

## Chicago Board of Trade Prices.

On Monday, March 3, wheat had a considerably stronger tone. Opening prices were at about Saturday's closing figures. May wheat opened at 78½c, and ranged from 78¼ to 79½c. Cold weather throughout the winter wheat states was the main cause in influencing the strong feeling. The temperature ranged down as low as zero, and with the very advanced state of the crop, serious damage is feared. Closing prices for futures were:

	March	May	June	July
Wheat.....	—	79½	79	77½
Coru .....	29½	30	30½	30½
Oats .....	20½	21½	21	20½
Pork .....	9.95	10.10	10.15	10.20
Lard .....	5.87½	6.00	6.05	6.12½
Short Ribs .....	4.87½	4.95	4.97½	5.05

May wheat opened at 79½c on Tuesday, and ranged from 79½ to 80½c, thus indicating a wider range of prices. Closing prices were as follows:

	March	May	June	July
Wheat.....	78½	79½	79½	77½
Coru .....	29	29½	29½	30½
Oats .....	20½	21½	20½	20½
Pork .....	9.85	10.10	10.15	10.22½
Lard .....	5.90	6.00	6.07½	6.12½
Short Ribs .....	4.90	4.92½	4.97½	5.02½

Wheat closed ½ to 1c lower on Wednesday. Provisions were 5 to 7½c lower. Closing prices for wheat were: March, 77½c; May, 78½c; June, 78½c; July, 76½c.

Closing prices for wheat on Thursday were: March, 78c; May, 78½c; June, 78½c; July, 76½c.

Closing prices for wheat on Friday were: March, 77½c; May, 78½c; June, 77½c; July, 76½c.

## Duluth Wheat Market.

Prices of No. 1 hard wheat at Duluth closed as follows on Friday last: March, 78½c, May, 82½c.

## The London Fur Sales.

P. R. Poland & Son have issued the following report of the sales of raw furs at London in January:

The winter of 1899-90 has not been propitious for the fur trade; most countries have, with the exception of Austria, experienced mild weather with but little or no snow or very little frost; the majority of articles consequently found only a moderate sale at the high prices of last winter and spring. As was then stated, some articles did not warrant those extreme prices, and the result of the exorbitant advances now shows itself in large unsold stocks and a general fall in values at these sales. The quantities of American furs offered were, with the exception of lynx, marten and beaver, very large for January. Bears not being offered at all this time last year.

The fact of Messrs. Lampson advertising four sales in the year, viz.:—in January, March, June and October, is considered to operate to the disadvantage of large buyers, whilst encouraging small purchasers to replenish themselves from time to time, as their necessities require. This may succeed when the retail trade is flourishing, but shippers will, sooner or later, have to depend upon larger operators who cannot be expected to buy freely when there are frequent sales and continual fluctuations in prices.

The experiment of the October sales was made last year on a small scale for the first

time, and the result was a failure, and did but occasion a great drop in prices of the two articles offered (Russian sable and bears).

Australian furs now form a great feature in the fur trade; 3,000,000 of opossums were offered last year by various brokers, and the present year has commenced with 1,500,000 now in January.

The attendance at these auctions was tolerably large, including many buyers for Germany and some few for France, the English trade being but moderately represented. As remarked above, there is a falling off in prices in most articles; beaver was expected to be much cheaper, but everyone seemed to want a few, and thus competition made the decline moderate.

Beaver.—In the Hudson's Bay Company's sale (71,572 against 68,700 last January) declined five per cent. upon the prices of firsts and seconds, and ten per cent. upon the thirds; bought for Germany, France and England.

In Messrs. Lampson's sale of beaver, (10,163; also a short supply) was a fair collection of Alaska, Canada and some few Columbia, with one parcel of fine Labrador sorts. Prices were about ten per cent. lower in this sale than last January; also taken principally for the Continent.

Musquash.—In the Hudson's Bay Company's sale (316,286, and 100,000 more than last year), sold at a decline of fifteen per cent. on an average; mostly purchased for Germany; here and there a few for France and England.

In Messrs. Lampson's sale of brown musquash, (1,022,508 against 625,000 last January) the collection was on the whole, a nice one, including many parcels of good description Canada and good Western, a few Eastern and several strings of Minnesota. In this auction the article brought last June prices, being purchased by German, French and English traders; a few probably go to Russia. Black (9,220). This small quantity of not very good skins sold at about last June prices, for the German and Russian trades.

Rabbit.—In the Hudson's Bay Company's sale (94,150) sold at a very great reduction; but at Messrs. Lampson's 22 bales realized double the prices of the company's sale.

## LAMPSON &amp; CO'S SALES.

Marten (15,457 and 7,000 less than last January). Taken altogether, were a fair show, comprising some good Alaska and Peace River skins, with, however, some Canada and poor sorts. Dark skins and those with color are 40 to 50 per cent. cheaper, pale and other sorts 20 per cent. less. Only a small quantity were taken for England; many low priced for the German market. Three parcels were bought in.

Lynx—(1,064 about 2,000 less than last January). A small lot of Alaska, Northwest and Columbia skins; are 20 per cent. cheaper except large good Alaska. Purchased for the American and a few for the German markets.

Cat, common—(737 and 600 short of last January). A poor show: Firsts and seconds realized last sale figures, but thirds brought lower prices. German houses were the purchasers.

Cat, house—(1,968.) Black are 20 per cent. dearer, whilst others remain at about last sale prices. Purchased for Germany, and the few black for England.

Badger—(2,330) were mostly poor skins with very few fine. Declined 20 per cent. and were bought for the French and German trades.

Grey Fox—(6313), also a very poor collection, selling 5 to 10 per cent. cheaper still than the low figures of last year.

Wolf (7,910 and 6,000 in excess of last January). With the exception of here and there a few small lots of good timber wolves and some large Columbia, &c., the bulk consisted of coarse haired, poor, western and southern skins, and were sorted into miserably small lots. The greater part was bought in, but those sold are 20 per cent. less in price. Purchased for the London market, whilst a few go to France.

Bear, Black (1,422). A poor gathering, presenting only a few good skins; were secured for England, with a few for France; a reduction was shown upon last June rates.

Bear, Brown (113). Very few and poor, and realized lower figures than in June.

Bear, Grizzly (1,501). Principally Asiatic skins with some Columbia and Russian. A decline is to be quoted upon June prices of about 20 per cent. Taken chiefly for London and Paris.

American Opossum (168,190, and 100,000 more than last January). A large collection. Sold at a reduction of 10 to 15 per cent on last June prices; Firsts are perhaps not so much in decline. Bought for England, France and Germany.

Raccoon (189,394, also 30,000 in excess of last year). Chiefly South Western and New Madrid sorts; a few parcels also of fine north western. Germany is the chief buyer, some being purchased for France, very few for England. Prices are about the same as last June, that is, about 20 per cent. cheaper than last January, southwest skins even cheaper.

Skunk (173,861; and about 30,000 in excess of last year). A great part consisted of stale western and southwestern skins, but there were also about eight parcels of fresh and better descriptions. The bulk of this article goes to Germany, but France and England take a fair share. The fall upon this article is very slight, bringing chiefly June prices; stale and common skins are about 10 per cent. cheaper.

White fox (4,534, against 2,300 last January). A good parcel of Alaska and Sitka skins. Generally secured by Leipzig dyers at a reduction of 25 per cent.

Mink (119,510, compared with 67,400 last January). This collection consisted of two parcels of Alaska and Sitka skins, and out of assorted lots of Hudson Bay Company's York fort seconds, also some fine eastern and Northern, but still a great many southwestern and coarse sorts. Taken at a reduction of 10 to 15 per cent, nearly all for the German market.

Hair Seal, dry (7,032). Large skins are about 25 per cent. cheaper; the middling and small, last sale prices. The latter were nearly all bought for the German trade.

Fur Seal, salted. Messrs. Lampson offered 11,098 northwest coast; a fair collection, which brought the same high prices as last October. Small skins perhaps a little dearer still.

The council of the board of trade of Hamilton, Ont., will memorialize the Dominion Government to grant a subsidy to the Nipissing and James Bay Railway Co. and has appointed a deputation to go to Ottawa and act in conjunction with other deputations who go on the same errand. The council also recommended the establishment of a two cent postage rate and commend the action now being taken by other like bodies who are agitating for the change.