

Chicago Board of Trade Prices.

On Monday December 9, wheat opened fractionally lower, except December option, which started $\frac{1}{2}$ c higher. December opened at 78 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, and ranged from 78 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 78 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. May opened $\frac{1}{2}$ c lower at 83 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, and ranged from 82 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 83 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. July wheat opened at 81 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, and closed at 81 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Business was fairly active, but prices averaged lower. Provisions were steady closing prices for futures were:

	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	May.
Wheat.....	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	82 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn.....	32	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats.....	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork.....	—	9.40	9.45	9.72 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lard.....	—	5.90	5.92 $\frac{1}{2}$	6.10
Short Ribs..	—	4.77 $\frac{1}{2}$	4.82 $\frac{1}{2}$	4.97 $\frac{1}{2}$

On Tuesday wheat opened steady and had a narrow range in prices. December ranging from 78 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 78 $\frac{3}{4}$ c, and May from 82 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 83 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. July opened at 81 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, and closed at 81 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Closing prices for futures were:

	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	May.
Wheat.....	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	79	—	83 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn.....	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats.....	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	—	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork.....	—	9.40	9.45	9.75
Lard.....	5.90	5.92 $\frac{1}{2}$	5.97 $\frac{1}{2}$	6.12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Short Ribs..	—	4.77 $\frac{1}{2}$	4.82 $\frac{1}{2}$	5.02 $\frac{1}{2}$

On Wednesday wheat had a very narrow range in prices, December selling between 78 $\frac{1}{2}$ c and 78 $\frac{3}{4}$ c, and May from 83 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 83 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. July wheat opened at 81 $\frac{1}{2}$ c and moved up one notch, closing at 81 $\frac{3}{4}$ c.

The nominal ranges for No. 2 spring wheat was 78 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 78 $\frac{3}{4}$ c, with limited sales at the former figure, and closing at the latter. No. 3 was in demand and sold at 67c for the ordinary in store grade and 71c for choice hard. No. 3 white spring wheat sold at 66 to 67c. Spring wheat by sample was in better demand to-day, especially for good to choice wheat, and values were somewhat higher. Poor wheat was rather slow of sale. On track and switched lots ranged as follows: No. 2 at 80 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for hard. No. 3 at 67 to 68c for fair; 70 to 71c for good; 73 to 74c for hard. No. 4 white at 59 to 63c for choice; No. 4 at 45c for poor; 48 to 50c for fair; 52 to 55c for good; 58 to 60 for choice. Closing prices for futures were:

	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	May.
Wheat.....	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	83 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn.....	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	33 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats.....	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork.....	—	9.35	9.42 $\frac{1}{2}$	9.72 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lard.....	5.90	5.90	5.92 $\frac{1}{2}$	6.10
Short Ribs..	—	4.75	4.80	4.97 $\frac{1}{2}$

Wheat was firmer on Thursday, on lighter receipts and prices advanced about $\frac{1}{2}$ c, but heavy selling reduced prices to about opening figures. Provisions were easier on large receipts of hogs. Closing prices for futures were:—

	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	May.
Wheat.....	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	83
Corn.....	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	31	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats.....	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork.....	9.95	9.30	9.37 $\frac{1}{2}$	9.67 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lard.....	5.87 $\frac{1}{2}$	5.87 $\frac{1}{2}$	5.90-92 $\frac{1}{2}$	6.07 $\frac{1}{2}$
Short Ribs..	4.75 $\frac{1}{2}$	4.72 $\frac{1}{2}$ -75	4.77 $\frac{1}{2}$	4.95

Wheat opened fairly firm on Friday, but soon had a sharp decline under heavy selling, closing as follows:—

	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	May.
Wheat.....	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	82 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn.....	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats.....	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork.....	8.65	9.30	9.40	9.70
Lard.....	5.87 $\frac{1}{2}$	5.90	5.95	6.07-10
Short Ribs..	—	—	4.72 $\frac{1}{2}$	4.95

Duluth Wheat Market.

Closing prices for No. 1 hard at Duluth on Friday, Dec. 13, were as follows: Cash No 1 hard 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; Cash No 1 Northern 74 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; Cash No 2 Northern 70c; No 1 hard December option 78c; May, 83 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

Minneapolis Markets.

Closing quotations for wheat in store on Dec. 13 were:

	Dec.	Jan.	May.	On track
No 1 hard.....	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	78
No. 1 northern.....	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$
No. 2.....	72	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	72-74

The *Market Record* says of the flour market: "The flour market was very quiet, with considerable inquiry, however, as stocks in the hands of jobbers and retailers are in none too large quantities to carry them along, even with frequent replenishing. Without it they are soon out of stock and so the inquiry is good even with quite moderate transactions. There is considerable demand for all descriptions from abroad, but for patents the bids are too low to take away more than the surplus, above domestic supply.

Patents, sacks, to local dealers.....\$4 80 to \$5 00
 Patents, to ship, sacks, car lots.....4 30 to 4 50
 In barrels.....4 50 to 4 70
 D P'ered at New England points.....5 30 to 5 40
 New York points.....5 20 to 5 30
 Delivered at Philadelphia and Baltimore.....5 15 to 5 25
 Bakers here.....3 25 to 3 60
 Superfine.....1 70 to 2 25
 Red dog, sacks.....1 10 to 1 25
 Red dog, barrels.....1 35 to 1 50

Brans and shorts—Market quiet with moderate demand, \$5.75 to \$6 for bran with some asking \$6.25 for choice. Shorts ranged from \$7 to \$7.50.

Oats—Offering full with moderate demand and sales inclined to drag. Demand hardly equalling the offerings and quotations ranged from 19 to 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

The Flour Duties.

At a meeting of the Winnipeg board of trade last week, the breadstuffs duties come up for discussion, resulting in the passing of the following preamble and resolution:—

"Whereas the customs duty on flour imported into Canada is 50 cents per barrel and the duty on 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of wheat, which, as per the the government standard, is required to manufacture one barrel of flour, is 71 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents, thus presenting the case of the raw material being taxed a greater amount than the manufactured article, the product of that raw material:

And whereas, the policy of the Dominion Government is that of protection to home industries:

And whereas, while, as petitioners, we directly refrain from expressing an opinion as to the merits or demerits of the general protection policy now ruling, we strongly hold that the effects of that policy, so long as it be in force, should be harmonious and evenly distributed.

Therefore, be it resolved, that this Board, in view of the anomaly presented petition the Dominion Government to equalize the duty on flour with that on wheat imported into Canada, so that Canadian millers be not handicapped by the bonus now practically granted to foreign competitors."

In the preamble it will be seen that the board endeavors to guard against expressing a direct opinion either in favor of or against the present protective policy. At the same time the board

asks for an increase in the tax upon bread, for the request that the duty upon flour be equalized with that on wheat, cannot be accepted as anything else but a demand for an increased bread tax. Tariff advocates will interpret it in this way, and they will be justified in so doing. When further oppressive duties are asked for, which will add to the burden of tariff taxation now pressing upon Western Canada, the Winnipeg board of trade, to be consistent must refrain from opposing, if it does not even support such demands. It can be said that Manitoba has asked for a tax upon breadstuffs, and this will certainly be used as an argument why Manitoba should submit to further taxation in the interest of eastern protectionists. In this resolution the Winnipeg board of trade has placed itself upon record in favor of protection, even to the the taxing of the bread of the masses.

The Insurance Bureau Scheme.

S. A. D. Bertrand returned from the east last week, where he had been presenting the Manitoba and Northwest insurance bureau scheme to the wholesale trade. He reports having been very successful in his efforts, having secured the co-operation of about all the principal wholesale houses doing business in the west. His gratifying success in the east puts the enterprise in good shape for complete organization, the wholesale houses here having previously given their support to the scheme. The work now remaining is to interview the retail trade throughout Manitoba and the Territories, with the object of acquiring the information required. This work will be undertaken by John Macdonald, who starts at once on a trip through the country, with a view to personally interviewing retail merchants. Mr. Macdonald is well qualified to do this work, and it is hoped he will meet with a favorable reception from the trade. The intention is to make the enterprise useful alike to wholesale and retail dealers, and its success in this respect will depend largely upon the reception given the representative of the undertaking by country dealers. If the information required is freely furnished, it will enable the projectors to carry out their efforts in securing better rates and fuller terms of insurance to the trade. This can only be accomplished by the co-operation of wholesalers and retailers.

R. ROLLINS, general merchant, Crystal City, Manitoba, advertises having sold out his business to Smith & Co.

J. B. HENDERSON, general merchant, Carberry, Manitoba, advertises retiring from business; is selling off stock.

CALL loans at Montreal last week were 5 to 6. Best mercantile paper quoted at 6 to 7, according to name and standing.

McKNIGHT BROS., general storekeepers, Bois-savain, have dissolved partnership. The business will be conducted by A. McKnight.

Minnedosa Tribune. Eight car loads of cattle went through Minnedosa bound for the Montreal market on Thursday evening last. S. L. Head with them.

It is said to be the intention of the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association to proceed against all who are carrying on business as druggists, or acting as drug clerks illegally. It is said there are quite a number of such in Manitoba.