

Frozen lots of hides are taken at 3½ to 4c all around; Cullow, scarcely saleable at any price.

LEATHER AND FINDINGS.

Business very quiet and collections reported slow. Quotations are steady and as follows: Spanish sole, 28 to 31c; slaughter sole, 30 to 32c; French calf, first choice \$1.25 to \$1.50; Canadian calf, 90c to \$1.00; French kip, \$1 to \$1.10; B Z kip, 85 to 90c; Bourdon kip, 75c; slaughter kip, 55 to 65c; No. 1, wax upper, 45 to 50c; grain upper, 55c; harness leather, 31 to 34c for plump stock. American oak sole, 45 to 60c; buffe, 17 to 22c a foot; cordovan, 23 to 25c; pebble, 21 to 23c; colored linings, 12c.

PAINTS, OILS AND COLORS.

An unbroken quietness reigns in this branch, except in lubricating and lighting oils. Prices are almost nominal and are: Turpentine, 80c in five-gallon cans, or 75c in barrels; harness oil \$1.25; neatsfoot oil, \$1.50; linseed oil, raw, 70c per gallon; boiled, 73c in barrels or 5c advance in five-gallon lots; seal oil, steam refined, \$1; castor, 12½c per lb.; lard, No. 1, \$1.25 per gal. live, oil, pure, \$1.50; union salad, \$1.25; machine oils, black 25 to 40c; oleine, 40c; fine qualities, 50 to 75c. Coal oils, silver star, 25c; water white, 28c. American oils, Eocene, 34c; water white, 31c; sunlight, 27c. Calcined plaster, \$1.25 per barrel; Portland cement, \$5 to \$5.50; white lead, genuine, \$7.25; No. 1 \$6.75; No. 2 \$6.25; window glass, first break, \$2.25.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

The after holiday replenish is over, and business is once more down to a quiet state, with almost nothing doing in imported goods. Quotations are quoted as follows: Canadian rye whiskey, five year old, \$2.40; seven year old, \$3; old rye, \$1.75; Jules Robin brandy, \$4.50; Bisquet DeBouche & Co., 4.50; Martell, vintage 1885, \$6.50, vintage, 1880, \$7.50; Hennessy, \$6.50 to \$7.50 for vintage 1885 to 1880; DeKuyper gin, \$3.50; Port wine, \$2.50 and upwards; Sherry \$2.50 and upwards; Jamaica rum, \$1.00 to \$1.50; DeKuyper red gin, \$11.50 per case; DeKuyper green gin, \$6.50 per case; Tom Gin, \$9.00 to \$10.00; Martel and Hennessy's brandy, one star, \$14 per case of 12 bottles; v. o., \$19; v. s. o. p., \$22.

THE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

WHEAT.

The business done in wheat during the week has been ludicrously small, if we might use the term, for this season of the year. Deep snow and extreme cold weather may have effected receipts at some points, but the utter inability of the C. P. R. to handle one-quarter of the volume of grain seeking an outlet to the east, has practically paralyzed the grain trade, and, for that matter, every other trade of the province. Early in the week grain elevators and warehouses at nearly every point in the province were full to bursting, and buying from farmers was practically stopped, while a daily demand for three to five hundred cars met with a supply of about sixty on the average. In the midst of this delightful state of affairs

came the blizzard of last Thursday, and now it is a matter of calculation with some, and a conundrum with others, when the C. P. R. will be sufficiently cleared, to again renew even its usual light volume of traffic. Under these circumstances the principal occupation during the time of the exchange meetings has been reading telegrams of outside markets from the black-board. Some business was done with liberal allowance as to conditions of delivery and shipment, and towards the close of the week dealers showed a hopeful disposition. No. 1 hard was offered at outside points at equal to 59c, and sales were made at that figure with No. 2 hard and 1 northern offered and going at 2c lower. Scarcely a sample lot appeared on change during the week. Street lots of high-class milling wheat sold at 57c.

FLOUR.

Mills are still running, but a considerable portion of their output has gone into store here, and a shut down for slight repairs is probable any day. Shipments either east or west have been light, and the local trade has been quiet. Prices are unchanged and hold steady at: Patent, \$2.15; strong bakers, \$1.90; XXXX, \$1.40; superfine, \$1.20.

MILLSTUFFS.

There is a heavy demand from the east, and prices have shot up with a jump. Car lots of bran are now held at \$12 a ton and shorts at \$14.

BARLEY

A few car lots of No. 3 have been sold to be delivered at outside points at equal to 36 to 39c on track here. Higher grades are very scarce. Feed lots have sold from 26 to 32c here.

OATS.

The firm feeling stated in our last report still holds out, and lots fit for milling have been held firm at 30c, and street receipts have sold freely at the same figures.

OATMEAL.

With oats holding up this article holds firm also, and prices are steady at \$2.50 for standard and \$2.65 for granulated.

EGGS.

Good pickled are held at 25c, and fresh are practically out of the market.

BUTTER.

The stocks in the country are increasing rapidly, and country merchants persist in paying prices at which the city men cannot afford to buy from them. The city stocks are sufficient at the present moment to supply the local demand for three months, and no export business can be done at present prices. A glut next spring is inevitable, as it seems experience will not make fools wise in the butter trade. During the past two weeks quite a number of car lots have passed through this city from the east consigned to British Columbia, all of which could have been sold here if prices were right. That market houses are now filled until spring, and we have no outlet but to the east. Some holders are sticking for 20c for prime, while others are letting go at 18c. To allow of shipping, 17c is the highest that can be paid, and it is not improbable that before grass comes, lower figures will be reached. The trade is certainly demoralized for this season.

CHEESE.

Only lots of a few boxes are called for and these sell at 13c for good quality.

LARD.

The feeling is still firm and the best local article is held at \$2.30 for 20 lb. pails. Eastern is quoted at \$2.20 to \$2.25.

CURED MEATS.

A slow demand with prices steady. Dry salt ranges 11 to 11½c, and smoked at one cent higher. No local smoked goods are yet on the market. Eastern rolls are quoted at 12½c and Chicago at 13 to 13½c. Eastern hams are held at 14c and Chicago at 15c. Breakfast bacon is held at 14c. Barrel pork is higher and sells slowly at \$20.

DRESSED MEATS.

Beef is still steadily rising and carcasses butcher slaughtered sell from 5 to 6½c. Mutton is still scarce and held at 10c. Dressed hogs still sell at 7 to 7½c.

POULTRY.

Prices are a shade easier. Chickens sell at 6 to 7c, and turkeys at 11 to 12½c. No geese or ducks are offered.

Qu'Appelle is to have a Board of Trade.

The Harrison Government placed their resignation in the hands of the Lieutenant-Governor to-day, and Mr. Greenway was called on to form a cabinet.

A serious fire took place at Morden on Friday morning last, and but for the wind changing the whole town might have been destroyed. George McKay, restaurant, Dafoe's general store, Schell's barber shop, a residence and a vacant building were destroyed. There was very little insurance on the buildings.

Review of the Hide Trade.

A retrospective look over the hide trade for the past year is not by any means so satisfactory as that of any of the lines of business germane to it. It is true that during the year there have been a great many hides handled, but from the beginning to the end of it, the market has had a downward tendency, and trade has been accompanied with the drawbacks always consequent upon a falling market. As a consequence there has been a difficulty in making sales without giving often unreasonable concessions, and on much of the stock handled dealers have been fortunate, if they have not lost money.

But for the future, in the very nature of the case, things must be better. Already prices are lower than they have been in twenty years. In addition to that, the curtailed buying of tanners during the year will surely make it necessary for them in a short time to begin to stock up. When buying does begin again it will be only natural to expect considerable activity and a strong advance in prices. If therefore the hide men can take no special consolation in the recollection of the year past they cannot least look forward to the expectation of a vast improvement in the near future. It is a long lane that has no turning and this lane has been so long that the turning must now be very near.