

Manitoba Wheat Movement.

In accordance with our usual custom, we give this week a summary of the movement of wheat to the close of navigation. Navigation closed with the last shipments made last week, the shipments from Fort William by water last week having amounted to 1,142,000 bushels. Total shipments from Fort William and Port Arthur since navigation opened last spring to December 10, the close of the season, amounted to 9,218,778 bushels compared with 17,359,127 bushels for the season of 1897. Of the shipments this season, 6,103,990 bushels were new wheat, of this year's crop and the balance old wheat. To the close of navigation last year, shipments of new wheat only from Fort William were 9,161,500 bushels, or one-third greater than this year. Navigation closed with only 388,000 bushels in store at Fort William compared with 500,000 bushels in store at the close of navigation last year. Shipments from Fort William and Port Arthur for the entire season of navigation in 1896 were 12,600,000 bushels, and for the season of 1895 they were 10,550,000 bushels.

It is estimated that about 13,000,000 bushels of the new crop this year has been delivered by farmers, but considerable wheat delivered is held in store for farmers. This 13,000,000 bushels include the 6,000,000 shipped out by water, 4,000,000 bushels in store west of Winnipeg, 1,500,000 bushels exported via Duluth and the balance stocks held at Winnipeg, Keewatin and lake ports, or turned into flour.

Notwithstanding the comparatively small shipments this year to the close of navigation, it is believed there is ample elevator accommodation in the country for all the wheat that will be marketed during the winter. The elevator accommodation along the C. P. R. lines, including lake ports, and interior points west of Fort William, amounted to about 16,000,000 bushels.

Minneapolis Markets.

Compared with a week ago the quotations given indicate an advance of 1-4c on No. 3 corn, a reduction of 2 to 3c on barley, an advance of 5 1-2c on flax seed, a decline of 1 to 1 1-2c on eggs, a decline of 1-2c on creamery butter and of 1-2 to 1c on dairy, an advance of 3 to 5c on potatoes, an advance of 1-2c on spring chickens, hens and turkeys, and of 1 1-2c on geese, a decline of 1-4c to 1-2c on hides, an advance of 1-4c on veal calf hides, an advance of 1-4c on tallow, and a decline of 50c on hay.

Flour—Prices in barrels. First patents, \$3.50 to \$3.55; second patents, \$3.25 to \$3.30.

Millfeed—Shorts in bulk, \$9.00 to \$9.50; bran in bulk \$9.50 to \$10.00; corn feed \$12.50 to \$14.00 per ton as to quality.

Corn—Quoted at 30c for No. 3 yellow, and 29 3-4c for No. 8.

Oats—Oats held at 26 3-4c for No. 3 white and 26 1-2c for No. 8.

Barley—Malting, 37 to 42c; feed quoted at 34 to 35c.

Flax seed—\$1.04 3-4 per bushel.

Eggs—18 1-2 to 19c for strictly fresh including cases; held fresh, 15 to 17 1-2c; seconds, 10c.

Cheese—Choice to fancy, 10 to 11 1-2c; fair to good, 8 1-2 to 9c.

Butter—Creamery—17 1-2 to 19 1-2 for choice to extras; seconds, 15 to 15 1-2c, dairy 13 to 17c for choice to fancy; seconds 12 to 12 1-2c.

Dressed meats—Mutton, 5 to 7c; lamb, 8 to 10c; veal 5 to 7 1-2c.

Potatoes—Car lots, mixed, 27 to 35c; straight varieties, 35 to 37c per bushel.

Poultry—Chickens, spring, 5 to 7 1-2c; hens, 4 1-2 to 5 1-2c; roosters, 4c; turkeys, 7c to 10c; ducks and geese 5 to 7 1-2c, all live weight.

Hides—Green salted hides, 8 1-2 for No. 1, 7 1-2c for No. 2; bulls, oxen and brands, 6 1-2 to 7 1-2c; sheepskins, 10 to 70c each; veal calf 9 1-4 to 10 3-4c; tallow 2 1-4 to 3 1-2c; seneca root, 22 to 24c.

Wool—Unwashed, fine, 11 to 12c medium, 13 to 14c; coats, 14 1-2 to 15 1-2c.

HAY—\$8.00 to \$8.50 per ton, timothy; mixed clover, \$1.50 to \$3.50.

Western Business Items.

F. Maynard intends opening a hardware shop at Elgin.

H. L. Chabot, grocer, Winnipeg advertises his business for sale.

Alex. McMillan, grocer, Winnipeg, advertises giving up business.

Lethbridge Shrap Co., Lethbridge, Alberta, has been incorporated.

D. J. Hartley, publisher, Qu'Appelle, Assa., has sold out to E. Law.

C. Shillingford, hotel, Fleming, Assa., has sold out to George Cleverly.

Matheson Bros., have opened out a stock of groceries at Winnipeg.

G. Sigurdson, merchant, of Winnipeg, has assigned to S. A. D. Bertrand.

Ruttan & Fitzpatrick, Birtle, are giving groceries to their business.

The Calgary Clothing Co., Calgary, Alberta, is applying for incorporation.

A. Grant has bought out the flour and feed business of A. Madill, at Virden.

C. McKinnon, hotel, Rapid City, Man., is reported to have left that place.

J. E. Daoust, blacksmith, Winnipeg; stock and effects advertised for sale by auction.

C. L. Ford, grocer, Winnipeg, has sold out his branch business to W. Williamson.

R. F. Foster, harness, etc., Virden, who was burned out recently, is re-opening with a new stock.

The Lethbridge Co-operative association, Lethbridge, Alberta, is applying for incorporation.

The livery business recently carried on by E. Cassidy at Newdale, Man. has been purchased by R. Dennison.

Gibson & Campbell, of Wolseley, are erecting an implement warehouse at Sintona for the sale of the Deerfield Harvester Co.'s machinery.

Johnson & McPall have opened in the hardware business at Vanconver. The first named partner was formerly of Winnipeg, and the latter of Prince Albert.

Ross & Strachan's jewellery store, at Fort William, was entered

Wednesday night by burglars for the third time in the last six months. They carried off a lot of valuable goods.

The Winnipeg branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia will be opened for business on Tuesday, Jan. 3. The manager will be C. A. Kennedy, former manager at Yarmouth, N. S., who has been in the city for a few days completing arrangements for the opening.

T. W. Lines, manager for the Brackman & Kerr Milling Co. at South Alberta, in the city. Mr. Lines says that the South Edmonton market is a lively one at this season of the year. The company is plying from 20 to 24 cents for milling oats, and 40c per bushel for No. 1 hard wheat, prices that compare very favorably with quotations at points in Manitoba.

Toronto Wholesale Trade.

Toronto, Dec. 17.

Dry goods—An active, holiday trade has been doing, and spring orders are increasing. Large firms have completed stock taking and say the results of the year 1898 is the best in ten years. Values generally are firm.

Hardware—This branch is less active than usual at this time of year. A good deal of cutlery is selling. Rope is dull, sisal rope is 1-4c and Manila 1-2c lower. Turpentine is 2c lower. Metals unchanged and steady. A good many import orders for galvanized iron and tin plates are being booked.

Groceries—Holiday goods in fruits, nuts, peels, etc., very active. Better demand for teas. All refined sugars were reduced 10c per 100 pounds.

Kobold & Co., butchers, are sending out a novelty in the advertising line in the shape of neat little one pound sample palls of lard with greetings appropriate to the season.

W. G. Douglas, flour and feed merchant, Winnipeg, is issuing a fine hanger, showing a bunch of Highland sheep. This is a companion picture to the one of last year, showing Highland cattle.

The Winnipeg city market is beginning to take on its usual holiday appearance, and the butchers promise that when their decorations and displays are complete the market will be worth seeing. Next week The Commercial will give its readers some particulars about the display.

An Ottawa dispatch of December 8, says: "Postmaster-General Mulock, proposes to adopt in Montreal, Toronto and other cities where there is an electric car service, the utilization of the electric services for the collection and delivery of the mails, which has been used to a limited extent in Ottawa for several years past with great success. Here the mails are taken from and carried to the railway stations by special postal cars, which run into the post office yard. The special "late fee" system will, probably be utilized after the next session of parliament. That is that by paying an additional amount a letter can be mailed later than the regular time the regular mail closed. Legislation will be necessary for this. At all the railway stations a "late box" will be provided for extra stamped letters, so that five minutes before the train starts, the box will be cleared. A system of insurance for letters containing money valuables will also be adopted. This is a feature in other countries."