

# Conditions in the West

By E. CORA HIND.

Winnipeg, January 15.

There is no lack of excitement in business circles at present owing to the embargoing of all meat products and flour by the allied buying commission. So far there is no official report of cancelling contract, but the air is full of rumors to that effect. In the meantime the embargo has backed up everything with the result that there has been a \$2.50 drop in the price of select hogs and a material decline in price of butcher steers. On top of this, today came notice from the United States of an embargo on western Canadian hogs on account of Hog Cholera. This is camouflage pure and simple. There has been no serious outbreak of Hog Cholera for more than a year and the last case, which was a very slight one, occurred 133 miles up country and over a month ago. The health of animals branch here is taking the matter up with Ottawa. The United States are within their rights to embargo our hogs if their markets are glutted with their own product, but they have no right to slander the reputation of Canadian hogs. Up to the end of December the movement of hogs from western Canada to the United States for the preceding twelve months was under 4,000, but since the first of the year the movement south has been somewhat stronger.

The feeling among live stock men here is that it is a movement on the part of the United States to shut out our hogs because they have plenty of their own. There is more Hog Cholera in the United States all the time than there has been in Canada in the past five years even when there has been what is called an outbreak of Cholera.

For a number of years the United States has been taking western Canadian hogs for their serum factories because they are free from Cholera and now without a moment's warning and without even the suspicion of a fresh outbreak in western Canada on goes an embargo.

## WANT INSPECTION.

At a joint meeting of all the live stock associations of Manitoba last week a very strongly worded resolution was passed asking for the Federal grading of meats of all kinds in abattoirs and packing houses. There was some discussion of the feasibility of having all stock graded on the hoof, but many of the more experienced thought this would not be easy of accomplishment as it would make it necessary to greatly increase yardage facilities, but the grading of meats would be a comparatively simple matter.

Farmers are fairly willing to accept a reasonable cut on sows, extra lights, roughs and heavies, but the cuts recently have been out of all proportion. In western Canada where the practice is to raise one litter of pigs per year, instead of two as is the custom in the east. When the young sow has weaned her pigs, she is fed up, smoothed off and put on the market. For this class packers have been cutting quite sharply claiming they could not make from the sows the class of bacon used overseas and this is possibly all true, but it does not do away with the fact that some at least of this sow bacon is trimmed and made into "Premier bacon at the rate of 65c a pound retail. The only way to overcome such a practice is to have the meat graded and charge a lower price for the inferior cuts. It is expected that this resolution will also be pressed by the Western Canada live stock union at its meeting at the end of this week.

The annual meeting of the Manitoba Grain Growers, which was held at Brandon last week decided that they at least did not want a fixed price for wheat and asking for an open market. It is evident from the discussion that the action was taken from a desire on the part of the members to be fair and not ask for protection to be removed from the things they buy while on the other hand they are having their product protected.

The full text of the resolution reads:

"Whereas the fixing of the price of wheat was a war measure for the steadying of the market and

the keeping down of the high cost of living; and

"Whereas, while we view with a large measure of concern the restoration of conditions which make possible speculation in the handling of our chief food product, yet we feel that the continuation of a fixed price might unduly bear on the consumer, and thus afford a measure of protection to the producer;

"Therefore, be it resolved that we reaffirm our stand taken at previous conventions, and which is on record, as being opposed to any form of protection, and that we do not ask for a fixed price for 1919."

Almost simultaneously with the publication of this resolution comes the report from Great Britain on the very question at issue. This report states that the situation as it applies to Canada calls for continued government regulation and control. It is evident the action of the Grain Growers, which is likely to be repeated at the annual meeting of the United Farmers of Alberta and the Grain Growers of Saskatchewan is rather puzzling to the trade. While this is going on with regard to wheat and meat, the millers are clamoring for a return to the making of white flour in order to hold the Newfoundland and West Indian trade and for the restriction

to be removed from the price of bran and shorts. The prices of these commodities being much lower in Canada than in the United States.

Such information as can be gathered from fairly authentic but unofficial sources indicates that one of the reasons for the embargo on Canadian wheat and meat products is due to the heavy switch of boats originally allocated to Canada to the Australian trade. It is feared here that Mr. Hughes, of Australia, has been too successful in securing shipping for Australia at the expense of Canada and that it may be weeks and even months before the expected tide of trade is resumed. It is hinted that these means have been adopted with a view of getting lower prices. In the meantime consumers noting the fall in the price of hogs and cattle on the hoof ask to know why similar reductions in the retail prices are not forthcoming. In fact, everyone is asking this question, and no one seems to be in a position to answer. There is not much doubt that the need of establishing credits in Canada for the allied nations is one of the difficulties that must be overcome and overcome speedily if Canada is to get anything like her proportion of the trade.

The fact that Canada had no representative at the food conference in London last September places her at a very serious disadvantage now. It showed a lack of foresight and initiative that it is not likely to be overlooked by the purchasing commis-

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## WEEK'S RECORD OF ACTIVE MONTREAL STOCKS.

Sales.	Open.	High.	Low.	Last sale	Net ch'ge.	1918 High	Low.
563 Ames-Holden .. . . .	27	29	27	28½	+1½	29	26
536 Do., pfd. . . . .	70	76	70	74	+3½	76	66
106 Asbestos .. . . .	*45	*45	*45	45	-1½	*46½	*44
415 Do., pfd. . . . .	*62	62½	*62	62½	unch	*62½	*61¾
1,255 Brazilian .. . . .	53	54¾	53	53½	+1	54¾	52½
248 Brompton .. . . .	60¾	60¾	60	60	-¾	61	60
170 Can. Car. pfd. . . . .	84	84½	84	84	-¾	85½	84
485 Can. Cement .. . . .	*65	66	*65	66	+1	66	*65
100 Can. Cottons .. . . .	68	68	68	68	unch	68	68
451 Can. Steamships .. . . .	45¼	45¼	42¼	45	-¼	45¼	42¼
659 Do., pfd. . . . .	78½	79	78½	79	+½	79	78½
6,543 Con. Smelting .. . . .	26¼	27½	25¾	25¾	-½	27½	25
7,947 Crown Reserve .. . . .	47	.55	.45	.45	+.21	.55	.45
210 Dom. Cannery .. . . .	37½	37½	37¼	37¼	-1¼	39	37¼
681 Dom. Steel .. . . .	61¾	62	61¾	62	unch	62½	61¾
225 Dom. Textile .. . . .	102½	102½	101¾	101¾	-1¼	104	100½
311 Laurentide .. . . .	194	195¼	194	195	unch	198	192
207 Macdonald .. . . .	22	23	22	23	+1½	23	21½
260 Maple Leaf .. . . .	*134	*134½	*134	134¼	+¾	137½	*133½
220 Mont. Cottons .. . . .	59	60	59	60	+1½	60	58½
1,225 Do., pfd. . . . .	100¼	100¼	100	100	unch	100¼	100
1,328 Mont. Power .. . . .	87¼	87¼	86	86	-1½	88¼	86
696 Shawinigan .. . . .	114½	116½	114½	116¼	+1¼	116½	114½
165 Spanish River, pfd. . . . .	64¾	64¾	64	64	-1	65½	64
206 St. Lawrence Flour .. . . .	95	95	94½	94½	-½	95	94½
1,025 Steel of Canada .. . . .	*62½	*63	*62½	*63	+½	65½	*62½
166 Tuckett .. . . .	24	24	24	24	unch	24	24
100 Wabasso Cotton .. . . .	*59¼	*60	*59	*59	unch	*60	*58
150 Wayagamack .. . . .	51	52¼	51	62¼	+¼	55	51
— BANKS —							
55 Commerce .. . . .	214	214	213	213	-1	214	206½
106 Hochelaga .. . . .	147	147	147	147	+4	147	147
162 Merchants .. . . .	190	*190	190	*190	+9¾	*190	181
147 Montreal .. . . .	215	216¼	215	216¼	+¼	216¼	215
79 Nova Scotia .. . . .	256	257	256	257	+2	257	255
80 Toronto .. . . .	200	200	200	200	+12	200	200
— BONDS —							
\$15,100 Can. Cement .. . . .	98	98	98	98	unch	98	97
11,500 Can. Loan (1925) .. . . .	96	96½	96	96½	-¼	96½	96
11,300 Do. (1931) .. . . .	96½	96½	96½	96½	+¼	96½	96
25,000 Do. (1937) .. . . .	97	97½	97	97½	+½	97½	96½
150,400 Victory (1922) .. . . .	99	100	99	99½	+¾	100	98
46,700 Do. (1927) .. . . .	100¼	101	100¼	100¾	+¾	101	100
78,000 Do. (1937) .. . . .	102½	103	102½	103	+1	103	102
86,500 M. Tram. Debs. .. . . .	72¾	74	72¾	74	+1¼	74	72¾
51,300 Wayagamack .. . . .	81½	82½	81½	82½	+1	82½	81
— UNLISTED SHARES. —							
120 Dom. Glass .. . . .	86	86	86	86	+1	86	86
252 Laurentide Power .. . . .	60¼	62	60¼	62	+1¼	62	60¼
355 N. A. Pulp .. . . .	2½	2½	2½	2¾	+¼	2¾	2½

\*—Ex-dividend.