. .  | 36 $\frac{1}{2}$   | 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Oats .. .. .  | 29 $\frac{1}{2}$   | 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Pork .. .. .  | 8.97 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 9.00             |
| Lard .. .. .  | 5.90               | 5.90             |

On Friday there was no session of the board owing to the day being Good Friday.

On Saturday the wheat market was quieter and easier, with prices closing lower and at the

bottom figures for the day. Sales of June were made at from 81 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 82 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢, closing at the bottom. Pork and lard were quiet, and without material change in prices. June pork closed at \$9.07 $\frac{1}{2}$  to \$9.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ , and June lard at \$5.92 $\frac{1}{2}$  to \$5.95. Closing quotations were:

|               | April. | May.               |
|---------------|--------|--------------------|
| Wheat .. .. . | \$0.79 | 79 $\frac{1}{2}$   |
| Corn .. .. .  | —      | —                  |
| Oats .. .. .  | —      | —                  |
| Pork .. .. .  | 8.95   | 9.02 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Lard .. .. .  | 5.90   | 5.90               |

## TORONTO.

## STOCKS.

The stock market has experienced another quiet week and transactions have been on a limited scale. In leading bank stocks there has been but slight changes in quotations, Dominion alone showing a variation of over a fraction. Northwest Land sold at 72 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ and 72 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢. C.P.R. stocks were offered at 64 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢, with 63¢ highest bid on Wednesday. Closing bids on Wednesday's April 14th and 21st, were as follows:

|                        | April 14.         | April 21.         |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Montreal .. .. .       | 208 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 208 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Ontario .. .. .        | 115               | 115               |
| Toronto .. .. .        | 198               | 198               |
| Merchants' .. .. .     | 123               | 123 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Commerce .. .. .       | 121 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 121               |
| Imperial .. .. .       | 134 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 134 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Federal .. .. .        | 111               | 111 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Dominion .. .. .       | 213               | 210               |
| Standard .. .. .       | 123 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 123               |
| Hamilton .. .. .       | 136               | 135               |
| Northwest Land .. .. . | 69 $\frac{1}{2}$  | 72 $\frac{3}{4}$  |
| C.P.R. Bonds .. .. .   | 104               | 104 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| do Stocks .. .. .      | 66                | 63                |

## GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

The grain market here has yet shown no signs of shaking off the lethargy which has prevailed for so many weeks. The quiet feeling has continued unabated, both in the amount of offerings and in the disinclination to purchase during the unsettled condition of other markets. The grain now in store will probably be held for the lower freight rates to come in force on May 1. The opening of navigation on the lakes has led to the shipment of a considerable quantity of barley to U.S. ports, but has had no effect on other grains.

## WHEAT.

Notwithstanding the general dullness of the situation, values have been well maintained. Offerings have continued very light, and owing to this stocks have not materially increased. It is thought that a demand for local milling purposes must soon set in to such an extent as will visibly effect the market. No. 2 red sold at 84¢, No. 2 spring also brought 84¢.

## FLOUR.

Very little flour has changed hands during the week, and hardly enough upon which to base quotations. Sales were made on a basis of \$3.65 for superior extra, and \$3.55 for extra.

## OATS.

Offerings have come to hand more liberally, but prices have held steady. Prices have ranged at from 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ to 36¢. Manitoba oats have been offered at 40¢.

## BARLEY.

The movement has about ceased in this grain and the season for barley is now considered over. Some Manitoba, slightly better than No. 3 sold at 59¢. No sales in other grades.