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about the same figure. Dealers are jobbing mutton at 8c per pound, and sometimes talk 8½c per pound. Beef is steady. Butchers report that the retail demand is very largely for choice cuts. The proportion of loins and ribs sold is very largely in excess of the demand for rougher cuts. There is an abundance of meat in the market to be cut up, but it is hard to dispose of anything but the choice cuts. To such an extent has this demand for choice cuts been carried that butchers have actually been obliged to import beef from Chicago, bringing in only choice cuts, such as loins and ribs. They do not care to cut up more meat, when they can only dispose of the selected cuts, consequently they have had recourse to importing these choice cuts. The only way to remedy this would seem to be to advance the price of choice cuts and lower the price of other portions of the animal. Fresh killed beef is moving slowly at 5½ to 6c for sides, and frozen beef dull at 4 to 5c per pound, as to quality.

DRESSED POULTRY.

Poultry continues scarce, and good prices will be paid for nice birds. Chickens are in best demand, and would bring 10c for choice. Turkeys would be taken at 14c, and ducks and geese at 12c.

VEGETABLES.

Potatoes have been coming in in car lots from the south, but not any faster than to keep up with the demand. Prices hold at 80c per bushel in small lots from store. An item in a daily paper that large quantities of potatoes are being held for higher prices, caused some amusement to the trade, as it is well known that the market has been supplied for months principally by importations, and on several occasions the town was nearly completely sold out. The very cold weather of late has made importing both expensive and risky, and consequently the market has been kept barely supplied and no more. With warmer weather, shipments to this market will no doubt be made more freely, and prices are likely to be lower. Quotations here are as follows:—Carrots, \$1.20; parsnips \$1.50 per bushel, beets, \$1.20 per bushel, turnips 60c per bushel, onions 3c per pound, cabbage \$2.25 per hundred pounds; celery 40c to 60c per dozen; Spanish onions, \$1.00 per crate; southern red, do, \$3 per 100 pounds.

HAY.

A number of car lots of hay have been brought in from the south, and as a rule it has been of better quality than the native article. This has been selling from cars at \$13 to \$13.50 per ton, and has given the market an easier tendency. Some holders who were very strong in their views, are now inclined to make concessions. Cars on track may now be quoted at \$12 to \$13 as to quality. Loose hay on the market has not been coming in very freely as the roads are heavy, but there are fair offerings at about \$11 to \$12 per ton.

LIVE STOCK.

Scarcely anything doing in cattle. A few head are being picked up at 2½ to 3c per pound live weight, but these have been for rather rough animals.

The School Question.

Two bills were introduced into the Manitoba Legislature last week, concerning the schools. The first is "An Act Respecting the Department of Education." It follows closely the Ontario school act. This act provides for a department of education, to consist of the executive council or a committee thereof, appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-council. The act also provides for the appointment of an advisory board, two of whom shall be appointed by the Governor-in-council, one elected by the school trustees of the province, one by the teachers, and one by the council of the Manitoba University. One of the duties of the advisory board is to prescribe the form of religious exercises to be used in the schools.

The second bill is entitled "An Act Respecting Public Schools." This act contains over 200 clauses, the most important of which are clauses 202 to 205, which deal of separate or Roman Catholic schools, which are declared to have ceased to exist upon the coming in force of the act. Assets and liabilities of separate schools are to be taken over by the public schools. The trustees are to decide whether or not any religious exercises shall be held in the

schools, and in case they decide in the affirmative, only such exercises as have been provided by the advisory board, will be permitted. The following are the clauses in full relating to religious exercises:—

6. Religious exercises in the public schools shall be conducted according to the regulations of the advisory board. The time for such religious exercises shall be just before the closing hour in the afternoon. In case the parent or guardian of any pupil notifies the teacher that he does not wish such pupil to attend such religious exercises, then such pupil shall be dismissed before such religious exercises take place.

7. Religious exercises shall be held in a public school entirely at the option of the school trustees of the district, and upon receiving written authority from the trustees, it shall be the duty of the teachers to hold such religious exercises.

8. The public schools shall be entirely non-sectarian, and no religious instruction or exercises shall be allowed therein, except as above provided.

• THE Keewatin mill is shipping bran and shorts to country points in Manitoba.

The *Columbian* of New Westminster, B. C., says:—The first shipment of Lake Winnipeg whitefish ever received in Westminster came to hand yesterday, consigned to W. H. Vianen. But it will probably be the last consignment, as Mr. Vianen was obliged to sell them at cost price to get them off his hands. The whitefish is considered among the most delicate and delicious of the finny tribe, and there is a better market for it in the large eastern cities than for any other kind of fish. But it is hard to convince any one living on the Frazer river that sturgeon or salmon can be excelled. The whole lot imported by Mr. Vianen was sold, but as only cost price was obtained the enterprise did not prove profitable and it will not be repeated.