

elsewhere specified. Clause 269 provides for a duty of 25 per cent. on 'wire rope, stranded or twisted wire, wire clothes lines,' etc. While it is evident that plain twisted wire is not on the free list, the trade is not yet sure whether it will be admitted under Clause 263 at 15 per cent or under Clause 269 at 25 per cent duty. The most probable opinion would seem to be that Clause 269 would govern, though it is said that wire has been admitted at some points cast under Clause 263 at 15 per cent duty. Jobbers are quoting 3c for plain twisted wire, though they are not sure how the tariff muddle will be decided. Barb wire is quoted at 2 1-2c, but a closer price is made on car lots shipped direct from mills to the trade, without handling at this point.

Another feature of importance regarding the tariff is binder twine. Twine is at present on the free list, but owing to the movement to have the duty restored, there is uncertainty. Jobbers usually place their orders about this time for twine, but owing to tariff uncertainty they are at a loss to know just what to do.

There is no further change in oils here, though Canadian refined petroleum has declined another 1c in the east.

GREEN FRUITS.

The mild weather has been favorable to the fruit trade. Some shipping was done by ordinary freight. Prices are steady, and there are no new lines in. Prices are as follows:

Mexican oranges \$4 to \$4.50; naval oranges \$4.50; bananas per bunch \$3 to \$3.50; California lemons \$1.50 to \$5 per box; apples, Ontario stock, \$4 to \$4.75 per barrel; southern apples, \$4 to \$4.25 per bbl.; Cape Cod cranberries \$7.50 to \$8 per barrel; sweet potatoes \$5.25 per barrel; Malaga grapes, \$7.50 per keg for medium, and \$8 for heavy weights; Ontario black walnuts, 8c lb; coconuts, \$1 per dozen; Sicily filberts, large 11c to 12c per lb; Grenoble walnuts, 13c; figs, fancy elemes, \$1.40 to \$1.50 per 10 lb box, 30 lb boxes 16c; 50 lb. boxes, 17c per lb.; dates 7 1-2c per pound; imported celery 50 to 60c per doz.

RAW FURS.

In London, England, the Hudson's Bay company held sales this week of beaver and musk rat skins. Beaver declined 5 per cent., compared with prices a year ago. Rats declined 2 1-2 per cent. The company also offered sealskins, which sold at about the same prices as last sales. As prices at the last sales were very low the result is regarded as very unsatisfactory for this article.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE

WHEAT—Wheat has not had a very wide range this week, but the tendency toward the close was toward higher prices, particularly for July option. It is reported that the crop of Austria-Hungary is much shorter than was estimated earlier, necessitating importation of foodstuffs. The cash demand for wheat is very strong at northwestern points in the United States, and deliveries at primary markets have been slight. Less favorable reports also come from Argentina and India.

Locally the wheat market is dull. Prices were weak, but though some buyers were talking wheat very sparingly, prices have been fairly well sustained, and yesterday 76c.

was quoted at country points to farmers for No. 1 hard, on an 18 cent freight rate to Fort William. Transactions in car lots have been made at 76 1-2 to 77c at country points, 77c being quoted yesterday for No. 1 hard. Country deliveries however, have been very light, and business all around slow. This price in the country is equal to 89c on a float to Fort William. The millers are taking what was moving. Prices are above a shipping basis. A feature of the market are the offerings of wheat from Northern Alberta.

FLOUR—The flour market is in an unsatisfactory condition. Manitoba millers are getting knocked out, both east and west, by lower prices than they can afford to sell at on the basis of the cost of wheat here. The millers of the Pacific coast states are getting their wheat so much cheaper than the grain has cost Manitoba millers, that they can pay the duty and under-sell our millers in British Columbia markets and for the Klondike trade. Some orders are being filled here for the Klondike trade and millers are also keeping up their shipments to British Columbia points, but some of the business is being done at an actual loss. In the East again, Ontario millers are buying their wheat relatively 20c per bushel less than the cost of Manitoba wheat laid down there. Manitoba wheat would cost about \$1 per bushel laid down at Ontario points, while Ontario millers are getting their wheat at a little over 80 cents. The Ontario millers are therefore, able to vastly underbid Manitoba millers in the Quebec and Maritime province markets. Of course, the quality of the Manitoba flour will keep up a certain demand for it, but with such a great difference in the price in favor of Ontario flour of almost \$1 per barrel, the consumption of the prairie product will certainly be curtailed. Manitoba flour is good flour, but not good enough to compete at such a great disadvantage as to price. There was a further decline in the price of flour this week amounting to 5c, making a decline of 15c altogether. We quote patents \$2.40 per sack of 98 pounds; strong bakers, \$2.20; second bakers, \$1.80 to \$1.90, and XXXX, \$1.35. Prices to local dealers here less 5c per sack for net cash.

MILLFEED—Bran is firm and in good demand and good prices are being realized. Shorts are not in as good demand as bran, and though quoted \$2 per ton higher than bran in some cases the same price was accepted as for bran. Top lots are held at \$10 per ton for bran and \$12 for shorts, and \$1 per ton less in large lots.

GROUND FEED—Pure grain advanced \$2 per ton. Pure grain feed is quoted at \$22 to \$24 for oats and barley, the outside price for rolled oat feed. Inferior mixed mill feed, \$18 to \$20 per ton. Ground corn feed is quoted at \$16 to \$17 per ton. Oil cake \$22 per ton.

CEREALS—We quote rolled oatmeal in lots to retail dealers at \$1.80 per sack. The market is quiet, the trade being well stocked up with imported meal. Round lots of imported rolled oatmeal are quoted at \$1.65 here.

OATS—The feeling is rather steadier this week, but the market is not nearly as strong as it was some time ago. Earlier in the season all the oats offerings by farmers at country points were greedily bought up, 30c per bushel of 34 pounds having been freely paid to farmers. Now a considerable quantity of oats are held which cost more

than they can be sold for, the introduction of free corn from the south, having cut off the consumptive demand for oats. Oats bought from farmers in the country at 30 cents, would require to sell at 37 to 38c in Winnipeg, in car lots, to make a profit for the holders, but these prices cannot be realized, the quotation being about 35c for mixed and 36c for No. 2 white.

BARLEY—Nominal. Feed barley could not be quoted over about 35c, as it would have to sell on about a parity with corn feed. For malting barley good prices would be paid for good samples, ranging from 38 to 43c as to quality, and 1 to 2c higher for fancy samples.

CORN—Held at about 36 1-2c on track here, for car lots.

BUTTER—Creamery, quiet. We quote dealers selling at 21 to 23 1-2c as to quality. A little into October creamery has brought the outside price in a small way, but the demand is limited.

BUTTER—Dairy. The demand for dairy butter keeps up well and receipts are liberal. Stocks have kept well cleaned up all along and there is very little held, summer or fall stock. Nearly all offering is winter butter, fresh made. The receipts of fresh butter this winter have been large, but not out of proportion to the demand, as the demand has also been considerably larger than usual. The market has a firm tone, as the demand will no doubt go on increasing from this out as stocks of butter laid in in the fall by western dealers will become exhausted. We quote selling prices here at 16 to 17c for fresh tubs and rolls. Ten per cent commission off these prices to country shippers.

EGGS—Receipts of eggs keep up remarkably liberal, making receipts about the largest on record here for the winter season. This is no doubt owing to the mild weather which has prevailed this season. If the cold spell which set in yesterday holds out long, no doubt receipts will be cut off. Prices of fresh country eggs are 1c lower again this week, as dealers have been selling fresh at 17c and lined at 16c. The pickled are eastern stock, brought in some time ago, stocks of local lined having been exhausted early in the season.

CHEESE—Dealers are selling at 10 1-2 to 11c in small lots.

DRESSED POULTRY—The supply of poultry is light for all sorts. Chickens are in demand and are bringing good prices, 7 1-2c having been paid net cash for a round lot this week and 8 to 8 1-2c has been paid for choice small lots. From 10 to 10 1-2 would be paid for Manitoba turkeys, but the demand for turkeys is more limited. Stocks, however, are light and holders would not sell at these prices. Geese are scarce and wanted and 9c to 10c would be paid net for results. Ducks are more plentiful than geese, and they would bring about 8c.

LARD AND CURED MEATS—Prices are unchanged. See quotations on another page.

DRESSED MEATS—There is a very active demand for dressed hogs and the outside price of 67-4 is paid freely for offerings. The keenness of the demand is shown in the tendency to pay the outside price for offerings, taking hogs which would be thrown out or reduced in price under ordinary conditions. Of course very heavy hogs or stags would not bring the outside price, but the tendency to pick and choose is not very noticeable. Some holders are re-sell-