PROVISIONS.

The market for provisions is firm. The price of live hogs is strongly maintained, and owing to the Eight deliveries, higher prices still are confidently acticipated. There is no special feature to result, apart from the fact that lard continues a second high in price. Exporters report that the teach as demand for all lines of pork and beef profit is that been heavy.

Corrent prices are as follows:

The rest :-	Per lb.
Se 1 Hams, 8-14 lbs	0.25
(a), 1120 lbs	0.23
P 9 25 lbs	0.22
1: , sver 25 lbs	0.21
1 001—	
E 0.28	0.30
13	0.27
Bacon, selected	0.29
Bacon, boneless	er bbl.
Pork:—	38.00
pork	40.00
r'ork	36.00
The state of the s	
1	34.00
i Beef	
200 lbs	32.00
Lard—	pound.
	0.211/2
	$0.21\frac{3}{4}$
	0.22
	0.22
5. 10	0.221/2
4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	0.23
bound Lari:	
o Grades	
Harris	0.1714
Tings	0.171/2
The second secon	0.18
Tin:	0.221
Case $1, 3, 5, 10$ S	0.19
Pen a	0.10
Cooked meats:	0.29
R shoulder pork	1 To 1
Herse hams, boneless	
Carati hams, boneless	
Contact hams, rind off	
111 cheese	
Fighth brawn	0.11

FISH AND OYSTERS.

The fish trade will be quiet during the next few weeks as is always the case during the holiday season. Last month was a very busy one considering that Advent was so short and the weather not all that could have been desired. Prices ranged pretty high, but it is expected that the slack period now at hand will have a beneficial effect, as stocks will accumulate to some extent, resulting in a consequent reaction in prices. Bulk and shell oysters, lobeters, scallops and shrimps have been in large demand with prices above normal. Finnan haddies and fillets, due to better fishing, have come in more plusifully of late and therefore there is a tendency treatds easier prices.

Carrent quotations are as follows: Fresh Fish:

rresh rish.		
! diock	0.071_{2}	0.08
grak Codfish		0.09
taket Cod	0.06	0.07
1		0.15
: Esters		0.50
r = ,bm		0.18
i'munders		0.15
Frozen Fish:		1b.
Carate Salmon	0.18	0.19
i c Salmon headless and dressed.	0.12	0.15
1 C Salmon pale head and dressed.	0.11	0.12
Haddock	0.061_2	0.07
Western medium halibut		0.16
Mackerel	0.081_{2}	0.09
Market Cod	0.06	0.064
Whitefish	0.09	0.10
Dore	0.11	0.12
Lake Trout	0.121_{2}	0.13
Pike	0.081_{2}	0.09
Flounders	0.06	0.07
Eels	0.09	0.10
Smelts	0.10	0.12
Smoked Fish:		
Haddies	0.11	0.12
Bloaters, 60's, 100's		1.50
Kippered herrings, 40's		1.50
Kippered herrings, 50's		1.25
Digby herrings, 5 bx. a bundle		1.00
Salted and Pickled Fish:		
Poneless Cod	0.08	0.13
Boneless Herrings, 10 lbs		1.40
Shredded Codfish, 12 lb, box		1.80
No. 1 B. C. Salmon, pink, 200 lbs		16.00
No. 1 Sea Trout, 200 lbs. bbl		15.00
No. 1 Sea Turbot, 200 lb. bbl		14.00
Labrador Herrings, barrel	8.00	8.50
Labrador Salmon		18.00
No. 1 Green Codfish, barrel	13.00	14.00
Oysters, Etc.:	t.	
Shrimps, per gallon		2.00
Bulk Oysters, per gallon		1.50
Scallops, per gallon		3.00
Malnagara Shall Ovetore bhl	9 00	13.00
Cape Cod Shell Oysters, bbl	9.00	12.00
Bluepoint Shell Oysters, bbl	2.00	10.00
Medium Clams, bbl		8.00
MCCHICII Claus, DDI	4 4 4 4	0.00

RECEIPTS OF BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS.

The following table shows the receipts of butter, cheese and eggs in Montreal for the week ending December 20, 1916, with comparisons:

	Butter,	Cheese,	Eggs,
	pkgs.	boxes.	cases.
Week ending Dec. 30, 1916	1,608	3,181	899
		8,727	2,845
Week ending Jan. 1, 1916		1,550	2,345
Total receipts May 1 to dat	te,		
Week ending Dec. 23, 1916 Week ending Jan. 1, 1916	2,972 1,441		

THE GRAIN MARKETS.

The wheat markets were decidedly nervous and fluctuating at the beginning of the week, but a firmer feeling was apparent at the close. Every event in diplomatic and political circles was closely followed by holders of wheat, prices varying according to each successive development. It soon became obvious, however, that uneasiness over the possibility of a railway strike in the United States and the indefinite congestion of freight at seaboards were the dominating influences in the market. Ocean tonnage is still very scarce, and, according to Bradstreet's, clearances for the week were only 4,230,000 bushels, or the smallest for any one week so far this season. There seems to be little probability of shipping much new export business for the present, although gossip still talks of relief in the near future, particularly at Baltimore where greater numbers of vessels are arriving. In spite of difficulties it was finally estimated that shipments to Europe from North American ports would be 7,000,000 bushels as against previous estimates of only 4,000,000 bushels. This coupled with the necessity of completing contracts by the close of December hardened the market and prices advanced sharply on Saturday and Tuesday. Latest prices as we go to press are \$1.80% for May, \$1.46% for July, and \$1.361/4 for September, being a gain of 10 cents for May option for the week. Winnipeg is quoted at \$1.84 for May and \$1.791/8 for July, a gain of only 7 cents for May.

As regards the Montreal market, business is entirely in the hands of the home government representatives, coupled with some domestic demand from millers. Oats do not seem to partake of the advance in wheat, although the market is very firm on account of transportation impediments. Oats in eastern channels ready for local distribution command a big premium over the western equivalent and this condition is likely to last for some weeks. The export demand at satisfactory prices is curtailed owing to insufficient ocean space. Barley is not moving very fast and though a couple of cargoes were sold last month for export enquiries are good on space secured. Corn is in good local demand which cannot be satisfied on account of the scarcity of cars.

Current cash prices are as follows: Montreal Toronto Grains: per bushel. per bushel. Track. Bay Ports. Spring Wheat Manitoba. $\frac{1.93\frac{1}{2}}{1.90\frac{1}{2}}$ No. 1 Northern 2.021/9 $1.99\frac{1}{2}$ 1 941/ Do., No. 4 1.72. 1.831/2 Winter Wheat Ontario, No. 2 1.68 No. 2 No. 2 C. W. 0.70 Do., No. 3 C. W.. Do., Extra No. 1 0.66 0.66 $0.65\frac{1}{4}$ 0.64 Quebec and Ontario 0.63 0.60 Oats, No. 2 white. Oats. No. 1 white. 0.630.65Barley, No. 3 C. W. 1.16 Do., No. 4 1.06 Do., Feed 3.94 0.96 Corn, American, 1.15 1.07 ex-track N. B .- Montreal prices are quoted one day in ad-

vance of Toronto. POTATO CROP OF BRITISH ISLES FAR

BELOW NORMAL

The International Institute of Agriculture at Rome reports poor potato crops in the Northern Hemisphere. Its provisional estimates are 201,000,000 quintals for nine countries, including the United States, Canada, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Italy, and Japan, and also England, Ireland and Scotland, where the crops are the lowest on record. The figures for Germany and Austria are not available.

- FLOUR, CEREALS AND MILLFEED.

The market during the past week has been of a holiday character and consequently there is very little activity to report. Both domestic and export trade were very quiet, the latter in particular being at a standstill owing to the impossibility of securing ocean tonnage. Mills, however, are kept busy working on old orders and Government contracts. There is a firmer feeling in the market for all grades of flour in sympathy with the recent strength in wheat Consequently millers advanced price 30c yesterday, making \$9,80 for first patents per barrel. Winter wheat flour is also featureless. Suppli∈s coming forward from Ontario mills and stocks on spot were ample to fill immediate requirements. A good demand is reported for all lines of millfeeds in spite of the abnormally high prices ruling. Rolled oats are active and firmer, the domestic demand being much keener than usual.

LOWER SUGAR VALUES.

In sympathy with weakness in the United States market for raws and the lower prices quoted on the refined articles, Canadian sugar refiners lowered the price of sugar 10c a 100 lbs. on Friday last, making a standard rate of \$7.45 for No. 1 Granulated. This makes a net decline of 40c per 100 lbs. for the month of December.

Sugar quotations are as follows:

bugur quotations	1	00 lbs.
Granulated No. 1		\$7.45
Yellow, No. 1		
Special icing, barrels		7.65
Powdered, barrels		7.55
Paris, lumps, barrels		
Crystal Diamonds, barrels		8.05
Assorted tea subes, boxes		8.05

GRAIN AT THE HEAD OF LAKES.

Fort William, Ont., Dec. 30th, 1916. Statement of stocks in store in terminal elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur on December 29th, 1916, with receipts and shipments during the week: Flax. Wheat. Oats. Elevator. C.P.R. .. 2,542,017 1,139,677 137,343 220.652 35,202 Empire . . . 844,778 324.234 Consol. 949,025 408.830 28.780 141,059 192,491 27,884 Ogilvie's . . . 1,139,095 253,122 16,434 309,383 Western. . . 550,019 74,144 G. G. Gr. Co. 990,259 824,820 Ft. William. 727,047 596,905 29.674 63,185 Eastern . . . 892,240 626,977 16,853 G.T.R. .. 2,363,880 1,721,091 94,589 79,346 328,403 119,218 Can. Nor. . . 3,167,522 1,876,431 Horn & Co. 239,784 117.085 44,511 125,370 Can. Gov't. . 1,573,420 652,264 83.207 122.369 Thund'r Bay. 661,573 461,655 58,136 57,773 Totals . ..16,640,665 9,195,589 975,165 1,238,358 756,046 A year ago.13,550,072 5,028,467 1,001,349 1,002,110 Receipts . . .1,862,226 \$1.680 87,600 Ship. Rail. . 135,393 87,701 2,866 Winter Storage. Afloat . . . 89,245 101,331 A year ago., 1,073,078 665,260 Stocks by Grade. Wheat. Oats. One Hard..... 22,144 One Nor...... 1,241,839 1 C. W. 26,063 0.69½ Two Nor...... 2,408,544 2 C. W.. . . 2,287,103 Three Nor..... 2,415,282 No. Four...... 1,968,807 Ex. 1 Fd. . . . 1,411,668 Others...... 8,584,047 Others 4,657,040 Total......16,640,665 Total . . . 9,195,589 Barley. 3 C. W...... 136,834 4 C. W...... 334,606 1 N. W. C. ... 930,580 Rej'd...... 55,645 2 C. W. .. 199,144 Feed...... 246,182 3 C. W. ... 73,125 Others...... 201,896 Others 35,508

THE AMERICAN RICE CROP.

Total..... 975,165

An increase of nearly 3,000,000 bags in the rice crop of the United States, as compared with the crop last year, is shown in the final estimate given out by J. R. Leguenec, secretary of the Rice Millers, Association, who places this year's crop at 6 188 bags. The "carry over" rough rice from last season is estimated at 61,968 bags.