

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

Wheat—There has been more interest manifested in the wheat markets during the past week than for some time previous. There seems no particular reason for this, because the general demand for wheat the world over is practically no better than it has been for some time, and on this continent the freight situation on the great lakes is proving a sad hindrance to shipping business. Probably the increasing movement of spring wheat, and the ordinary renewal of activity consequent on the fall season of the year, are sufficient reasons for increase in interest. While the manifestation of such interest is patent, it cannot be said to be reflected by the current of prices, as these show little variation from day to day, and markets close about the same to a shade lower than a week ago. There has been a little ripple in the prices going for September wheat in Chicago, during the three days preceeding yesterday, but the action had its spring in local circumstances and yesterday it seems to have worn itself out, the September option there being quite into line again with that for other months. The primary receipts of wheat in the States are now very large, and on some days overtop the quantity for corresponding days a year ago. The export of wheat and flour from both coasts of North America continue liberal, and at the same time the American visible supply continues to increase at a goodly rate. Last week the increase was 1,349,000 bushels and the total now stands at 36,117,000 bushels against only \$105,000 bushels a year ago, and 15,756,000 bushels two years ago. The world's visible reserve stocks increased last week 1,935,000 bushels, against a decrease for same week a year ago, of 1,215,000 bushels, and the total world's visible on Sept. 1st stands at 142,577,000 bushels against 66,511,000 bushels on same date last year, an increase of 76,066,000 bushels on the year. The Northwest spring wheat crop of this continent is now practically all harvested, and safely secured in good condition. The yield has been good, the quality is excellent and much ahead of last year's crop for milling purposes. The United States government crop report for August, issued on the 11th inst., gives the condition of the winter and spring wheat jointly as 70.9, which is calculated to indicate a yield of 496,000,000 bushels as against a yield of 511,000,000 bushels indicated by the July report. Commercial estimates, however, generally hold to previous calculations of a yield of 525,000,000 bushels to 550,000,000 bushels, and it is quite probable these latter are as near the mark as the government estimate. The European harvests have all been secured in excellent order, the English crop exceptionally so, and over all western Europe there is no complaint against the yield, in most cases it is bountiful. Southeastern Europe has its shortage, considerable in amount, but the quantity produced by the whole empire of Russia is still a matter of uncertainty. Argentina continues to ship to Europe at the rate of around 1,000,000 bushels per week against nothing a year ago. The growing crops in the Argentine, and also in Australia, are progressing satisfactorily under favorable weather conditions. India reports recent rains in the drought visited districts, about sufficient for present needs, but the general situation in that country for

the coming crop cannot be put down as satisfactory. On the whole, the foregoing figures and statements do not lead to the conclusion that higher prices for wheat are due in the near future, and it may be taken as probable that prices will not under ordinary circumstances advance any, until at least some time after the free movement of the spring wheat ceases, but will rather in the meantime be more apt to decline somewhat. Later on when the pressure of large supplies from first hands is lessened or removed, speculation on the buying side of wheat will probably have its innings, and there will come, as at other times, waves of advancing prices when the cautious buyer and discreet holder will realize a good profit, by selling his property on the crest of such movements.

Trading in Manitoba wheat in this market has been quiet, but the movement of new wheat from the west is increasing daily, and we have to record a daily reduction of 1-2c per bushel in the value of 1 hard during the last five days, making a decline of 2 1-2c per bushel on the week. 1 or some time back until this week, the value of Manitoba 1 hard has been governed by the prices paid by the Ontario miller for it, rather than by the export price. Now that supplies of new wheat are getting beyond the capacity of the eastern domestic market to absorb, prices must come into line with export value. Even for the Ontario market higher lake and rail freight, together with the weakness in outside markets, compels a reduction in the value of wheat. Fort William. Vessel space on the lakes is scarce, owing to the demand for it for carrying iron ore, and the rates asked for wheat are from 3c to 3 1-2c per bushel over corresponding time last year, and this difference must come off the first cost of the wheat. On Saturday last new or old 1 hard in store Fort William, was worth 70c per bushel. At the close of yesterday's business the value had declined to 67 1-2c. Sales were made yesterday at 67 1-2c in store Fort William for spot 1 hard, at 67 1-2c in transit from country points, and 67c delivery first half October. The spread between 1 hard and 2 hard or 1 northern remains at 1c on old wheat, but on new wheat it has been 3 1-2c until yesterday, when several sales were put through on basis 1 hard at a difference of 3c for 2 hard or 1 northern. Prices for other grades are irregular and subject to individual bargaining. Generally 3 hard, 2 northern and 1 spring may be stated as 7c per bushel less than 1 hard, all in store Fort William. Dried 2 hard is 62c and dried 2 northern is 61 1-2c in store Fort Arthur.

FLOUR—Ogilvie's Hungarian patent is worth \$1.75; Gl'nora, \$1.55, Manitoba strong bakers, \$1.35; XXXX, 95c; Lake of the Woods patent, \$1.75; strong bakers, \$1.55; second bakers, \$1.35; XXXX, \$1.05 per sack of 58 pounds, delivered in Winnipeg.

MILLFEED—Bran is quoted at \$10.50 per ton and shorts at \$12.50. Stocks are very light.

GROUND FEED—Oat chop has fallen off \$4 per ton. Best grades of corn feed \$19, inferior grades \$17.50. Oat chop 23 to \$24 for best. Mixed feed of barley and oats, \$22.00 to \$24.50 per ton. Oil cake \$24 per ton.

OATMEAL—\$1.85 in car lots on track is the jobbing price per sack of 80 pounds.

OATS—Deliveries of oats are becoming more general although farmers are yet too busy in their fields to give much attention to marketing. The receipts here have been about a dozen cars of new oats for the week, mostly from Manitoba and Northwestern railway points. These oats have been bought at prices ranging from 36c per bushel on track here for the first car, down to 30c. We have learned to-day of purchases at 12c freight rate points of good feed oats at 25c, which would mean practically 29c Winnipeg. As deliveries increase the price will further recede. Dealers are offering equal to 25 to 30c here for futures.

CORN—40 1-2 to 41 1-2c on track Winnipeg. Demand very light.

BARLEY—First deliveries of barley have been purchased this week at 23c per bushel, at northwestern railway points. One car is the only business so far reported. Deliveries have not commenced yet.

HAY—Fresh baled hay on track here is worth \$5 to \$6 per ton. Loose hay on the street \$4 to \$5. The demand is very light.

BUTTER—Creamery—September or late August make 19c is now the prevailing price at factories. This is an advance of 1c for the week and reflects pretty well the feeling of the market. There is practically an unlimited demand for this class of butter.

BUTTER—Dairy—The market for dairy butter displays increasing firmness in first grades, and increasing difficulty of disposing of second grades. Held butter is not wanted at any price. Butter which may have been all that could be desired when first made is absolutely not wanted after it has been held by either the farmer or country merchant for more than ten days. It should be made a point to get this butter to the consumer as quickly as possible as only in that case can the top price be realized. Butter can be seen in the warehouses of this city to-day which displays the finest color and texture, but because it has been held in the country for a time its selling quality, which is a fresh sweet flavor, is gone. Best dairy butter is worth 12 to 13c net in Winnipeg.

CHEESE—The cheese market has sagged a little in sympathy with the eastern markets, although the situation has lost none of its intrinsic strength. The make here is not equal to the demand and offerings are taken readily at 11c per pound at factories. As high as 12c was paid early in the week.

EGGS—Dealers are now paying 16c net at Winnipeg for candled stock.

VEGETABLES—Potatoes are slightly lower this week at 25c per bushel. Green tomatoes are now offering at 40c per bushel. Rhubarb has advanced to 2c per pound. Celery is a little firmer. Other prices remain unchanged. We quote as follows: Choice new potatoes, 25c per bushel; peppers, 7 to 20c per dozen; citron, 1 1-2c per pound; carrots, 45c per bushel; turnips, 25c per bushel; parsnips, 20c per dozen bunches; rhubarb, 2c per pound; radishes, 10c per dozen bunches; green onions, 10c per dozen bunches; cauliflower, 11-2c per pound; tomatoes, native, 21-2c per pound; new peas, 21-2c per pound; butter beans, 2c per pound; cucumbers, 5 to 15c per dozen; cabbage, 15 to 25c; celery, 20 to 25c per dozen bunches; broad beans, 2c per pound; sweet corn, 7 to 8c per dozen cobs; pumpkins, 2c per pound; squash, 1 1-2c per pound; marrow, 30 to 50c per dozen.