

RAW FURS—This is about the most interesting week of the year in the fur trade, owing to the fact that the most important sales of the year were held in London this week. The Hudson's Bay Co's sales were held on March 22, 23 and 24 and the cable reports are very unsatisfactory, showing declines on almost every class of furs. Lower prices have been expected all along, consequently the trade was somewhat prepared for what has happened. Traders were warned repeatedly, early in the season, that lower prices were expected at the London sales this winter. Those who profited by these warnings and purchased carefully may not come out so badly after all. Following is the cable report of the Hudson's Bay Co's sales:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bear, black 22½ | per cent lower than March 1896 |
| " brown 15 | " " " " |
| " grizzly 55 | " " " " |
| Beaver.....10 | " " " " |
| Fisher.....12½ | " higher " " |
| Fox, silver.....12½ | " lower " " |
| Fox, cross.....15 | " " " " |
| Fox, red.....2½ | " " " " |
| Fox, white.....5 | " higher " " |
| Lynx.....20 | " lower " " |
| Marten.....12½ | " " " " |
| Mink..... | the same as " " |
| Musquash. 10 per c. | lower than " " |
| Otter.....12½ | " " " " |
| Raccoon.....15 | " " " " |
| Skunk.....25 | " " " " |
| Wolf.....15 | " " " " |
| Wolverine.....17½ | " " " " |
| Hair seal.....25 | " " " " |
| Musk ox.....2½ | " higher " " |

This shows a decline almost all along the line. While prices here will not decline in full proportion to the lower prices in London, there will certainly be a greater tendency shown here to exercise caution in buying, and greater care will be taken in the selection. We have revised prices this week, reducing them on several classes of furs. Following gives the range of prices paid here for skins:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Badger..... | \$ 05 to \$ 60 |
| Bear, black or brown..... | 5 00 to 20 00 |
| Bear, yearlings..... | 2 00 to 7 00 |
| Bear, grizzly..... | 5 00 to 15 00 |
| Beaver, large..... | 5 00 to 6 50 |
| " medium..... | 3 00 to 4 00 |
| " small..... | 50 to 2 00 |
| " cubs..... | 25 to 50 |
| " castors, per lb..... | 2 50 to 5 50 |
| Fisher..... | 3 00 to 8 00 |
| Fox, cross..... | 50 to 10 00 |
| " kitt..... | 10 to 40 |
| " red..... | 25 to 1 50 |
| " silver..... | 20 00 to 75 00 |
| Lynx, large..... | 1 00 to 2 00 |
| " medium..... | 75 to 1 50 |
| " small..... | 50 to 75 |
| Marten, dark..... | 1 00 to 4 50 |
| " pale or brown..... | 1 00 to 3 25 |
| " light pale..... | 75 to 1 75 |
| Mink..... | 50 to 1 50 |
| Musquash, winter..... | 03 to 10 |
| " spring..... | 05 to 15 |
| Otter..... | 2 00 to 9 00 |
| Skunk..... | 25 to 50 |
| Wolf, timber..... | 1 00 to 1 50 |
| " prairie..... | 25 to 60 |
| " bush or large prairie..... | 75 |
| Wolverine..... | 1 00 to 4 00 |

WHEAT—GENERAL SITUATION.—Wheat made a sharp decline on Monday, and has averaged about 1½ to 2c lower than last week in leading United States markets. There has been no material change in the situation. Crop reports have not developed anything startling. Stocks are declining in about the same proportion as for recent previous weeks. Exports of wheat, flour included, from both coasts of the United States and from St. John, N. B., this week amount

to 1,749,419 bushels, compared with 1,629,000 bushels last week, 1,744,000 bushels in the week a year ago, 2,562,000 bushels in the week two years ago, 2,966,000 bushels three years ago, and as contrasted with 2,875,000 bushels in the like week of 1893.

WHEAT—LOCAL SITUATION.—Receipts of wheat at Fort William last week aggregated 31,524 bushels, and the shipments were 5,639 bushels, leaving in store on Saturday last, 3,027,000 bushels. For the corresponding week last year, receipts at Fort William were 94,000 bushels, and shipments were bushels 25,000. Stocks at Fort William a year ago were 3,872,000 bushels compared with 911,000 bushels two years ago. Stocks of Manitoba wheat at lake and interior points a year ago were estimated at about 8,000,000 bushels compared with 3,250,000 two years ago. For the corresponding week two years ago, receipts of wheat at Fort William were only 2,417 bushels, and shipments 3,812 bushels. At present, stocks of Manitoba wheat at lake ports and interior ports are estimated at about 6,000,000 bushels. There was more doing in Manitoba country markets this week, farmers deliveries being some larger. Prices are easier, ranging from 53 to 56c for choice samples. A little business has been done in the Winnipeg market at about 72c in store Fort William, and about ¾c higher for shipment from the country, for No. 1 hard.

WHEAT—Winnipeg, Street Price.—The millers were paying about 60c to farmers for choice samples of hard wheat, per bushel of 60 lbs; feed wheat brings 45 to 50c.

FLOUR.—Some demand is reported from Montreal for Manitoba flour for export. The local situation is quiet and steady. We quote \$2.05 to \$2.10 for patents, \$1.85 to \$1.90 for bakers, \$1.45 to \$1.50 for second bakers and \$1.00 to \$1.05 for XXXX, per sack of 93 lbs.

MILLSTUFFS.—Bran is firm, and the demand is good. Millers are asking higher prices. We quote here \$6 for bran and \$3 for shorts, per ton, and in a small way \$1 per ton more is asked.

BARLEY.—City brewers are paying 23 to 25c for malting samples to farmers here, and 27 to 28c on track here for car lots. Feed barley 20 to 23c here.

OATS.—There is no material change in oats this week. From 15 to 20c per bushel of 34 pounds is paid to farmers in this market as to quality, per bushel of 34 lbs., for loads. Car lots range from 18c for light up to 20c for choice and for fancy seed or milling oats as high as 21c has been quoted for car lots on track here. Most sales of feed oats are about 18 to 19c.

OATMEAL.—The market is easy. Following are prices here in large lots, with small lots to retail dealers held about 15c more. Rolled oatmeal in 80 lb sacks \$1.60 per sack; standard. \$1.35 and granulated \$1.90 in 93 lbsacks. Rolled wheat, 90 lbs, \$1.60 in round lots. Pot barley, \$1.60; pearl barley, \$2.50 to \$2.75 in round lots.

GROUND FEED.—Prices are steady. Prices range from \$13 to \$17 per ton, as to quality, the top price for rolled oat feed. Ordinary mixed mill feed is held at \$13 per ton.

FLAX SEED.—The prices paid to farmers at Manitoba points is nominal at 45 to 50c per bushel for good milling seed.

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

BEANS.—Round lots to jobbers held at about \$1.10 per bushel.

BUTTER.—The market is still very bare of stocks. Receipts from the country are exceedingly light, and what little has come in is held stock. No new butter offering yet, except a little by farmers. Prices a firm. Good hold dairy tubs will sell at 11 to 12c, and anything real choice would bring 11c. A little hold creamery is selling at 23c. There are no new rolls coming, but any really nice new goods would bring 17 to 20c, as to quality. Dealers expect new butter to begin to come in at once, and then held stock, unless very choice, will be slow sale. Low grade stuff, 5 to 8c; medium grades, 10 to 12c.

CHEESE.—The local jobbing price is about 9½ to 11c in small lots.

EGGS.—Prices have declined further this week, to 17 to 18c, fairly large stocks of Minnesota eggs are held here and fresh Manitoba eggs have begun to come in. The tendency is naturally lower. Receipts of Manitoba stock, however, have not been very free yet, and the bulk of the supply is imported stock. It will not be necessary to bring any more in from the States, however.

POULTRY.—Very little poultry is coming in. Dealers will pay the following prices for receipts: Chickens, 6 to 7c; ducks, 8 to 9c; geese, 9 to 10c; turkeys, 9 to 10c.

LARD.—Lard is firm at the recent advance. Prices are: Pure \$1.55 to \$1.60 for 20 lb., pails, and \$3.50 for 50 lb. pails; pure leaf lard in 3, 5 and 10 pound tins, quoted at \$5.75 per case of 60 pounds, tierces 6½ to 7c.

CURED MEATS.—Prices are quite firm, as noted last week, in sympathy with advances east, and long clear bacon is held ¾c higher. Smoked meats are quoted: Hams, assorted sizes, 10 to 11c; breakfast bacon, bellies, 10 to 10½c; do., backs, 9 to 9½c; short spiced rolls, 7 to 7½c; shoulders, 6 to 6½c smoked long clear, 7 to 7½c; Fancy clear, 7½ to 8c; Dry salt meats are quoted: Long clear bacon, 6½ to 7c per lb; shoulders, 5½c; backs, 7 to 7½c; barrel pork, clear mess, \$12.00; short cut, \$15.00; rolled shoulders, \$13.50; per barrel. Pork sundries; fresh sausage, 7½c; bologna sausage, 6c; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 10c per package; pickled hocks, 8c; pickled tongues, 5c; sausage casings, 25 to 30c lb.

DRESSED MEATS.—Dressed meats are generally firm. Some frozen mutton is held, and has been the only thing obtainable this week, but fresh killed was expected to be offered to-day. Beef is firm, and good beef has brought 5½c this week, and choice is held at 6c, we quote city dressed beef at 5½ to 6c. Mostly selling at 5½ to 5¾c. We quote frozen mutton at 7½ to 8c, fresh will sell at about 10c. Hogs are slow, and quoted at about 4½c for country dressed. A few fancy city dressed hogs have sold as high as 5c. Veal is offering fairly freely at 6 to 6½c.

HIDES.—Prices are about the same, ranging from 6 to 6½c for green country frozen hides and 6½c is the usual price, though some at 6c is their limit on this class of stock. It is rumored that 7c was offered for green city hides this week, but this may be an error. We quote 6½c for frozen hides, calf, 5 to 6 lb., skins, 6½ to 8c per lb.; dekins 10 to 12c each; kips, 6 to 6½c; sheepskins range from 40 to 60c, according to quality. Horsehides 75c to \$1.25.

WOOL.—Nothing doing here and prices nominal at 7 to 9c.

TALLOW.—Dealers are paying 4c for No. 1 extra and 2½ to 3c for undergrades. English tallow 2c.