

and weaker. Pork was steady but inclining upward. Lard was rather quiet. Closing quotations were:

| | Mar. | Apr. |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| Wheat | \$0.77½ | \$0.77½ |
| Corn | 38½ | 38½ |
| Oats | — | 28 |
| Pork | 12.25 | 12.27½ |
| Lard | 6.87½ | 6.90 |

On Saturday wheat opened weak, and early in the day had a nervous feeling and downward tendency, but recovered and closed fully as high as the previous day and firm. Corn was quiet and a shade weaker. Pork declined a little and was easier. Lard was quiet and weak. Closing quotations were:

| | Mar. | Apr. |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| Wheat | \$0.77½ | \$0.77½ |
| Corn | 37½ | 37½ |
| Oats | — | 28 |
| Pork | 11.12½ | 12.15 |
| Lard | — | 6.87½ |

TORONTO.

STOCKS.

The stock market during the past week had its little upward reaction, in which the decline of the previous week was all recovered, and, in the case of some bank stocks, a further advance secured. There has, however, been no very marked move upward, and the rise is only one of the phases of an irresolute market. The closing bids of Wednesday, March 18th and 25th, furnish an index to the tendency of the market.

| | Mar. 18. | Mar. 25. |
|------------------------|----------|----------|
| Montreal | 194½ | 195 |
| Ontario | 109 | 110 |
| Molson's | 112 | — |
| Toronto | 181 | 182 |
| Merchants' | 111½ | 112½ |
| Commerce | 120½ | 122 |
| Imperial | — | 124 |
| Federal | 45 | 46½ |
| Dominion | — | 191 |
| Standard | — | 111½ |
| Hamilton | — | 120 |
| Northwest Land | 39½ | 38½ |

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

During the past week the grain market was in a very unsatisfactory state, and the volume of business transacted exceedingly light. The present state of affairs in Europe and Asia has unsettled the minds of holders, and created hopes of greatly advanced prices in the near future. Offerings have thus been small, but equal to the demand, as buyers are determined not to pay advanced prices; and the gap thus caused reduces the possible number of sales to a very low ebb. This was specially so with wheat, while rough grain was to some extent in sympathy. Business in provisions has been quiet; meats also were quiet, and do not show any activity. A slight improvement in the state of the butter market is about the only good feature to report, and this can go on much further before there is any healthy activity in connection with that product.

WHEAT.

The transactions were so few and light that reliable quotations are difficult to obtain. Early in the week No. 1 spring sold for 82c; No. 2 fall for 83c; No. 2 spring and No. 3 fall for 81c. These are about the average figures of the week, but holders have been asking much higher.

OATS.

There was a fair steady demand during the week, and prices have scarcely changed since

our last report. Cars of mixed sold at 36 to 36½c, and of white at 37c. The upward tendency has evidently received a check.

BARLEY.

There was a quiet feeling in connection with this grain, and prices tended downward. No. 1 sold in small quantities at 67c, and lots of two and three cars of No. 2 went at 62c; No. 3 extra sold at 59c, and No. 3 at 55 to 56c.

RYE.

Very little doing, and quotations nominal at 59c, being the steady price.

PEAS.

A few car-lots of No. 2 changed hands at 62c. Street receipts sold at 59c.

POTATOES.

There was very little demand for car-lots, and only a small quantity changed hands during the week, 35c being the figure.

EGGS.

Lined and packed are now out of the market, and nothing but fresh are wanted. These sold in round lots at 17 to 18c.

BUTTER.

There was a fair demand for mediums; but stocks are heavy, and all orders were promptly filled at 9 to 10c. Prime dairy sold freely at 17 to 18c; boxes of rolls at 14 to 15c.

CHEESE.

Very little business was done; but some small lots of good quality sold at 12½c, and some medium at 11c.

PORK.

Few sales are reported, and prices are nominal, ranging from \$15.50 to 16.

BACON.

Business in this product was quiet, and sales of small lots only are reported. Long-clear in cases is quoted at 8 to 8½c; Cumberland, 7½c; and rolls, 10 to 10½c.

HAMS.

Almost no demand, and prices weak. A few small lots of smoked sold at 11c.

LARD.

The demand was light, and tinnets sold at 10 to 10½c; tierces, 9½c.

POULTRY.

Offerings are becoming smaller. Turkeys sold at \$1 to 1.50; geese, 90c to \$1.10; fowl, 75 to 90c a pair; ducks, 90c to \$1.

APPLES.

Apples are getting scarce, and prices are on the upward move. Some poor lots sold at \$2, and fair to choice from \$2.50 to 3.

Commercial Summary.

The cold weather checked trade during the week, and from almost all the larger cities word is telegraphed to *Bradstreet's* that the season in business circles is backward. The shipments of dry goods from Boston and New York are about as heavy as one week ago, but takings are no larger. Jobbers in dry goods continue to monopolize the business reported, and makers' agents await the depletion of stocks in second hands. Collections in general lines which were better during the early part of the month, have fallen away. At Philadelphia leading merchants report no rush of business. At Boston the lingering winter retards trade, and at Cincinnati business drags though there is no tendency to lower prices. There is some disappointment at Chicago, owing to the lack of increasing activity, and at Cleveland the delay in seasonable traffic is attributed to the

weather. At the larger southern cities a moderately active trade, except at New Orleans, where it continues of a hazy character. The general industrial situation improved to the extent that the strike of the Gould system of railways have gained point and returned to work. Wheat is firmer—after the weakness caused by the apparent restoration of an understanding between Russia and England—because of forecasts of damage to the winter wheat. In addition to reports published last week, *street's* special telegraphic advices from Indiana are that the loss from decrease in acreage and other causes will be from 10 to 15 per cent. But the worst prospect is reported from Kansas, where our advices, based on an inquiry, point to one-third less acreage, serious damage to the autumn-sown crop, and other causes. Seeding of spring wheat has begun at many points in southern Minnesota and Dakota. In the southern part of the region specified there is more expectation of a smaller total crop. In the north the acreage to wheat is somewhat less in expectation of a smaller total crop. While it is entirely probable that the increased wheat acreage and damage to the winter crop may have been exaggerated, it is certain that the autumn-sown wheat has been injured by various causes, and that the yield will be less of it planted. Indian corn is pathized with wheat in price but has moved abroad relatively more freely. Wheat closed last night (No. 2 red) against 92c, a week ago, and Indian (No. 2 mixed) at 49½c, against 51½c. Hogs have been dull and neglected, showing a decline for options. Cash pork closed at \$13.50, against \$13.50, and (finest) at 7.35, against 7.50c, a week ago. There is a little change in iron and steel. Rail mills have bid \$26 per ton on contracts and been underbid. Not more than 5,000 tons of the 15,000-ton order have been in the New York market are cashable, owing to the financial conditions of the world-be buyers. Prices of steel are lower than ever before. The demand for raw coal is moderately steady. The quota has been limited, and work in the coal valley has been stopped. For the quarter time will also be the rule, and will excite protest from the miners paid by the quantity taken out and sold unchanged. Petroleum is firm at 80½c, against 76½c, the new firm will not amounting to much. The position of the product is very bleak. The very staples move slowly, and showing off compared with last year. The trade is somewhat restricted. Spices are again lower. Dairy products show improvement in demand, but have tended downward. Wood is low in Ohio and Pennsylvania because of the most weakness. Manufacturers are every endeavor to cheapen the cost of production, which has resulted in a better