

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, September 24.

[All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are wholesale for such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reductions for large quantities, and to cash discounts.]

Wholesale houses report a fairly brisk state of trade, but collections have not improved. Though the new crop is beginning to come to market it is not being turned into cash very freely. The present low prices of wheat is inducing farmers to hold, and the wheat that is coming in, is mostly going into the elevators to be held on account of the farmers. As there is little prospect of an early advance in wheat, the holding prices promises to be prolonged. It is not likely that farmers will sell more wheat than will relieve pressing necessities at present, and accordingly the outlook for a freer circulation of money soon is not encouraging. The building trade and kindred lines are active. Though the season is late, many new buildings are being undertaken in the city. Wood fuel continues to advance, and is now at an exorbitant price. The opening of new sources of fuel supply is urgent. The new Souris coal is not yet on the market in any quantity, but it is hoped the mines will be got in shape to make a large output at an early date.

DRIED FRUITS—Prices are high in new dried fruits. Except in apricots, the following prices are for last year's stock. Dried apples 5½ to 6c; evaporated, 8 to 9c; figs, layers, 10 to 14c; figs, cooking, 4 to 9c; dates, 6 to 8½c. Valencia raisins, \$1.25 to \$1.75 per box; Sultanas, 10 to 11c per pound. Currants, 6 to 6½c; prunes, 6 to 9c. Evaporated fruits are quoted: apricots, new, 17 to 20c; peeled peaches, 17½ to 18c; unpeeled peaches, 12 to 12½c; pitted plums, 11 to 11½c; cherries, 13 to 13½c; pears, 12½ to 13c; nectarines, 11½ to 12c; raspberries, 18 to 20c.

FISH—Warm weather was somewhat unfavorable to the fresh fish and oyster trade. Fresh fish are quoted: Salmon, 14c; halibut, 15c; black cod, 15c; lake trout, 9c; whitefish, 5½ to 6c. Oysters, \$2.00 to \$2.50 per gallon. Cured fish quoted: salt Labrador herrings, \$4.75 to \$5 per half barrel; boneless codfish, 8 to 8½c per lb; smoked herrings, 22 to 25c per box.

FUEL—Wood continues very firm and with advancing tendency. It is said that \$6 per cord is the lowest price at which tamarac can be bought in car lots, and the retail price delivered in the city is \$7. This applies to good tamarac, mixed jack pine and spruce, sometimes called tamarac, sells retail at \$6.50 to \$7 per cord. There has been no further advance in anthracite, but it is looked for. Dealers say they do not care whether they sell anthracite or not, at present prices. Some of the new Souris coal is on the market, but not in quantities yet to supply the demand.

GROCERIES—Sugar is attracting considerable attention east, owing to the quarantine regulations. New York holds at 5c, which is ½c higher than Canadian refiners demand. It was thought that sugars might be bought up in speculation, on the idea of a further advance in prices, owing to quarantine, and to prevent this, the trust in the United States decided to limit sales to daily trade requirements. This made the situation very firm. As the cholera scare has relaxed to some extent, it seems probable that the threatened scarcity of sugar will pass away. Canadian refiners quote: Granulated, 4½c; yellow, low grades, 3½c; bright yellows, 4½c.

GREEN FRUITS—Business brisk. A feature of the trade is the summoning of all the city wholesale dealers for selling damaged fruit, contrary to a health by-law of the city. A good deal of fruit arrives during warm weather in a

damaged condition, and it has been the custom to sell this off for what it will bring, to save total loss. Oregon plums are out of the market. Ontario plums are still arriving in bad shape, and considerable quantities are completely worthless. Crabs in barrels are expected at once, and if they reach here in good shape, will be worth about \$6 per barrel. Ontario grapes are in liberal supply. Some have sold as low as 35c per basket for the commoner black varieties, but the usual price is 40 to 70c per basket, Niagaras and Red Rogers' varieties bringing the best prices. Tomatoes are getting scarcer and advancing. Basket apples are about done. Prices are: Messina lemons, \$1.00; bananas, \$2.75 to \$3.25 per bunch; tomatoes, 80 to 90c per 20 lb basket; green tomatoes, 25c per basket. California peaches, \$1.75 to \$2 per box; California pears, \$3.00 to \$4.00 per 40 lb box; California grapes, \$2 to \$3.75 per 20 lb crate as to quality and variety; Ontario apples, early varieties, \$3.25 to \$3.50 per barrel, as to quality. Ontario basket apples, 35 to 40c per basket, Ontario pears, \$1.25 per basket, Ontario grapes, 40 to 70c per 10 lb basket.

NUTS—Fancy stock is quoted: Almonds per pound, 16 to 17c; walnuts, per pound, 15 to 16c; pecans, 17c to 18c; filberts, 13 to 14c; Brazils, 12 to 13c; peanuts, 14 to 15c; Cocoanuts, \$9 to \$10 per 100.

GENERAL WHEAT SITUATION—There has been rather more variation in wheat prices this week, prices getting down to a still lower level on Monday, but took quite a spurt on Thursday. Cables were lower on Monday and cholera reports and large receipts in United States primary markets depressed prices. The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada east of the mountains, increased 2,651,000 bu, as compared with an increase of 2,698,000 bu. for the same time last year. The total visible is 41,367,000 bushels, and a year ago was 24,543,492 bushels. On Tuesday, wheat and flour on ocean passage to Europe, was stated to show a decrease of 640,000 bushels, as compared with a week ago. United States markets were rather firmer on Wednesday due to some unfavorable crop reports, as to how wheat was turning out in the northwest States, and to the threatening weather. The advance in Chicago and Duluth on Thursday seems to have been due to a belief that the crop of the northwest States had been overestimated by official and other statistical reports. On Thursday cables were rather better but there were no new features of importance.

The large marketings of wheat and large accumulation of stocks at principal points, is certainly ample cause for depression. In trans-Atlantic markets there are still large stocks of 1891 crop on hand, and the new crop is ready for the market. In England the harvest is finished, with a crop of about 29 bushels per acre. In the United States farmers have sold freely, in spite of low prices, as is indicated by an increase of 22,445,000 bushels during August, nearly all in winter wheat states. Total receipts at the four principal spring wheat points in the United States since August 1, the beginning of the crop year foot up: Minneapolis, 7,175,785 bushels; Duluth, 4,141,091 bushels; Chicago, 14,614,360 bushels; Milwaukee, 3,599,642 bushels; making a total of 29,530,878 bushels, against 29,112,061 bushels during the same time last year and 10,131,879 bushels in 1890. The total receipts of wheat at the four principal winter wheat points, Toledo, St. Louis, Detroit and Kansas City from July 1 to date are 34,833,542 bushels, against 30,745,331 bushels in 1891 and 13,085,950 bushels in 1890.

A year ago Thursday, December wheat at Duluth closed at 93½c, and the corresponding day this year the close was 74½c. Chicago closed at 77 to 77½c on Thursday for December wheat, and a year ago at 98c.

LOCAL WHEAT—There has been a gradually increasing movement of new wheat to market at Manitoba country points, but not for sale. Farmers are not willing to accept present low

prices and are storing in elevators. Wheat coming in is largely stuff which has been threshed from stock, by farmers near country elevator points. The holding process promises to be a long one. Though THE COMMERCIAL has advanced the idea that prices will probably be firmer later on, there does not appear to be much hope for this at an early date in the new crop year. Actual stocks of wheat in sight and on offer are equal to supply all wants for a considerable time in the future, and stocks will have to become worked down before the market can assume a permanently firmer tone. Still we are hopeful of better prices later in the crop year. Prices to farmers in Manitoba country markets seldom go over 54c for best sample of hard wheat, ranging from a good No. 2 hard upward. No. 2 hard is quoted in country markets at 50 to 52c, No. 2 Northern 44 to 45c, and No. 3 hard at 40 to 41c. These prices vary considerably at different points. It is reported that farmers who are holding old wheat will mix it with the new crop. This will be a risky thing to do, and instead of helping the sale of the poor quality of old wheat, may prevent the sale of the new. Any such mixture would be easily detected.

Reports from threshers indicate that the yield is not turning out as great as the official estimate of 22.07 bushels per acre, by two to three bushels per acre, and this agrees with the opinions previously expressed by THE COMMERCIAL. Receipts show that considerable wheat has been cut too green, and is consequently reduced a grade, besides loss in weight. The rains in the west and southwest during the week ended Sept. 10, have not improved the quality, and there are some reports of slight bleaching. Stocks in store at Fort William on Sept. 17, were 312,910 bushels, being a decrease of 59,000 bushels for the week.

FLOUR—Prices are steady at the recent decline. In low grades there is a wide variation in prices asked by different mills. A lot of new wheat flour has been on the market here. The new crop will enable Manitoba millers to make a great deal better showing in point of quality, than they have been able to do during the past twelve months. In fact millers were greatly handicapped by the poor quality of last year's crop, and they are thankful that they are about done with it. Prices are quoted as follows to the local trade in small lots per 100 pounds: Patents, \$2.20; strong baker's, \$2.00; XXXX, 99c to \$1.15; superfine, 70c to 90c. Less than 100 pounds sacks 5c extra per hundred.

MILLSTUFFS—Prices are steady. There is a good demand for shorts at \$10 per ton. Bran is selling at \$8 per ton to dealers, in broken lots.

OATS—On the Winnipeg street market there has been fair offerings by farmers, mostly of last year's oats. When sweet 22 to 23c per bushel of 34 pounds has been obtained, but there has been a good portion of musty stuff offering, which sold slowly at 20c and under. All information seems to confirm previous statements that the new crop is very light weight, being lean and chaffy. The season appears to have been an unfavorable one for developing a plump sample of oats, owing to warm, dry weather. In country markets prices to farmers vary from 15 to 20c per bushel as a rule. There is considerable uncertainty as to the future of oats, some believing that on account of the light weight of this crop, there will be a firmer tendency. Ontario has not raised as large an oat crop as last year, by about 5,000,000 bushels, but the crop in that province is still about 12,000,000 bushels larger than the average annual crop previous to 1891, owing to the increased acreage sown the last two years. It is also believed that there are considerable quantities of old oats held in Ontario, so that we cannot expect a demand from that quarter at high prices, and unless Manitoba crop is very light, we can hardly look for prices to advance beyond export values.

BARLEY—Outside barley markets seem uncertain, and no business doing here.

GROUND FEED—We quote oats and barley