

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

[All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are wholesale for such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reduction on large quantities and to cash discounts.]

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, March 25.

The weather has been fine all this week, but rather cold for the season, and though thawing slightly through the day winter still holds sway. Appearances now indicate rather a late spring, and a late opening of navigation is counted upon as the severe winter has made the ice unusually heavy and strong. Reports from Lake Superior state that the upper end of the lake is entirely covered by a vast field of ice, and navigation is not expected to open until late in May. There have been several severe snow storms in the west and south, and railway traffic has been severely disarranged. Trains have been frequently cancelled. Friday's trains from the south were cancelled, and a terrific blizzard of long duration was reported raging over several states to the south. None of these storms, however, have been felt in eastern Manitoba and the weather at Winnipeg, though cold has been fine. Reports from the south to-day, say that all train service has been abandoned, and will remain practically closed for several days in some districts.

The tide of immigration has been growing, and has assumed fairly large proportions. The new comers, so far have come principally from the eastern province, with some smaller parties from the States, the United Kingdom and Europe. Foreign immigration which is always later in coming, has not reached its most active stage yet. Yesterday's arrivals reached over 500, which was the heaviest day of the week.

In wholesale trade, paints, hardware, lumber, etc., are more active. Cold weather retards spring buying in textiles. Mercantile collections are unsatisfactory as they have been for some time. It is hoped that the usual crop of spring failures has now been about all harvested, though several additional extensions and compositions are reported.

DRUGS—Disinfectants are all strong in outside markets and prices tending higher. Carbolic acid is quoted stronger, and camphor has an advancing tendency. Chlorate potash is very strong. Bird seed has undergone a remarkable advance, prices being 100 per cent higher. Insect powder is in brisk demand for spring trade. Bluestone also sells freely for agricultural purposes, guaranteed pure in barrels selling at 5c, and in large quantities at 4 1/2c nett.

DRIED FRUITS—Most dried fruits are firm and some lines are scarce and very high, notably prunes and pitted plums. Dried and evaporated apples are costing higher east, and prices are advanced here. California evaporated fruits are costing high. We quote: Dried apples 7 to 7 1/2c; evaporated, 10; figs, layers, 10 to 18c; dates, 6 1/2 to 9c. Valencia raisins, \$1.70 to \$1.80; London layers, \$2.70 to \$2.80 box; Sultanias 9 1/2 to 10c lb. Currants, 6 1/2 to 7c; prunes, 7 1/2 to 9c. Evaporated fruits are quoted: Apricots, 19 to 20c; peeled peaches, 25 to 26c; unpeeled peaches, 17 to 18c; pitted plums, 15 to 16c; cherries, 19 to 20c; pears, 14 to 16c.

FUEL—The anthracite coal combination at New York has decided to make a reduction in the price of coal, coming into effect April 1. The reduction will amount to 60c per ton, which will make the price \$15 per ton, instead of \$14.75, which has been the price throughout

March. On the 1st of March a year ago the price of anthracite coal was \$3.90, but by September last it had been advanced by the combination to \$4.75, where it held during the winter. There prices are for stove anthracite, including freight tolls. This change is not likely to affect local prices for coal, at least until after the opening of navigation. Wood is offering fairly freely, but straight choice tamarac cannot be had under \$4.50 car lots, on track here, though mixed wood, called tamarac, can be had lower. The difference, however, is in proportion to the nature of spruce and pine, or to poor quality. Oak wood has been sold at about \$1.25.

FISH—Haddies are about out of the market. A good many loads of frozen lake fish have been offered on the market, but spring weather will soon put a stop to this trade. Prices for fresh fish are: Jackfish, 3c; pickorel, 4c; whitefish 5 1/2 to 6 1/2c; trout, 9c; Cod 8c; halibut, 14c; B. C. salmon, 16c; tommy cods, 8c; herring, 40 to 50c dozen; smelts, 12 1/2c. Cured fish are quoted: smoked herrings, 20 to 25c box; Yarmouth bloaters \$1.50 per box; Labrador herrings, \$4.50 to \$4.75 per half barrel; boneless codfish 7 1/2 to 8c pound; boneless fish, 6c lb; salt salmon, 7 to 8c lb; oysters \$1.00 per gallon for standards and \$2.00 for selects; can oysters 50c each for standards and 55c selects.

FURS—The important March fur sales of the Hudson's Bay Company in London have turned out exceedingly favorable for the company, prices having been strong and higher on almost everything. Mink which was expected to show a very strong tone, made a big advance, as will be seen by reference to the prices below. Marten and fisher were very strong, in sympathy with mink. A remarkable advance was made in wolverine, but this is a rare fur, the number of skins offered always being limited. Following are the prices realized at the London sales, compared with the March sales a year ago:—

Bear, black	10	per cent. higher.
Bear, brown	25	"
Lynx	15	" lower
Wolverine	100	" higher.
Skunk	10	"
Mink	50	"
Marten	45	"
Fisher	25	"
Fox, silver	30	"
Fox, white	10	"
Fox, cross	5	"
Otter	5	"

This is a gratifying showing for the company, but it indicates the necessity of caution for the future. After a sharp advance there is always danger of buyers paying too high prices, and buyers will have to be on their guard, so as not to be carried away with this rise in prices, as furs bought for the balance of the season will have to be held a long time. In fact it appears as if a reaction had already set in. A private cable received on Thursday stated that at Lampson's fur sales in London, prices had gone down nearly all around, bear, beaver, marten and mink being lower. This cable being rather indefinite, further reports regarding Lampson's sales will be awaited with interest. We quote the following as a fair range of prices, in the Winnipeg market, covering very poor to prime No. 1 skins.

Badger, per skin	\$ 05 to \$ 80
Bear, black	50 to 30.00
Bear, brown	50 to 30.00
Bear, grizzly	1.00 to 20.00
Beaver	2.00 to 7.00
Beaver castors, per-pound	2.50 to 4.00
Ermine, per skin	01 to 02
Fisher	50 to 7.00
Fox, cross	75 to 6.00
Fox, kit	10 to 45
Fox, red	25 to 1.70
Fox, silver	5.00 to 50.00
Lynx	25 to 4.00
Marten	75 to 2.50
Mink	25 to 1.75

Musquash	02 to 10
O.ter	1.50 to 10.00
Raccoon	50 to 85
Skunk	05 to 80
Timber wolf	25 to 3.50
Prairie wolf, large	25 to 1.00
" small	25 to 05
Wolverine	50 to 3.50

GROCERIES—Sugars were easier at the refineries at last advices, though there was no appreciable change in jobbing quotations. Refiners were 1 1/2c lower. Prices steady as follows: Yellow at 4 1/2 to 4 3/4c; granulated at 5 1/2 to 5 3/4c. Lumps, 6 1/2 to 6 3/4c; icing, 6 1/2 to 7c sugar syrups, 2 1/2 to 3 1/2c; maple sugar, 9 to 12c a lb.

Green Fruits—Apples are now advancing. Old stocks are well cleaned out, and new arrivals are held at a sharp advance, fancy stock, such as spies, being held at \$5.50 to 6.00 per barrel. Stock of cheaper qualities apples are very low. California oranges are arriving freely. Cranberries are very scarce, few if any, being left in the market. Bananas have been sold a little lower. A few pineapples arrived and sold at \$6 per dozen, and a few winter nollis pears also came in and sold at \$6 per box, but it is late in the season for this fruit. Prices are: Apples, \$5.50 to 6 per barrel, for choice fruit. California oranges, \$4 to 4.50 per box. Florida oranges held at \$5.00 to 5.50; Lemons, new Messinas, \$3.25 to 5.50; bananas, \$4.00 to 4.50 per bunch. Apple cider, 35c per gal.

NUTS—Prices range as follows: Almonds per pound, 16 to 18c; walnuts, per pound, 12 to 17c; pecans, 15c to 16c; filberts, 11 to 14c; Brazils 10 to 13c; peanuts, 14 to 15c; chestnuts, 14 to 15c; cocoanuts, \$9 to \$10 per 100.

PAINTS, OILS, ETC.—Business has opened out briskly in this branch. Orders have been coming in freely from the territories, particularly from districts which received a large immigration last year, the Edmonton district especially being free with orders. British Columbia is also sending in a good many orders. The Manitoba trade has not done much yet, and wholesalers are not expecting an active trade from Manitoba points, except the Winnipeg city trade, which promises well. In prices leads are very firm, since the formation of an association among eastern manufacturers. Cutting prices will now be stopped. Prices will not be any lower at any rate, and an advance is expected. Linseed oil keeps on advancing, and it is thought the top has not been reached yet. We again advance prices on oil, in the price list which will be found on another page. Turpentine also keeps very firm, and the price has again to be advanced 2c. There is now a combination on mixed paints. Manufacturers will not book orders for shipment after April 30, which indicates an upward tendency, and prices are expected to advance after that date about 20 per cent. Castor oil has been sold 1c under quotations of last week, and we reduce the price to 11c. Putty is stronger, in sympathy with lead, and is quoted 1/2c higher in barrels. The price of whitening has been forced up in this market, owing to a change in freight classification, as it is now placed in 5th class, instead of in 10th class as formerly. This makes the freight much higher, and consequently also the selling price here, the price advancing from \$1.25 to 1.60 per 100 lbs. Glass is steady, and no change is expected until new stocks arrive in June.

GENERAL WHEAT SITUATION.—Wheat was quiet in United States markets on Monday, and closed lower and cables were easy. The visible supply statement showed a decrease of only 93,000 bushels, making the total supply at principal points in the United States and Canada, east of the mountains, aggregate 79,020,000 bushels, as compared with a total of 41,139,000 bushels a year ago. Both cables and United States markets were dull and lower on Tuesday. There were no new features in the market. Wheat and flour on ocean passage increased equal to 320,000 bushels. There was no change in the situation on Wednesday, all mar-