

WHEAT.—GENERAL SITUATION.—Wheat has been weak and prices declining in leading markets on most days this week. There was a little spurt on Wednesday, due to a fear of complications arising out of the inauguration of the Sudan expedition by Great Britain, but it was short lived. The leading features have been easier cables, small decrease in United States stocks and large spring wheat receipts. There have been some reports of crop damage in the winter wheat states, but not sufficiently important to strengthen the markets much, affording only a temporary check to the declining tendency. Exports this week were 1,600,000.

WHEAT.—LOCAL SITUATION.—The local situation in wheat is very unsatisfactory, owing to large stocks, a number of country points filled up with wheat, elevators at lake ports full, so that wheat cannot be moved forward, and prices above a shipping basis in country markets. The grain men have been all anxious for a break up of the roads to stop farmers' deliveries, as they do not want more wheat at present, and the trade is not in a position to handle it if they did want it. The only thing which has kept up the price of wheat in Manitoba country markets is the buying by millers. At some points millers have kept the price up to about 50c per bushel for best samples of hard wheat, but at other points prices have declined, and altogether prices are very irregular, prices paid to farmers varying widely at different country markets according to local features, the decline being sharper on low grade stuff. In Manitoba country markets prices to farmers were about as follows: No. 1 hard 46 to 50c; No. 2 hard 44 to 48c; No. 3 hard, 37 to 40c. Receipts at Fort William for the week ended March 14 were 168,623 bushels; shipments, 61,976 bushels; in store 3,800,000 bushels. Stocks in store a year ago were 909,935 and two years ago 171,838 bushels. Stocks of Manitoba wheat at lake ports, milling and interior points here aggregate over 3,000,000 as compared with about 3,250,000 bushels a year ago. Receipts at Fort William for the corresponding week last year were 2,417 bushels and shipments were 3,312 bushels. With this large quantity of wheat in sight and storage full at lake and many interior points, the desire is that deliveries in the country should cease until navigation opens and stocks can be reduced by shipments. Shippers do not care to send all rail shipments at high rates so late in the season, and with prices declining abroad. It would apparently be unwise to send much wheat to North Bay for orders, for the Ontario milling trade, as any accumulation there would likely mean sacrifice prices. There is not enough business doing to establish close prices at Fort William. We quote cash No. 1 hard, above basis, Fort William, at about 62 to 63c, and No. 2 hard 59 to 60c.

FLOUR.—There is no further change. Manitoba millers are now holding stocks for shipment after the opening of navigation. There has been no change in prices. Sales by millers here are now made at \$1.85 to \$1.90 for patents and \$1.65 to \$1.70 for strong bakers per sack of 98 pounds, delivered to city retail dealers; second bakers \$1.35 to \$1.45; XXXX \$1.20 to \$1.25, delivered. Brands of country mills are offered at 5 to 10c under these quotations.

MILLSTUFFS.—City mills are selling at \$9 per ton for bran and \$11 for shorts, delivered in the city, in small lots.

OATS.—Oats have been very dull, and they are now almost as hard to sell as barley has been for some time. Owing to the limited quantity offering during the winter, prices have been comparatively high, compared with United States markets, but lately large offerings have more than supplied the demand and prices have been going lower.

Prices for car lots are now about 2c off from the top and about 1c lower than a week ago, and very slow sale at the decline. We quote car lots on track, country points at 11 to 18c. In the Winnipeg market, for local consumption, 16 to 17c per bushel of 31 pounds is paid to farmers.

BARLEY.—There is very little movement, and scarcely any sale for this grain. We quote car lots nominal at 13 to 15c, in the country. For the local trade 14 to 18c, has been paid, per bushel of 48 pounds, for a few loads, to farmers.

WHEAT.—Local farmers' market.—The price paid at the city mills for farmers' loads is 50c per bushel of 60 pounds for best quality.

GROUND FEED. Prices range from \$11 to \$13 per ton, as to quality, the top price for rolled oat feed, and the lowest price for mixed mill feed.

OATMEAL.—Rolled oatmeal is selling at about \$1.25 per sack of 30 pounds in broken lots to retail dealers.

FLAX SEED.—Prices to farmers in Manitoba country markets are about 60c per bushel.

OIL CAKE.—Oil cake holds at \$16 per ton, including bags, for nutted or ground meal.

BUTTER.—Prices are the same. Receipts are not large, and there is a fair demand in a small way at steady prices. We quote fair to choice dairy tubs at 12 to 15c per lb. and lower grades at 8 to 10c. Ordinary rolls 9 to 11c, fancy, fresh made rolls or bricks, nicely handled, 12 to 15. While the ordinary mixed quality of rolls are not in good demand, really nice, fresh goods are wanted.

CHEESE.—Cheese is jobbing here in small lots at 9½ to 10c for large and 10½ to 11c for small sizes. Last week we spoke of the very depressed markets in England for cheese. Since then there has been a sharp improvement. Liverpool cables were 1 shilling higher on Monday, which is a very sharp advance.

EGGS.—Prices have continued downward, declining to 12c and later to 11c per dozen. In fact, commission houses were selling at 11c since the middle of the week. It is noticeable that many city dealers have been receiving shipments of eggs direct from country dealers and this fact is accountable to quite an extent for the rapid decline. In some instances retail dealers cut prices. Country shippers do not gain anything by shipping in this way, but rather the contrary, as the effect is to demoralize the market. The retailers who receive shipments of eggs in this way, make the commission themselves and as their profits are a little larger they are more inclined to cut prices, and thus the decline goes on until it is checked by purchases by picklers. There are no buyers in the market for round lots at present.

LARD.—Prices are: Pure \$1.80 for 20 lb. pails, and \$1.59 for 50 lb. pails; pure leaf lard in 3, 5 and 10 pound tins, quoted at \$5.50 per case of 60 pounds, tierces 8½c pound; cases of 30, one lb. tins, \$3.60.

CURED MEATS.—Hog products are firm. Smoked meats are quoted: Hams, assorted sizes, 11c; breakfast bacon, bellies, 11½; do., backs, 10½; picnic hams, 8c; short spiced rolls, 7½c long rolls, 7½c; shoulders, 7c smoked long clear, 8½ to 9c; smoked jowls, 5½c. Dry salt meats are quoted: Long clear bacon, 7½c per lb; shoulders, 6c; backs, 8c; barrel pork, heavy mess \$13.00; clear mess \$13.00; short cut, \$16.00; rolled shoulders, \$14 per barrel. Pork sundries; fresh sausage, 7c; bologna sausage, 6½c; German sausage, 6½c; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 10c per package; pickled hocks, 2½c; pickled tongues, 5c; sausage casings, 30c lb.

POULTRY.—Poultry of all kinds is very scarce. Eastern stock has been sell-

ing here at the following prices: Turkeys 13c; ducks 12c; geese 12c; chickens 12c. Really fine native poultry would bring these prices, less commission.

DRESSED MEATS.—Mutton is firm and higher. Hogs are easier at about 5c per lb. Country beef at 3½ to 4c as to quality. Fresh, unfrozen, city dressed beef 5 to 6c, as to quality. Mutton, city dressed, 8c.

GAME.—Rabbits, 6c each; jack rabbits, 50c each.

VEGETABLES.—Following are prices on the street market: Potatoes, 20c per bushel; cabbage 40 to 75c per dozen, as to size; celery 25 to 40c per dozen bunches; onions 40 to 60c per bushel; turnips 10 to 15c per bushel; parsnips, 40 to 50c bushel; carrots 50 to 40c; beets 25c bushel.

HIDES.—Prices are irregular, but the tendency is to reduce values all around. Some buyers were not offering over 4c for green country hides, and 4½c for No. 1 inspected. We quote prices here as follows: Green frozen hides 1 to 4½, 4 to 8 lbs. tare off. Green city hides, No. 1 buff, 5c, No. 2 4c. Calf, 8 to 15 lb skins, 5 to 6c per lb; deacons, 15 to 20c each; kips, 4½ to 5c, sheep and lambskins recent kill, 5½ to 6½c. Tallow, 4 to 5c rendered and 2 to 3c rough.

HAY.—Baled prairie is quoted at about \$5.00 \$5.50 on cars here. Loose hay on the street market, \$3.50 to \$4.50 per ton.

WOOL.—Nothing of local interest. The present series of London wool sales is characterized by active buying at firm prices, the advance previously noted being maintained.

LIVE STOCK.—Not much doing this week. We quote butchers' cattle at 2½ to 3½c, as to quality, sheep, 4c, hogs steady at 3½c off cars here.

Montreal Grain and Produce Market.

Business in grain was very quiet and the market was without any new feature to note. The demand for oats was slow. Prices were: Peas, per 60 lbs., 58 to 59c; No. 2 oats, per 31 lbs., 29c; corn, duty paid, 45 to 47c; barley, feed, 38 to 39c; barley, malting, 52 to 54c.

Flour.—There was no change in flour, business on the whole was rather quiet and values were unchanged. Prices were: Winter wheat \$1.35 to \$1.40; spring wheat, patents, \$1.25; straight roller \$1 to \$1.10; straight roller, bags, \$1.95 to \$2; extra, high, \$1.75 to \$1.85, Manitoba strong bakers' \$1.

Oatmeal.—The cutting in the price of rolled oats continues to go on and a further reduction of 10c has been made, with sales at \$2.90 in barrels and at \$2.80 in bags. Standard, brls., \$3 to \$3.10; granulated, brls., \$3.10 to \$3.20; rolled oats, brls., \$2.90 to \$3; rolled wheat, per 10 lbs., \$2.40 to \$2.50.

Feed.—Bran \$14 to \$15; shorts \$15 to \$16.

Butter.—The butter market continues of a quiet jobbing character. Creamery ranges from 21 to 22c, according to quantity. Eastern townships dairy was steady at 18c to 19c, and Western rolls from 14c to 15c.

Eggs.—The demand for small lots of eggs was good, and the market was fairly active at the recent advance in prices. We quote:—Fresh 17c to 19c; Montreal lined, 10c to 11c; western lined, 8½ to 10c per dozen.

Hides.—There is an easier feeling in the hide market, in sympathy with weaker advances from other markets, and the indications are that there will be a reduction of ½c per lb. in hides next week. The receipts continue liberal, for which, the demand is only fair. We quote No. 1, 6c; No. 2, 5c, and No. 3, 4c; lambskins, 70 to 90c; calfskins, unchanged at 7c for No. 1, and 5c for No. 2—Gazette, March 18.