

Chicago Board of Trade Prices.

The prices below are board of trade quotations for Chicago No. 2 wheat, No. 2 oats and No. 2 corn, per bushel. Pork is quoted per barrel and lard and short ribs per 100 pounds.

Wheat was easy on Monday, the May option closing 3c lower than Saturdays close. The increase of 3,018,000 bushels in the visible supply was the principal feature. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.	May.
Wheat.....	56½	57½	59½
Corn	25½	—	28½
Oats	16½	—	19½
Mess Pork ..	—	—	—
Lard	—	—	—
Short Ribs..	—	—	—

Wheat was irregular on Tuesday, but closed firm. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.	May.
Wheat	56½	56½	60
Corn	25½	25½	28½
Oats	16½	—	19½
Mess Pork..	7 90	8 50	8 87½
Lard	5 17½	5 30	5 52½
Short Ribs..	4 27½	4 27½	4 52½

On Wednesday wheat was higher, influenced by the war scare, foreign buying, and smaller spring wheat movement. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.	May.
Wheat	56½	57½	59½
Corn	25½	25½	28½
Oats	16½	17	19
Mess Pork..	7 85	8 50	8 87½
Lard	5 17½	5 30	5 52½
Short Ribs..	4 30	4 30	4 50

Wheat was weak on Thursday, declining in sympathy with the stock markets, as a result of the war scare from President Cleveland's message. Prices declined 2 to 4c. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.	May.
Wheat	55½	55½	59
Corn	25½	25½	28
Oats	16½	—	19
Pork	7 55	8 50	8 85
Lard	5 20	5 30	5 57½
Short Ribs	4 30	4 30	4 57½

On Friday wheat was very weak, in consequence of the depression in the New York stock market, though large exports were a strong feature toward the close. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.	May.
Wheat.....	51½	51½	57½-8
Corn	25	25½	27½
Oats	16½	—	18½-19
Mess Pork..	7 47½	8 37½	8 72½
Lard	5 15	5 22½	5 42½
Short Ribs..	4 20	4 20	4 42½

On Saturday May wheat opened at 57½c to 57¾c, and declined to 57c, recovered to 57¾c. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.	May.
Wheat.....	51½	—	57½
Corn	25½	—	28
Oats	16½	—	19
Mess Pork..	—	8 45	8 80
Lard	—	—	—
Short Ribs ..	—	—	—
Flax Seed ..	—	—	90½

A week ago December wheat closed at 56½c. A year ago December wheat closed 53½c.

New York Wheat.

On Saturday, Dec. 21, May delivery closed at 61½c. A week ago wheat closed at 66½c for May.

Minneapolis Wheat.

No. 1 Northern wheat closed on Saturday at 53½c for May delivery. A week ago May wheat closed at 56½c.

Duluth Wheat Market.

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

Monday—Nov. — Dec. 53½c, May, 57½c
Tuesday—Nov. — Dec. 53½c, May, 57½c
Wednesday—Nov. — Dec. 53½c, May, 57½c
Thursday—Nov. — Dec. 53½c, May, 56½c
Friday—Nov. — Dec. 51½c, May, 55½c
Saturday—Nov. — Dec. 51½c, May, 53½c

A week ago to-day, (Saturday) prices closed at 53½c for December. A year ago December delivery closed at 59½c. Two years ago December closed at 50c. No. 1 hard was quoted at about 1c over No. 1 northern, No. 2 northern, 2 to 3c lower than No. 1 northern for cash wheat.

London Seal Skin Sales.

Full information has now been received regarding the recent sales of fur seal skins in London.

The following quantities were offered for sale:

North-West Skins	93,426
Alaska	15,000
Copper Island	17,721
Lobos	12,017
Sundries	8,400

141,561

The prices realized were about 20 per cent. better than they were last year. There was a comparatively small demand, however, from the American continent, and this had considerable effect in preventing the still larger rise in prices which had been hoped for by the shippers.

The well-known firms of C. M. Lampson & Company, the Hudson's Bay Company and Culverwell, Brooks & Company control the sale of these valuable skins, and the following were the average prices realized by them for the British Columbia shipments.

	Per Skin.
Hudson's Bay Co.,	45s
C. M. Lampson & Co.,	44s 8d
Culverwell, Brooks & Co.	42s 2d

The average prices realized for the various kinds of skins at the larger and more important sales were as follows:

	Hudson's	C. M.
	Bay	Lampson
	Co.	& Co.
Middlings & Mids. & Smalls, 52s 81	43s 9d	
Smalls	53s	50s
Large Pups	55s 1d	51s 3d
Mid. "	55s 8d	53s 6d
Small "	46s 2d	45s 3d
Ex. Small Pups	31s 5d	31s 6d
Ex. Ex. Small Pups	26s	25s 4d
Middlings & Mids. & Smalls, Cut, etc.	46s 9d	43s 6d
Smalls, Cut	46s 1d	43s
Large Pups, Cut	46s 5d	40s 6d
Mid. "	45s	38s 9d
Small "	35s 7d	33s
Ex. Ex. Small Pups, Cut	24s	23s 10

The Live Stock Trade.

John Cowles & Co., Winnipeg, brought in a car of cattle from Yorkton last Tuesday, which aggregated 27,700 pounds off the cars here. There were eighteen head in the car the average weight being about 1,540 pounds each. The animals averaged nearly 100 pounds more each before they were shipped.

The Canadian Live Stock Journal of Montreal, says that the cattle from Manitoba and the Western territories were the finest class of animals handled at that port this year. This is another tribute to the excellence of our western cattle.

At Liverpool on December 6, trade was slow, supplies were limited, so that the feeling was strong and prices advanced 1c per lb. The higher prices interfered with the demand, as

buyers did not feel inclined to pay the figures asked. Best States cattle sold at 12c. At London best States cattle brought 12½c. Argentines, 11½c, and sheep, 12c.

At Montreal on December 16, the quality of the stock offered was much better. Higher prices were realized for good to choice cattle, but no fancy figures were paid, as in former years. Choice fat steers sold at 4½c to 4¾c, choice fat cows at 4c to 4½c, good fat stock at 3½c to 3¾c, fair at 2½c to 3c, and common at 1½ to 2c per lb., live weight. There was an active demand for sheep and lambs, and higher prices were paid. Sheep sold at 2½c to 3c, choice lambs at 3½c to 3¾c, fair at 3c to 3½c per lb., live weight. The receipts of live hogs were fair, and values ruled easier at 3½c to 3¾c per lb.

Two head of Eastern cattle, and not a car load, as reported in the daily papers, are shown in the Winnipeg Christmas market.

At Toronto on Tuesday, there was the usual over supply of inferior cattle. The highest price touched was 4½c for a few head. The general range was 3 to 4½c for good to choice, and down to 2c for poor. Bulls for export 2 to 3½c, sheep for shipping, 2½ to 3c, poor, no sale. Lambs, 8 to 3½c, the latter for choice Christmas stock. Hogs best bacon, 3½c and range down to 2 to 2½c for stags and rough.

At Chicago yesterday, trade was active and stronger prices. Common to choice hogs sold at \$3.35 to \$3.57½; packers' purchases being regularly at \$3.50.

Freight Rates in the Territories

EDITOR, THE COMMERCIAL.

DEAR SIR:—I have received to-day a carload of feed stuffs costing me exactly \$180, and the carriage on it from Wolsley, Assiniboia, was \$106.20. This \$180 included \$29.80 for sacks, leaving for the farmer \$150.20.

Will you explain to me if the Canadian Pacific Railway is working in common with the farmer to encourage the development of the country. I confess I am puzzled.

It is said that the farmer is the backbone of the country. I think he must be and a very strong one too. It reminds one of Sinbad the Sailor and the Little Old Man of the Sea.

Yours truly,
JEAN CLAUSTRE.

Maple Creek, Dec. 17, 1895.

[ED NOTE.—Our correspondent, Mr. Claustre, is right in regard to the charge, which on looking up the tariff we see is 29 cents per 100 pounds from Wolsley to Maple Creek. This is based on the local mileage tariff in the territories on the class of goods named by Mr. Claustre. The rate certainly does seem high, and we may say that it is vastly greater than the rate charged in the settled portion of Manitoba and the territories, where the rate for about the same distance would be 12½ cents per 100, the rates being much higher in the unsettled country west of Moosejaw. This part of the road produces very little local traffic, and consequently the local rates are very high, in keeping with the general policy of the railways. While the railway company does not make very much on its local traffic, even at these high rates, in the district in question, owing to the limited traffic obtainable, it will still appear to the public that the rate is high, especially when compared with the rate on the same class of goods from Wolsley eastward. The rate from Wolsley to Fort William, more than double the distance, is only 22 cents per 100 pounds. The difference is, that one is an export and the other a local rate. It seems, however, to be the general policy of all railways to charge high on local rates, as compared with through rates, and this policy is apparently concurred in by the government.