EASTERN MARKETS.

CHICAGO.

The past week has been another one of low prices in the wheat market, and without any important feature whatever. Prices on the last day were just about where they stood on the first day of the week, and as will be seen by reference to the closing quotations for each day, the variations in prices were but slight. Altogether the week has been a quiet and uninteresting one. There has not been any indication of a higher range of prices being reached in the immediate future, and many who have studied the situation seem to think that we have reached a period of permanently lower values in wheat. Outside news have been of the regular routine character at this season, and unimportant in nature. The visible supply on March 27th was 49,773,979 bushels, compared with 48,088,987 bushels for the corresponding week of last year. The decline in the visible for the week ending March 27th was 761,335 bushels. It was estimated that on the first of April, stocks of wheat and flour in the United Kingdom had decreased about 20 to 25 per cent. as compared with January 1. A 20 per cent. reduction would make stocks there on April 1 about 19,091,200 bushels. The amount afloat was estimated at 9,000,000 less than last year. Provisions have continued to rule low and depressed, though on the last day a spurt occurred, and prices closed 15c higher. Pork is now about over $2 per barrel lower than the same month last year and nearly $6 per barrel lower than in April, 1884.

On Monday there was considerable activity in the wheat market. Fluctuations were confined within a narrow range, owing to the fact that there was little outside news to influence the markets. Cables reported steady markets in Britain. Liverpool was reported inactive, and with no indications of better prices. The surplus of English wheat was said to be large, and free offering of India, California and Oregon. May opened at 81⅝c and sold down to 80⅝. The principal cause of weakness was the report that receipts at Duluth were large and would probably amount to 100 cars a day for the next two weeks. May closed in the afternoon at 80⅞c. Corn was moderately active and easier, May being quoted at 38⅜c, May oats 30⅞c. Another sharp break took place in pork, first sales being 10c lower, and declining 20 to 22½c. The decline was owing to larger receipts of hogs than had been anticipated. Closing prices were.

	Mar.	April.
Wheat	$0.76⅛	76⅛
Corn	35¼	35¼
Oats	27	27
Pork	9.30	9.30
Lard	5.90	5.90

On Tuesday there were indications of more firmness in the wheat market, though there was little upon which to base this. Cables reported a quiet feeling in British and continental markets, and additional weakness was given on account of the railway strikes. The principal influence upon the market was derived from eastern news regarding the war like attitude of Greece, and bull speculators were disposed to make capital out of a decline in Russian securities, based on eastern complications. Wheat opened ⅛c lower, but soon regained this, and at one o'clock May stood at 81⅛c. In the afternoon a gain of ⅛c was made, on account of purchases for export. Corn was lower, but reacted. Oats dull. Pork again declined, May selling at $9.25 and June at $9 30, a drop of 20c. Prices then gradually recovered until the starting point had been nearly reached. Closing prices were:

	Mar.	April.
Wheat	$0.76⅝	76⅝
Corn	35	35
Oats	27½	27½
Pork	9.30	9.30
Lard	5.90	5.90

The wheat market had rather a weak feeling at the opening on Wednesday, but notwithstanding this prices soon advanced to 81⅞c for May delivery, and 83⅛c for June. Then the market declined ⅛c, only to almost immediately advance ⅛c higher than the point from which the decline commenced. Another break then occurred, and at 10 o'clock May stood at 81c. Considerable long wheat came out on the break. Cables were somewhat improved in tone. Corn was fairly active and lower. Oats neglected. Provisions were firm at the start, but free offerings weakened the market, and prices dropped 10c on pork and 2½c on lard. It is thought that the home pork syndicate are unloading secretly, and that a loss of from $175,000 to $200,000 will be realized. Closing prices were:

	Mar.	April.
Wheat	$0.76¼	76¼
Corn	34½	34½
Oats	27	27
Pork	9.25	9.25
Lard	5.87½	5 87½

On Thursday the wheat market was quite steady, and the bulls managed to maintain a comparatively firm front, notwithstanding the fact that stocks had not decreased as much during the week as had been counted upon. Deliveries of wheat were fairly liberal, amounting to about 750,000 Prices opened slightly better than on Wednesday, but the bulk of trading was done at about ⅛c lower, and fluctuations were confined within a limit of ⅛c. Corn was active and firm, oats quiet and unchanged. Pork opened 5c lower and declined 5c, recovering 7½c before the close. The feeling was nervous. Lard was strong. Closing prices were.

	April.	May.
Wheat	$0.76⅝	81⅜
Corn	34⅞	38⅝
Oats	26⅞	30⅝
Pork	9.25	9.35
Lard	5.92½	5.97½

The wheat market was stronger at the opening on Friday and prices ruled ⅛c better, and were stubbornly contested all the morning, though prices gradually receded to the close. In the afternoon wheat declined to 81c for May. Cable reports were conflicting and unimportant. The bulls, however, derived considerable comfort from the report that a cold wave was approaching, and war-like rumors were floating about promiscuously. Corn and oats were quiet. Pork opened 7½c higher, and lard 2½c higher, with a fairly firm market for both during the early part of the session. Later prices receded to the start, but were again higher in the afternoon. Closing prices were:

	Mar.	April.
Wheat	76¼	81
Corn	34⅞	38⅞
Oats	26⅞	30⅞
Pork	9.30	9.37½
Lard	5.92½	5.97½

On Saturday the wheat market was weaker and prices declined. Trading was light and fluctuations in prices were confined within narrow limits. May sold from 80¼ to 80⅞c and June from 82 to 82⅞c, the latter closing at 82⅞c. Pork opened weak and lower, but soon developed unlooked for strength and sold up from 15 to 20c. Lard was also firm and higher. Closing Prices were.

	April.	May.
Wheat	$0.76	80½
Corn	—	—
Oats	—	--
Pork	9.45	9.50
Lard	5.97½	6.00

TORONTO.

STOCKS.

The stock market has been more active during the past week, at very firm prices. Nearly all the leading bank stocks show a fractional raise, though no marked advance has occurred in any. Two were stationary, and none lower. Northwest Land sold at 75½ and 75¼ C.P.R. stocks were higher in sympathy with London cables of ¾ higher, and New York the same. Closing bids on March 31, as compared with the week previous were as follows:

	Mar. 24.	Mar. 31.
Montreal	208	208¼
Ontario	112½	113
Toronto	197¾	198
Merchants'	121¼	121¼
Commerce	121½	121½
Imperial	133½	134¼
Federal	110	110
Dominion	212	212¾
Standard	122½	123¼
Hamilton	133	134
Northwest Land	76½	75¼
C.P.R. Bonds	101	101½
do Stocks	66¼	67

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

There has been little change in the situation here during the past week, and the grain market has ruled quiet since our last report, The drop in prices at other wheat centres has had the effect of unsettling the market here, and dealers have been disposed to hold off for an improvement. Buyers would not make purchases at prices ruling before the decline and holders seem quite willing to carry their stock until such time as an advance may again set in. Receipts have been very light, notwithstanding that a large portion of the crop is yet to be marketed. Barley is the only grain which has been largely marketed as yet, while wheat is still held to a great extent by farmers. In provisions trade has steadily improved.