

THE MARKETS

WINNIPEG

The weather has been favorable for the growing crops throughout the Canadian northwest. Last week, was very warm, the thermometer reaching 90° in the shade on the 11th of May. The soil was commencing to get dry again, though not to hinder vegetation, but warm showers toward the close of the week were reported from all parts of the country. Seeding was done under the most favorable conditions, and to date everything has gone on nicely, the young plants showing splendidly and making good progress. Showery weather is all that is required for the next two months or so to bring on a bountiful harvest.

FLOUR.

One of the city mills was closed down last week, but will resume operations this week. The situation in flour markets remains unchanged. Prices to the local trade are steady as follows: patents, \$2.25; strong bakers', \$1.80; XXXX, \$1.20 to \$1.30; superfine, \$1.

MILLSTUFFS

Prices continue at the recent decline. Outside mills were offering chop feed, etc., for delivery in the city, but the decline in prices will stop any considerable quantity from arriving. Bran is quoted at \$10 per ton: shorts at \$12 per ton.

OATS

Quiet and steady and worth about 43 to 44c on track.

OATMEAL

Prices hold steady at \$2.60 for standard and \$2.75 or granulated, in trade lots.

BARLEY

Worth about 55c on track here, but little moving.

POTATOES.

Several car lots of Minnesota potatoes were shipped to the west and billed at 90c from here. Prices seemed irregular, and were quoted at all the way from 90c in car lots, to \$1.15 for small lots to the trade. The higher prices have been for lots of Manitoba which were taken in the absence of other supplies, and these figures cannot be hoped to be obtained, as Minnesota can be laid down here at about or less than 90c. New potatoes are also in the market, at \$1.00 per bag of about 30 lbs, and as these will likely be obtained more cheaply in a short time, it will have a tendency to keep down the demand for old. The report in eastern trade paper that potatoes were being shipped from N. Scotia to Manitoba is without foundation, and absurd on its face.

LARD

There is still some home-made lard to be had, held at \$2.25 for large pails. Chicago quoted at \$2.30. No small pails to be had.

HAY

Easier in price and quoted at from \$4 for poor to \$9 for choice upland, quotations being for pressed in car lots, f.o.c. here.

EGGS.

Prices started at 11c last week, but on Wednesday dropped to 10c. The supply has been plentiful, though not to say excessive, and the bulk of receipts have been taken for immediate consumption. Packers have now commenced to take quantities for curing for winter use.

BUTTER

Receipts of new butter have not yet been sufficient to amount to much yet this season, and what did come in last week in the shape of rolls were in bad state, owing to the very warm weather. Henceforth it will be necessary to pack in tubs, etc., as box lots cannot be handled. Prices ruled steadily at 18c for new butter, and

now that a taste of this has been had, dealers find it increasingly difficult to dispose of stocks of old. Only when no new can be had, will a trader condescend to take a package of old, prices for the pick of which rule from 14 to 17c.

CHEESE

Steady at 16c for Ontario makes, which is the only article in the market.

CURED MEATS

Pork packing will commence this week. Stocks of provisions are already low, and several large orders from British Columbia and far western and northern points received last week tended to still further reduce supplies. Prices are firm and may advance soon, as live hogs are now worth as much as dressed were when the bulk of the winters packing was done. Prices: Long-clear bacon, in lots of under 500 sides, 10c; over 500 sides 9½c; breakfast bacon, clear, 12c; breakfast bacon, unclear, 11c; spiced rolls, 11c; hams, 13½c; Chicago mess pork, \$29 per barrel; mess beef \$16 per bbl, in barrel lots.

DRESSED MEATS.

Hogs, killed for the city trade have been in fair supply and held at 8 to 8½c. Beef sides at 7 to 8½c, mutton easier at 13c; veal firmer at 10 to 11c.

LIVE STOCK.

Cattle were easier last week. No rail lots were offered, but a good number were on the market and sold but slowly, 4c being the highest bid on Thursday and Friday. Good beef cattle could not be expected to bring over 4 to 4½c off cars. Butchers seem well supplied, having bought ahead. Hogs were brought in by packers and butchers in rail lots, at a cost of about 5½c delivered here. No lots were sold on spot, but from 5½ to 5¾ would be top prices. There will be a good demand for any quantity of hogs from packers, who commence operations this week, if prices are reasonable and within quotations.

Grain and Milling News.

THE wheat and flour supply of the United Kingdom for the week ending April the 23rd was 775,000 bushels less than the estimated consumption for the same time.

SHIPMENTS of wheat from India for the week ending April 23rd, were 740,000 bushels, of which 260,000 went to the United Kingdom, and 480,000 bushels to the continent.

THE average price of wheat in the United Kingdom for last year is given as equal to 92½c per bushel, and is stated to be the lowest average of the last 131 years. The average price of barley also was the lowest on record.

OCCASIONAL bull manipulation serves a useful purpose in checking excessive short selling but a genuine, old fashioned corner does not benefit a farmer from the simple fact that it is invariably attempted to be run, after stocks have left farmers' hands, and the producers suffer because they have to sell their next crop while the markets are in a depressed state consequent upon the sudden release of abnormal accumulation of cornered grain.

THE following are the rates charged by the new mill at Rapid City, Man.: Gristing for residents within the Municipality of Saskatchewan, 10c per bushel, gristing for people residing outside the municipality 15c per bushel. For each bushel of clean wheat given to be ground the customers receives 40 lbs. of flour, 12 lbs. of bran and 8 lbs. of shorts, in all 60 lbs. the exact weight of the bushel of wheat. The charge for chopping is 10c per bag. The price of flour is, strong bakers, \$1.80; prairie lily,

\$2, patent process, \$2.30. Bran by the bag, 60c per hundred lbs. and shorts 70c. The first twenty bushels of wheat brought to the mill by ratepayers of the municipality were ground free of charge. The special favors to ratepayers is owing to the bonus of \$13,000 given the mill.

THE United Kingdom's wheat crop of 1886 is officially estimated at 63,347,885 bushels, against 79,635,769 bushels in 1885, and \$32,068,964 bu. in 1884. Deducting the customary English allowance of 6,000,000 bushels for seed, the quantity left for food and manufactures is shown to be, say 57,347,885 bushels, against an average annual consumption of about 208,000,000 bushels, indicating that imports of foreign wheat and flour to the extent of 150,652,115 bushels will be required to meet consumptive requirements for the whole of the current crop year. Of the quantity required from outside sources, equal to 90,780,763 bushels have been imported from September 1, 1886, to April 23, 1887, in addition to which 14,720,000 bushels are now on passage, which latter quantity 10 per cent. should be deducted for diversion to the continent, making a total of 104,028,763 bushels of foreign wheat already provided for, and leaving 46,623,352 bushels to be purchased and shipped in time for arrival and use during the current crop year, or a required average weekly import of 2,453,860 bushels for 19 weeks. The quantity still required is, however, likely to be somewhat increased by lateness of the harvest, which now seems inevitable.

ROLLER milling in this country is far from being in a satisfactory state. Many years of time and millions of money have been wasted in bungling, thoughtless tinkering. The recognized yields have become higher from year to year. The number of millers who have no ambition below 4.40 are becoming more prominent. There is sure to be a reaction from this thing, because the sad condition of things is more apparent from time to time. The knowledge of it is what will bring about different results. Very few millers take the precaution to see that all of the flour they ship is up to grade. The fact that it is in a certain packer is regarded as sufficient. The work of a night is shipped without anyone knowing anything about it, excepting that it went into a certain packer. This is not right. Someone should carefully inspect, by standard samples, all of the flour made. If it is not up to grade, it should be set aside and the reasons therefore investigated. Millers had such an easy time making money a few years ago that they have never since come to fully appreciate the necessity for great vigilance in regard to all of the details of milling. A great many of them merely sit down to hope that the good old times will come again. But they will not, in the sense anticipated. System and eternal vigilance is the price of a small success to-day—*Northwest Miller.*

The fisheries Department will send another exploratory expedition to the northern waters of British Columbia this year. It is expected to demonstrate the enormous fisheries wealth of the province. The black cod are superior food fish, about which little has heretofore been known. They abound from Cape Flattery to the Arctic ocean.