

FISH AND OYSTERS.

The winter fishing on the lakes has not fairly opened up yet, and consequently there is but little business in fresh fish. White fish sell in small lots at 7c. No frozen fresh fish are quoted as yet. Oysters are down a little, and are quoted in bulk at \$1.80 a gallon for Standard and \$2 for Select. Cans are held at 50c to 55c for the same brands.

GROCERIES.

In this staple branch business has been steady but not more than usually active. Prices steady as follows: Sugars—yellows 7 to 7½; granulated 9c.; lumps 9½ to 9¾. Coffees—Rios, from 21 to 24c; Java, 25 to 30c; Old Government 33 to 34c; Mochas, 32 to 35c. Teas, Japan 23 to 46c; Congous, 22 to 60c; Indian teas, 35 to 60c; young hyson, 26 to 50c. T. and B. tobacco, 55c per pound; P. of W., butts 46½c; P. of W. caddies, 47c; Honeysuckle, 7s, 55c; Brier, 7s, 53c; Laurel Bright Navy, 3s, 56c; Index d. thick Solace, 6s, 48c; Brunette Solace, 12s, 48c. Special brands of cigars are quoted: Reliance, \$50; Gen. Arthur, \$50; Mikado, \$40; Terrier, \$30 per 1000.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

In heavier business is slow, and for some metals there is practically no demand. Shelf goods are moving very satisfactorily. The following quotations are in some articles nominal: Cut nails, 10d and larger \$3.60; I. C. tin plates, \$5.75 to \$6.25; I. C. tin plates, double, \$11.50 to \$12.00; Canada plates, \$3.75 to \$4.; sheet iron, \$3.75 to \$5.50, according to grade; iron pipe, 40 to 45 per cent off list prices; ingot tin, 30 to 35c per lb., according to quality; bar iron, \$3.00 to \$3.50 per 100 lbs.; shot, 6½ to 6¾; per lb.; tarred felt, \$2.60 to \$2.75 per 100 lbs. barbed wire, 6½ to 7c.

HIDES AND TALLOW.

No change to report since our last, and the feeling is still rather weak. Prices are as follows: Winnipeg inspected, No. 1, 4¾c; No. 2, 3¾c; No. 3, 2¾c. Frozen hides, 3½c all round. Calfskins, 4 to 5c for No. 1 and 2. Sheep pelts, 50c for prime, 25c for poor. Tallow, rendered 5½c; rough, 2½c.

PAINTS, OILS AND COLORS.

The season is over for sales, and all efforts are now concentrated on collecting in the returns from the season's sales. This is progressing well, and collections are reported fairly free.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

A fair business doing principally in domestic lines. Quotations are steady and are as follows: Canadian rye whiskey, five year old, \$2.40; seven year old, \$3.; old rye, \$1.75; Jules Robit. brandy, \$4.50; Bisquet Debonche & Co., \$4.50; Martell, vintage 1885, \$6.50; vintage 1880, \$7.50; Hennessy, \$6.50 to \$7.50 for vintage 1885 to 1890; DeKuyper gin, \$3.50; Port wine, \$2.50 and upwards; Sherry, \$2.50 and upwards; Jamaica rum, \$4.00 to \$4.50; DeKuyper red gin, \$11.50 per case; DeKuyper green gin, \$6.50 per case; T. M. Gin, \$9.00 to \$10.00; Martell and Hennessy's brandy, one star, \$14.00 per case of 12 bottles; "o.", \$19. v. s. o. p., \$22.

THE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

WHEAT.

Since our last report there has been a steadier and more reassuring feeling gaining ground among American wheat holders generally, and the dip in prices at the storage centres has evidently spent its force. As yet there has been very little of an upward move, but the fears that were entertained of a panicky crash, are now gone, and matters are down to a square tug for upward or downward, with no strong symptoms of a decided move in any direction. The most depressing influence is from Europe where buyers are still obdurate, and will not come within a wide margin of prices asked here, thus practically shutting off exports to that continent. In northwestern markets, and especially in Duluth, there seems to be a speculative prop under the market, for prices there are away out of proportion to those quoted elsewhere. It is generally believed, however, that there will be more or less of a scarcity of hard Fyfe and other flinty wheats before next summer, and those holding will thus be likely to make their point if they hold out. The reports of receipt and inspection at the Minnesota receiving points seems to strengthen this belief, and the opinion is gradually gaining ground, that the lowest estimates of the northwestern wheat crops will prove to be far too high. In the meantime, and until the American holders and European buyers get nearer to each other in their estimates of values, affairs are kept in a strained and very unsatisfactory state. In Manitoba there has been a heavy falling off in receipts all over the country, which some attribute to the supply in the hands of farmers being much less than has been calculated. There is no doubt but fall estimates of our surplus, were as a rule too high, but the fact that Duluth speculative quotations are from 16 to 18c above those of Port Arthur, will account for much of the falling off in receipts. The Duluth prices may be too high owing to speculation, but Port Arthur figures are correspondingly low, and there is no encouragement in eastern Canadian markets to create a shipping business by all rail. Prices for the week were in a general measure nominal, car lots of No. 1 hard were worth equal to 92 to 93c on track here, while 2 hard and 1 northern were worth about 90c. Damaged lots were hard to sell, and ranged from 60 to 75c. The few street receipts of good sound hard wheat brought from 82 to 87c.

FLOUR.

Still no demand from either the east or the Pacific coast. Mills must soon shut down if matters remain in this state. The local trade has been about nominal. Prices are steady. Patents, \$3.; strong bakers, \$2.80; XXXX, \$2.20; superfine, \$1.70.

MILLSTUFFS.

Under a steady shipping demand prices hold firm at \$12 for bran and \$14 for shorts.

BARLEY.

Dealers are heartily sick of the results of their first shipments to the east, and there is now considerable Manitoba barley held in store. There is scarcely an inquiry for barley, and it would be hard to get over 40c even for a fine sample. Under these circumstances farmers sell for feed without cleaning at 35c.

OATS.

Receipts are heavier and prices easier. Feed lots sold during the week at 25 to 26c, and milling lots at 27c with 28c for very choice.

OATMEAL.

No change reported, prices are: Standard, \$2.50; granulated, \$2.65; rolled, \$3.

CHEESE.

None offered unless by wholesale grocers, who ask 11 and 11½c for choice.

BUTTER.

Receipts have not increased, and the proportion of choice coming in is small. 20 to 21c is offered for choice, and 22c for small fancy lots. There is no demand for lower grade goods.

EGGS.

There are none to be had as yet, but with 30c offered plenty of pickled stock will come into the market.

LARD.

No change to report. Pails are held firm at \$2 50.

CURED MEATS.

The feeling grows easier as the season advances. Dry salt is quoted at 11½ to 12c; rolls, 12½ to 13c; breakfast, 14 to 15c; hams, 14½ to 15½c.

POULTRY.

Complaints are made about the slovenly manner in which local supplies come in. A large proportion being in an unfit state for shipment west. Chickens are offered at 9c; geese at 11½ @ 12c, and turkeys at 13c. As yet no heavy consignments from the east have been dumped on this market this season.

DRESSED MEATS.

Dressed hogs are easier. Prices paid being 7½c for heavy and 8c for light. Beef carcasses are worth 5@5½c, with 4@4½c for country dressed.

A Bank President's Views.

The *Toronto Budget* for December publishes an interview with Mr. W. Darling, President of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, in which that gentleman expresses some of his opinions upon legislation regarding the renewing of Canadian bank charters which expire on the first day of July, 1891.

Mr. Darling starts out from the belief that in order to avoid the passing of any crude or hasty legislation the subject of renewing charters should be introduced at the coming session of Parliament. On the point of the Government appropriating a larger proportion of the money circulation than it now does, and curtailing the circulation of the banks in proportion, he states that the circulation forms such an important source of profit to the small banks, that they would not willingly give this up unless some equivalent were allowed them. Further on he states:

Regarded from a public or national standpoint the policy of the Government in such a matter should be strictly defined, and if the ultimate complete appropriation of the circulation by the Government is determined upon, justice to existing interests demands that the change should be brought about by the appropriation of fixed amounts at fixed periods extending over a long term of years, rather than as the result of a fitful policy of uncertain aim and scope.

Mr. Darling assumes also that complete appropriation would be simply a forced loan from the people, and the issue of an irredeemable