

OATMEAL.—One of the important features of the week has been in connection with the oatmeal market. A meeting was held in Winnipeg at which representatives of all the Manitoba oatmeal mills were present, and an agreement was made for uniform prices. There has been considerable cutting in oatmeal the last two years, and prices have at times been unprofitable for millers. By the agreement, the four Manitoba mills—Winnipeg, Pilot Mound, Portage la Prairie and Brandon, will all quote a uniform price, and this new price will show an advance of about 10c per sack on old quotations, and as much as 15 to 20 cents per sack on some of the old cut rate sales. Prices to retail dealers are now quoted as follows for all brands: Rolled oats, 8½ lb sacks, \$1.35; 40 lb sacks, 70c; 2½ lb sacks, 36½c; Granulated and standard meal, 93 pound sacks \$1.55, 49 lb sacks, 80c; rolled wheat, 80 lb sacks \$1.70.

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

BUTTER.—The feature of the butter trade is the beginning of the movement in creamery. Several sales of creamery have been made in the country, and good prices have been realized, in comparison with eastern markets, but this has been owing to the limited supply and the demand for the local and western trade. Prices paid have been considerably higher than could be paid for eastern shipment. In fact while fresh creamery has been quoted at 14 to 14½c at Montreal, from 14 to 16c has been paid in the country here, and this practically for fodder goods, while the Montreal quotation now represents full grass goods. Grass has made a splendid growth here, and the factories are now turning out grass goods. The wet weather and bad condition of the roads, however, has greatly interfered with the operation of the factories. While we quoted 14 to 16c as having been paid, the top range would not have been paid for some days, and about 15c represents the top for creamery, with a lower tendency as the supply increases. Eventually prices will have to come down, unless eastern or export values advance soon. In eastern Canada the pastures are fine this year, and the output of butter is enormous in comparison with last year. Dairy butter is quiet, and we quote values easier at 12½ for choice, fresh goods, jobbing price.

CHEESE.—Good prices have been realized for the little new cheese offered, the quantity so far not being in excess of local wants. From 7½ to 8½c has been paid for new cheese, by jobbers, as to quality, for limited quantities, but the finest small now are now jobbing at 9½c. Jobbers are offering old stock at 6 cents to 9 cents as to quality. Mail advices to-day report a decline in eastern Canada markets. At Ingersoll, Ont., on Tuesday, sales were made at 6 1-16 to 6½c, but on the same day at the Belleville, Ont., cheese market, 7 7-16 to 7 9-16c was paid.

EGGS.—Unchanged since our last quotation. Dealers and packers are paying 8c, and the jobbing price is 9c.

LARD.—Prices are: Pure \$1.80 for 20 lb. pails, and \$1.50 for 50 lb. pails; pure leaf lard in 9, 5 and 10 pound tins, quoted at \$6.50 per case of 60 pounds, tierces 8½c pound; cases of 30, one lb. tins, \$3.60.

CURED MEATS.—For canvassed meats, add ½c per pound to prices below. Smoked meats are quoted: Hams, assorted sizes, 10½c; breakfast bacon, bellies, 11c; do., backs, 10c; picnic hams, 8c; short spiced rolls, 7½c long rolls, 7½c, shoulders, 7c smoked long clear, 8½c; Fancy clear, 8½c; smoked jowls, 5½c. Dry salt meats are quoted: Long clear bacon, 7c 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, 6c; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 10c per package; pickled hocks, 2½c; pickled tongues, 5c; sausage casings, 30c lb.

DRESSED MEATS.—We quote city dressed beef steady at 5 to 5½c. Fresh mutton is easier and has sold at 9 to 10c with the prospect that 9c will be the top price next week. City dressed hogs, 5½c. Veal scarce, owing to bad roads and quoted at 6 to 7c.

POULTRY.—The only poultry obtainable are chickens, which are taken at 70 to 90c per pair as to quality. Turkeys would bring 10c per lb live weight, if they could be had. No ducks or geese obtainable, and no game offering.

VEGETABLES.—Owing to bad roads potatoes have sold higher at 20 to 25c per bushel on the street market. Green stuff is now beginning to be offered to some extent.

HIDES.—There is some improvement in hides in leading markets, but this is probably owing to improved quality, and it is not likely that any advance would be paid for held stocks of long-haired winter hides. Sheepskins are very slow sale. Prices here are now uniform. We quote: Green city hides, No. 1, 4c, No. 2, 3c; calf, 8 to 15 lb. skins, 1 and 6c per lb.; deacons 15 to 20c each; kips 3 to 4c; sheep and lambskins 50 to 65c; clips 3 to 5c; tallow 3½ to 4c rendered and 2c rough.

WOOL.—The London wool sales have closed and the result has been unsatisfactory. Some 152,000 bales out of a total of 216,000 bales intended for the sale were not sold, owing to disappointment at the course of prices. Merinos sold 5 to 10 per cent lower, and crosses about 5 per cent lower. A week feature is the depression in the United States, where stocks are large, manufacturers buying very slowly and prices easy. Here we quote 8 to 9c for unwashed Manitoba fleeces, and fine, heavy shrinking wools at 5 to 7c.

SENECA ROOT.—No new root offered.

HAY.—Owing to the continued bad roads and wet weather to prevent baling. Hay has continued very scarce and prices have been 100 per cent higher than prices ruling before the roads got bad. From \$3 to \$10 per ton has been paid for baled prairie hay, and scarce at that.

LIVE STOCK.

Two train loads of cattle were exported from the yards here this week, aggregating about 500 head. One was shipped by Gordon & Ironside, and the other by a combination of Northwestern railway district parties, including Kippen & Esat, of Russell. Gordon & Ironside expect to make only one more shipment of stall fed cattle, about June 3, and then there will be nothing further until grass cattle come in. Prices were weaker, owing to the bad state of export markets, and local prices were ½c lower, about 3½c being the top price now quoted here for export cattle. Batchers range from 2½ to 3c for fair to good, and inferior at 2 to 2½. Good fat cows would bring about 2½c.

SHEEP.—The tendency continues lower, and we quote ½c lower at 3½ to 4c as to quality off cars here. Lambs, (\$2.50) to \$1 each as to quality.

HOGS.—Steady at 2½c off cars here, for average car loads of packing hogs.

The Live Stock Trade.

The stock yards in Winnipeg are in a most deplorable condition, owing to the long continued wet weather. Better drainage and more solid bottom to the yards is greatly needed.

"A number of Beulah, Man., farmers who can make up about a train load of stall fed animals between them," says the Birtle Observer, "are discussing the advisability of

co-operating to ship them to the old country market. One of themselves would go with the consignment and the experiment would satisfy the shippers if the right figures had been offered them by provincial stock dealers." If the farmers make the experiment they will learn something about the cost of handling live stock which will surprise them.

At Liverpool on May 11 the demand for cattle was slow on account of warm weather and prices declined ½ to ¾c per lb., best United States being quoted at 10c and Argentines at 9c. Sheep were strong on account of small supplies, and values advanced 1 to 2c per pound to 13c for best. At London best sheep were quoted at 12½c. A private cable from Liverpool quoted choice Canadian and United States cattle at 9½ to 10c, and stated that heavy United States steers were unsaleable at 9½c.

At the East End abattoir market at Montreal on May 11, the market was steady and values showed no material change. The feature of the trade was the improved demand from exporters and the bulk of the stock suitable for shipment was picked up a 3½c to 1c per lb. Choice butchers' steers and heifers sold at 3½c to 4c; good 3½ to 3½c; fair 2½ to 3c, and common 2 to 2½c per lb., live weight. Spring lambs met with a good sale at from \$2.50 to \$1 each as to size and quality. Old sheep sold at \$3.50 to \$6 each.

At Toronto on May 12 prices for cattle were weak, on account of large supplies. Car loads of good export cattle sold at 3½ to 4c. A few picked head 1½; per lb to \$1.40 per 100 lbs. The supply of butchers' cattle was excessive and prices were ½c lower, 3½c being the top price, and some head selling at only 2½c. Sheep and Lambs.—The market was overstocked. Good grain-fed yearlings, with the wool on, were quoted at from 4½ to 5c per lb. Spring lambs from \$2 to \$3.50 per head. Good sheep sold at 9c per pound. Hogs.—Although offerings were fairly heavy to-day the market held its own. For best selections of bacon hogs, weighed off the cars, 4c per lb. was paid. Thick fat were low at 3½c per lb. Stores steady at 3½c per lb.; sows 9c per lb.; stags and rough hogs 2c per lb.

At London on May 18, cattle trade was poor, owing to increased supplies and warm weather. Prices declined ½c per lb. Best United States cattle brought 9½c, and choice Canadians at Liverpool sold at 4½c per lb. The demand for sheep was fair and prices ranged from 11 to 13c.

At Montreal on Monday, May 18, cattle were ½c lower. Shippers paid 3½ to 4½c for choice. Choice butcher, 3½ to 3½c, and down to 2 to 2½ for common to fair cattle. Lambs, \$2.50 to \$5 each; sheep, \$1 to \$6 each; hogs, sold at \$3.90 to \$1.20 per 100 pounds.

At Toronto on Tuesday, May 19, export cattle ranged from 3½c to 4c for good. Butchers' cattle were slow, scarcely any going over 3c, general sales being at about 2½c and down to 2½ to 2½c. Sheep, 8c per lb. Choice yearlings, 4½ to 5c. Lambs, \$3 to \$1 each. Hogs, active and firmer at 4½c per lb., for good bacon, stores, 3½ to 4c.

At Chicago on May 20 sales of hogs were mostly made at \$3.25 to \$3.30; common to choice heavy selling at \$3 to \$3.35; medium mixed weights at \$3.20 to \$3.45, and light at \$3.20 to \$3.50.

Winnipeg Clearing House.

Clearings for the week ending May 21, were \$895,193; balances, \$192,216. For the previous week clearings were \$1,026,591. For the corresponding week of last year clearings were \$950,773 and for the week two years ago, \$778,012. For the month of April clearings were \$1,032,453 as compared with \$3,093,079 for April, 1895, and \$2,958,886 for April, 1894.