

is no disposition to speculate by buying wheat to hold. The fact that cash wheat is held above futures, makes the situation adverse to buying wheat to carry over. As storage and other charges would have to be added to the cost of wheat bought now to hold for spring shipment, and as May wheat is lower than cash stuff in leading American markets, it can be easily seen that to buy wheat to hold does not look safe on the present basis. The situation, however, is relieved by the fact that the millers are buying fairly freely, and they are taking most of the wheat that is moving these days. No. 1 hard has ranged about 89 to 90c afloat, Fort William, this week. 90c was said to have been made Monday, but 89c was the quotation yesterday, and for car lots at country points, and the 19c freight rate to Fort William, 78c was quoted yesterday. No. 2 hard 2 1-2c under No. 1. A feature of local interest is the speculation regarding the grain pool. It is alleged that the pool is likely to go to pieces, but on the other hand some regard these statements as having been purposely circulated to shut off any tendency to agitation in the country against the grain trade conditions.

**FLOUR**—No change has occurred in the flour market here. We quote patents \$2.55 per sack of 98 lbs.; Strong Bakers, \$2.35; second bakers, \$1.90, and XXXX \$1.45. Prices to local dealers here less 5c per sack for net cash.

**MILKFEED**—The demand is good and prices are firm. Ton lots are held at \$10 for bran and \$12 for shorts, and \$9 per ton less in argo lots, and the market is very firm.

**GROUND FEED**.—Pure grain feed is quoted at 20 to 22c for oats and barley, the outside price for rolled oat feed. Anything under \$20 per ton is inferior mixed mill feed. Corn feed is quoted at \$16 to \$17 per ton. Oil cake \$20 per ton.

**CEREALS**—The market is mainly supplied with meal imported from the south. We quote rolled oatmeal at \$1.80 per sack.

**OATS**.—Quotations hold at about 35c to 37c, as to quality. The street price to farmers here is 34 to 35c as to quality. In Manitoba country markets 28c to 30c per bushel has been paid to farmers. One car No. 2 mixed sold here yesterday at 35 1-2c, and a good No. 2 white would bring 36c. The feeling is easier if anything.

**CORN**—Corn continues to have a liberal sale here. It can be laid down here at 32c per bushel of 56 pounds in car lots on track as to grade. There is also quite a demand from country points for car lots.

**BARLEY**—There is so little doing that it is difficult to give close prices. Two city grain dealers were heard to remark yesterday that they had not handled a car of barley on this crop. This will indicate how scarce the article is. Very little is wanted, however, as the price is too high for feed and the main demand is from brewers who have paid as high as 42c for malting barley, and we quote 35c for feed and 38c to 42c for malting, per bushel of 48 pounds.

**FLAX SEED**—Nominal at 60c to farmers in country markets.

**BUTTER**—Creamery, quiet. We quote dealers' selling price at 21 to 23c as to quality and quantity.

**BUTTER**—Dairy — The market is quiet. Dealers quote 14 to 15 1-2c for round lots of country dairy. The out-

side quotation for late made dairy could only be realized for choice lots; and held goods are quoted at 13 to 14c, the latter being the very outside for we. I kept lots of held goods.

**CHEESE**—Dealers quote 11c.

**EGGS**—Dealer are paying 18c net for receipts of fresh and selling at 20c. Lined are offering at 16 to 17c.

**POULTRY**—Dressed chicken bring from 7 to 7 1-2c per lb., turkeys 9 to 10c, and geese and ducks 8 to 9 1-2c per lb. dressed. Eastern turkeys were selling this week in case lots to retail dealers at 11c, which is considered a low price. Some holders of eastern stock seem to have got alarmed and thought there was an over-supply, but so far stocks are not excessive.

**LARD AND CURED MEATS** — Lard and cured meats are lower all around this week, 1-4 to 1-2c. See quotations on another page.

**GAME**—Dealers are paying 5c each for rabbits. Jack rabbit quoted at 40c per pair.

**DRESSED MEATS**. — From 4c to 5c has been paid for country beef freely, and 5 1-2c for good city dressed meat. Fresh unfrozen beef is held at 6c. Choice hogs have have been taken quite freely at 6c, and heavy weights and less desirable hogs at 5 1-4 to 5 3-4c, as to quality. Mutton is steady at 5c to 6c and lamb at 5 to 7c. The display of meat in the city market is very fine this year.

**HIDES**—Latest advices from the United States on hides note an easier market. Leather is still selling below a parity with hides, and as tanners seem unable to get up the price of leather to a fair profit, they are buying hides very slowly. As United States buyers have been operating in Canada, a decline in United States markets would affect the situation here. We quote. Butcher hides, 7 to 7 1-4c for good lots, or 7c for No. 1 and 6c for No. 2. Green frozen hides 6 1-2c; bul's, oxen, stags and brands, 4 1-2 to 5 1-2c, kip hides 6 to 7c; calf 8 to 9c; per lb.; horse hides, 75c to \$1.75 each; sheep pelts will average 40c to 60c each; colts, 25c each.

**WOOL**—We quote 8 to 10c here for unwashed fleece, nominal.

**TALLOW**—Quoted at 3 1-2 cts. for No. 1 and 2 to 2 1-2c for other grades as to quality.

**SENECA ROOT**—Quoted at 18 to 20c.

**Vegetables**—Prices are: Potatoes, 85 to 40c per bushel, carrots 60 to 70c per bush., onions 2 to 3c per lb., celery 40c to 60c per dozen bunches, cabbage \$3 to \$4 per 100, beets 30c to 40c bushel, turnips 15 to 20c bushel, parsnips 1 1-2 to 2 per lb.

**HAY**—The market is firm and rather higher. Held at \$6.50 for cars on track here, of baled, or about \$5.50 to \$6.00 per ton at points of shipment.

#### LIVE STOCK.

There has been nothing doing in live stock this week. Stock for the Christmas market were in last week. There will be nothing doing in live stock for the next couple of months, as butchers are all heavily stocked up and they have enough meat on hand to last them over the greater part of the winter. Good butchers' cattle are nominal at 23-4 to 3c and sheep at 2 1-2 to 3c.

**HOGS**—We quote choice bacon hogs weighing 150 to 250 lbs. at \$4.50 per 100 lbs.; 250 to 300 lbs., \$4.00; heavy hogs, over 300 lbs., \$3 to \$3.50, as to quality, live weight,

#### Northwest Ontario.

T. Thompson, Son & Co., grain dealers, long and well known in Manitoba, who moved to Fort William last summer, will return to Winnipeg and open an office. They find that the time is not yet ripe for doing business in grain with facility from Fort William.

The old Fort William foundry, near Graham, Horne & Co.'s sawmill was burned down on Sunday night, Dec. 19th; cause of fire unknown. Part of the building had been fitted up and was occupied by J. J. Walsh as a boarding house. Walsh lost everything and \$115 in money. He was partly insured in \$1,000. Graham, Horne & Co.'s mill had a narrow escape, part of the elevated tramway being burned.

#### Manitoba

W. J. Currie has opened a confectionery and fruit store at Brandon. The Mappherson Fruit Company, Winnipeg, are calling for tenders for the erection of a three story block.

The Commercial has received a handsome calendar for 1898 from R. E. Halpenny, fruit dealer, of Minnedosa.

C. Paulson is opening a butcher shop at Russell.

A by-law to raise \$30,000 by issue of debentures to build a new fire hall, has been carried in Winnipeg.

The Commercial has received a handsome holiday hanger from Bryan & Lee, Winnipeg.

The Manitoba government proposes to drain the big marsh east of Carman. It is also understood that the Macdonald marsh southwest of Winnipeg is also to be drained.

The Winnipeg Retail association decided to hold their annual banquet at the Leland on January 11. A committee has been appointed to carry out details.

#### Assiniboia.

W. S. Redpath, barrister, of Regina, has moved to Indian Head, where he will open a law office.

H. Wigginton, of Mathews & Wigginton, proprietors of the Windsor hotel, Regina, is dead.

A robbery of the safe of McNeice & Burrows, of Lumsden, was reported some time ago. Later the report was denied. The firm now write affirming that their store was entered and robbed of both money and goods.

Mr. Pellerin, of Tourigny & Pellerin, has sold his interest in the brick yard at Grenfell to Magee & Thompson, the new firm to be styled The Wolseley Brick Co., with O. Tourigny as manager.

A cheese and butter manufacturing company will be established at Churchbridge.

A board of trade is being organized at Grenfell with F. W. Chisholm as secretary.

The sudden death of Thos. McNeice, of McNeice & Burrows, general merchants, of Lumsden, from internal inflammation, is announced.

#### Alberta.

J. C. F. Bown and H. H. Robertson, of Edmonton, have formed a law partnership.

C. D. Macdonald, barrister, from Prince Edward Island, has opened a law office at Edmonton.

N. D. Mills has opened a restaurant, at South Edmonton.