

& Wort's five year old, \$2.40; seven year old, \$3; old rye, \$1.75; Jules Robin brandy, \$4.50; Bisquet Debonche & Co., \$4.75; Martell, \$6; O Hennessy, \$6.50; DeKuyper gin, \$3.50; Port wine, \$2.50 and upwards; Sherry \$2.50 and upwards; Jamaica rum, \$1.00 to \$1.50; DeKuyper red gin, \$11 per case; DeKuyper green gin, \$6.50 per case; Tom Gin, \$9.00 to \$10.00; Martel and Hennessy's brandy, \$15.00 per case of 12 bottles.

#### WOOL

The movement of receipts is increasing. Quotations are: Cotswold and Leicester, washed and in merchantable condition, 12 to 15c; do. unwashed, 8 to 10c, according to condition and quality. Pure Southdown and Shropshire, washed and in good condition, 15 to 18c; do. unwashed, 10 to 12c. Montana and Oregon fine wools, unwashed, 13 to 15c, when in good condition.

## THE MARKETS

### WINNIPEG

#### WHEAT

Crop reports continue to be almost universally favorable, and only one or two exceptions have been heard of, which would apply to but very limited areas. Last week would just about wind up the summer movement in wheat, and nothing more will be doing until another crop comes in the market. The price paid to farmers for what little was delivering last week ranged about 67c for hard wheat. Car lots on track brought 70c.

#### FLOUR

The advance in eastern markets has had the effect of checking the flour movement in that direction. Many inquiries were received, but buyers seemed to be doing a good deal of figuring to obtain concessions, if possible. Local prices have been advanced for all grades but patents, about 10c all around. Quotations in broken lots to the trade now are: Patents, \$2.25; strong bakers', \$1.90; XXXX, \$1.30 to \$1.35; superfine, \$1.10.

#### MILLSTUFFS

With the advance in flour, millstuffs have declined. Bran is now quoted at \$8 and shorts at \$10 per ton. Chop feed, \$25 to \$30 per ton.

#### OATS

Quiet and almost nominal at 44 to 45c in car lots on track.

#### POTATOES

Choice new worth about \$3.00 per 100 pounds at close of week, but easier. Old, slow sale at about 90c per bushel.

#### EGGS

held in good demand at 11c in small lots all last week. Packers take large lots at 10.

#### BUTTER

This market is in a very unsatisfactory condition. Country merchants have been paying more to their customers than the article will bring here, and a good deal more than it can be exported for. In this respect they have not followed closely the reports given in THE COMMERCIAL, or they would not now have to mourn the loss of from 1 to 3c. per pound on their butter purchases. The market here was irregular, and with a wide range of quotations. Some few sales of single tubs were made at 15c, but 14c appeared to be the usual price for choicest qualities, with a drooping tendency. One dealer said he would not refuse 13c for the best package in stock, and another quoted new butter at from 10 to 13c. A refrigerator car lot was being made up for shipment west, but the market in that direction, including British Columbia, is limited and could be easily overstocked from this city, even were supplies not received from any other quarter. The disposition seems to be to hold receipts until fall for shipment east during cooler weather, but to

make a success of exportation in this direction, a more uniform system of packing in firkins will have to be inaugurated, instead of pails, etc., as are now largely used. To show the real position of the butter market here, it may be stated that during last week farmers were selling to retail stores and private parties at 12c for their best samples. It is a question if butter here is really worth over 10 to 12c, as it must come down to an export basis, or spoil in dealers' hands.

#### CHEESE

Old imported steady at about 15c.

#### LARD

Mostly Chicago imported now in the market, and selling at \$2.30 to \$2.35 in large pails.

#### CURED MEATS

Quotations are steady, as follows: Long-clear bacon, in lots of under 500 sides, 10c; over 500 sides 9c; breakfast bacon, 12 to 12c; spiced rolls, 11 to 11c; hams, 13c; Chicago mess pork, \$20 per barrel; mess beef \$16 per bbl, in barrel lots.

#### DRESSED MEATS

Pork dropped about 1c last week, and is now quoted at 7 to 7c. Beef a shade easier at 7 1/2 to 8c for good to choice sides, selling price by butchers here; veal, 10c; mutton, 15c.

#### LIVE STOCK

Cattle continue to become easier, and a further decline is noted. Prices last week ranged from 3 to 3c, the higher price being the very top which choice cattle would bring, and not very brisk at that. Hogs continue to come to hand much more freely than was supposed likely a short time ago. Some lots were bought in the country at about 4c and delivered here at a cost of about 4c. Lots shipped in for sale here would not likely bring over 4c. now. Several packers are curing in small numbers.

#### HAY

All undamaged hay brings a good price. Choice lowland, pressed, brings about \$7 to \$8 in car lots on track. Choice upland is scarce and worth about \$10 per ton.

## Competition in the Retail Trade.

While disbelieving and denying the existence of any general or unusual and ruinous pressure of competition in the retail trade, it must be admitted that there is a class of storekeepers who find more of it than they either like or can withstand. But this is characteristic of individuals and not a condition of trade. By such storekeepers the pressure is felt at all times whether the season is good, bad or indifferent; and to such any competition is ruinous. Where trade is really overdone the number of merchants in the congested district will inevitably be reduced to a sound and healthy limit, by the operation of causes as natural, as irresistible and regular in their operation as those which produce the succession of night and day. At every business centre, great or small, as many of the hardest-working and closest-thinking storekeepers as there is room for, will remain. The rest will be squeezed out, some by failure, others by removal to newer fields. This is what revolutionists call "the survival of the fittest." A process as potent and effectual in the commercial world as in the domain of nature. It weeds out of the weaklings, the puny and the incompetent. It makes room for the active, the pushing and the energetic. It is the live storekeeper's best friend, for without it he would be swamped—lost in a mob, every man of which, like the laborers of parable, would receive a penny a day. The storekeeper who is wise in his day and generation does not grumble at competition. He meets it and succeeds not only in spite of it, but with its aid. It is the wind blowing against it which keeps the kite flying.—*American Storekeeper.*

JOHN LOWE, confectioner, Selkirk, has added a bakery to his business.

Two carloads of machinery for the Alberta Lumber Company's mill arrived last week at Calgary.

THE Regina and Long Lake railway, and Saskatchewan Valley road are likely to amalgamate their interests.

THE Selkirk Record says real estate has risen considerably at that place, owing to the prospect of Selkirk's becoming a prominent lake port.

THE release of Manitoba from the bondage of railway monopoly will be an attainment well worthy of this jubilee year. Should not the commencement of work on the railway be celebrated in some way on Jubilee Day?

JAMES HERALD, general storekeeper, lately of Stonewall, has returned to that place from the West, where he went a short time ago with a view to embarking in business. He will probably settle down in Stonewall again.

It has been again reported from Ottawa the Clemlow syndicate will commence the construction of the Northwest Central railway at once. It is claimed that from 50 to 100 miles will be completed this season, commencing at Brandon, and thence northwesterly.

COL. ATTWOOD, of Winnipeg, has issued in pamphlet form a "Jubilee essay on Imperial Confederation, as affecting Manitoba and the Northwest." Not having had an opportunity of perusing the pamphlet, we cannot speak authoritatively of its contents.

G. P. SCRANTON, St. Paul, Minnesota, E. Palmer, Fort Wayne, Indiana, W. J. Kane, R. W. Harris and J. A. Elliott, of Winnipeg, gave notice in the last Manitoba Gazette that they will apply for incorporation under the name of The Manitoba District Telegraph Co., for the purpose of doing a general telegraph business in Manitoba. Head office at Winnipeg.

A CONSIDERABLE quantity of through freight has been passing over the C.P.R. from San Francisco to Eastern points. Ten cars of wool went through to New York one day last week, and a considerable number of cars of Frisco sugar also passed through. The wool was doubtless carried from California to New York at a good deal lower figure than would be charged for Alberta wool from Calgary to Montreal or Toronto.

A PROPOSITION has been made to the effect that the Saskatchewan and Western railway would extend their line from Rapid City to Brandon, if the Northwest Central would change the starting point of their line from Brandon to a point further west, say Virden. At a meeting held at Brandon to consider the proposal, a resolution was passed as follows:—Resolved that in the opinion of this meeting the construction of the Northwest Central railway with a terminus at Brandon is at present of more importance to the city than the construction of a line to Rapid City, and that Mr. Daly be advised to waive his assistance to the Rapid City scheme, and consider a satisfactory guarantee that the Northwest Central will construct and operate fifty miles of their road from Brandon this season.