

## WINNIPEG MARKETS.

[All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are whole sale for such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reductions for large quantities and to cash discounts.]

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, December 31.

Holiday week is a quiet one in wholesale trade circles. The only features worthy of note are in the grain and produce trade, and these, with the exception of the report in the price of wheat, are of little importance.

**DRYED FRUITS**—New layer figs are in good supply at 14 to 18c per pound as to quality for fair to good stock. Fine Elmes are held at 18c, while poor stock may be had as low as 12c per lb. We quote: Dried apples 6 to 6½c; evaporated, 8½ to 9c; figs, layers, 12 to 18c; dates, 6 to 8½c. Valencia raisins, \$1.75 to \$2; London layers, \$2.75 to \$2.80 box; Sultanas 9½ to 10c lb. Currants, 6½ to 6¾c; prunes, 7 to 9c. Evaporated fruits are quoted: Apricots, 19 to 20c; peeled peaches, 17½ to 18c; unpeeled peaches, 12 to 12½c; pitted plums, 11 to 11½c; cherries, 13 to 13½c; pears, 12½ to 13c.

**FISH**—The first load of winter caught Lake Winnipeg white, were on the market this week. Prices are: Jackfish, 3c; pickerel, 4c; whitefish 6c; trout 10c; B. C. salmon 15c; Cod 10c; smoked haddies 10c; Yarmouth blotters \$1.75 per box; oysters \$2 per gallon for standards and \$2.25 for select; can oysters 50c each for standards and 55c select; Oysters have been sold as low as \$1.50 per gallon in some instances.

**GREEN FRUITS**—Some Catawba grapes in 5 lb baskets have been offering at 50c each. Apples held at steady prices, fancy stock, selected varieties, selling at \$4 per barrel, and other varieties \$3.50 to \$3.75 as to quality. Florida oranges of good quality held at \$5.00 to \$5.50 and up to \$6.00 per box for desirable sizes. Lemons, now Messinas, good, at \$6.50 to \$7; Malaga grapes, \$9 to \$10.50 per keg as to size of package; cranberries, \$10.50 barrel; California winter pears \$4.50 per box; Apple cider, 35c per gal.

**NUTS**—Prices range as follows: Almonds per pound, 16 to 18c; walnuts, per pound, 12 to 17c; pecans, 15c to 16c; filberts, 11 to 14c; Brazils 10 to 13c; peanuts, 14 to 15c; chestnuts, 14 to 15c; cocoanuts, \$9 to \$10 per 100.

**SUGARS**—In the Winnipeg market yellow is quoted at 4 to 4½c; granulated at 5½ to 5¾c, the inside price is for barrels, and a fraction higher for bags. Lumps, 6c; icing, 6½ to 7c; sugar syrups, 2½ to 3½c; maple sugar, 9 to 12c a lb.

**GENERAL WHEAT SITUATION.** Christmas week is always a slow one in the grain trade, and until New Year's is over and business has thoroughly opened for 1893, the markets are expected to be quite. The week, however, did not show as great depression in wheat as might have been expected from the general tendency of the markets of late, and indeed in some respects there was an improvement over previous recent weeks. The week opened on Tuesday with a better feeling in United States markets, and the close of the day left most markets ½ to 1c higher than the closing day of previous week. Crop reports regarding winter wheat were not favorable, and this had some influence upon the market. The adverse report was of cold weather and scarcity of snow in winter wheat sections.

The export clearances of wheat and flour from both coasts of the United States for last week were reported about 1,900,000 bushels larger than during the preceding week. The crop of the United Kingdom was reported at only about 60,500,000 bushels or some 4,000,000 bushels less than expected and quality poor. The India shipments were reported 60,000 bushels less than the preceding week. The visible supply increased 1,514,000 bushels and a year ago increased 1,472,000 bushels. The total visible supply at principal points in the United States and Canada, east of the mountains, now stands at 79,834,000 bushels as compared with 44,-

775,000 bushels a year ago. The points showing largest increase were, Duluth 1,461,000 bushels, Minneapolis 292,000 bushels, Chicago afloat 506,000 bushels and store 150,000 bushels. The points showing greatest decrease were: Baltimore 168,000 bushels, Buffalo store 476,000 bushels, afloat 73,000 bushels, New York store 425,000 bushels, and afloat 84,000 bushels. The quantity of wheat and flour on ocean passage decreased 672,000 bushels for the week. On Wednesday United States markets were lower, losing part of the gain of Tuesday. Cables, however, were higher. Duluth receipts for the day were 341 cars and at Minneapolis 246 cars. On Thursday

Cables were lower, but United States markets were stronger, mainly owing to Bradstreet's weekly visible supply report, which showed a decrease of 1,651,000 bushels east, and about 500,000 bushels west of the Rockies. The Michigan state crop report, showed rather unfavorably for the winter wheat condition, and this feature further strengthened values. On Friday wheat was reported firmer by cable, but United States markets were very dull, owing to approach of New Year's holiday, and there was scarcely any variation in prices.

Total receipts at the four principal United States spring wheat points since Aug. 1, the beginning of the crop year, foot up: Minneapolis 37,183,127 bu; Duluth 27,865,023 bu; Chicago 36,352,542 bu; Milwaukee 8,439,440 bu; making a total of 110,339,131 bu, against 103,680,711 bu during the same time last year and 50,441,703 bu in 1890. The total receipts of wheat at the four principal winter wheat points, Toledo, St. Louis, Detroit and Kansas City from July to date are 59,716,633 bu, against 51,033,972 bu in 1891 and 19,738,278 bu in 1890. Exports of wheat from both coasts for the week ended Dec. 29 (flour included), equal 2,917,000 bushels, against 4,242,000 bushels last week, and 3,106,000 bushels one year ago.

**LOCAL WHEAT.**—The local wheat market has had a feature this week, of something more than usual moment. Manitoba markets have in past seasons been influenced by some peculiar features, not in keeping with the general condition of wheat in other markets. This week the Manitoba wheat situation has again asserted its independence of all outside conditions, by taking one of those sudden turns in prices which has happened on occasions in the past. While prices in leading wheat centres are just about where they were a week ago, Manitoba markets have the distinction alone of having experienced a strong bull movement, which we may say has come as a sort of Xmas box to wheat holders. The farmer (or at least the few of them who have not sold their wheat) will rejoice thereat, and the drooping hopes of some large holders may be revived. To be brief, it may be stated that the Lake of the Woods Milling Co. gave orders on Wednesday to its agents to advance prices 3 to 5 cents to farmers. This company is one of the heaviest buyers of Manitoba wheat, with elevators and buyers at nearly all country markets. The effect of this advance was therefore at once felt all over the Manitoba wheat country, and was the one topic of interest for the week. The company has no doubt a reason of its own for thus suddenly springing such a surprise upon the market, in the face of the generally depressed condition of wheat and flour everywhere. The reason assigned by the company for the advance is that they want the wheat. The marketings of Manitoba wheat have now declined to very small proportion, so that the advance in price is not as far reaching as if it had occurred earlier. However, it may catch a number of millers short of stocks, and make them scramble to get wheat. It will certainly strengthen the domestic market very sharply for Manitoba wheat and flour, though of course the export value cannot be increased in this way. In Manitoba country markets the range of prices to farmers is now from 48 to 52c, for best samples of hard wheat, according to

freights. At some points where milling competition does not reach, the price is lower. Stocks are accumulating, notwithstanding tight marketings. Stocks in store at Fort William on Dec. 24 were 2,102,287 bushels, being an increase of 291,708 bushels for the week. Fort William and interior stocks aggregate about 5,000,000 bushels.

**FLOUR.**—Is unchanged at the decline of a week ago. There is the continued deep complaint of the condition of the flour markets east. Millers in Ontario are buying their local grown wheat relatively cheaper than Manitoba millers can buy wheat for here, for instance, good Ontario wheat can be bought at the mills east at 60 per bushel or thereabouts, while Manitoba wheat, adding freight, cost 75 to 80c per bushel. This puts western millers at a disadvantage in competing with Ontario millers in eastern markets. Prices here are quoted as follows to the local trade in small lots per 100 pounds: Patents \$1.95; strong bakers' \$1.75; XXXX 75 to 90c; superfine 60 to 70c. Brands of some mills sell at 5 to 10c under these prices, even in small lots.

**MILLSTUFFS**—We quote bran selling to local dealers at \$8 to \$9 per ton, as to quality, and shorts \$10 to \$11 per ton.

**OATS**—Offerings in the Winnipeg market have been light, but values nevertheless have been easy, and prices range from 18 to 20c per bushel of 34 pounds, for fair to good quality. In Manitoba country markets the range is from 13 to 14c per bushel. Markets east are dull and easy to lower.

**BARLEY**—Dull as ever. Prices for feed barley are about the same as oats, per bushel, but slower sale than oats.

**GROUND FEED**—Prices are unchanged. Finest brings \$13 to \$14 per ton, as to quality, and lower qualities \$11 to \$12 per ton. Some mill feed is offered as low as \$9 per ton, composed of wheat and other mixtures.

**MEALS, ETC.**—There is no change in oatmeal. Rolled and granulated oatmeal held at about \$1.55 to \$2 per sack, according to brand, and standard meal 5c lower, these being prices to retail traders. Cornmeal \$1.65 to \$1.70 per 100 lbs. Split peas \$2.60 to \$2.65 per 100 lbs. Beans, \$1.75 to \$1.90 per bushel. Pot barley, \$2.50 per 100 lbs. Pearl barley, \$1.00.

**BUTTER**—Butter remains about the same as last week, with fairly liberal receipts. Single tubs of choice dairy have sold at about 19 to 20c, and we quote round lots of good to choice dairy at 15 to 17c.

**CHEESE**—Jobbing at 10 to 10½c per lb.

**EGGS**—Single cases quoted at 20c per dozen, larger lots 18 to 19c as to quality. Fresh not quotable.

**CURED MEATS.**—Local prices are unchanged but outside markets are all very strong and advancing. Up to 5c per pound is being paid for round lots of dressed hogs in eastern Canada markets, and at this big price there must be a sharp advance in provisions. Eastern cured stuff could not be sold in this market, to compete against the local product, as the local packers not only have the freight in their favor, but are buying their hogs very much cheaper. Local prices are: Dry salt long clear, bacon, 9 to 9½c; smoked long clear, 10½c; spiced rolls, 10½ to 10¾c; breakfast bacon, 13 to 13½c; smoked hams, 13 to 13½c; mess pork, \$17 per barrel. Sausage quoted: Pork sausage, 9c; bologna sausage, 9c; German sausage, 9c; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 9c per half lb packet.

**LARD**—Compound held at \$1.65 to 1.70 per pail. Pure at \$2.20 to \$2.30 per 20 pound pail. In tins, 12 to 12½c per pound.

**DRESSED MEATS**—There is very little now business doing, butchers being stocked up by purchases before Christmas. A fair number of dressed hogs are offering, and we heard of one small lot being taken by a packer at \$6.50, but the usual quotation for good packing hogs, desirable weights, is 6½c, and the range at 6 to