

OCEAN FREIGHTS.

Special to The Commercial.

Montreal, May 18.
Business in grain freights has been quiet, owing to the fact that rates ruling from this port are higher than those from American ports, and until they come closer together the prospects are not bright for any activity in the near future. The tone of the market is easy, and with considerable June space still offering to some ports lower rates will be accepted in the near future. Liverpool, 1s 4½d June; London, 1s 9d to 1s 10½d; Glasgow, 1s 4½d; Avonmouth, 2s; Aberdeen, 2s 6d; Dublin and Belfast, 2s; Cardiff, 1s 9d; Leth, 2s 3d; Manchester, 1s 5d; Hamburg, 2s 4½d June and July, and Antwerp, 2s 3d.

MONTREAL FRUIT SALES.

Special to The Commercial.

Montreal, May 18.
The second fruit sale took place on May 15, at the Montreal Fruit Auction company's rooms. The offerings consisted of 32,000 boxes of lemons and 16,000 packages of oranges. They were made up of the Messina cargo and the withdrawn portions of oranges on the steamship Bellona and all the lemons on the steamship Tiverton. The features of the sale were that the market for oranges was stronger and prices realized show an advance of 15 to 20 per cent. while the market for lemons had a downward tendency and prices realized showed a decline of 15 cents per box. The bidding was spirited throughout the sale. The bulk of the fruit was bought by local dealers. Sorrento oranges, 300 size, sold at \$1.00 to \$2.15 per box; 200 size, \$1.65 to \$1.90, and half boxes, \$1.10 to \$1.30. Messina oranges, \$1.70 to \$2.50 per box; Messina ovals, \$1.15 to \$1.70 per half box, bloods, \$1.20 to \$1.40 per half box. Lemons, fancy, sold at \$2.25 to \$2.65, first choice, \$1.75 to \$2.15 per box.

The third fruit sale was held May 16 at the Montreal Fruit Auction company's rooms. The offerings were 15,000 packages of oranges which were the balance of the cargo of the steamship Tiverton. The attendance of buyers was fairly large, but the bidding for the different lots was not keen, consequently, low prices were the order of the day, but considering the quantity of fruit offered here this season the prices realized were looked upon as being satisfactory. Ordinary sizes sold at 90c to \$2 per box, extra large, \$2.30, and half boxes, 50c to \$1.30.

BRITISH CATTLE MARKETS.

Special to The Commercial.

Montreal, May 18.
The tone of cable advices from Glasgow this week on Canadian and American cattle were firmer and according to prices realized shippers state that they will come out about even. There has been no material change in the market here for export stock. The feeling is very firm and the demand for desirable stock in the western market continues active, in fact, with increased supplies shippers in some cases could not fill their wants. Choice cattle are scarce and wanted, for which shippers are paying \$4.90 to \$5.25.

LIVERPOOL CATTLE MARKET.

Special to The Commercial.

Liverpool, May 17.
Cattle weak at 10½ to 11½c, estimated dressed weight. Sheep are worth 13 to 13½c. Lambs, 14c. Refrigerator beef 5½ to 9c.

ONTARIO CHEESE MARKETS.

Ingersoll, May 14.—At the cheese market held here to-day 557 boxes, all white, were offered; 65 sold at 8½c, balance unsold, 83-10c was bid for some lots and refused. Market quiet on account of chilly weather.
Campbellford, May 14.—The Campbellford cheese board opened to-day. There were 650 boxes of white board. Sales were: Whiten, 235, at 8½c. Cook, 30, at 83-10c. Balance unsold. Board meets every Tuesday, at 10 a. m.

A telegram from Delta received in the city yesterday states that Lake Manitoba is now clear of ice. A vessel has arrived there and is loading up with supplies for different points on the lake.

At the London wool auctions this week bidding has been brisk and the market improved a little. Finest merino and scoured wools show an advance of 10 per cent. over the opening prices.

Western Business Items.

J. L. Smith is succeeding S. Johns in the management of the Royal hotel at Nelson, B. C.

H. N. Halpenny, hardware merchant, Minnedosa Man., has assigned to New ton & Davidson.

Smith Bros have bought out the grocery business of McIntyre & Blain, at Strathcona, Alberta.

McRae & Flewelling have taken the agency for the McLaughlin Carriage Co at Hamilton, Man.

Geo. E. Nugent, merchant of Wapella, Assa., was drowned in the Qu'Appelle river on Monday night.

The Canadian Pacific Railway depot safe at Birtle, Man., was "blown" one night this week and \$200 secured.

Stephens Bros. have bought out the brick making business of J. R. McDonald at Portage la Prairie, Man.

The agricultural hall at Birtle, Man., was burned this week. Loss \$1,400, insurance in the Manitoba Mutual, \$500.

Jos. R. Bliss is succeeding Cusack Bros. in the butcher business at Minnola, Man. The new style is Bliss & Prentice.

Mr. Boles, general merchant, Beaverton, B. C., has moved his stock to Carib, where he will continue the business.

Beginning on Monday the wholesale dry goods warehouse of R. J. Whitla & Co., Winnipeg, will close at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

C. Thompson & Co., general merchants, Prince Albert, Sask., have dissolved partnership. A. McDonald continues the business.

E. Tapper, secondhand dealer, and Wm. O'Meara's restaurant, at Nos. 703 and 705 Main street, Winnipeg, were burned out last night.

W. C. McLaren, of Brockville, manager of the Jas. Hall Glove Company, arrived in Winnipeg this week to visit the local branch of the company.

The Carman Implement Company, of Carman, will establish a machine shop at that town, erecting a special building for the purpose. If success attends this enterprise they will add a moulding shop later.

Chicago Board of Trade Prices.

Chicago, May 13.—Wheat, July opened 70½, high 72, low 70½, close 71½; 62½ b. May open 70, high 71½, low 70, close 71½; 62½ c. Corn, July open 42½, high 44½, low 43½, close 43½; 62½ c. Oats, July open 27½, high 28½, low 27½, close 27½; 62½ c. Pork, July open \$14.40, high \$14.75, low \$14.52, close \$14.72; Lard, July open \$7.57, high \$7.82, low \$7.57, close \$7.82; Flax, May close \$1.71.

Chicago, May 14.—July open 71½, high 72½, low 71, close 71½; 62½ c. Corn, July open 42½, high 44½, low 43½, close 43½; 62½ c. Oats, July open 27½, high 28½, low 27½, close 27½; 62½ c. Pork, July open \$14.40, high \$14.75, low \$14.52, close \$14.72; Lard, July open \$7.57, high \$7.82, low \$7.57, close \$7.82; Flax, cash close \$1.73½, Sept. close \$1.35 a.

Chicago, May 15.—Wheat, July open 71½, high 72½, low 71, close 71½; 62½ c. Corn, July open 42½, high 44½, low 43½, close 43½; 62½ c. Oats, July open 27½, high 28½, low 27½, close 27½; 62½ c. Pork, July open \$14.40, high \$14.75, low \$14.52, close \$14.72; Lard, July open \$7.57, high \$7.82, low \$7.57, close \$7.82.

Chicago, May 16.—Wheat, May open 71, high 72½, low 71, close 71½; 62½ c. Corn, July open 42½, high 44½, low 43½, close 43½; 62½ c. Oats, July open 27½, high 28½, low 27½, close 27½; 62½ c. Pork, July open \$14.40, high \$14.75, low \$14.52, close \$14.72; Lard, July open \$7.57, high \$7.82, low \$7.57, close \$7.82.

Chicago, May 17.—Wheat, July open 71½, high 72½, low 71, close 71½; 62½ c. Corn, July open 42½, high 44½, low 43½, close 43½; 62½ c. Oats, July open 27½, high 28½, low 27½, close 27½; 62½ c. Pork, July open \$14.40, high \$14.75, low \$14.52, close \$14.72; Lard, July open \$7.57, high \$7.82, low \$7.57, close \$7.82.

Chicago, May 18.—July wheat opened at 71½c, and ranged from 71½c to 72½c. Closing prices were:—

Wheat—May, 70½c; July, 72½c. Corn—May, 40½c; July, 41½c. Oats—May, 26½c; July, 27½c. Pork—May, \$14.72; July, \$14.85. Lard—July, \$8.07, Sept., \$8.07. Ribs—July, \$7.92, Sept., \$7.92.

A week ago May option closed at 73c. A year ago May option closed at 65½c, two years ago at 73½c, three years ago at \$1.11; four years ago at 72c, five years ago at 61c, six years ago at 70½c.

WINNIPEG CLOSING WHEAT.

No. 3 hard wheat closed to-day at 67½c in store, Fort William; No. 1 hard 78½c; No. 2 hard, 76½c.

New York Wheat.

New York, May 13.—Wheat, May opened 70, close 80½c. July open 70½, high 78 a, low 76½, close 78c a.

New York, May 14.—Wheat, May open 80½ a, high 81, low 80, close 80½c. July open 78, high 78½, low 77½, close 77½c a.

New York, May 15.—Wheat, July opened 77½, high 78½, low 77½, close 78½c a.

New York, May 16.—Wheat, July open 78½, high 78½, low 77½, close 77½c. May open 81½ b, high 81½, low 80½, close 80½c b.

New York, May 17.—Wheat, July open 78½, high 78½, low 78½, close 78½c b.

New York, May 18.—May wheat closed at 81c, July at 78½c.

Minneapolis Wheat.

Minneapolis, May 13.—Wheat, July open 71½, high 73, low 71½, close 73c.

Minneapolis, May 14.—Wheat, July open 72½, high 73, low 72, close 72c b.

Minneapolis, May 15.—Wheat, July open 72½, high 72½, low 71½, close 72½c.

Minneapolis, May 16.—Wheat, July open 71½, high 72, low 71½, close 71½c.

Minneapolis, May 17.—Wheat, July open 72 b, high 72½, low 71½, close 72½c.

Minneapolis, May 18.—Wheat closed at 71½c for May option, July at 72½c. Cash No. 1 hard wheat closed at 74½c, No. 1 northern at 72½c.

Duluth Wheat.

Duluth, May 13.—Wheat, July open 72½, high 74½, low 72½, close 74½c. No. 1 hard 74½c. No. 1 northern 70½c.

Duluth, May 14.—Wheat, July open 74½, high 74½, low 73½, close 75½c. No. 1 hard 76½c. No. 1 northern 73½c.

Duluth, May 15.—Wheat, July open 75½, high 75½, low 73½, close 76c. No. 1 hard 77c. No. 1 northern 74c.

Duluth, May 16.—Wheat, July open 75½, high 75½, low 72½, close 75½c.

Duluth, May 17.—Wheat, July open 75½, high 75½, low 74½, close 74c. No. 1 hard 74c. No. 1 northern 74½c.

Duluth, May 18.—May option closed at 74½c for No. 1 northern wheat. July at 74c. Cash No. 1 hard closed to-day at 77½c, and cash No. 1 northern at 74½c.

A week ago May wheat closed at 70½c. A year ago May wheat closed at 67½c, two years ago at 73½c, three years ago at \$1.34, four years ago at 67½c, five years ago at 62½c.

Brandon Fair.

The prize list for the agricultural fair to be held at Brandon this year from July 23 to 26, has been issued. Great pains have been taken to make this fair a greater success this year than ever. Prominent among the new buildings erected will be found the Dominion government building, in which will be shown the exhibits from the experimental farms at Agassiz, B. C., Indian Head, Assa., and Brandon. Arrangements have been made for excellent platform attractions and other amusements. The president of the association having control of this fair is Wm. Ferguson, the first vice-president, P. Payne, second vice-president, A. McPhail, and the manager, P. J. Clark. All those desiring to make exhibits are required to fill out forms, which will be furnished on request, and send same to the manager of the association by 20th July. The entrance fees are very low, particularly when the value of the prizes offered is taken into consideration. Application for space for the exhibit of all classes of manufacture should be made to the manager as soon as possible, as the space will be allotted in the order of application.

A very interesting programme has been arranged for. The first day there will be a football tournament, gymnastics, one mile dash for members of the Hunt club, chariot races, hurdle races, polo, etc. On Wednesday there will be a parade of stock, football tournament, speeding events, tug-of-war, fireworks, etc. On Thursday, the football finals will be played, parade of stock, speeding events, etc. Friday, which is the last day of the fair, will be one of the most attractive and enjoyable. It will start off with a parade of stock, speeding events, grand special attractions, fireworks, etc. The entries for all these events must be in by July 15th. Entry fee for horse races will be 5 per cent of purse and winners 5 per cent of purse extra. For the football tournament the entry will be \$2. A two days' trap shooting, open to all, will be held during the fair. Articles which come under the manufacturers' and industrial department will be received for exhibition only, no premiums will be awarded but the judges may award diplomas when the merit

of any exhibit calls for special recognition.

LIVERPOOL WHEAT.

Liverpool, May 17.—Closing Spot steady, No. 2 western winter 5s 11½d, No. 1 northern spring 6s 1d, No. 1 California 6s 1½d, futures 4m, July 5s 11½d, Sept. 5s 1½d. Corn—Spot steady. American mixed, new, 4s 1½d, American mixed, old, nominal, futures steady. May nomin. at, July 4s, Sept. 3s 11½d.

Liverpool, May 18.—Wheat closed to-day ½d lower at 5s 10½d per cwt for July option.

RAW FURS.

The March sales were not merely disappointing, they were really depressing to American shippers, the declines being both marked and general, the result, not the prices in London, but the losses, were largely due to the fact that at the opening of the raw fur season of collection competition ran its course, with little or no check, until prices paid exceeded values, making profits really impossible, particularly so as there did not exist at the time any fairly defined home demand to serve as a background, and as the advanced prices were quite steadily marked up, buying eliciting all interest future selling being regarded as of no particular importance; but the skins were indeed bought to be sold as a matter of business, and when the selling came business conditions dominated enthusiasm, with the only possible consequences. The record of raw fur buying runs very nearly in an even course as regards the early excitement, undue enthusiastic fervor, and the tendency to pay once and again a little more than real values, history more often repeats itself in this respect than it does in showing that profits are possible under any and all conditions; the moral we are required to point is—there are no miracles in business transactions, and consequently paying more for raw furs in New York than they can be sold for in London need never constitute a disappointing experience. It is hardly worth while to learn the moral, unless it is carefully remembered; we may have to call attention to it again in the autumn—who knows?—Fur Trade Review.

MINING IN SIBERIA.

The United States consul in Moscow states that, of the mineral resources of Siberia, gold is by far the most important, and it is the least developed. The production of gold in the Russian empire is about five million sterling per annum in value, the greater part of which comes from Siberia, about the sources of the Lena and Olekma rivers. It is almost all placer gold, the quartz veins and original deposits, though exposed in many places in the Urals and Siberia, being unworked save in the most inefficient manner. Even in placer mining the methods are antiquated and costly and have undergone no improvement in the last fifty years. Men and horses are employed in the place of mechanical appliances. One engineer calculates that with wire rope tramways and improved types of sluices, the present production could be increased three-fold. Along the Yenisei, the Onon river in Trans-Balkania, and elsewhere gold-bearing quartz exists in large quantities, which would pay if worked with large stamp mills with the accompanying concentration and reduction plant. The transport of machinery to these regions does not present such difficulty as it is generally supposed. There are practically no high mountains, and there is a vast network of waterways, which render inland transportation easy and cheap. Goods can now be sent by water from Hull to Krasnoyarsk, on the Siberian railway, and even so far south as Minusinsk, close to the Mongolian frontier, with a single transshipment at the mouth of the Yenisei. Labor is cheap and foreigners are allowed to take up mining claims, each of about 250 acres.

The Duluth flax market shows lower prices for cash seed, and higher prices for futures. The cash quotation ranges around \$1.67 and the September option around \$1.30.

Mr. Fielding gave notice in parliament of a resolution to loan a sum of money, not exceeding \$1,000,000, at 3 per cent. interest, to the harbor commissioners of Montreal for a period of twenty-five years, to be expended in the construction of grain elevators and other terminal facilities necessary to properly equip the port