

pails, and \$1.50 for 5 lb pails; pure leaf lard in 8, 5 and 10 pound tins, quoted at \$7 per case of 60 pounds, tiorces 9c pound.

CURED MEATS.—Smoked Meats are quoted: Hams, assorted sizes, 12c; breakfast bacon, bellies, 12½; do backs, 1¼; picnic hams, 9½; short spiced rolls, 7½; long rolls, 7½; shoulders, 8c; smoked long clear, 10c; smoked jowls, 5½c. Dry salt meats are quoted: Long clear bacon, 9c per lb; shoulders, 7c; backs, 9½c; canvassed meats, or put in parchment paper, ½c per lb. extra; barrel pork, heavy mess \$15.00 clear mess \$16.00; short cut, \$18.00; rolled shoulders, \$15 per barrel, pork sundries; fresh sausage, 7c; bologna sausage, 7c; German sausage, 7c; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 10c per package; pickled hocks, 2c; pickled tongues, 5c; sausage casings, 80c lb.

VEGETABLES.—Potatoes are lower again. There is a large supply of vegetables of all kinds and prices are low. Prices are: Potatoes, new, 35c per bushel; green stuff, including all roots, onions, etc., per doz. bunches is quoted at 5 to 8c all around, and is very abundant; spinach, per lb. 1 to 2c; cabbage, 25 to 40c. per dozen; cucumbers 50c per dozen; cauliflower, 30 to 45c per dozen as to size; Green peas in pod, 40c to 50c per bushel. Celery, 25c per dozen bunches; green beans 2c lb.

POULTRY.—Prices are the same. Chickens 40 to 45c per pair. Turkeys 8c per lb live weight. No ducks or geese selling.

DRESSED MEATS.—Prices continue easy, and beef is again ½c lower this week. We quote beef at 4½ to 5c, as to quality, good beef is selling at 5c and very little is going over this price; mutton 7c is the general price this week; lamb 7c also, with mutton and lamb in some cases selling at 6½c; pork 5½ to 6c; veal 4 to 6c.

HIDES.—W. J. Bird, hide inspector, Winnipeg, has made a report showing that during the first half of the year he inspected 3,504 hides grading No. 1; 1,125 grade No. 2, and 171 grade No. 3. Making a total of 4,802 for the six months. The question of branding cattle is being discussed considerably, as it injures the hides. It is well known that a brand spoils the hide for tanning, and the bigger the brand the more of the hide is spoiled. Some of the big brands on the side of a beef animal just about destroy one side of the hide. The leather trades section of the London, England chamber of commerce has written to the Canadian boards, suggesting that a smaller brand be used on cattle, as hides are greatly depreciated on account of the large brands placed on valuable portions of the hide. If any plan can be invented to do away with the necessity for branding, it would add greatly to the value of our western range hides. There is no change in prices here. Hides, Winnipeg inspection, green cured, 7½c for No. 1 cows, 6½c for No. 2, and 5½c for No. 3. No. 1 heavy steers, 7½c, No. 2 Steers, 6½c; branded hides grade No. 2, when not otherwise damaged to reduce them to No. 3. We quote: Calf, 8 to 15 lb skins, 6 to 8c per lb. Deacons, 25 to 40c each. Kips 5 to 6c. Sheepskins, recent kill, 25c. Lambskins, 25c each. Tallow, 4 to 5c rendered and 2 to 3c rough.

WOOL.—Most of the clip is now in, and dealers are figuring on the quantity handled. This shows a considerable increase over any previous year. In fact the wool industry is becoming quite an important item in our trade. The total quantity of wool produced in the country, including Manitoba and the Territories, will not be far from \$30,000 pounds when it is all in. Some estimates make it over this amount. Prices paid for territorial wool have ranged from 9 to 11½c per lb, and in one case we heard 12c was paid for a large lot recently at the point of ship-

ment. Here prices are firm at 9 to 10½c for ordinary unwashed Manitoba fleeces, and 11c was paid for one fine lot received this week, clean and free from chaff, etc. The wool sales at London closed on July 30. The sale has been a strong one throughout, prices steadily appreciating. Cross bred wools were in best demand, long lustrous wools advancing 1½d. This was the sharpest advance, and was due to the prevailing fashion in cloth of the bright lustrous variety. Fine wools, though in fair demand, did not experience the same strength as the medium and long lustrous varieties.

SENECA ROOT.—A good deal of root is offering and the crop will be heavy in some districts, notwithstanding the low prices. Buyers here say they will not pay over 18c per lb for anything, but some one is paying more, as we learn that one lot sold at something over 20c recently on tender.

HAY.—New hay is offering. We quote \$1.50 to \$5 on track here for baled prairie hay. Recent rains have greatly interfered with the Manitoba hay harvest, as much of the hay land is now too wet to cut, and now that grain harvest is starting, some farmers will leave their hay until after their grain is cut, in hopes that the low meadows will dry up.

LIVE STOCK.

CATTLE.—Exports increased again this week. With shipments to go forward to-day, Gordon & Ironside will have five train loads sent forward this week, consisting of 1,300 head of export and about 100 butchers cattle. With the exception of three or four car lots, these were all western range cattle. A train of 23 car loads also came in off the Manitoba North-western for shipment east, forwarded by Almack and Taylor Bros. Gordon & Ironside have 1,000 head bought up in the vicinity of Yorkton for shipment soon, and Mullins & Wilson are buying on the Manitoba North-western this week to make up train load shipments. Prices are rather easy here, especially for butchers' cattle, owing to the low price of beef locally. We quote local butchers' at 2 to 2½c and best export at 3 to 3½c per lb.

HOGS.—Prices are steady here at 4c off cars, per lb, for best bacon hogs. Gordon & Ironside shipped two cars east this week, which were the only shipments to outside points.

SHEEP.—Dull and nominal at 3 to 3½c per lb, off cars here, and lambs at \$1.00 to \$2.75 per head. Dressed lamb is now as low in price as mutton, and very few sheep are wanted, as the market is supplied with lamb. There are said to be a good many fat sheep on the western ranges, but there is no demand for them, as there is a sufficient supply offering by farmers to supply this market. A good many of these western range sheep are too small for profitable export to England and there is an over-supply for the local trade, so that the outlook at the ranges is not very bright. No sheep have been exported so far this year, but there will likely be some exports later on.

At Toronto on July 30 export cattle were in light numbers. The top price paid was \$1.40 per cwt, and the range was from 8c to 3½c for medium animals and bulls, to 4c to 4½c for choice cattle. There was a much better demand for butchers' cattle at 2½c to 3c for common, and 3½ to 3¾c for choice. Lambs sold at 3c per lb. Export ewes and wethers 3½c to 3¾c per lb. Best bacon hogs sold at \$5.40 to \$5.50 per 100 lbs, off cars, heavy fats at \$1.70 to \$1.75, stores \$1.20 to \$1.25, stags and rough hogs \$2 to \$2.25.

At Toronto on Aug. 2 cattle were in improved demand at 4 to 4½c per lb, and 3c to 3½c for bulls; butchers' cattle 2½c to 3½c. Export sheep were higher at \$3.60 to \$3.75 per 100 lbs, and 9c to 9½c for bucks. Lambs \$2.50 to \$3.25 each.

At Chicago on Aug. 2 cattle were firm, the best price being \$5.10 per 100 lbs, for choice range steers. Hogs were lower than a week ago, the range being from \$1.25 to \$1.90 as to quality. Sheep advanced 25c per 100 lbs, to \$2 to \$1.25, and lambs at \$1.25 to \$1.65. Montana sheep sold at \$3.50 to \$3.75 per head.

The Weather and Crops

The weather has been favorable this week. There have been no general rains, but local showers were reported at various points from the extreme west to the extreme eastern portion of the wheat belt. These showers were mostly light. There was a very heavy rain at Winnipeg on July 28, but it fortunately covered only a small area of country. The temperature has been moderate to warm, closing up the week warm to-day.

Under the influence of the favorable weather the crops have been coming on faster this week and a few reports are now coming in of some grain being cut. A little barley has been cut in some of the earlier districts, but the total quantity cut yet is trifling. A telegram from Oak Lake on Friday said that two farmers in that district had begun to cut wheat. It was also reported that one farmer had begun cutting wheat near Morris. These, however, are patches of grain which are far in advance of the general crop, owing to peculiar location or local condition. They indicate, however, that the general harvest is not far off. It will be fully a week or ten days yet before harvesting wheat will begin to any extent, and in most districts, we do not look for active beginning of harvest for fully two weeks. The Red river valley, (that is the country east and west of the Red river for a considerable distance) is ahead of the rest of the country in the date of beginning harvest. The crops from Winnipeg south and southwest to Morris, Grstna, Carman, Morden, etc., are earlier than further west. The Portage district is also earlier than farther west, though there is a section about Oak Lake and Virden in the west, which is almost as early as the Red river country.

Many reports have been published in the daily papers which though literally true (with possibly some exceptions) are very misleading to those who do not understand the situation, and would lead them to suppose that harvesting is much further advanced than it really is. For instance, in most districts it will always be found that there are one or more patches of grain which from some local reason are far in advance of the general crop. Sometimes it will be a patch situated on a sandy piece of ground or on a slope which causes it to ripen early. This grain is cut and forthwith the report is sent out to the papers that harvesting has begun in the district, when in reality the general harvest will not begin for a week or more. There is also a rivalry among farmers as to who will cut the first grain, and it often so happens that a farmer who wants to get the name of cutting the first grain and also has a piece of early grain will start in and cut a few acres long before the crop is properly matured. The report goes out, just the same, that harvesting has started in the district. One of the very earliest pieces of grain cut this year, we learn was cut about a week too soon, as the owner wanted to go away some distance to cut up hay, and as he did not want to leave his haying and come home to cut this piece of barley, he cut it before he went away, and left it in stock to ripen. The report went out as usual "that harvesting had begun" in the district. The actual area of grain of any kind so far cut is trifling, and much less than many would be led to suppose.

The Saltcoats creamery has shipped about 25,000 pounds of butter to British Columbia, the result of about seven weeks work.