

bushel, while good No. 1 hard ears bring higher in proportion to quality. In the price of damaged stuff there is a very wide range.

FLOUR.

Export business is at a standstill owing to the present glutted state of eastern markets, but mills are, as a rule, running nearly full time and storing stock at home. From the Pacific coast the demand is no better than in the east, and the local market is about normal, with no inclination to increased activity. Millers hold up prices as much as possible, but the feeling is weak all the same. Patents, are quoted at \$2.10; strong bakers, \$1.96; XXXX, \$2.40; superfine, \$1.90.

MILLSTUFFS

Mills have good stocks on hand, but are not inclined to let prices down. Bran is held at \$12 a ton, and shorts at \$14.

BARLEY.

The receipts of late have not included many choice samples, and prices paid have been rather low, ranging from 35 to 45c. For a choice lot 50c could be had, but such are seemingly scarce.

OATS.

Receipts are slightly on the increase, but not enough yet to effect prices. There is very little export business being done. Ordinary feed lots sell freely at 28c, while milling oats bring 30c, and even higher.

OATMEAL.

Business is reported normal in the local market, with no material export demand. Prices have not changed and are: Standard, \$2.50; granulated, \$2.65; rolled, \$3.

CHEESE.

Almost all the factories have cleared their stocks out, or have only the dregs on hand. Business has been dull in round lots, but such are offered at 10½c, and even a lower point might be secured by a car lot buyer.

BUTTER.

Last week the first symptoms of coming receipts were visible, and it is now a question of how soon the large stocks known to be held by farmers will be brought to market. There is a strong disposition to hold for higher prices, but a very small rise would shut off export business, and a month or so of exports suspended would doubtless bring a ruinous glut in the spring. It is rumored that country merchants are paying 20c at outside points for choice dairy, and that is the highest price offered in the city, and only small fancy lots will bring more. At present stocks of good butter are light, but ample for local demands, and even the stock of mediums is rather limited. But now that a freeze up has come, receipts will rapidly increase, and unless prices are kept within an exporting range, a glut is very probable, especially of lower grades, owing to the fact that much of the stocks held by farmers are summer butter held over.

EGGS.

The scarcity has set in, and the prices are not yet high enough to bring pickled and limed stocks. The few sales reported were made at 25c, and no close questioning as to quality.

LARD.

Prices range from \$2.60 to \$2.75, for 20 lb. pulls, and the tendency is firm.

CURED MEATS.

Supplies of new season's curing are likely to be available very soon in quantities to affect the market, and prices have in consequence eased off a little. Dry salt bacon, is quoted at 12 to 12½c; breakfast, 15 to 15½c, with 17½ asked for fancy brands; spiced rolls, sell at 15 to 16c, and hams at 15½ to 16c, with higher figures for fancy brands.

DRESSED MEATS AND POULTRY.

The destruction of the city market building

by fire early on Wednesday morning, rather upset the meat trade during last week. Heavy stocks of meats were lost in the blaze, and there was considerable scratching around for a day or two to keep customers regularly supplied. The upset did not seem to have any marked effect upon prices, and caused scarcely any inconvenience except to those who suffered financially in the blaze. The average prices of the week for carcasses were 5 to 5½c, with 6 to 6½c asked for hind quarters. Country dressed sold to private parties principally at ½ to 1c lower. Mutton still holds steady at 10c, and veal about 8c. Dressed hogs are still scarce. Packers offer 8 to 8½c, while butchers give 8½c and sometimes 9c for small carcasses. Cold weather is bringing a better supply of poultry, and since the Thanksgiving day, chickens have been easy at 12½c, and turkeys at 15c.

LIVE STOCK.

Live hogs are scarce and wanted at 9½c for smooth. Cattle receipts have been a little heavier, but still not in excess of the demands; the range of prices has been from 2½ to 3½c, the latter figure being only for choice animals.

VEGETABLES.

Between the sudden arrival of keen cold weather and the burning of the city market buildings, the vegetable business has been almost laid out last week, and it is impossible now to give reliable quotations, except of potatoes, which are being sold in small lots to retailers at 25 to 30c a bushel.

Grain and Milling.

The new C. P. R. elevator is about completed at Port Arthur. Ninety hands are now putting in the machinery and will complete in about a week.

BELOW is appended a table of the world's wheat crop for 1888, taken from the *Paris Echo Agricole*, according to which the deficit is only about thirty-one and a half millions of bushels. This is the lowest estimate of a deficit yet published. Estimates made on this continent have placed the deficit close to one hundred millions of bushels:

Countries.	Probable production, bushels.	Probable imports, bushels.	Probable exports, bushels.
Russia.....	216,900,000	.....	109,760,000
France.....	244,216,000	68,600,000	.....
Austria-Hungary.....	156,408,000	.....	10,404,000
Spain.....	115,188,000	0,867,000	.....
Italy.....	101,528,000	38,418,000	.....
Germany.....	82,520,000	30,184,000	.....
United Kingdom.....	62,642,000	150,920,000	.....
Turkey.....	39,046,000	.....	5,405,200
Romania.....	21,952,000	.....	13,720,000
Bulgaria.....	13,710,000	13,720,000	.....
Portugal.....	6,880,000	1,920,000	.....
Greece.....	4,664,000	2,744,000	.....
Serbia.....	4,300,000	.....	1,312,000
Holland.....	4,116,000	12,348,000	.....
Denmark.....	3,667,200	.....	.....
Sweden and Norway.....	2,744,000	2,744,000	.....
Switzerland.....	1,646,400	11,222,000	.....
Totals.....	1,111,568,000	340,250,000	146,811,200
U. States & Canada.....	400,320,000	.....	90,040,000
Chile & Arg. Republic.....	27,440,000	.....	10,983,200
Totals.....	1,548,628,000	340,250,000	253,834,400
India.....	260,680,000	.....	27,440,000
Asia Minor.....	37,444,000	.....	2,744,000
Persia.....	21,922,000	.....	2,744,000
Syria.....	13,720,000	.....	1,372,000
S. E. Asia.....	8,222,000	.....	1,372,000
Totals.....	1,006,256,000	340,250,000	289,506,400
Australia.....	3,416,000	.....	12,348,000
Algeria.....	10,208,000	.....	2,744,000
Egypt.....	13,720,000	.....	4,116,000
Grand totals.....	1,377,600,000	340,250,000	308,714,400

In an editorial on the prices of sugars, domestic and imported, the *Montreal Journal of Commerce* supplies a table showing that in granulated sugar the Canadian refiner has a protection in duty, freight and such like of

\$3.82 per 100 pounds against his British competitor, \$3.35 of which is made up by import duty. The *Journal* tries in vain to discover relief from high sugar prices, without suggesting the reduction of duties. The most blinded protectionist cannot fail to see where high priced sugars come in under a protective tariff of nearly three and a half cents a pound on a commodity sold by the manufacturer at seven and a half cents a pound. Such a scale of duty is an outrage upon protection itself, especially when it is made to apply to what is an actual food necessity to the masses of the people. The *Journal* also makes the statement, that granulated sugar is roughly calculated as being 75 per cent. higher in price in Canada than in Great Britain, although Canadian ports are at least 2,000 miles nearer to a source of raw material supply than are British ports. The average sweet tooth of the Dominion must feel pleased that this burden is made for the profit of two or three refiners.

SOME people express surprise at the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway Company having applied to the Dominion Government for a charter to construct and operate lines in Manitoba and Assiniboia. Their application will cover the R. R. V. and all its extensions, including the proposed line to the Souris coal fields. As the company will necessarily have to cross the Manitoba boundary into the Territories, they would require to get powers from the Dominion for that, and when they thus have to apply it is wise to ask for full powers to carry out all their projected lines. Their application will test the sincerity of the Dominion Government as to their expressed desire not to check Manitoba. Besides with Ottawa authority at their back they are not likely to experience the tantalizing obstruction to which the C. P. R. Company are evidently determined to subject their new rival in the Northwest. There is nothing lost by having all the law one can receive at his back, and the N. P. & M. company are only doing this in applying for Dominion authority in the work they have undertaken.

FROST has put a stop to plowing throughout the province and wheat is now commencing to come in in greater volume. Business has been somewhat quiet from this cause, but greater freedom in monetary affairs at all grain centres will now be general. 50,000 bushels per day is the amount now being marketed.

THE M. & N. W. Ry. has placed a through passenger coach to run from Winnipeg to the terminus of the line and back every alternate day, for the accommodation of travellers. The coach is attached to C. P. R. express and transferred at the Portage.

THE Empire Brewing Co. are putting in a new plant for the vacuum process brewing, and will have same in running order about Christmas.

Petroleum Prices.

When the Standard Oil Company and the Oil Producers' Association entered into a so-called alliance a year ago for the purpose of restricting production and reducing the accumulated stocks of crude an option of 6,000,000 barrels, at 62c a barrel, and with a time-limit of one year, was given the Producers by the Standard. On November 1, 1887, the crude