

## GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

**WHEAT**—After the heavy slump in the markets last week, a gradual recovery was experienced in the first three days of this week, and the close of the markets in the States on Wednesday marked an advance of 3c per bushel from the lower point of the previous week. Thursday brought the prediction of more favorable and springlike weather and markets sagged. Yesterday's (Friday) opening reflected the situation arrived at the day before, and a further decline was allowed, the markets continuing with little change until about an hour before the close, when a deluge of crop damage reports came on the scene, and in a short time prices were pushed up 2c per bushel, and the close yesterday in Chicago, etc., showed an advance of about 3c per bushel on the week, and 4c from the low point of last week. For the present, and for a few weeks yet, these crop reports will dominate the markets, and whenever the prospects can be made to look bad, the shorts get scared, and in their efforts to cover their short sales the market easily spurts ahead, but it as easily sags again under opposite influences. In the outcome of the crop, it is probable that a sufficient area of it will come through so far right, as to provide bread for all. It should ever be kept in mind by the conservative dealer, that last season's crops over the world have afforded the largest aggregate yield of wheat ever recorded in one season, and that the area in America and Europe seeded to winter wheat this season, is probably larger than in any previous year, and that notwithstanding more or less damage reports, the crop is still on the whole in a condition of considerable promise for its future yield. While the air is presently filled with the at times sensational damage reports usual at this period of the season, reports published by well-known competent observers are more studied and reliable. For instance the Cincinnati Price Current says in its last issue, "Little freezing the past week over wheat area. Winter not advancing growth, but not appreciably unfavorable. General prospect practically unchanged." The primary movement in the States this week is moderately larger than last year at same time, but export clearances are running much lighter than in recent weeks. Last week the American visible supply increased 193,000 bushels, against a decrease last year of 998,000 bushels. The world's visible increased 678,000 bushels, against a decrease last year of 2,600,000 bushels. Argentine shipments this week are 1,200,000 bushels, against 2,168,000 last week. Reports from Europe of the winter wheat crop there have continued to be of excellent tenor, but this week Europe and England are having a spell of winter weather. Much snow has fallen and the frost is severe, and it remains to be seen what effect this may have on the crop. The English markets seem to keep easy over it, but the continental markets have been advancing the last three days.

The local market is very dull and almost no trading doing. Prices in a general way follow the ups and downs of the American markets. On Monday 1 hard spot, Fort William, sold for 67 3-4c, and on Tuesday 68c was nominally the price. On Wednesday with stronger American markets there were sales of 1 hard at 69c,

and on Thursday at 68 1-2c. Yesterday (Friday) in the forenoon a few cars changed hands at 68 1-2c, but in the afternoon, with the spurt that had taken place in Chicago, etc., sellers demanded 70c for spot 1 hard, but did not get it. A little was sold at 69 1-2c. There was no animation on the part of buyers, neither any pressure to sell on the part of holders. No. 2 hard and No. 1 northern are 3c less than 1 hard, and 3 hard 2 northern and 1 spring are 7c less than 1 hard. Tough wheat is very little wanted owing to the advance of the season and the glut of it in the Ontario market. It may be quoted at 58c in store Fort William for tough 2 hard, and 55c for tough 2 northern. Dried wheat is also in very small request. There is only one firm on this market that has bought dried wheat freely. The quotation for dried wheat at present is for dried 2 hard 6 1-2c under 1 hard price and for dried 2 northern 8 1-2c under 1 hard.

**FLOUR**—Prices to the retail trade declined 5c this week and are now quoted as follows: Patents, \$1.80; strong bakers, \$1.60; XXXX, 90c to \$1.00 per sack of 95 pounds. Discount of 5c per sack.

**MILLEED**—Stocks of millfeed in this city are still very light and prices remain unchanged. Bran \$11 shorts \$13, with \$1 off to dealers.

**GROUND FEED**—Best corn feed is \$20 per ton, and a range of \$18 to \$20 is given for this feed. Best oat chop is worth \$20 per ton. Mixed barley and oats are worth \$16 to \$18 per ton. Lower grades of feed range from \$16 to \$14 per ton. Oatmeal is quoted at \$24 per ton.

**OATS**—As the season advances the market for oats become more and more disappointing. Some dealers estimate that the quantity available in Manitoba is less than what it was a year ago. The danger of stored oats becoming spoiled hereafter with the approach of warm weather. It is oats in farmers' hands that will be first in danger as they are usually stored in smaller quantities and more susceptible to changes of temperature. We quote good feed oats at 33 to 35c and but little offering. Milling oats are very scarce. None offering.

**BARLEY**—Barley continues scarce. Feed grades are quoted at 25c country points and malting 30c, equal to 28 and 33c here.

**OATMEAL**—Local millers quote rolled oats at \$1.90 in 50 lb. sacks, which is a reduction of 5c from last week's prices. Imported oatmeal costs laid down here \$1.75 to \$1.80 on track, Winnipeg, for car lots.

**FLAX SEED**—Quoted nominally at 70 to 80c.

**CORN**—There is not much corn coming in yet to the local market. From 41 to 43c per bushel is the ruling quotation.

**WHEAT**—Country prices—Prices to farmers at Manitoba country points are ranging from 50 to 52c for best grades of wheat.

**BUTTER**—Creamery—The market remains steady and about nominal. Jobbers are quoting 22 to 23c as to quantity and quality. Stocks are very light.

**BUTTER**—Dairy—The market for dairy butter is in rather bad shape. There is little demand for anything but the finest fresh made goods. Large stocks are held by commission men and general merchants throughout the country and it looks as though traders would have

to depend upon eastern markets for the absorption of at least a part of these stocks of held goods. The prevailing price for best grades of dairy butter is 15 to 16c with an occasional lot of extra choice bringing 17c in a small way. For inferior grades 13 to 14c is asked. These are prices as asked by commission houses.

**CHEESE**—Cheese is being sold very low here, compared with prices in the east. This is owing to the evident desire of some holders to clear stocks, to the sacrifice of the profit which they should be able to make. In fact it is said that at the price cheese is being offered here, it could almost be shipped to Montreal at a better profit. Jobbers are offering it 9 3-4c for large and 10c for small.

**EGGS**—The continued cold weather has introduced an unusual state of affairs into the Easter egg market. Receipts so far have been very light and the stocks held at the end of this week by Winnipeg jobbers is exceedingly small. The market opened on Monday at 20c, but worked down to 18c a day or two later and are now quoted at 17c for fresh stock. It would not be surprising if an advance should be made again next week if something does not turn up to help out the Easter trade. After that demand has been supplied a slump may be expected. Some eggs have been brought in from Minneapolis, where they have been quoted at 11c to 12c, including cases, equal to say 16c laid down here.

**POULTRY**—Live chickens will bring 60 to 70c, but are scarce. Buyers are offering 10 to 12c per lb. for good mixed lots of chickens, as to quality. Turkeys, 10 to 12c, as to quality, geese, 8 to 9c; ducks, 10c.

**VEGETABLES**—Potatoes have been in good demand at 40 to 45c per bushel, and receipts are as yet very light. There is some demand for car lots to ship west, but few are offering; turnips, 25c per bushel; parsnips, 1 1-2c per pound; carrots, 40 to 45c, beets, 40c per bushel; cabbage, 2c per lb.; onions, 3 1-2c per lb. Green stuff is beginning to come in and lettuce may now be obtained at 40c per dozen. Imported rhubarb is offering at 10c per lb. Radish, parsley and onions are offering in small quantities.

**SINCEA ROOT**—None offering. About 19c represents the value.

**HIDES**—Now that the season is getting far advanced holders of frozen hides should be very careful about holding them longer if they intend to ship at all as there is great danger of them becoming hair slip and otherwise damaged. We are liable to have a sudden change in the weather any time now, warm enough to spoil green hides in transit. Some got caught every spring by holding too long. The effect of this on their selling qualities is obvious. No change has yet taken place in prices here, but the weakness in southern markets continues. We quote frozen hides, 6 to 6 1-2c less 5 pounds tare. Inspected hides, No. 1, 7c; No. 2, 6c; No. 3, 5c. Brandled hides grade No. 2, and bulls No. 3; kip 6c to 6 1-2c; calf 5c; bacon skins, 15c to 25c each; sheepskins and lambskins 40 to 65c as to length of wool; horsehides 50c to \$1 each. Hides were 1-2c lower at Montreal this week. See telegraphic report.

**HAY**—Baled is quoted at \$1.50 to \$1.75 per ton on track here and loose on the street market at \$6 to \$7.50 as to quality. Prices are easing off a little at country points, but this has