

## BARLEY.

There has been little movement in this grain, and a few cars of rejected would probably cover the exportations. Some has been taken on the street for feeding purposes. From 32 to 35c would be paid here for No. 3. Rejected ranges from 25 to 30.

## BACON.

Prices have not changed since last report, and continue to rule low, in sympathy with the decline at Chicago. The demand is steadily improving. Quotations are: dry salt 8c; smoked 9c; rolls 11c; breakfast bacon 11c; old dry salt 7c.

## HAMS.

There has been a fair city demand, and country trade improving. The quotation is now 12c.

## MESS PORK.

There is now a better distribution to provincial points. The price remains at \$15.

## MESS BEEF.

Light demand at the unchanged quotation of \$15 per bbl.

## LARD.

No change to note in prices. Quotations are: \$2.10 per pail; or 97c per lb for tierces.

## DRESSED HOGS.

The demand is now light for packing purposes, and prices are easy. Receipts are on the decline. Quotations range from \$4.25 to \$4.50.

## DRESSED MEATS.

There is no demand for frozen beef, and the trade in this is about over for the season. The quotations is from 5½c to 6c. Mutton now offered is imported and worth from 9c to 10c. Veal 8c to 11c. Prices are for dealers' quotations.

## DRESSED POULTRY.

Stocks are not large, but dealers wish to clear out the balance of frozen before warm weather. Quotations now are 12½c for turkeys, 10c for chickens, 9c for geese and 12½c for ducks.

## OYSTERS.

Only a moderate trade and unchanged, cans are worth 35c for standard; 40c for plain select, and 45c for extra. Bulk sell at \$2.40 to \$2.50 per gallon.

## MINNEAPOLIS.

The continued disappointment resulting from the slow decline in the visible, quite large receipts, and a decline in the demand from outside mills, contributed to make the past week a dull one on 'change. The interest of the crowd centered chiefly on reports from winter wheat sections, the progress of plowing and seeding in the Minneapolis belt, and gossip on recent local events. The bulls are not all dead yet, and while the prediction of a further decline of 5 to 6c is frequently heard, there are many who believe that bottom has at last been touched, and that even if an early and large advance is improbable, there must come a hardening and gradual improvement in values. The belief that winter wheat is not in good condition is gaining ground, despite the fact that confessedly reliable authorities have constantly sent in favorable reports, but there is a disposition to await the next Government report before acting on this belief in a speculative way. The chances are, however, that even if this report is late enough to be deemed conclusive, it will be forestalled by private enterprise for private benefit, if there is any price-making influence in the facts, whatever they may be.

While the area plowed and seeded in this belt thus far is not large, indications are that

the season has opened with the ground in good condition, that the crop will go in early, and that we are to have pleasant settled weather for some time. The area will not vary much, it is believed, from that sown last year, though there may be an increase of 5 per cent. Many farmers would sow less wheat this year if they knew that some other crop would do as well or better than the average crop of wheat.

The highest and lowest wheat prices by grade on 'change during the week ending to-day, closing prices, and the prices one year ago were:

	April 1.	
Wheat. Highest. Lowest. Closing 1885.		
No. 1 hard.. \$5½ .. \$5 .. \$5 82		
No. 1 north'n 80 .. \$0 .. \$0 79		
" 2 .. 73 .. 73 .. 73 72		

Futures were dull and weak, May 1 hard opening at 87c and closing at 86½c, May 1 northern opened at 82c and closed at 81½c. Coarse grains were neglected, corn closing at 31 to 32c, oats at 29 to 30½c, barley at 45 to 65c and rye at 49 to 51c, all by sample.

MILLSTUFF. -Continues in better supply and is duller, bulk bran selling at \$8 to \$8.50 and shorts at \$8 to \$8.75 per ton.

Flour. -There is again a fair export inquiry for flour, but the offers made are as yet too low, as a rule, to tempt millers to sell freely. The domestic market is at a standstill, buyers not caring to load up on an erratic and far from strong wheat market, while millers insist that they must have more for their product than the mere cost of production and delivery. Shipments show an increase in keeping with that in the output, and stocks here are about nominal, having been reduced one-half during the month.

Quotations for car or round lots at the mills are as follows: Patents, \$4.50 to \$4.70; straights, \$4.10 to \$4.30; first bakers', \$3.60 to \$3.80; second bakers' \$3.00 to \$3.20; best low grades, \$1.00 to \$2.20, in bags; red dog, \$1.50 to \$1.60, in bags.

These quotations are on flour in barrels, except as stated. The rule is to discount 30c per bbl for 250 and 140 lb jute bags, 20c for 94 lb cotton sacks, 15c for 49 lb cotton sacks, 10c for 24 lb cotton sacks, and 20c for 49 lb paper sacks.

The mills now have almost as much water as they can use and show greater activity than for a long time. There were eighteen which recorded an output last week, and the figures were the largest since last November, there having been no week since that date when over 100,000 bbls were manufactured. The production of the week ending Saturday was 123,400 bbls—averaging 20,500 bbls daily—against 80,000 bbls the preceding week, and \$3,100 bbls for the corresponding time in 1885. This week the mills occupy about the same position as they did a week ago. There were eighteen running at noon to-day, with a capacity of 26,000 bbls, and they were producing not far from 21,500 bbls. The last engine has been shut down and everybody is now depending on water for a motive power, though some are not quite able to run up to full motion. The flour market is quiet. There is some inquiry and demand from abroad, at lower prices, but domestic trade is dull. The mills are at present working mostly on orders taken some time ago, and the greater number have enough to keep them in motion two or three weeks yet.

The following were the receipts at and shipments from Minneapolis for the weeks ending on the dates given:

## RECEIPTS.

	Mar. 30.	Mar. 23.	Mar. 16.
Wheat, bus ..	311,360	350,000	483,840
Flour, bbls ..	390	984	123
Millstuff, tons ..	27	123	147

## SHIPMENTS.

	Mar. 30.	Mar. 23.	Mar. 16.
Wheat, bus ..	\$6,800	125,440	85,120
Flour, bbls ..	125,137	\$8,593	84,698
Millstuff, tons ..	3,026	3,107	2,576

The wheat in elevators in Minneapolis, as well as the stock at St. Paul and Duluth, is shown in the appended table:

## MINNEAPOLIS.

	March 29.	March 22.
No. 1 hard ..	1,762,474	1,772,234
No. 1 northern ..	1,468,989	1,606,662
No. 2 northern ..	695,500	777,452
No. 3, ..	11,319	11,823
Rejected ..	44,635	36,521
Special bins ..	1,335,066	1,374,646
	5,317,883	5,579,338

## ST. PAUL.

	March 31.	March 24.	March 17.
In elevators - bush ..	1,042,000	1,045,000	1,052,000

## DULUTH.

	March 29.	March 22.	March 15.
In store, bus. ..	6,034,965	5,874,630	5,796,716
Afloat, bus. ..	124,521	124,521	124,521

Total, bus .. 6,179,486 5,899,151 5,931,237  
—Northwest Miller.

## The Duration of Natural Gas.

John F. Carl writes as follows in the *Petroleum Age*: "The fallacious notion that natural-gas deposits will be more enduring than petroleum deposits have been needs correction. No good reason can be assigned why the average life of a gas-pool should be greater than that of an oil-pool. Indeed, if the probabilities are considered, the chances for longevity appear to be in favor of the latter. Oil, when produced in excess of daily demands, can be tanked for future use; accumulating stocks depress prices; low prices retard development, and thus prolong the life of a pool—and, as before cited, oil can be pumped with profit after gas has been practically exhausted.

"Gas cannot be tanked like oil, and in most cases no preparations are made for controlling and saving it in the wells; all daily surpluses are wasted; there can be no accumulation of stocks above ground to affect market values, hence prices are more likely to advance than decline, and all increasing demands must be met by new wells.

"The location of a gas-pool is evidently a very important factor in estimating its probable life. If situated where only a limited market is to be supplied it may be lasting; but if near a large city which cannot be surfeited, it must soon be exhausted by the excessive drilling of speculators and competing pipe-lines, and it would not be at all surprising if some of the gas-pool now starting out with the greatest promises should have brilliant but short-lived careers."