

tions on account of water, which with proper drainage facilities would have disappeared at once, and the land would much sooner have been ready for cultivation.

It is to be hoped there will be no unnecessary delay in carrying out this work of drainage, which is so urgently needed in some parts of the country, so as to provide against the delaying of work in wet springs. There is a large area of territory, particularly in eastern Manitoba, which requires better drainage. Large areas of land which are not now suitable for cultivation in wet seasons, could be readily made safe for cultivation, while other large areas are worked at a disadvantage in wet seasons, owing to imperfect drainage. A comprehensive system of drainage would add greatly to the value of our agricultural districts as a whole.

Wool.

The wool market is in a very depressed condition at present, and the outlook for the coming clip is far from satisfactory for both dealer and grower. The large business accomplished during the first two or three months of the year gave promise that the stock of old wool on the market would be quite closely absorbed by the time that the new clip was available, and in this expectation dealers maintained a fair amount of firmness in prices long after the demand had fallen off. During January and February the woolen manufacturers were taking large orders for goods, and they were consequently free buyers of wool to make up the orders, which gave the market for raw material an activity that dealers had not looked for in the face of the result of the fall election. The cold winter which gave clothiers a chance to work off their stocks of heavy goods was the inducement for the free buying of wools, and until clothiers had fairly looked for their fall necessities they showed no disposition to hesitate regarding placing their orders ahead. The falling off in the demand for wools was very quick, and manufacturers have booked but few orders during the past two months. The fact that the mills were well supplied with wool to cover their orders as fast as they were taken has made their wants since orders ceased to come in of a very moderate character, and instead of dealers finding their stock of old wool closely sold out at the advent of the new clip, they have awakened to the knowledge that there are still considerable supplies of old wool on the market to dispose of.

During the past few weeks the liberal offerings of new wools from country points have brought this knowledge more closely to dealers' notice, and a more decided effort has been made by them to get their old wool out of the way. Territory grades that were selling on the scoured basis of 57 to 58c per pound for fine, and 54 to 56c for fine medium, are now being offered freely at 53 to 55c for the former, while the latter can be picked up at 51 to 52c for strong staple warp wools. The bulk of the stock of wool here is composed of what is termed territory grade, or wools grown west of the Mississippi river, and from the fact that it has been more or less culled over, it is mostly the heavier shrinkage grades that are left. Stocks include several large lines of Oregon wools that can be picked up at a scoured cost of 50 to 52c per pound for fine medium, its heavy shrinkage in the grease having caused it to be neglected by buyers, who are more tempted towards lighter wools. The old stock of Texas wools has been well reduced, but new wools are coming forward, and are meeting with some sale at low prices, new wools being about 1 to 2c per scoured pound lower to sell than old wools of the same quality. California wools are also well sold out on old wools, and owing to the high prices quoted on the Pacific coast

but few new wools are making an appearance. The stock of old fleece wools is very light, there being very few parcels of Ohio and Michigan washed fleece available. Sales of XX and above Ohio fleeces have been made at 31 to 32c per lb., but it is doubtful if the present market could be quoted at 29 to 30c. For X Ohio fleeces the market is nominal at 27 to 28c per pound, while X Michigan grades are nominal at 26 to 27c. Delaine fleeces are in small supply, but for the lots available the demand is very dull. Ohio delaines have been offered at 31c, with 30c bid, while Michigan grades are nominal at 29c. Medium fleeces are in small supply, but dull at 35c for No. 1 Ohio combing and 34c for Michigan, with No. 1 clothing at 31 to 33c per pound for Michigan and Ohio. Unwashed fleeces have sold up fairly, but the fat sheep's wool coming forward meets with almost no attention at 16 to 19c for fine and 22 to 24c for medium. The supply of quarter-blood wools has been well reduced, but new wools coming forward have sold rather hard at 24 to 25c, and this price has to be shaded in some cases to effect sales. For three-eighth-blood wools the demand is very dull, with prices ruling less than for the three-quarter bloods, and stocks are less closely sold up. These wools have been a drag on the market during most of the year, and some lots have been closed out at 22 to 23c, although prices are nominally quoted at 24 to 25c. Pulled wools have met with a fair sale, and maintain fairly steady values.

The future prospects are very dubious at present, and now that the new clip is at hand dealers do not know what action to take. The expectation of an extra session of Congress in September, and that at that session an attempt will be made to revise the tariff, makes eastern dealers loath to attempt anything in the way of buying the new wools on speculation, and it looks as though they would handle but little except on commission. If the growers hold their wool back dealers will buy as long as manufacturers need supplies, but there will be no piling up of stocks this year, as has been the practice in the past. The mills will only make what goods are needed until the tariff change has been definitely settled, and this will mean that they will only buy wool to make up the goods as they get the orders. The uncertainty of the future is one of the worst features of the situation, for were something definite known the trade could soon bring itself to that level and make their calculations accordingly. How much domestic wool would decline with "free wool" and how much foreign wool would advance are questions that no one can answer until the experiment is tried, but they will meet on a common level, let it come which way it will. Under the present duty on foreign wools our manufacturers are practically unable to use any foreign raw material except the lighter shrinkage lots of Australian, but with "free wool" the wools of South America, Africa and all parts of the world will be available. These Cape and South American fine wools are now selling in the markets of Europe at low prices, but with the markets of this country thrown open the cost of such wools would probably advance.—Bradstreet's.

Montreal Markets

Flour—The local demand for flour is improving, as buyers are getting pretty low in stocks, and although holders of winter wheat flour are getting no higher prices, they are firm and not inclined to cut as formerly. Newfoundland buyers are asking for Ontario straight rollers for July shipment, but are not inclined to pay the prices asked. Western millers are offering to deliver straight rollers here on track at \$3.45 to \$3.50 both for present and July delivery. Manitoba mills are asking 10 to 15c more money, but are not getting it in all cases. City strong bakers are steady, with sales reported of choice grades at \$4.10 to \$4.15, and we quote \$4 to \$4.15 as to quantity and quality. The sale, however, was reported of a car load of strong

bakers at \$3.90, the quality being reported good. There is some export business in progress for Glasgow, Liverpool and London account, most of which is for through shipment from the west.

Oatmeal—Western millers are firm in their views, and are asking \$1.10 to \$1.15 per bbl for rolled and granulated delivered here in car lots on track. Second grades, however, can be bought at \$1 to \$1.05. In jobbing lots we quote prices as follows: Rolled and granulated, \$4.15 to 4.25; standard \$4 to 4.15. In bags, granulated and rolled, \$2.05 to 2.10, and standard, \$1.95 to \$2.05.

Mill feed—The market for bran is steady, at \$14.50 for car lots, and we quote \$14.50 to \$15. Shorta are scarce, every one wanting them without being able to get them, although buyers would be willing to pay \$17 to \$18. Moullie is quiet but steady at \$19 to \$21.

Wheat—Advices from millers state that they are paying 10c less for winter wheat than a week ago, red and white being delivered at the mills at 66 and 67c. At the close of last week No. 2 Manitoba hard wheat was sold at 75c afloat at Port Arthur, but 74c is said to be all that can be had for it to-day. Here No. 2 hard is quoted at 84c afloat, and a sale of No. 3 frosted is reported at equal to 65c here.

Oats—Oats are firmer, sales having been made of both white and mixed at 33½ to 39½ in store, and at 39½ per 34 lbs afloat, some holders now asking 40c.

Barley—The sale of a lot of No. 3 extra was made at 45c, and Manitoba feed barley has been placed at 42c per bushel. Malting barley has sold at 48 to 53c.

Butter—The sale of a lot of Kamouraska is reported at about 19c, and there is still some old lots offering. New creamery meets with good enquiry at 22 to 23c, a few single tubs of fancy having fetched 24c, but 23c is about all that can be relied upon for a top average. New Eastern Townships also sell well at 20 to 21½c, with a few extra quality tubs selling at 22c. Western rolls are coming in more liberally, and sales have been made in half bbls at 16 to 18c, with the latter difficult to make.

Cheese—Although sales of Western cheese have been made for shipment by this week's steamers at 10½c for finest, white and colored, 1,260 boxes being sold at that figure, there seems to be a tendency towards lower prices. Other sales were reported at 9½ to 10c, a sale at the latter figure being made on 'Change at the beginning of the week, but the quality was not understood to be finest. Pretty good prices have been realized at the country markets this week, at Bellville sales being made at 9½ to 10 1-16c. At Woodstock prices realized 9 5/16 to 9½c, at Picton 9½ to 9¾c, and at Napanee 9½c. At Utica, N.Y., on Monday last, sales were made at 9½ to 9¾c, the ruling price being 9¾c against 9½c a year ago.

Eggs—Receipts continue pretty liberal, and prices have ruled a little on the easy side, with sales of round lots at 11 to 11½c, single cases of choice stock bringing 12c. The market, however, is pretty well cleared, owing to the large quantities going into pickle. West of Toronto buyers are paying 9 to 9½c, and east of Toronto 10 to 10½c. There is not much doing in the export business yet, although it will soon be about time to send forward stock.

Wool—The market is firm, but at the advance in prices, buyers are loth to take hold, hoping to do better by waiting. A few sales of Cape are reported at 14½ to 15½c, and as high as 16½c has been made for a desirable lot. Scoured wool is steady but not over plentiful, and has sold at from 29 to 39c as to quality. Northwest wool is in very small supply, most of the stock held here a week or two ago having been sold for Toronto and Hamilton account at 11½ to 13c. We quote: Cans, 14½ to 16½; Scoured B A. wool, 28 to 30c; Canadian fleece, 19 to 22c, and Northwest wool, 12 to 13c as to grade.

Dried Fruits—The market is very quiet, dried apples being quoted at 5½c. Peaches and apricots, 19 to 21c.—Trade Bulletin, May 19.