

LIVE STOCK.

Cattle continue to decline, and prices were again lower last week. About 3c is now the top quotation for such as are offering, really choice animals being still very scarce, but offerings of common to fair abundant. The range may now be placed at 2½ to 3c per pound live weight. Parties having cattle in last week were not inclined to accept offers, as they had paid too high for their stock. Buying to sell on a declining market is always unsatisfactory. A rail lot of hogs was offered last week at 5½c, but the highest bid at the time our report closed was \$5.40 per 100 pounds. It is likely the 5½c would be obtained. Packers would not bid over 5c live weight, but they are not getting anything.

HAY.

Considerable old hay is still selling, and such is offering on track as low as \$8 per ton, which means a considerable loss to shippers. The quantity still held on track is not very large, amounting to about ten cars, and this will easily be disposed of at these figures, as new hay is not suitable for all purposes. New hay is offered on the market at \$6 to \$7 per ton.

SENACA ROOT.

Dealers who bought quantities earlier in the season are afraid they have not done a very paying speculation, owing to the decline in this article in the United States. One dealer offered 29c per pound for a large lot a short time ago, but the bid was refused, and now he is thanking his stars he did not get the stuff, while the holder is sorry by this time he did not sell. The price is irregular, but 2½c is probably the top, though some are not bidding over 23c.

VEGETABLES.

The market is now largely stocked with home grown green stuff and vegetables of fine quality, and the crop from market gardens in the neighborhood of the city will be abundant. New imported potatoes were 50c higher at the close of last week, owing to temporary scarcity, and were quoted at \$2 per bushel. Old potatoes hold at 40 to 50c per bushel and very good quality are still obtainable. Good native cabbage are offering at 60 to 65c per dozen, while some imported is still held at 6c per pound, but no more will be brought in. Cauliflower is offering at \$1 to \$2 per dozen, as to quality, with a lower tendency. Tomatoes, imported, are worth \$2 per crate of 25 pounds, or \$1 per box of 12 pounds. Imported southern onions are held at \$3.25 per barrel or 4½c per pound. Green beans are quoted at \$1.50 to \$2 per bushel; cucumbers, 75c per dozen; celery, 50c per doz. heads. Green stuff in bunches is quoted: Radishes, 20c per dozen bunches; beets, 25c; lettuce, 10c; green onions, 20c; rhubarb, 25c; turnips, 25c; carrots, 25c; asparagus, 75c; all by the dozen bunches.

HIDES.

In the local market prices are unchanged. Heavy steers are still quoted at 5c per pound for No. 1, and cows at 4½c for No. 1. For No. 2, 3½ to 4½c is quoted, and 2½ to 3c for No. 3. Calfskins, No. 1, 5c; No. 2, 4c. Sheep pelts, 10 to 15c; lambskins, 30c. Tallow, 2½c for rough and 4½ to 5c for rendered.

WOOL.

Ordinary unwashed is quoted at 10½c and up to 11 and 12c for fine downs. As high as 15c is still paid for fine washed, though some are not bidding over, 13½ to 14c. Large purchases from western ranches are reported at about 13c per pound, delivered at railway there. Local wool prices, it may be noted, are relatively higher than eastern markets, and dealers are therefore inclined to gamble.

The burning of 526 tons of binding twine at Minneapolis last week will cause a sharp advance in twine there. The amount burned represents about seven-eighths of the entire amount in the Twin Cities, and prices will go up from ½ to 4 or 5 cents per pound.

Manitoba Crop Outlook.

Last week was marked by the publication of three or four crop reports covering all parts of the province, but the information given is very much in a line with that already known. The actual condition of the crops shows a marked improvement since the first of July. This is due to the frequent showers which made a decided improvement in the central sections of the province, where the crops suffered from drought during June. A fair wheat crop is now expected from the least favored sections, though in some fields weeds got the start of the grain during the dry weather.

The crop reports of last week, which cover almost every section of the province, place the average yield of wheat at from 15 to 35 bushels per acre. Fifteen bushels per acre is the lowest yield expected in any section, while the principal grain districts are placed at above 20 bushels. About 25 bushels is the usual estimate of wheat per acre. Allowing for the general tendency to look at things on the big side, it will be perhaps safe to make a liberal discount, and place the prospective yield for the province at 20 bushels per acre. This on 746,038 acres under wheat, as per official report, would give the province a total crop of nearly 15,000,000 bushels of wheat. This we are inclined to think is as much as can be reasonably counted on, with the desire to be on the safe side. This is a low estimate, and we hope it may be exceeded.

The reports last week place the harvest later than has previously been counted upon. From the 10th to the 25th of August is given as the commencement of harvest in the different sections. This would leave a full month yet before harvest will become general, and during this time it must be remembered that the condition of the crop may be considerably reduced, while on the other hand it may improve. What is required now is fairly warm and dry weather. Since our report of last week there have been further heavy showers, and a continuation of showery weather is not now desirable.

No further serious damage has been reported by hail, and it is stated that the grain which was cut down about the first of the month in a section of Southern Manitoba is making a rapid second growth, and may yet prove a good crop if frost holds off long enough. No damage is reported from gophers, insects, rust or other causes.

Hay has greatly improved and there will now be a fairly good crop. Haying has commenced, though on Government lands permits to cut will not be issued before July 25. Vegetables promise a fine crop. In the Winnipeg district, the principal vegetable section, vegetables have attained a fine growth, and the market is now supplied with everything in the vegetable line of this season's growth of good quality.

As to the date of grain harvesting it may be said that a great deal depends upon the weather. Warm dry weather would probably bring it on considerably earlier than the date fixed by crop correspondents.

British Columbia.

THE COMMERCIAL has arranged for a weekly trade letter from British Columbia. This letter will be prepared by one of the best writers in that province, and our readers may rely upon the accuracy of the information imparted by our B.C. correspondent.

Hudson's Bay Company.

A meeting of the above company was held in London, on July 15. Sir Donald Smith, governor, presented the report, which expresses their regret that the results of the trade have been seriously affected by the exceptionally heavy fall in the price of furs, which took place at the last spring sales.

A table shows that the decline in prices extended to every description of fur brought to market by the company, except fur seal and sea otter, of which the company obtain only very small quantities. The decline in all other furs ranged from 5 per cent. to 50 per cent.

This great fall was mainly due to the mildness of the past winter, and to changes in fashion which reduced the demand for most of the finer kinds of furs. The profits of outfit 1888 have thus declined to £40,309 7s 10d, as compared with £85,924 5s 5d for outfit 1887.

In accordance with the resolution adopted by the shareholders in June, 1887, the commissioned officers are entitled to the guaranteed sum of £200 per share for outfit 1888, amounting to £19,800 now charged in the company's profit and loss account for the year ending 31st May, 1890, leaving net profits amounting to £24,316 14s. 8d.

The land account shows the cash receipts and disbursements for the year ending 31st March, 1890. The receipts amount to £37,071 8s., as compared with £30,488 8s. 9d. for the year ending 31st March, 1889, while the charges show a reduction of £5,940, arising from the absence of any payment this year for the Company's share of Government surveys, and from a considerable saving in the expenses of the management.

The sales of farm lands and town lots by the company during the past year have been as follows:—

Farm lands—34,733 acres \$199,636, averaging \$5.75 per acre.

Town lots—Victoria, B.C., 3 lots, \$24,250; Winnipeg, 1 lot, \$1,100; Portage la Prairie, 1 lot, \$50; Fort Qu'Appelle, 3 lots, \$250; Edmonton, 11 lots, \$1,090; Rat Portage, 75 lots, \$15,010; Rosemount, 25 lots, \$1,175; Newdale, 1 lot, \$25; Millwood, 1 lot, \$125; Nipigon, 1 lot, \$50; making a total of \$43,125, as compared with \$187,974 for the year ending 31st March, 1889.

The sales after July last were unfavorably affected by a partial failure of the crops, in consequence of the drought which prevailed in Manitoba and the Territories.

Deducting sales cancelled, the total quantity of farm land sold by the company to the end of March last was 226,292 acres. The unpaid instalments on running sales at that date amounted to \$495,603, of which \$143,830 were in arrear, and \$351,773 not due.

The sales in April and May, since the accounts were closed, amount to 4,515 acres for \$25,820.

Reports from Selkirk, Man., say the lumber business is picking up.

John Black has purchased the flour and feed business of W. D. Craig, of Virden, Man.

W. N. Hayter has opened a store at his residence, a short distance from Alameda, Assiniboia.

John Decker & Company, hotel keepers, Nanaimo, B.C., have dissolved partnership. John Decker will carry on the business.