

Chicago Board of Trade Prices.

(Quotations below are per bushel for regular No. 2 wheat, which grade serves as a basis for speculative business. Corn and oats are per bushel for No. 2 grade. Mess pork quoted per barrel, lard and short ribs per 100 pounds.)

Wheat was quiet and lower on Monday. The opening was about $\frac{1}{8}$ lower than the closing figures on Saturday. Prices then declined, with some reactions, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ more, closing $\frac{1}{8}$ lower for May and $\frac{1}{4}$ lower for July. Corn was a little stronger, but provisions were lower. Closing prices were:—

| | March | May | July |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Wheat | 73 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 76 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 75 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Corn | 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Oats | 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ | — |
| Pork | — | 18 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ | — |
| Lard | — | 15 C | 11 97 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Short Ribs | — | 19 40 | — |

Wheat continued quiet on Tuesday, and prices lower, opening about $\frac{1}{8}$ lower but recovered, fluctuated slightly and closed $\frac{1}{8}$ higher for May but $\frac{1}{4}$ lower for July. Hog stuffs were lower, due to slightly increased receipts of hogs, open weather and a threatened strike at yards. Closing prices were:—

| | March | May | July |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Wheat | 73 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 76 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 75 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Corn | 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Oats | 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ | — |
| Pork | — | 18 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ | — |
| Lard | — | 12 85 | 11 80 |
| Short Rib | — | 10 30 | — |

On Wednesday prices declined early in the day, but there was very little change in values and at the close July option was $\frac{1}{8}$ lower. Closing prices were:—

| | March | May | July |
|-------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Wheat | 73 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 76 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 75 |
| Corn | 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 45 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Oats | 31 | 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ | — |
| Pork | — | 18 25 | — |
| Lard | — | 12 82 $\frac{1}{2}$ | — |
| Ribs | — | 10 30 | — |

On Thursday expectations that the Government report to-morrow of the stock of wheat in farmers' hands would be bearish caused a decline in prices of wheat and all other speculative commodities were lower. The closing prices were:—

| | March | May | July |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Wheat | 73 | 76 | 74 |
| Corn | 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Oats | 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ | — |
| Pork | — | 18 15 | — |
| Lard | — | 12 85 | 11 65 |
| Short Ribs | — | 10 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ | — |

On Friday wheat was very excited in a speculative way. There was a sudden rush for May wheat under which that option advanced $\frac{1}{4}$ in a brief time. The demand is said to have come from northwestern shorts. Later May option declined $\frac{1}{8}$. July wheat took the opposite direction and declined $\frac{1}{8}$ while May was advancing. Closing prices were:—

| | March | May | July |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Wheat | 73 | 76 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 75 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Corn | 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 44 | 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Oats | 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ | — |
| Pork | — | 17 80 | — |
| Lard | — | 12 55 | 11 45 |
| Short Ribs | — | 10 15 | — |

On Saturday May wheat closed at 76 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pork closed at \$17.82 $\frac{1}{2}$ for May.

Minneapolis Markets.

Following were closing quotations for wheat on Thursday, March 9:—

| Grades, | Mar. | May | July | On Trk |
|---------------------|------|------------------|------|------------------|
| No. 1 hard..... | — | — | — | 64 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| No. 1 northern..... | 62 | 65 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 68 | 63 |
| No. 2 northern..... | — | — | — | 59 to 60 |

Flour—Flour markets remained steady and orders came in for small lots, mostly for domestic use. The United Kingdom markets are in similar condition, and in the face of low prices there is a disposition to buy only for immediate use. The demand for American flour is below the supply offered there. For Minnesota patent the best prices obtainable are within the range of 26 to 27s and for Milwaukee patents, 24 to 25s. Peabody millers ask 31 to 34s for Liverpool, with a slack demand. Since Aug. 1, the beginning of the milling year, our Atlantic ports have cleared 1,250,000 sacks more flour than in the same time from the previous crop.

Shipments, 24,200 bbls. Quoted at \$3.55 to 4.00 for first patents; \$3.35 to 3.60 for second patents; \$2.05 to 2.50 for fancy and export bakers; \$1.15 to 1.45 for low grades, in bags, including red dog.

Bran and Shorts—Millstuff sold steadily. The output of mills running is not large, and it is pretty well taken up by the western trade at about \$10.25 in bulk. Shorts ranged at \$10.25 to 11.25 and middlings at \$11.50 to 12.75 in bulk.

Oats—Oats were fairly supported by the demand and the late strength in corn. Buyers while not active were reported from most places to supply their wants freely at current prices. Car lots sold at 30 to 32c for No. 3 and No. 3 white.

Barley—Barley did not show great activity but sales were easier to make than early in the week prices ranging from 36 @ 41 for fair samples about Nos. 3 and 4.

Feed—Millers held at \$15.00 @ 15.50; less than car lots, \$15.00 @ 16.00; with corn meal at \$14.00 @ 14.50; granulated meal \$19.00.

Eggs—Sellers held at 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, including cases. Potatoes—Car lots, mixed quality, held at 65 to 70c.—Market Record, March 9.

Duluth Wheat Market.

No. 1 Northern wheat at Duluth closed as follows on each day of the week:—

| |
|---|
| Monday—Cash 65 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; May 69 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. |
| Tuesday—Cash, 65 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; May 69 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. |
| Wednesday—Cash, 65c; May 69c. |
| Thursday—Cash 64 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; May 68c. |
| Friday—Cash 63 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; May 67c. |
| Saturday—Cash 63 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; May 67 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. |

A week ago cash wheat closed at 66c, and May delivery at 70 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. A year ago March wheat closed at 81 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, and May at 85 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

Wheat at Duluth.

Wheat has ruled active with weak and declining tendencies here to day. The opening was firm at an $\frac{1}{8}$ above yesterday's close, but under free offering and declining quotations from other markets, prices soon commenced to weaken, and under active trading for both May and July steadily declined, settling down $\frac{1}{8}$ per bus. for May and $\frac{1}{4}$ for July by noon, followed by a further shrink of $\frac{1}{8}$ per bus. during the later session. Track wheats (No. 1 & 2) sold freely early (to arrive) at yesterday's closing figures. The market closed steady at the decline, 1c per bus. lower than yesterday, both for cash and the active futures, and $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ below the opening for track wheats.

Cash No. 1 hard very dull, without transactions it closed nominally 1c lower for the day at 66 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Cash No. 1 northern. Small sales early at unchanged prices at 65, with large trading in track wheat to arrive at 66, both ruled dull during the later session, and closed, cash wheat in store 1c lower at 64, track wheat $\frac{1}{8}$ lower at 65 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Cash No. 2 northern dull and neglected. Regular in store closed nominally 1c lower at 58 $\frac{1}{2}$. Track wheat closed nominally $\frac{1}{8}$ lower at 61 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

Cash No. 3 wheat, without transactions, closed nominally 1c lower for the session, at 53c.

Rejected wheat closed dull, nominally $\frac{1}{8}$ lower for the day, at 48c.

May No. 1 hard wheat, without transactions, shared in the decline, and closed nominally 1c lower at 71c.

May No. 1 northern opened firm at an $\frac{1}{8}$ above yesterday's close at 79 $\frac{1}{2}$, with several good lots disposed of at that, followed by active business at 69 and 68 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, ruled weak and steadily declined under large trading to 63 $\frac{1}{2}$ -63 $\frac{1}{2}$ -63 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, broke near the close to 63 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, then to 63c, with last trades at 63 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, closed at 63c bid.

Millstuffs dull, and 50c per ton cheaper, with light demand. Bran at \$12.00; red dog at \$12.50 per ton in 200 lb. sacks.—Market Report, March 9.

Growth of the Oyster.

The oyster at the commencement of its career is so small that 2,000,000 would only occupy a square inch. In six months each individual oyster is large enough to cover a half crown, and in twelve months a crown piece. The oyster is its own architect, and the shell grows as the fish inside grows, being never too small.

It also bears its age upon its back, and it is as easy to tell the age of an oyster by looking at its shell, as it is that of horses by looking at their teeth. Every one who has handled an oyster shell must have noticed the successive layers overlapping each other.

These are technically termed shots, and each one marks a year's growth, so that by counting them the age of the oyster can be determined. Up to the time of maturity—that is when four years of age—the shots are regular and successive; but after that time they become irregular and are piled one upon another, so that their shell become bulky and thickened. Fossil oysters have been seen of which each shell was nine inches thick, whence they may be judged to be more than 900 years old.

From one to two million are produced from a single parent, and their scarcity is accounted for by the fact that man is not the only oyster eating animal. The starfish loves the oyster, and prays upon it unceasingly. A variety of whelk is also very fond of young oysters, to get at which it bores right through the shell and sucks the fish up through the hole thus made. *Parson's Weekly.*

Neatness in Grocery Stores.

So many grocers, not very successful ones, however, appear to think that the disordered appearance of their store cuts no figure in the quantity of trade they transact. Especially in large cities will the style and appearance of a store often serve as much of a drawing card as anything else that can possibly be done. A neat floor and a choice selection of goods with bright tables, artistically arranged, form a picture that attracts the attention of trade that would never have entered but for that expedient. Looks command the appetite and loosen the purse strings to purchase the coveted article.

Some of the most successful storekeepers can readily substantiate the fact that nothing has assisted them as much in building up a trade as has the neatness and appearance of their store and its surroundings. Does anyone suppose that when a store is kept in an untidy condition, with soap and ham, coal oil cases and butter boxes, bread and potatoes all intermingled and thrown together, that the customers do not become disgusted with such state of affairs? Those grocers who think so generally find plenty of time to wait on the trade they have.—*Merchant.*

To Be Borne in Mind Always.

The manager, the book-keeper, the cashier, the entry clerk, the shipping clerk, the salesman, the office boy, the porter, every one, in fact, says an exchange, who is in any way connected with a business establishment, should bear in mind that there is such a thing as cultivating trade, and that they, as well as the proprietors, are responsible for a share of the firm's success. Because a man is hired to fill a certain position there is no excuse for his hesitation to do any other work which may require attention. A book-keeper might soil his fingers by stepping outside the office and waiting upon a customer if occasion required, but he would not lower himself in the estimation of his employer, through thus signifying his willingness to make himself generally useful; and, anyhow, the dirt will wash off. To make business grow and make it pay should be the main object of every employe, regardless of position or condition. The day is gone when business can be conducted successfully without the undivided and best efforts of those who are responsible for it. In days gone by a merchant might succeed