

on dressed lumber is interpreted in this way, the duty collected on a thousand feet of lumber, as above, would be only 40 cents, instead of \$3.20 if it were collected on the full cost of dressed lumber. If this interpretation of the duty is carried out, the government might just as well make dressed lumber entirely free at once, for a duty collected on merely the difference between the cost of rough and dressed lumber of the same grade, will be such a trifling matter as to be hardly worth bothering with. There is talk of yards being started in the city to handle imported lumber, but nothing definite has been done yet in this direction. As prices are likely to be advanced in Minnesota, there will be less disposition to cut prices in this direction. At the recent meeting of the Mississippi Valley Association, at Minneapolis, it was represented that stocks were not excessive, and that better prices should be obtained. Steps were taken to advance prices. The meeting of the Western Retail Association held in the city this week was to consider applicants who wish to open new yards, of which there are a number. There was also some informal talk in regard to the tariff changes. There is quite a difference of opinion among lumbermen themselves as to what the result of the tariff changes will be.

DRY GOODS—The trade in the west will be pleased to learn that eastern wholesalers are about to make an effort to stop the ruinous practice followed in the dry goods trade of dating ahead, which means practically unlimited time in credit business, and encourages retail dealers to overstock. Many failures in the retail trade have their foundation in this custom, for were credit restricted to reasonable terms, the tendency to overstocking, with its disastrous consequences, would be greatly reduced. The news from Toronto states that the dealers there have decided to take a determined stand against dating ahead. It is to be hoped something more than talk will be the result this time, but there has been so much talk without any practical results heretofore that it seems almost hopeless to expect the movement to be carried through successfully. In the cotton manufacturing trade they have a strike at Halifax, owing to a reduction in wages; and the annual report of the Dominion Cotton Mills company has been made public, showing a considerable falling off in receipts, owing to decline in sales, and the earnings of the company have declined from between fifteen and twenty per cent. a year ago, to less than twelve per cent. for the past year. The changes in the tariff have necessitated a revision in prices of cottons, and the mills have sent out their new lists on bleached and grey cottons, showing a reduction in prices of from 5 to 10 per cent. The new list of colored goods has not come to hand yet, but reductions will not be so great on this class. In velveteens and full dress goods the new tariff will lead to an advance, but eastern importers are endeavoring to induce the government to make a uniform rate of 25 per cent duty on all goods, instead of the 30 per cent rate on velveteens, etc. Oilcloths will be lower it is expected, but new lists have not been reported yet. An advance in thread is hinted, owing to the higher duty on thread in hanks. The Toronto wholesalers are asking for a five per cent reduction on parasols. A Montreal report says: "One of the features of the market is the brisk demand for moire antique and watered silks. There is a regular fad for them at present, and all the houses are sending repeats. In this connection a letter from a buyer on the other side states that he is experiencing considerable difficulty in having these filled."

GROCERIES—Sugars were easier at the refineries, and a decline of $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ was reported, but later advices were firmer. Syrups were $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ higher at the refineries. A change has been made again in the regulations governing the importation of tea and green coffee, whereby importations from England will come in free, the same as importations made direct from country of production.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—The week has been a quiet and uneventful one in wheat. There has been very little change in prices in leading markets, thus indicating an uncertain feeling, and a desire to hold off to see what the future will develop. United States markets were a shade firmer on Monday, owing to a decrease of 1,545,000 bushels in the visible supply, which was larger than was expected. The supply at principal points in the United States and Canada, east of the mountain now aggregates 69,217,000 bushels, and a year ago was 76,096,000 bushels. On Tuesday the markets were not materially changed. Cables were higher. There was rain over the central Mississippi valley reported on Wednesday, and reports from Kansas stated that the drought had disappeared and prospects were for a good crop. Prices not materially changed. On Thursday wheat was slightly lower, on favorable crop reports. On Friday prices recovered a little, but the markets were quiet and not materially changed. California is about the only point which continues to report dry weather.

Exports of wheat (flour included) from both coasts this week amount to 3,019,000 bushels, a gain of 33 per cent. over the preceding week. In the like week last year the total exported was 3,963,000 bushels; two years ago it was 3,107,000 bushels, and three years ago, 2,222,000 bushels.

Wheat is very quiet locally and there is nothing doing in the way of business. We quote No. 1 hard May, at 64¢, delivered at Fort William, and cash No. 1 hard about 62¢. Stocks in store at Fort William on April 14 were 2,338,043 bushels. Receipts for the week were 48,313 bushels and no shipments. A year ago stocks were 3,254,534 bushels. A sale of No. 1 hard Manitoba wheat was made in England on April 2 at equal to 73 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per bushel, c.i.f., London. On the basis of prices ruling here at the same date, this would show a loss of over 10¢ per bushel, all rail freight rates being calculated upon.

Interest is now centred in the crop outlook, which owing to the very backward season is becoming a matter of some misgiving. It now looks as though the seeding would be almost as late as last year, which was the most backward season on record. Such a long spell of dark, drizzling weather has seldom been experienced in Manitoba at any season of the year. For the past week to ten days no seeding has been done, and in districts where a start had been made farmers have been obliged to desist. The seeding time now looks further off than it did two weeks ago. The long, drizzling rains of this week, followed by the snow storm of Thursday, have left the country in a very damp state. The flat districts are practically a sea of water, and even on the light rolling lands no seeding could be done this week. Information from Brandon this morning said the land was very wet and no seeding could be done. We have now had two bright days (Friday and to-day) and it is to be hoped that it will continue fair. A very brief time will put the high, rolling districts in condition for seeding, but the flat, heavy lands will require a week of dry weather to make them passable.

FLOUR—Flour continues irregular. Local millers are quoting the same as last week, and sales of the best brands have been made at the lowest quotations. Quotations in small lots to the local trade, delivered in the city are as follows: Patents \$1.60 to 1.65; strong bakers \$1.50 to 1.55; XXXX which varies widely in the quality of different mills, is quoted at 75 to \$1.00 as to quality. Lower grades, 60 to 75¢. Prices per sack of 98 pounds.

MILLSTUFFS—Continue very scarce, and dealers have only been able to obtain a few sacks at a time. We quote bran \$12 to \$13, and shorts at \$14 to \$15 per ton, as to quantity.

OATMEAL, ETC.—Rolled oatmeal is quoted at \$2.25 in small lots for 80 lb. sacks;

standard, in 98 pound sacks, \$2.40 and granulated, \$2.40.

GROUND FEED—More has been taken owing to the scarcity of bran and shorts. Prices range from \$18 to \$19 per ton as to quality for oat and barley feed.

OATS—Quiet and steady. Cars on track Manitoba country points are about the same, at 24 to 25¢ per bushel of 34 pounds for feed grade, or equal to 30 to 31 on track Winnipeg. There is some demand for fancy seed oats, in small quantities, and 35 to 40¢ has been paid for such. The recent purchases by the government of seed oats were made at prices ranging from 32 to 40 cents, mostly about 38 to 40¢ per bushel, but of very fine quality.

BARLEY—There appears to be no barley for sale in the country in quantities. There is quite a demand for small quantities for seed. Here ordinary feed to malting samples will bring 40 to 45¢ per bushel of 48 pounds, and higher for choice seed grain.

FEED WHEAT—A good sample of feed wheat will bring 40¢ per bushel of 60 pounds.

FLAX SEED AND MEAL—The price holds at 75¢ per bushel of 56 pounds here, and 70¢ in country markets. For seed purposes up to \$1 has been paid. Ground oil cake meal quoted at \$24 to 25 per ton.

BUTTER—The market is about the same as last week and is fairly firm. Old dairy tubs are held at 14 to 20¢ as to quality, and fair to good new, mostly in rolls, at 20 to 22¢, these being selling prices here in small lots.

CHEESE—Held at 12 to 13¢, selling price in a small way.

EGGS—Have been easier this week, and close at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 13¢, with an easier tendency. Dealers expect to buy round lots at 11¢ net price next week, equal to a selling price of 12¢ here.

CURED MEATS—Prices are: hams, 11 to 12¢; breakfast bacon, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; dry salt long clear bacon, 8¢; smoked long clear 9¢; spiced rolls, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; boneless hams, 12¢; mess pork, \$16.00 per barrel. Sausage is quoted: fresh pork sausage, 8¢; bologna sausage 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per lb; German, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 10¢ per half lb. packet. Pickled hogs tongues, 5¢ lb. Pickled pigs feet, \$1.40 per pair; pickled hocks, 30 lb.

LARD—Pure lard held at 55¢ in 5 lb. pails; \$1.05 in 5 lb pails; \$2.00 in 20-pound pails, and \$5.00 in 50 lb. pails; compound at \$1.75 per 20 lb pail; compound in 3, and 5 pound tins, \$6.65 per case of 60 pounds. Pure leaf lard in 3, 5 and 10 pound tins, quoted at \$7.25 per case of 60 pounds.

DRESSED MEATS—Beef steady at 6 to 7¢. Mutton is held at 8 to 11¢, cold storage being offered at 8¢, and fresh dressed at 10 to 11¢. Hogs, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. Veal has been scarce, owing to the very bad roads, which has kept back supplies from the country, and quoted at 8 to 9¢.

POULTRY—Following prices are quoted:—14¢ for turkeys, 11¢ for geese and 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ for ducks, and 10¢ for chickens.

HIDES—Butchers appear to be salting to hold, as very few are coming in. Some damaged lots have come in, through carelessness on the part of shippers in the country, as usual at this season of the year. Prices continue irregular. We quote Winnipeg inspected hides as follows:—No. 1 cows, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; No. 2, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; No. 3, 1¢; No. 1, heavy steers, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3¢; No. 2 heavy steers, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2¢; No 3 steers 1¢. Calf, 8 to 13-lb. skins, 4 to 5¢ per pound. Kips about the same as hides, sheepskins about 50¢ each for new skins is an average price. Some large are worth more, and small skins less. Tallow, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ rendered; 2 to 3¢ rough.

VEGETABLES—No potatoes have been coming in, owing to bad roads, and stocks in the city are light, and retail prices have been advanced to 60¢ per bushel with a prospect of a further advance before the roads become passable. Other vegetables are quoted: Turnips, 20 to