

## Oat-meal Mills.

Oat-meal is a much more popular article of diet in the present day than it was when Dr. Samuel Johnson defined oats as a serial on which, in England, they fed horses and in Scotland men, and the use of the same has greatly increased all over the northern portion of this continent. In Manitoba it is prepared in every hotel and the majority of homes, and the demand for the same is steadily increasing.

The manufacture of oat-meal has of late years been extensively engaged in in the Eastern Provinces, and several of the Central States have also large mills devoted exclusively to its manufacture. To such an extent has the industry grown in both of the districts named that American oatmeal is now a regular article in the Scotch markets, and is steadily growing in favor there.

It seems that mills of this class would now be profitable industrial investments in Manitoba. If the industry can be profitable in the States of Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin, where the finest oats seldom exceed thirty pounds to the bushel in weight, it should surely be so in Manitoba where the average weight is at least five pounds more to the bushel, and forty pounds is by no means uncommon. Besides the oats of this northern latitude have much the advantage in quality of those raised further south. Millers can thus start out with a great advantage in the matter of grain, and in many other points they are equally favored. For instance, all the oat-meal produced in the Central States is manufactured upon the kiln-dried process, and is consequently liable to attract moisture. In these States the air is much more humid than in Manitoba, and oat-meal manufactured in the same manner here would not be so liable to injury from damp.

The strongest argument against the success of such mills at present is the scarcity of oats; but it will be discovered before the Summer of 1883 that this scarcity is by no means so great as was anticipated. The great famine for oats during last winter caused many to sow that grain in spring, and it was fully expected that the demand from railway contractors would be sufficient to keep prices up this winter. Unfortunately for such farmers, too many made that calculation, and a dozen farmers in the Province could now be picked out whose crops, without any further supply would be enough for all the contractors' horses now engaged at railway work for nearly a year to come. Already the surplus of oats in the country is becoming known, and prices are falling, and it is probable that a large quantity may have to be shipped out of the country at a great loss to present holders. With the rapid settlement of the North-west we must expect a great increase in the growing of a crop which is one of the surest that can be sown, and which gives the extraordinary yield of from 75 to 100 bushels to the acre. The establishment of oat-meal mills in Manitoba would furnish a steady home market for this grain and give the raising of it an impetus that would soon supply plenty for manufacturing purposes. As to a market for the oat-meal manufactured the local demand would supply one for some years to come, and when quick transportation to the Atlantic sea-board is obtained Manitoba would be in a position to successfully compete in the markets of Britain.

## Winnipeg Wholesale Trade

### AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

There is still a demand in this branch for stubble plows, but this is getting daily more limited, and the bulk of the business of dealers is confined to hob-sleighs and cutters. As near as can be estimated about two thousand of the former and over three hundred of the latter have been received in the city, or are in course of transit since the opening of the season. Country branches are making heavy demands, and a prosperous trade is fully anticipated.

### BOOTS AND SHOES.

Country demands still continue good in this line, and numerous heavy shipments have been made during the week. Houses in the city are still receiving consignments from the East, some of which have been delayed in transit. A few weeks of hustle are still expected by the trade.

### CLOTHING.

Returns from travellers are being received in this branch, and country trade still keeps good. Heavy winter goods are in great demand from many points, and opening stocks are quite numerous among orders received. Collections from the country are reported improving.

### DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

Trade in this department has made somewhat of an improvement during the week. The dullness of the previous week has given place to quite a lively feeling, and the new goods which have been arriving during the past ten days are going out freely. Collections are reported free.

### DRY GOODS.

The state of trade in this branch is of the most satisfactory nature. The rush of the last few weeks has somewhat abated, but a steady good business is being done, and goods are going out with a regularity which could not be expected at this late season, except during the present tide of marked prosperity. Some travellers are still out, and the returns from these both in orders and collections are of the most encouraging description. It is generally expected that the state of affairs will continue for a few weeks yet.

### FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

There is no great rush of business in this branch, but wholesale houses report a fair steady trade, with everything connected in a healthy state.

### FISH.

Fresh whitefish are out of the market at present owing to this being the closed season. Lake trout is still plentiful and sell at 11c; findon haddocks still hold at \$1.75 a kitt, and salt whitefish and mackerel have made their appearance in kitts also. Oysters in bulk have been selling at \$4 a gallon for counts, \$3.50 for selects, and \$2.50 for standards. Canned oysters are still at 65c for selects and 55c for standards, but a break in prices is expected. Smoked salmon and eels still sell at 30c.

### FRUIT.

Louisiana oranges have made their first appearance for the season during the week, and are now selling freely at \$1.5 a barrel. Almeria grapes are still plentiful at \$9.00 to \$10. Apples are in heavy demand, while the supply is but limited, although some choice consignments have been received during the week.

Prices have ranged from \$6 to \$7 a barrel, and are on the upward tendency. California winter pears are quoted at \$7 to \$7.50 a case, and lemons find slow sale at \$7.

### FURS AND HIDES.

The fur trade is confined to manufactured goods in which a rushing business is now being done, owing to the evident approach of winter. Manufacturers have had a very busy week. Hides and pelts are scarce, and the demand is not great. The trade in that branch may be considered very quiet.

### FURNITURE.

Business in this branch is still rather dull, although during the closing days of the week some very encouraging country orders were received. Country dealers are waiting an actual demand before ordering.

### FUEL.

Some heavy contracts for wood have been filled during the week, and with the approaching closing of navigation higher prices are expected. Dry poplar still sells at \$7.50 in car lots, and tamarac at \$9 to \$9.50. The competition in coal is still keen, and many have been taking advantage of the same to stock up for the coming winter. The lowest prices for anthracite yet quoted are \$13.25 on track and \$14.50 delivered. Bituminous for grate purposes holds at \$14, but one sale of steam coal has been made at \$12.50 on track. There is every prospect of prices keeping down for a week or two, and a further reduction is not at all unlikely.

### GROCERIES.

Trade is reported as very satisfactory in this branch of business. There is no slackening up of demands from the country, and an increase is expected during the coming month. Travellers report collections much improved, and with another week of dry weather to facilitate the marketing of crops they would be very good all over the country. There has been no change in the prices of staple articles, although a firm feeling is apparent in every department. Sugars are quoted at 9½c to 10½c for bright yellow; 11½c to 12c for granulated. Green coffees are unchanged, and are quoted Rio, 15c to 18c; Government Java, 25c to 27c; Mocha, 36c.

### HARDWARE.

The demand in the heavy department of this branch is slightly on the decline owing to the fact that out-door construction work is nearing a close. Shelf goods are still in heavy demand and likely to continue so for a week or two, while the stove department is unusually lively. There has been no change in the prices of any class of goods, and business is in a very steady and healthy state.

### LUMBER.

It is the same report from this branch. Dealers are overcrowded with demands, and there is no prospect of any let up for weeks to come.

Prices remain the same as last week: Sheet-iron, \$28; common dimension, \$30 to \$32; fencing, \$25 to \$34; stock, \$33 to \$40; flooring, \$35 to \$45; partition, \$45 to \$50; graded clear, \$50 to \$70; shingles, \$4.50 to \$6; lath, \$5.

### STATIONERY AND PAPER.

A steady growth in the volume of business