

Winnipeg Prices a Year Ago.

Following were Winnipeg prices this week last year:

Wheat—No. 1 hard, in store Fort William, 89 to 90c. No business doing.

Flour—Local price per sack unchanged at: Patent, \$2.55; bakers, \$2.35. Bran—Advanced to \$10 per ton.

Shorts—Advanced \$2 to \$12 per ton.

Oats—Per bushel, car lots on track, Winnipeg, 36 to 37c for new.

Barley—32 to 35c for feed; malting, 35 to 40c.

Flax seed—Prices to farmers, country points, 60c per bushel.

Butter—Dairy, shippers buying at 14 to 16c; creamery, jobbers' price, 21 to 22c.

Cheese—Jobbers selling at 11c.

Eggs—Jobbers offering mixed and held fresh at 18c.

Beef—City dressed, fresh, 4 to 5c.

Mutton—5 to 6c.

Hogs—Dressed, 41-2 to 53-4c.

Veal—5 to 6c.

Lambs—6 to 7c.

Cattle—Butchers, 2 to 23-4c.

Hogs—Live, off cars, \$4.50 per 100 lbs. for best bacon.

Sheep—Nominal at 21-4 to 21-2c off cars here; lambs, 23-4 to 3c.

Seneca robb—18 to 20c lb.

Hides—Green city hides, 7c for No. 1.

Hay—Baled, on track, \$6.

Potatoes—35 to 40c per bushel.

Poultry—In good demand and prices easier: Chickens, 7 to 8c per lb.; turkeys, 10 to 12c; geese, 8 to 9c; ducks, 8 to 9c.

Winnipeg Raw Fur Prices.

Prices as to size and color, for prime skins: skins taken out of season range much lower:

Badger.....	.....\$ .25	\$.50
Bear black	5.00	25.00
Bear brown	4.50	20.00
Bear, black yearlings.	5.00	7.00
Bear, brown yearlings .....	.....	.....
.....	3.00	4.50
Bear, grizzly.....	4.50	20.00
Beaver large.....	5.00	6.75
Beaver, medium	3.00	4.75
Beaver, small	1.50	2.50
Beaver, cuts.....	.50	1.00
Beaver, castors, lb.....	2.50	5.50
Fisher, dark	6.00	8.00
Fisher, pale	3.00	5.00
Fox, cross dark, large	5.00	10.00
Fox, cross pale	2.50	5.00
Fox, kitt .....	.25	.75
Fox, red	1.00	1.60
Fox, silver dark	50.00	75.00
Fox, pale	25.00	60.00
Lynx, large	1.50	2.25
Lynx, medium	1.00	1.50
Lynx, small .....	.50	.75
Marten, dark	3.00	5.50
Marten, pale or brown	2.50	4.25
Marten, light pale.....	1.00	3.00
Mink, dark .....	.50	2.00
Mink, pale .....	.75	1.50
Musquash, winter .....	.04	.12
Otter, dark	6.00	10.00
Otter, pale	5.00	8.00
Skunk .....	.25	.75
Wolf, timber	2.00	3.00
Wolf, prairie .....	.40	.75
Wolverine, dark	3.00	3.50
Wolverine, pale	1.25	2.00

China and Japan.

Mr. D. E. Brown, general agent for the C. P. R. in China, Japan, and India, arrived in the city Tuesday morning from the west, accompanied by Mrs. Brown. They intend staying

here for several days, and while in the city will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kerr.

A Free Press representative had the pleasure of a few minutes chat with Mr. Brown in the afternoon, in the course of which he discoursed most entertainingly of the remarkable expansion of trade in the far east during the last few years.

"Speaking roughly," said he, "I estimate that in the last five years trade between these eastern countries and the United States and Canada has more than quadrupled in volume. With China the foreign exports are principally silk, tea, matting, rice and curios. In return for this they import raw cotton, flour and other products from this country and the United States. With the advent of a more progressive policy, the foreign trade of China will increase enormously, and within a very few years.

"The Chinese are good business men and will scrupulously live up to any agreement they may enter into. If they are honorably dealt with there is never any danger of attempting to be dishonest or to repudiate their commercial obligations.

"In Japan the expansion of foreign trade has been remarkable and possibly unprecedented. Manufactories of every description are everywhere springing up and their importations of machinery have been very large indeed. Whenever possible the Japanese by manufacturing industries do away with the necessity of foreign importations, but in making these efforts they are forced for the present to buy most of the machinery they require from abroad. The raw cotton importations are growing to a tremendous volume, and the cotton imported is absorbed by their mills and exported again as finished products."

"Has the change of the monetary standard from silver to gold exerted an appreciable effect on Japanese foreign trade?" the reporter queried.

"Not at all; because their gold standard rests practically on a silver basis. That is, the ratio of value between gold and silver has been placed at 32 to 1, instead of 16 to 1, as advocated by American metallists. So that, though Japanese money is gold money, it has practically the value of silver money. Thus their 10-yen piece is worth only \$5 in our money, although it is a gold coin. Exchange stands at 50, just as it was before the change was made. The remarkable industrial advance has exerted an inevitable influence in the direction of raising prices, and many commodities have more than doubled in price in the last few years."

"How has the action of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, in inaugurating a service to Seattle, affected the C. P. R. trade?"

"It certainly has not affected it injuriously. The volume of trade has been so large that we have been obliged to put on two extra cargo boats to handle it. The Japanese company started the service with the expectation of receiving a subsidy from their government, but in this they were disappointed. Another company, which started a service between Yokohama and San Francisco, were similarly disappointed."

In reply to a question as to what effect the Sino-Japanese war had exerted on the defeated nation, he replied that it was infinitesimal, and that thousands of people in the territories through which the Japanese army marched, imagined the war to

be merely one of their own periodical local insurrections. Millions of Chinamen had probably never heard of the war at all.

As to the recent scare over the Pavloff-Li Hung Chang muddle, Mr. Brown said that British subjects living in China were not in the least alarmed over any reports of Russian commercial supremacy. British interests, they felt assured, were being thoroughly safeguarded, and, personally, he thought that so far from there being any danger of British influence becoming overshadowed, it was increasing all the time, and British commercial interests would, he felt sure, increase ten-fold within a very few years.

Mr. Brown left Hong Kong in April last and proceeded to Great Britain via the Suez canal. He spent three months enjoying the sights in Europe and then crossed the Atlantic to Montreal. Since then he has been as far west as Vancouver. He is no stranger in Winnipeg, having been traffic superintendent here from 1883 to 1886, when he went to Vancouver as assistant general traffic manager to Mr. Robert Kerr. In 1892 he was appointed general agent for Japan, China and India, and has since made Hong Kong his headquarters. He will probably be in Winnipeg until Saturday morning.

Land Sales.

C. P. R. land sales for the month of November amount to 27,000 acres for which \$83,000 was realized. This is a substantial increase over the showing made in October, when 17,000 acres were sold for \$56,000.

The Northwest Land company disposed of 6,920 acres during November, for which \$37,600 was paid. In October only 4,280 acres were sold for a total of \$22,500. Since the beginning of the year this company has realized \$364,316 for 68,115 acres sold, which is just about double the business done from January to November in 1897, when 33,700 acres had been sold for \$184,000.

Another Railroad.

Another railroad has been added to the list of Manitoba roads now in operation. The first section of the Manitoba and Southwestern, from Winnipeg to Ste. Anne, has been put in operation. Trains leave the Canadian Pacific railroad station, Winnipeg, for this line, pending the establishing of permanent terminal facilities in the city. There are some excellent agricultural districts between Winnipeg and the timber region, east of the Lake of the Woods, into which the road penetrates, the development of which will be materially hastened by the construction of this railway.

ACTIVE SOLICITORS WANTED Everywhere for "The Story of the Philippines," by Murat Halstead, commissioned by the Government as Official Historian to the War Department. The book was written in army camps at San Francisco, on the Pacific with General Merritt, in the hospitals at Honolulu, in Hong Kong, in the American trenches at Manila, in the insurgent camps with Aguinaldo, on the deck of the Olympia with Dewey, and in the roar of battle at the fall of Manila. Bonanza for agents. Brimful of original pictures taken by government photographers on the spot. Large book. Low prices. Big profits. Freight paid. Credit given. Drop all trashy unofficial war books. Outfit free. Address F. T. Barber, Sec., Star Insurance Bldg., Chicago.