

been getting 10,000 to 12,000 bushels and Deloraine 5,000 to 8,000 bushels per day. Rapid City had 7,000 bushels one day, and other points in proportion. There was no snow yet for sleighing up to Saturday, the snow following Christmas day not having amounted to much. Wheeling is good. Prices in Manitoba country markets have ruled rather easier on account of expected higher freight rates. About 60c per bushel was the usual price to farmers for No. 2 hard, but upwards to 65c was paid at some points. On the Winnipeg grain exchange the week was an exceedingly dull one. On the call board on Tuesday 2 cars of No. 1 frosted, North Bay, sold for 77c; and four cars of feed wheat, Brandon rate of freight, for 30c per bushel. On Monday and Wednesday there were no transactions. On Saturday No. 2 hard was offered at 97c at Carleton junction, with 96c per bushel bid.

The feature attracting interest mainly among grain men was the situation regarding grain rates. It was known that the railways had decided upon advancing the grain and flour rate between Minneapolis and Chicago from 7½ to 12½c per 100 pounds. This would effect shipments from points on the Northern Pacific railway in Manitoba, on all rail shipments eastward. It meant an advance of five cents on rates from here unless the Northern Pacific counteracted the advance by a cut on local rates from Manitoba points. It was also understood that the Canadian Pacific contemplated an advance in rates. The full policy of the railways has not been officially announced, but it is understood the C.P.R. will go back to the old tariff in force a short time ago, which means an advance in the rate from Winnipeg to Toronto, from 44½ to 46 cents per 100 pounds. There will also be a proportionate or greater advance to seaboard points.

FLOUR.

Flour has maintained a steady tone, and there is no change to note in values. The usual local and eastern shipping trade is doing. Quotations in jobbing lots to the local trade, per 100 pounds are as follows: Patents, \$2.60; strong bakers', \$2.40; XXXX, \$1.40; superfine, \$1.20; middlings, \$2.60; graham flour, \$2.40.

MILLSTUFFS.

Prices hold firm at \$12 for bran and \$14 for shorts per ton. The local demand is slack, on account of the plentiful supply of feed grain. While millers have such a good demand from the east at fair prices that they do not crowd the local market with offerings.

OATMEAL, OIL CAKE, ETC.

Prices are steady. Quotations are: Oil cake in bags, \$21 a ton; oil cake meal in ton lots, \$26.50; in car lots f.o.b. \$25; Oatmeal, standard, \$2.60; granulated, \$2.70 per 100 pounds; rolled oats, \$2.70 per sack of 80 pounds; Cornmeal is held at \$1.50 per 100 lbs. Pot barley, \$2.75 per 100 lbs.

GROUND FEED.

Business is dull in feed. Best ground oats and barley feed is quoted at \$17 to \$18 per ton, and ground oats alone at \$16.

OATS.

There was a firmer tendency in oats again, later in the week, though easy at the start. Farmers offerings in the Winnipeg market were taken at between 25 and 28c per bushel (34 lbs.) though 26c was about the top paid on some days. Shippers were paying between 28 and 29c for cars on track at country points. At Montreal the first of the week 44 to 45c was quoted for Manitoba oats, while in the same market Ontario oats sold from 2 to 3c higher, the latter being of better average quality, being cleaned

better. At Toronto 45 to 46c was the quoted price, with 41 to 42c quoted at country points in Ontario for home grown.

BARLEY.

Slow at 25 to 28c for feed qualities.

BUTTER.

Commission dealers are selling small lots in the city at a range of from 12 to 20c per pound as to quality, and picked butter may be quoted at 17 to 20c selling in this way. Larger lots as they are received from the country are of course of mixed quality, and 15 to 16c would represent about their value in lump.

CHEESE.

Cheese is slow sale and jobbing about 12c per pound.

EGGS.

Eggs have a firmer tendency. Pickled sold at 21c per dozen, but will likely be held firmer at 22c after Saturday. Fresh are irregular in price and quality, and quoted anywhere from 25 to 30c per dozen. At Toronto fresh were quoted at 25c and lined at 22 to 23c.

LARD.

Chicago compound lard in 20 pound pails held at \$2; pure \$2.20.

CURED MEATS, SAUSAGE, ETC.

Local packers have been working some, mostly on hogs brought in from Ontario, further car lots having arrived. Quotations here are as follows: Dry salt bacon, 9½c; smoked long clear, 10½c; spiced rolls, 12c; breakfast bacon, 12½c; boneless, 13c; smoked hams, 14c. Sausage are quoted: fresh pork sausage, 10c lb.; bologna do., 8c lb.; German do., 9c lb.; ham, chicken and tongue do., 9c per ½-lb. packet.

HIDES.

Few butchers hides offering, this class being mostly picked up for the winter kill. No 1 green are worth 4c lb. here. Country frozen hides are being taken at about 2½c per pound in round lots at point of shipment, or are worth here 3½c for No. 1. Skins worth 50 to 65c.

VEGETABLES.

Not many potatoes offering, and those having quantities are inclined to hold till spring when they imagine prices will be higher. Quotations here at about 30c per bushel. Other vegetables are quoted: Turnips: 20c bus.; parsnips, 1½c lb.; carrots, 60c bus.; beets, 40c bus.; cabbage, 40 to 60c doz.; onions, 3 to 3½c lb.; Spanish do., \$1.60 per crate of 30 lbs. nett; celery, 25 to 50c doz. heads.

DRESSED POULTRY.

Stocks of frozen dressed poultry are light, and as they are in few hands prices are held steady. Turkeys are jobbing by commission dealers at about 13½, geese at 10c, ducks 11c and chickens 9c. The demand for turkeys and geese will be very slack hereafter, the holiday season being over, but chickens are still in good request.

DRESSED MEATS.

Now that the holiday season is over, everything is dull in dressed meats. Butchers are stocked up in frozen meats, and are buying but very little. There is still considerable frozen country beef offering on the market, which sells at from 2 to 4c per pound for sides, as to quality. Country pork brings from 6½ to 7c, usually the latter price. Ontario pork is selling in a small way by importers at 7 and 7½c. Mutton is worth 9 to 10c. Veal 5 to 7c.

HAY.

Baled hay quoted on track at \$8 to \$8.50. Loose on the market \$5 to \$7 per ton.

FURS.

Although the earliest records show that many of the eastern races employed the skins of beasts as clothing, it is pretty certain that the custom was imposed by necessity rather than dictated by choice. It is impossible to say how long the sheep were his fleece before man invented the loom, but we know that not a few among the nomadic tribes—notably the Arabs

and Tartars—clothe themselves with sheepskin to this day; while fur mantels were worn by the prophets and chiefs of the Hebrews, less as necessary garments than for the secondary purposes of distinction and dignity. On the other hand, what may be called the natural use of furs originated in those countries in which the severity of the climate rendered such a protection as almost the first condition of existence. The Greeks learned spinning from the Egyptians, and the Romans followed and surpassed them in the vast staple of woollen manufacture, the more luxurious of the latter going to extraordinary lengths in the way of costly clothing of this character. When, however, the Roman Empire fell before the hordes of the Northern conquerors a new era was inaugurated. Furs were almost their only riches; and Beckmann tells us that these hardy tribes were so well acquainted with the art of preparing and wearing them in the most effective manner that they were thus recommended to the notice of the young Romans. A not unnatural result followed. The Northern nations took more and more to woollen clothing, while the Romans adopted the fur dresses of their conquerors; the latter, however, vying with each other in making the new assumption "modish" and fastidious. Skins were, in fact, among the first articles of commerce between Italy and the North. Unfitted as fur dresses were for ordinary use in such a climate, they were in time dedicated to occasions of state ceremony, and thus became associated, and ultimately identified, with the prescriptions of rank and personal dignity. The Italians chiefly bordered and trimmed their dresses with fur, and the fact that it was procurable only from a distance and at considerable expense, helped to sustain the artificial idea of its importance. At every petty court of Central Europe furs soon began to form the state costume of the reigning family; and the nobility being quick to follow suit, the nice distinctions between "guards of ermine" and "miniver pure" became too much for the Lord Chamberlains of the day, and were gradually handed over to the Herald's Office, with the laws and traditions of which they speedily became incorporated.

It was in obedience to a swiftly spreading fashion, therefore, that furs were first domiciled in England, and with them a whole mass of the most ridiculous edicts and observances. In Germany, in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, it was forbidden to any degree below the knightly order to wear either sable or ermine. Merchants and tradespeople generally were ordered to use no fur trimmed clothes whatever, and even the wealthier members of the same classes were only permitted "linings" of lamb, fox or weasel skins. Many sumptuary enactments in England were almost literal transcripts of the German laws. Edward III. decreed that no person should wear furs of any kind who "could not spend" £100 a year. "Her gown was blue," says Chaucer, "and furred with gray;" and again, in the "Romance of the Rose," the poet describes a citizen's "Burnette cote, furred with no miniver, but with a furro of lamb-skinnes hevie and blacke." Our nobility were the monopolists of ermine and sable, while the lower classes had still to be content with home materials, in the shape of squirrel, lamb, and, above all, rabbit skins. The distinction between the east and west of Temple Bar was, for a long time, maintained with the nicest severity, and many heart-burnings were doubtless caused by the restraints under which civic beauty labored in the matter of personal adornment.

It was doubtless the splendid furs obtainable in Siberia that induced the Russians to make the conquest of that country, which still continues to supply some of the choicest sorts. From this source some of the early traders of Italy obtained the stores of which they became the distributors throughout the rest of Europe, but the discovery of America and the foundation of the fur trade laid by the French settlement in Canada immensely increased the field of operations. It was not till the year 1670 that the English Hudson's Bay Company was