

Boot and Shoe Trade Notes.

A serious fire broke out last week at the boot and shoe factory of L. H. Clark, Clement & Decarie at St. Charles, and from there spread to Boulton's carriage factory. Both places were completely destroyed. The damage will amount to \$60,000 with small insurance.

Dairy Trade Notes.

The creamery at Manitou, Man., which has been closed for the past two seasons, will be operated this summer. T. T. Gadd is going to be in charge.

It is stated by a good authority that stocks of white cheese in Montreal have been about cleaned up the prices at which final transactions took place being about 94c. Colored goods are still offering freely for which offers of 9c to 9 1/2c are being made.

Receipts of dairy butter at Montreal have been large this week and the quality none too good, consequently, prices ruled lower for both creamery and dairy the fore part of the week.

Lumber Trade Notes

One mill at West Duluth started sawing on the 10th inst. and it is expected that all the mills in that locality will be running by the end of April.

Reports from the coast indicate that shingle mills are having difficulty in filling orders, but it is not expected that any further advance in prices will be made in the near future.

R. Shearer, head of the retail lumber firm of R. Shearer & Son, Melita, who has been ailing for some time, died on Friday last at his residence in Melita. He was one of the well-to-do men of that town, and will be greatly missed.

D. C. Cameron, president of the Portage Lumber Company, was in Winnipeg last week. Speaking of the lumber cut during the winter he stated that his company had got out 50,000,000 feet of logs on their Minnesota limits. He says that in all probability his company will build a mill on the Rainy river if the railway deal goes through, but, "come what may, a mill will be built in Winnipeg to saw between 25,000,000 and 30,000,000 feet a season."

Reports from the United States state that the hardwood market has shown more activity of late and that authorities on this subject are inclined to think that the era of low prices has passed and that from now on there will be a gradual toning up of the whole market. Orders are still mostly for small lots, as the manufacturers have large and well assorted stocks which they carried over from last year but it is only a matter of time until these will become depleted and a better movement will result. A fair movement is reported in all kinds of oak. Quartered white oak is still fairly low in price and buyers regard it as a good investment at present. Plain red oak of southern growth is now about the best seller in the market; offerings of both red and white being readily absorbed by the trade.

A United States consular agent writing from Shanghai under date of Feb. 26, says there is an excellent opening for the establishment of a sash, door and wood-working establishment in that city, where a large number of modern buildings are always in course of construction and where architects constantly have difficulty about interior finish. He says that there is not a planer or molding machine in China, as far as he has been able to learn. Neither is there a lumber dry kiln, and a difficult problem is to secure well seasoned material. He says that a properly equipped and managed wood-working establishment at Shanghai would command the trade of the entire Yangtze valley and probably of points along the coast to the north. A part of the plant should be a good band saw mill for cutting native logs and resawing imported timber.—American Lumberman.

Grain and Milling Notes.

A vessel is now being loaded at an Ontario port with 50,000 bushels of oats for shipment to Manitoba.

The Winnipeg Grain and Produce Exchange Clearing Association is applying to the provincial government for a charter.

Twenty carloads of flour were this week shipped from the Hudson's Bay Company's mill at Winnipeg to England. A large portion of this will be transhipped in London on board the company's vessels for ports along Hudson's Bay.

A Montreal dispatch says J. A.

Jamieson has closed a contract with the Canadian Northern Railway company for the construction of the proposed elevator at Port Arthur, having a capacity of 1,500,000 bushels, and costing in the neighborhood of \$300,000. Work will begin at once.

E. L. Drevy, brewer, Winnipeg, is offering to supply farmers throughout the west with seed barley of choicest Ontario grade at 65c per bushel, Winnipeg. As the barley grown in Manitoba last year was not up to the usual standard and the crop was a very small one this proposition will no doubt be largely taken advantage of.

The Modern Miller says:—"The insect that has done much damage to wheat in Northern Texas has appeared in Oklahoma, the territory in parts of Kansas where some damage has already been reported. From other sections of the winter wheat belt the reports are quite favorable, there having been an abundance of moisture, with the temperature below the normal for this season of the year, which is propitious for the crop, as it lessens the perils of the Hessian fly. The crops in California are showing effects of continued drought."

Statistical Wheat Report.**WHEAT IN CANADA.**

Stocks of wheat in Canada at principal points of accumulation are reported as follows:

Montreal	137,000
Toronto	68,000
Coteau, Que.	14,000
Depot Harbor, Ont.	50,000
Kilgusston	50,000
Fort William, Port Arthur and Keewatin	2,605,000
Winnipeg	483,000
Manitoba elevators	1,650,000

Total April 1	4,907,000
Total previous week	5,254,000
Total a year ago	9,354,000

BRADSTREET'S REPORT OF STOCKS.

Total stocks in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains, as reported by Bradstreet's April 13, were 75,573,000 bushels, as against 68,067,000 bushels the previous week.

Total stocks in the United States and Canada a year ago were 75,840,000 bushels, according to Bradstreet's report.

Stocks of wheat at Pacific coast ports on April 1 were 8,325,000 bushels.

THE VISIBLE SUPPLY.

The Chicago visible supply statement of stocks in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains, for the week ended April 20 was 49,808,000 bushels, being a decrease of 2,005,000 bushels for the week. A year ago the visible supply was 54,814,000 bushels, two years ago 29,179,000 bushels, three years ago 25,914,000 bushels, four years ago 36,201,000 bushels, five years ago 37,046,000 bushels.

STOCKS OF OATS AND CORN

The visible supply of oats in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains is 10,911,000 bushels, compared with 7,301,000 bushels a year ago. The visible supply of corn is 21,328,000 bushels, compared with 21,114,000 bushels a year ago, according to the Chicago statement.

WORLD'S WHEAT STOCKS.

Stocks of wheat in America and Europe and abroad for Europe March 1 in each year for a series of years, were as follows—Bradstreet's report:

	Bushels.
1901	161,000,000
1900	161,000,000
1899	123,000,000
1898	144,000,000
1897	122,000,000
1896	103,000,000
1895	181,000,000

CROP MOVEMENT.

The following table gives the receipts of wheat at the four principal United States spring wheat markets, from the beginning of the crop movement, Aug. 1, 1900, to date, compared with the same period of last year:

	This Crop.	Last Crop.
Minneapolis	64,815,950	68,779,750
Minneapolis	7,605,770	9,304,882
Duluth	16,085,139	45,068,539
Chicago	38,219,668	21,039,178

Total.....127,730,527 144,222,359

The following table gives the receipts of wheat at the four principal United States winter wheat markets, from the beginning of the crop movement, July 1, 1900, to date, compared with the same period of last year:

	This Crop.	Last Crop.
Toledo	8,607,442	10,633,032
St. Louis	10,177,486	8,520,489
Detroit	2,821,192	3,451,328
Kansas City	33,025,217	13,341,240

Total.....54,631,337 35,956,089

The Chicago hide market is firmer and some think that prices would advance if the quality of offerings were better. No. 1 buffs are quoted at 7 1/2c.

The strike of marine engineers on the great lakes is going to curtail early shipments of coal from Buffalo to western ports.

Winnipeg Prices a Year Ago.

Following were Winnipeg prices this week last year:

Wheat—No. 1 hard closed at 67 1/2c Fort William, for cash.

Flour—Local price per sack Patent, \$1.95, best bakers, \$1.95 to \$1.75.

Oatmeal—1.65 per 80 lb sack, to the retail trade.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$14.50 per ton; shorts, \$16.50, delivered to city dealers.

Oats—Carlots on track, 200/31c, according to quality.

Barley—35 to 36c per bushel for maiting and feed grades.

Country wheat—32 to 54c per bushel, according to grade and freight rate to farmers at country points.

Corn—In carlots, 48c per bushels of 50 lb.

Flax—\$1.50 per bushel.

Butter—Dairy, 16 to 20c per lb for best grades, creamery, 24c per lb. to the retail trade.

Cheese—Regular sizes, 14 to 14 1/2c to the retail trade.

Eggs—10c for Manitoba fresh, Jess ex pressage.

Hides—No. 1 hides, 7c per lb.

Wool—8 to 9c for unwashed fleece.

Seneca Root—28c per lb.

Hay—Baled, \$5 to \$5.50 per ton on cars.

Potatoes—45 to 50c per bushel for farm ere' loads.

Poultry—Turkeys, 11c per lb; chickens, 11c, ducks, 10c, and geese 9c per lb, live.

Chickens, 6c per pair.

Dressed Meats—Beef, 60/7c; veal, 60/9c; fresh mutton, 10/11c, hogs, 10/4/7c, frozen mutton, 50/6c per lb.

Live Stock—Cattle, 2 1/2 to 3 1/2c, as to grade, sheep, 4 1/2 to 5c; hogs, \$16 to \$17.10 per cwt. off cars; according to quality.

Comparative Prices of Staples.

Comparative prices of staples at New York April 19, 1901. April 20, 1900.

Flour	\$3.40	\$3.60	\$3.50	\$3.50
Wheat	78 1/2	78 1/2	76 1/2	76 1/2
Corn	50 1/2	50 1/2	46 1/2	46 1/2
Oats	30 1/2	30 1/2	28	28
Cotton	8 1/2	8 1/2	9 13-16	9 13-16
Printed cloths	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Wool, Ohio	24 1/2	24 1/2	30	30
Wool, No. 1	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Pork, mess	\$15 1/2	\$16	13.25	13.25
Lard, prime	8 1/2	8 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2
Butter	21	21	18	18
Cheese	12	12	11 1/2	11 1/2
Sugar, gran	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Coffee, No. 7	6 1/2	6 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
Petroleum	7 1/2	7 1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2
Iron, Besse	\$17 1/2	\$17 1/2	\$24.00	\$24.00
Steel billets	\$24 1/2	\$24 1/2	32.50	32.50
Steel rails	20.00	20.00	35.00	35.00
Copper, lb.	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00
Lead, lb.	4.37 1/2	4.37 1/2	4.70	4.70
Tin, lb.	21.00	21.00	31.00	31.00

Manitoba Wheat Stocks.

There were 2,432,435 bushels of wheat in store at Fort William on April 20. Receipts for the week were 61,000 bushels and shipments were 36,230 bushels. A year ago stocks in store Fort William were 4,031,000 bushels. Stocks in store at Fort William, Port Arthur, Keewatin, Winnipeg and interior points are estimated approximately at 4,438,000 bushels, compared with 5,878,000 bushels a year ago, 10,000,000 bushels two years ago, and 6,338,000 three years ago. 8,000,000 bushels four years ago, and 3,000,000 five years ago.

Winnipeg Grain Inspection.

For the week ending April 21 there were 160 cars of grain inspected which graded as follows:

Wheat—1 hard, 14; 2 hard, 13; 3 hard, 39; 1 white type, 0; 2 northern, 0; rejected, 2; no grade, 87; condemned, 2 cars.

Oats—No. 2 white, 1; 2 mixed, 3; no grade, 2; rejected, 0; feed, 3 cars.

Barley—None.

Flax Seed—None.

For the corresponding week of last year there were 282 cars of grain inspected, of which 155 graded 1 hard.

Seed Oats.

With the controversy about the relative value of oats from different sections, for seed purposes, The Commercial has nothing to do. The fact remains, however, that considerable quantities of oats offered this spring are unfit for seed. The cause of this is the excessive rains of last harvest.

In some sections also there were heavy snow storms, which soaked the grain before it was threshed. The repeated soakings injured the germinating quality of a considerable portion of last year's crop. Some of the oats offered have been dried by artificial process, which has also injured their germinating quality, though probably for seed purposes they are not reduced in value thereby. Some sections suffered more from rain and snow than

others, and oats from such sections will show poorer germinating quality than from districts where there was less rain. What we wish to set forth is, that no oats should be used for seed until they are tested. Farmers should sow a small quantity of the grain they propose using for seed, and note what percentage of it grows. If under 50 per cent germinates, it is hardly fit for seed. Good seed grain will show a much higher germinating average even than this.

Work on the C. P. R. extension from Selkirk to Gimli is to be proceeded with at once.

J. McEvoy, of the Dominion geological survey, estimates the possible workable Crow's Nest coal at 22,000,000 tons.

The Dominion minister of militia states that the government cartridge factory at Quebec would be able by July 1 to manufacture shells. He had reason to believe that a small arms manufactory will shortly be started in Canada and that a government order would be of material assistance in helping to get it established.

It is reported that a deal is now pending for the amalgamation of five of the largest stationary engine manufacturing companies in the United States, the capital to be about \$25,000,000. The companies which are expected to be included in the new corporation are: The E. P. Allis Company, of Milwaukee, the Pennsylvania Iron Works, of Philadelphia; the Gates Iron Works Company, of Chicago; the Fraser & Chalmers Company, of Chicago, and the Dixon Manufacturing Co., of Scranton, Pa.

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