

New York Wheat Market.

On Saturday, Feb. 6, wheat at New York closed at \$1.01½ for February and \$1.03 for May, the figures showing a premium for February option.

Duluth Wheat Market

No. 1 Northern wheat at Duluth closed as follows on each day of the week:

Monday—Cash, —; February, 8½c; May, 88½c.
Tuesday—Cash, —; February, 82½c; May, 87½c.
Wednesday—Cash, —; February, 81½c; May, 86½c.
Thursday—Cash, —; February, 82½c; May, 87½c.
Friday—Cash, —; February, 81½c; May, 86½c.
Saturday—Cash, —; February, 81½c; May, 86½c.

A week ago January closed at 84c and May at 88½c.

The Wire Nail List.

The new wire nail list is now probably in the hands of all our readers, as the manufacturers have had it printed and partially or completely distributed. The list is decided upon and the discount is fixed. The latter is 75 per cent. Under the old arrangement the discount was 70 and 10. The prices have been changed most, not in standard sizes, but in odd sizes. Standard sizes—No. 16 in 1 inch, No. 15 in 1½ inch, No. 14 in 1½ inch, No. 13 in 1½ inch, No. 12 in 2 inch, No. 12 in 2½ inch, No. 11 in 2½ inch, No. 11 in 2½ inch, No. 10 in 3 inch, No. 9 in 3½ inch, No. 8 in 3½ inch, No. 7 in 4 inch, No. 6 in 4½ inch, No. 5 in 5 inch, No. 4 in 5½ inch, No. 3 in 6 inch—are all advanced one cent per lb. in 100 lb. kegs. In the odd sizes the advance runs all the way from 2 to 5c per lb. in 100 lb. kegs. For smaller packages the price is increased ½c for 50 lb packages, ½c for 25 lb packages, and ½c in one pound papers. For barbed nails, special heads, special points ½c more is charged, and for nails combining all these points ½c more is charged. Clinch nails, slating nails, casing nails, finishing nails, moulding nails, flooring nails are in the special class that are to be sold the ½c additional to the general list prices; and car nails, roofing nails, barrel nails, as possessing two of the extra points are sold ½c above general list prices; hinge nails combine all three extra points and are therefore listed ¾c higher than general nails.

The smaller advance made upon the standard than upon the odd sizes was for an object. There is a bewildering variety of wire nails manufactured, and the makers wish to reduce the number of the sizes that have been called for in trade. There is no need for a list of such inordinate length, but it seems that if there is half a guage to choose from retailers want the benefit of the choice, and consequently jobbers have to carry and manufacturers have to make the whole variety of guages. Now they naturally aim to reduce the number of guages in demand. There has always been a distinction between standard and odd guages, but for the reason given above that people like to exercise choice, and also because more nails go to the pound in odd sizes, the trade have run after odd sizes very generally. To divert the demand from this direction the prices have been very greatly advanced in several of the odd sizes, and only one cent more has been put on the standard sizes. Formerly odd sizes were sold at prices proportioned to those holding for standard sizes. Rather than pay from one to four cents for the odd guages, traders will settle down to standard guages and the output of the manufactories will be limited to those, while stocks will not need to be made up of such an assemblage of small differences. There

are some three hundred sizes made. It is a humane thing to endeavor to run the demand in a few channels and put the odd guages out of stock. The sizes whose survival is sought to be secured by the selecting principle of comparatively easier prices are on the basis of the iron nail.

If the trade in wire nails had been so well established as in cut nails, the sizes that have to be handicapped by heavier prices would by common consent of consumers have been allowed to drop out of use. Now that wire nails are becoming in strong request, the manufacturers can take the steps they have taken to restrict the sizes that shall go into commerce. The growth of the demand also warranted the makers in discouraging the business in small packages, which was carried on so merely upon the same prices as kegs were sold at. The prices given in the list are for 100 lb kegs only. Pound papers are ½c higher, 25 lb packages ½c higher, and 50 lb packages ½c higher. The advance upon list prices for barbed nails, moulding nails, etc., is much smaller than under the old list, which rated each point of difference from the ordinary nail at 1c extra. The new list puts on ½c only for each point of difference.

The houses included in the agreement are the following: Ontario Lead and Barbed Wire Company, Ontario Tack Company, Pillow & Hersey Manufacturing Company, Montreal Rolling Mills Company, Peck, Benny & Co., Parmenter & Bullock, Dominion Wire Manufacturing Company, and the Ontario Bolt Company. The only manufactory of wire and nail's not in the combine is the Foster Foundry of St. John, N. B. The proprietor is supposed to be at one with the adherents of the arrangement, but has not bound himself to be ruled by it. The office of secretary-treasurer has been vested in R. & T. Jenkins, Toronto.—Toronto Hardware.

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