

Toronto Markets.

Millfeed—Firm and in demand. One car bron was bought to arrive here at \$16.25. Local mills are getting \$17.

Wheat—Dull and nominally steady, but holders would accept lower prices. Heavy spring and winter Ontario wheats are worth about 90c, outside and standard weights 89c. Manitoba wheats were weak with but very few sales. No 2 hard offered at \$1 North Bay and No. 2 northern at 91c. On call the only business done was a bid of \$1.06 for No. 1 hard, Winnipeg inspection, and the offer of No. 2 northern at 91½c North Bay.

Barley—Dull, with prices lower. Buyers reduced their limits at outside points to 38c for No. 3, 40c for No. 3 extra, 43c for No. 2 and 46c for No. 1. Some No. 3 sold to-day at 42c f.o.b. outside and 6,000 bushels No. 1 east at 50c.

Oats—Quiet, with sales here at 35c on track and outside at 30 to 32c.

Grain and Flour—Car prices are: Flour (Toronto freights)—Manitoba patents, \$5.30 to \$5.50; Manitoba strong bakers', \$4.90 to \$5.10; Ontario patents, \$4.50 to \$4.90; straight roller, \$4.10 to \$4.15; extra, \$4.00; low grades, per bag, \$1.25 to \$1.75. Bran—\$17.00. Shorts—\$18 to \$19. Wheat—White, 92 to 93c; spring, 91 to 92c; red winter, 92 to 93c; goose, 80 to 82c; No. 1 hard, \$1.02; No. 2 hard, 99 cents; No. 3 hard, 91 to 93c; No. 1 regular, 87 to 89c; No. 2 regular, 78 to 80c. Peas—No. 2, 62 to 63c. Barley—No. 1, 55 to 56c; No. 2, 52 to 53c; No. 3 extra, 50 to 52c; No. 3, 48 to 50c; two rowed, 64 lbs, average about No. 3 extra in color, 51 to 58c. Corn—70 to 71. Buckwheat—53 to 55c. Rye—91 to 92c. Oats—34 to 35c.

Butter—There has been a fair supply of butter lately, but dealers report a really good butter to be scarce. Good dairy tubs are wanted at 18c, and large rolls, medium grade, can find a ready sale at from 14 to 15c. For low grades the demand is dull and little is being bought. It ranges from 11 to 13c. Quotations are: Butter, good to choice, northern and western, tubs, 17 to 18c; large rolls, medium to good, 14 to 15c; common, 11 to 13c; creamery, tubs, 25 to 26c; rolls, 28 to 29c.

Cheese—The demand is steady for September cheese at 11c. Summer makes are dull and very little is moving.

Apples—\$1.50 to \$2.50 per barrel. There is no active enquiry for dried apples and prices remain unchanged at from 4 to 4½c for large and 4½ to 4¾c for small lots. Evaporated are dull at from 6½ to 7c for large lots on track and 7½ to 8c for small lots here.

Eggs—The demand is strong for good fresh in cases at 18c. Lined are plentiful and rather dull at from 14 to 15c.

Hides, etc.—Trade is quiet and almost dull. Green hides are bringing 4½c, and cured 5c f.o.b. No. 2 are selling at 3½c and No. 3 at 2½c. For sheep and lambs 5c of an advance has been made, the present price being 95c. Calfskins at 7c.

Meats—The demand is stronger and prices a little firmer, as the supply of poultry has been light this last week. Lamb is selling at 6½ to 7½c. Mutton is dull at from 5 to 6c. Beef is steady at from 3½ to 4½c for forequarters and 6 to 8c for hind.

Poultry—The receipts of good poultry have

been hardly equal to the demand and prices are somewhat firmer. Next week, no doubt, the market will be better stocked. Turkeys are in active demand and firm at 10c.

Dressed hogs—Receipts here were light. Packers bought selected weights at \$5.25 to \$5.50. Very few cars were purchased to arrive. One western, 130 lbs and up, was taken at \$5.45, and one of 140 lbs at \$5.40.

Cured meats—Mess pork, United States, \$13.75 to \$14; short cut, \$16 to \$16.50; bacon, long clear, per lb. 7½ to 8c; lard, Canada, tubs and pails, 9½ to 10c; compound do. 8½ to 9c; smoked meats—hams, per lb., new, 10½ to 11c; bellies, per lb. 9½ to 10c; rolls, per lb. 8½ to 8¾c; backs, per lb., 10½c; dressed hogs, \$5 to \$5.40 per cwt.

Montreal Markets.

The continuance of mild open weather to so late a date in December has completely upset ordinary business arrangements and is responsible for a good deal of suffering among the laboring classes and many complaints of "bad trade" among merchants and dealers.

Flour—Shading prices is reported: Patent winter, \$5.05 to \$5.20; patent, spring, \$5.15 to \$5.25; straight roller, \$4.70 to \$4.85; extra, \$4.25 to \$4.35; superfine, \$4.00 to \$4.25; fine, \$3.50 to \$3.75; city strong bakers, \$5.00 to \$5.10; Manitoba bakers, \$4.60 to \$5.00; Ontario bags—extra, \$2.10 to \$2.20; superfine, \$2.00 to \$2.10.

Oatmeal, etc.—Granulated and rolled oats, \$4.60 to \$4.65 per barrel, and \$2.25 to \$2.75 per bag; standard and fine oatmeal, \$4.50 to \$4.60 per barrel, and bags \$2.17. Pot barley \$4.00. Pearl barley No. 1, \$7.25 per barrel \$3.75 per half bbl.

Ran—There is a good demand for brand with sales of car lots at \$16.50 for choice Ontario and we quote \$16 to \$17; shorts, \$18 to \$19 and moulie, \$23 to \$26 as to grade.

Oats—Receipts during the week have been liberal. Quite a number of sales have been made in the country at 30 to 31½c per 34 pounds f.o.b. Here the sales of 10 to 12 cars were made at 34½ to 35c per 34 pounds and a car of very choice No. 2 Ontario white at 35½c, but 35c is considered an outside figure for choice white.

Wheat—We learn of sales of No. 1 regular Manitoba wheat on Montreal account at 92½ to 93½c c.i.f. Boston for English account. No. 2 regular is quoted at 82½ to 83c, and No. 3 at 72 to 73c. No 2 hard Manitoba wheat is quoted here at \$1.00 to \$1.02. Sales have been made in the west at \$1 to \$1.01 Montreal freights.

Barley—The market keeps exceedingly quiet and in order to make sales lower prices have to be accepted. There have been a large quantity sold west of Toronto for shipment via Portland and Boston, at equal to 47½c laid down here. The freight rate on this is 40c. We quote 45 to 47c for good to choice feed barley, malting 52 to 58c.

Dressed Hogs—Further sales of car lots have taken place in this market at \$5.60 per 100 lbs. and small lots of soft hogs have placed at \$5.50 and under. A fair range of values is from \$5.50 to \$5.70 as to quantity and quality.

Butter—2,700 packages have changed hands for export account at 23½ to 24c for choice late made creamery, some earlier makes being reported at 22½ to 23c. Eastern townships have

sold at 18 to 20c, with the sale of 2 cars of western reported at 17 to 17½c, the latter for choice and close selections, other qualities ranging from 15½ to 16½c.

Cheese.—There have been a few sales in this market by dealers to shippers at 10½ to 10¾c for finest, but the majority of holders refuse to let go at under 11c and we quote finest at 10¾ to 11c, with a few under priced selling at at 10 to 10½c, and poorer grades at 8½ to 9c.

Dressed poultry—Sales of turkeys have been made at 9 to 10c; chickens, which are in good demand, bring 7½ to 8c, while old hens have sold at 6 to 6½c and one poor lot went as low as 5½c. Geese are slow sale, and quoted at 6 to 7c; ducks at 8 to 9c.

Eggs—lined stock selling at 15 to 16c, and fresh held at 18 to 20c. Sales of fresh hold cold storage stock have been made for English account at 8s 6d f.o.b. here. There is a good enquiry for fresh held stock, but the Englishman has not yet taken very kindly to our lined eggs.

Apples—Sales of round lots having been made all the way from \$2.00 to \$2.50 the latter figure being for a car load of fancy red stock. Small lots of fancy fruit have commanded \$2.75. We just heard of a sale in this market at \$1.75, said to be fair fruit. Dried apples—4 to 5c per lb., as to quality. Evaporated apples—A few sales were made at 6c, and we quote 6 to 7c as to quantity.

Hides—Prices have dropped. We quote: No. 1, 4½c; No. 2, 3½c; No. 3, 2½c; tanners are paying 1c more; lambskins, 80c; calfskins, 7c.—*Trade Bulletin*, Dec. 18.

The Grain Blockade.

The blockade of east bound grain along the Western railroads has in the last week grown to proportions which may fairly be called sensational. All reports during the last fortnight have agreed in describing an enormous increase in the grain offered to carriers from the farms. In the country elevators of Minnesota and Dakota alone the supply was swelled last week by half a million bushels, yet in the same time the stock in New York City fell off nearly half a million, and the grain afloat for Europe decreased by three and a half millions. That this grain was not held back at the farms was shown by the number of grain cars brought from the harvest country into Chicago; a number which rose during the last two weeks from 6,453 in 1890 to 14,469 in 1891. It is naturally at this great center of interior distribution that the transportation system has broken down most completely.

Until a few days ago, the vessels on the great lakes have transported, by way of Buffalo, the bulk of the east bound grain. But the setting in of winter, and the consequent close of lake navigation, suddenly threw the whole burden upon the Chicago and New York trunk lines. It was at once discovered that they had not cars enough, or even switching facilities enough, to carry out their grain orders. High premiums over ordinary rentals were offered to get the use of cars owned by connecting lines; finally a familiar bit of railroad sharp practice was resorted to, and the Eastern companies which accepted through freight cars for New York from the lines west of Chicago purposely neglected to return them, hoping to keep the cars, despite rentals and penalties, for their own necessary uses. One trunk line alone is said to have appropriated 3,000 cars by this method.—*N. Y. Evening Post*.