

Tuesday and Wednesday, under the influence of firmer cables. Thursday was an uneventful day, with prices lower. On Friday prices were weak in United States and British markets. To day is a holiday, and the exchanges are generally closed until after Christmas.

The export clearances from the United States and Canada for the eleven months ending on November 30, were officially reported at 103,000,000 bushels against 115,000,000 bushels corresponding period last year.

A feature of the week is the strength of cash wheat, as compared with May. At Minneapolis on some days cash wheat sold within a few points of the price of the May option.

The situation locally is about the same, and business is on a purely speculative basis, though there is very little doing. There is some tendency to dial in May wheat, and the idea of values for May delivery is about 66c delivered at Fort William, for No 1 hard. Cash wheat is going into store very slowly, country deliveries being light. The idea of values is about 59 to 59½c per bushel, Fort William, on which basis a few cars are changing hands and going into winter storage. There is absolutely no shipping business, prices being above an export basis, and consequently trading in cash wheat is really on a speculative basis. Whether it will earn carrying charges or not is of course very questionable at the moment. Prices to farmers in Manitoba country markets are irregular, and range from 40 to 45c per bushel, for No. 1 hard, 41 to 43c being the usual range. There have been reports in some country markets, owing to local influences, which have advanced prices temporarily even beyond the top quotation given. Owing to the light deliveries, some buyers are already being withdrawn from country markets, and if there is not an increase in marketings, a good many country elevators may be closed up after New Year. Receipts at Fort William for the week ended Dec. 16 were 128,345 bushels, and shipments 1,233 bushels. Total stocks on the date named at lake ports were 1,333,614 bushels, being an increase of 127,124 bushels. A year ago stocks were 1,807,579 bushels, being an increase of 231,643 for that week. For the week ended to-day receipts at Fort William are 83,000, and no shipments, making total stocks at lake ports amount to 1,436,961 bushels.

FLOUR—Canadian flour markets appear to be about as badly demoralized as ever, from the Pacific to the Atlantic coasts. Our British Columbia editor gives a bad report of the markets there, and advices from Montreal and the east are equally unsatisfactory. Montreal reports cutting in prices the order of the day. Local trade is quiet, and there is no new feature to speak of. Quotations in small lots to the local trade, delivered in the city, are as follows: Patents, \$1.60; strong bakers, \$1.50. XXXX, which varies widely in the quality of different mills, is quoted at 80 to \$1.00 as to quality. Prices per sack of 98 pounds.

MILLSTUFFS—If flour is demoralized, millers are making a good thing on bran and shorts. Prices East for millstuffs are high, and with a larger local demand than usual, the market is kept almost bare here. Supplies are only from hand to mouth, and sometimes not equal to requirements. There was a car or two of bran from country mills offered here, but they were held high—at \$10 per ton in bulk on track. We quote prices unchanged at \$10 to \$11 per ton for bran and \$12 to \$13 for shorts.

GROUND FEED—There is a fairly good local demand, and prices hold at 17 to \$18 per ton for oats and barley chop. Mixed wheat feed has been offered at about \$14 per ton, but there is not much to be had.

ONIONS, ETC.—Eastern rolled oatmeal is quoted at \$2.30 to \$2.40 in small lots for 80 lb. sacks. Cornmeal, \$1.75; buckwheat, flour, \$4; and rye, \$3. Beans are quoted at \$1.50 to \$1.90 per bushel; split peas, \$2.40 to 2.50; pot barley, \$2.40 to 2.50; and pearl barley \$4 per sack, rolled wheat, \$5.50 per barrel.

OATS—Considerable interest centres in the oat market. Prices started in high this season and a considerable quantity were bought up at prices away above export basis, under the impression, no doubt, that the crop was very short and not equal to home requirements. Stocks accumulated, however, there being an export business, an easier tendency set in, and prices have now been declining for a few weeks. This week prices were again lower, though there is very little business doing, and values are very irregular. The situation is about as follows: Buyers now do not care to pay over export values, and stocks in store have been bought so far above export values that it would mean a heavy loss to sell on a shipping basis. Accordingly there is little doing, beyond an occasional car lot or so for local consumption. About 23 to 24c per bushel of 34 pounds is about the range, for cars on track country points, equal to about 29 to 30c on track Winnipeg, local freight paid. The prices at country points, however, are still 2 to 3c too high to permit of shipping east, and therefore stocks are not being reduced materially. On the Winnipeg street market offerings were larger this week, and prices 1 to 2c lower, prices to farmers ranging from 23 to 30c. A good many loads were bought at 28 and 29c towards the close of the week.

BARLEY—We learn of nothing in round lot transactions, and there is practically no movement. Dealers talk 24 to 27c per bushel of 48 pounds on track country points, the idea as to values being irregular in the absence of sales. On the Winnipeg street market there were a few loads more offering, and 29 and 30c per bushel was paid for feed quality.

FEED WHEAT—Good demand for local use at 35 to 40c per bushel.

FLAX SEED AND MEAL—The price holds at 75c per bushel of 56 pounds here, and 70c in country markets. Ground oil cake meal quoted at \$24 to 25 per ton.

BUTTER—We can report nothing new in butter. From 18 to 19c per pound is considered a good price now for round lots of good quality. Dealers quote 20 to 22c in small lots, but close buyers do not exceed 21c for choice, in small quantities.

CHEESE—Quiet and quoted at 11 to 12c, in small lots, dealers selling price.

EGGS—Prices hold at 19 to 20c for pickled, the former price for small lots. Fresh hardly quotable owing to scarcity.

CURED MEATS—There has been another sharp decline in local prices of hog products, long clear being ½c lower, and smoked bacon also ½c lower. Mess pork is down \$1 per barrel to \$18 in small quantities. We quote: ham, 13c; breakfast bacon, 13c for backs and 13½c for bellies; dry salt long clear bacon, 9½c; smoked long clear 10½c; spiced rolls, 10½c; boneless hams, 12c; mess pork, \$19.00 per barrel. Sausage is quoted: fresh pork sausage, 8c; bologna sausage 9c per lb; German, 9c; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 9c per half lb. packet. Pickled hogs tongues, 5c lb.

LARD—Pure lard held at at \$2.30 in 20-pound pails, per pail; compound unchanged, at \$2.10 per pail; compound in 3, 5 and 10 pound tins, \$7 per case of 60 pounds. Pure leaf lard is now being put up here in 3 and 5 pound tins, and quoted at \$7.75 per case of 60 pounds.

DRESSED MEATS—This is usually expected to be a big week in the meat trade, owing to the holiday display of fancy meats. City dealers, as usual, have made a very good display of choice meats, but business has not been what it should be for this time of year. A few carcasses of very fine beef are shown in the city market. The heaviest beef perhaps is four carcasses purchased from Baird Bros., of Pilot Mound, Man., and shown by Kobold & Co. These four animals weighed 3,550 pounds in the aggregate, live weight. One steer weighed 2,375 pounds. Gallagher & Sons have three fine carcasses of beef, from cattle purchased at

Birtle last summer, and fed by them. There is a considerable display of western rancho beef, some of which is very fine. In mutton there is a very good display, but most of the heavy mutton is from sheep brought in from the east and fed up here during the fall. The principal display of fancy mutton is from a lot of sheep brought from Prince Edward Island last fall. Prices for ordinary meats are about the same, though of course higher figures have been paid for some fancy stuff. There has been considerable country dressed beef on the market, which has sold at 3 to 4c per pound, city dressed 4½ to 5c for good to choice. Ordinary mutton and lamb sells about 8c, and 9 to 10c for fancy display mutton. Pork is unchanged, though there is a tendency to pay more attention to quality, 6½c being paid for good dressed hogs, and 6c for far lots. Veal, 7c for real veal and about 5c for large calves. A feature of the western trade is the arrival of a large lot of Australian mutton—about 400 carcasses at Vancouver. It sold at 7 and 7½c there, which is below cost, and would make a heavy loss to the shippers. Inquiries were made as to placing some of this mutton in the Winnipeg market, but it could not be laid down here to even as good advantage as at Vancouver. Western range beef is reported to be meeting with a good sale at Montreal, where it sells at 6 to 6½c in round lots. Dressed beef is going forward from the Calgary abattoir in car lots. In dressed hogs eastern markets have been rather firmer again, but the strength is perhaps of a temporary nature, owing to Montreal parties buying in Toronto for packing purposes. Prices were advanced to \$6.40 to 6.50 at Toronto on one day, but at latest reports were 10 to 20c lower.

DRESSED POULTRY—The market is well stocked with eastern turkeys, ducks and geese, besides some home supplies. The holiday trade for poultry is not as large as usual, and considerable stocks are likely to be carried over. Prices are easier this week, and a further weakening is expected after New Year's. We quote chickens at 7 to 8c; ducks and geese 9 to 10c and turkeys 10 to 12½c; in some cases ½c higher was secured for small lots. Prices however, are somewhat irregular, and the demand is slow, dealers being stocked up fully.

HIDES—We quote Winnipeg inspected hides here as follows:—No. 1 cows, 2½c; No. 2, 1½c; No. 3, 1c; No. 1, heavy steers, 3½c; No. 2 heavy steers 2½c; No. 3 steers 1c. Frozen hides, mixed grades uninspected, 1½c per lb. Calf, 8 to 13-lb. skins, 4 to 5c per pound. Kips about the same as hides. Sheepskins and lambs, rather easier tendency. Up to 55c was paid for some lots a couple of weeks ago, but lots have been bought this week at 45c. There are a great many small lambs offering. We quote 45 to 55c for new skins, as to size, etc. Tallow, 4½c; rendered; 2 to 3c rough.

WOOL—Ordinary long wools nominal at 7 to 8c per pound; mixed quality, containing some finer grades 8 to 9c per pound; downs 9 to 10c as to quality; fine wools, such as good merino grades, 10 to 11c.

VEGETABLES—Potatoes selling on the street 40 to 45c per bushel. They are scarce at some western points, but it is risky shipping in winter, consequently there is no movement in car lots. Other vegetables are quoted.—Turnips, 20 to 25c; carrots, 40c; beets, 40c; parsnips, 2c per lb; onions, 90c to \$1 per bushel. Cabbage, scarce at 75c to \$1.50 per dozen. Celery, 25 to 40c per dozen.

HAY—Baled hay, on track, \$5 to \$6 per ton, or \$4 to \$4.50 at country points. Loose hay on the street market about \$4 per ton.

LIVE STOCK—Another shipment of Manitoba cattle from the Northwestern railway country went east this week, making about two train loads. They would be too late for the Christmas markets, but would be in time for New Year. In hogs the price holds same at 5c the off cars bore.