

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

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

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, August 19.

The event of the week in commercial circles has been the meeting of the shareholders and creditors of the Commercial Bank. The meeting is being continued to day. At the first meeting on Thursday, the provincial liquidator presented a financial statement, which has had a very reassuring effect, and depositors who were in fear and trembling, are now quite hopeful that they will be repaid in full. The statement shows a surplus in assets over liabilities to the public, of \$609,000. The liquidators estimated that all public liabilities would be paid in full, and that the shareholders would receive back 40 to 50 per cent. of their claims. This is perhaps rather a sanguinary view, but it is to be hoped expectations will be realized. A large sum has already been realized from assets. Mr. McLean, who represented British creditors and shareholders, spoke hopefully of a prospect of reorganizing the bank, under new management, by raising a sufficient fund in England to place the bank on a sound basis.

In railway circles there have been some events this week. When the Manitoba North-western road went into the hands of a receiver recently, the employees were about three months in arrears of pay. Application was made to the court to allow the receiver to pay these demands. The English bondholders, through their agents here, objected to the payment of the employees, and a strike was at once inaugurated. As the strike was likely to cause much greater loss to the company than the amount of arrears of wages, the objections were withdrawn, and the strike was declared off after a very brief duration. The other event of interest in railway circles is the seizure of the rolling stock of the Great Northwest Central railway, by judgment creditors, but this has not interfered with the operation of the road so far.

Another labor disturbance this week is the strike of workmen at two of the Lake of the Woods saw mills, over differences regarding the adoption of a compulsory insurance plan, by which a small sum was kept out of the wages of the men, besides other grievances. The mills are two of the six mills controlled by the amalgamated companies. The two mills have been closed down, probably for the season, as the managers are indifferent about their operation, having a good supply of lumber on hand, and sufficient running capacity left yet to meet requirements.

The locked-out men will have no difficulty in getting work, if they will come west to the Manitoba harvest fields. There is a sharp demand for harvest help now, and for good men, \$30 to \$40 per month is being offered, board and lodgings free.

GREEN FRUITS.—Stocks of lemons are exhausted, and as new fruit has not arrived yet, the market is bare. New Vadillas are expected daily. The last lemons in sold at \$7 per box. Melons from Missouri are selling freely, and are proving good quality. Blackberries are higher for good quality, and getting less plentiful. Ontario tomatoes are arriving, and taking the place of imported stock. The price varies widely, owing to irregular quality. Bananas are just about out of the market altogether, and are likely to continue scarce, as fruit in good condition cannot be secured. California soft fruits are much lower, and at present prices, quality considered, are better value for domestic preserving than native and eastern fruits. California grapes have begun to arrive. Prices are: California oranges, Valencia, \$6.50 to \$7; oranges, Mediterranean sweets, \$4.75 to \$5 per box; Ontario tomatoes, 75c to \$1.50 per bushel baskets as to quality; tomatoes, in bushel baskets, \$1.00; California peaches, \$1.50 per box; Bartlett

pears, \$3 to \$3.25 per box; plums, \$1.50 per crate; tokay and muscat grapes \$3.50 per crate; bananas, \$2.75 to 3.50 per bunch; Georgia grapes, 90c per 8lb basket; southern apples, firm at 7.00 per barrel; blueberries, 4 to 6c per lb; watermelons, \$1 per dozen. Native raspberries are selling on the street market at about \$1.50 per pail.

WHEAT.—The tendency in prices has been almost steadily downward this week in United States markets, and the gain of the previous week has about vanished. Prices of Manitoba wheat continue to be held away above relative values elsewhere, but there is no wheat selling to speak of. An odd car is taken now and again by eastern millers, who will pay the comparatively fancy price demanded for it, for mixing with eastern wheat, which latter can be bought in Ontario at 20 cents per bushel under the price of No. 2 hard Manitoba. Manitoba wheat is, of course, not worth the difference, and consequently a very little is being sold. There is considerable Manitoba wheat of last crop held yet, the quantity at Lake Superior ports and interior points here being about 3,750,000 bushels. This is held by eastern parties, and as noted it has been held at above market values, in the hope of an advance, as it could only be sold at a heavy loss at present basis of prices in export markets. With the new crop now soon to come to market, it will be interesting to watch the course of prices for this old wheat. The new crop will have to be bought on an export basis, which is very much below the price old wheat is held at, and this will have a tendency to weaken the price of old wheat, especially if the new crop comes to market in good milling condition. Old wheat can hardly be kept up to present relative prices demanded for it, while new wheat is being bought at export values. With prices so low, however, it is not to be expected that new wheat will come in freely early in the season.

Good harvest weather has been experienced this week. The temperature has been moderate, with cool nights. One or two nights were so cool as to cause alarm, but so far the crop is considered safe. It is still a matter of speculation as to the damage caused by the hot weather at the end of July. Some splendid hand threshed samples of new wheat have been received, however, which show no shrinkage from the hot spell. Considerable harvesting has been done this week, and next week will be the biggest harvesting week on the crop. The tendency is rather to reduce the average yield, which some competent authorities now estimate at 15 bushels per acre. A Manitoba government crop report was issued to-day, which places the average yield for the province at 21 bushels per acre. This is in excess of the general opinion among grain men, by at least five bushels per acre.

FLOUR.—Prices in small lots to the local trade are quoted: Patents, \$1.50, strong bakers' \$1.60; XXXX 70 to 95c; superfine 75 to 50c. Low grades irregular. Brands of some mills sell at 5 to 10c under these prices, even in small lots.

MILLSTUFFS.—The price to the local trade, less than car lots, delivered is the same at \$3 to \$9 for bran and \$10 to \$11 for shorts as to quantity. Millstuffs have been scarce, particularly shorts, as the mills have been shipping east, where there is a good demand at profitable prices.

GROUND FEED.—Held at \$17 to 20 per ton as to quality. Oil cake meal, sacked, \$26 per ton.

OATMEAL, ETC.—Unchanged. Rolled oats quoted at \$2.20 per sack, while some brands are quoted \$2.30. Granulated varies from \$2.20 to \$2.30; standard \$1.75 to \$2; cornmeal \$1.60 to \$1.65; beans, \$1.80 to \$1.90 per bushel; split peas, \$2.40 to 2.50; pot barley \$2.40 to 2.50; pearl barley \$4 per sack.

OATS.—Quiet, and held at about the same as a week ago, cars on track at 23 to 31c per bushel, local freights paid. Car lots, country

points, about 24 to 26c per bushel of 34 pounds. Prices are maintained, notwithstanding that offers are now being asked for new crop, for future shipment. The new crop, which has suffered from drought throughout the western and great portion of the province, will average poor, having suffered more than wheat. This has a tendency to maintain prices.

BARLEY.—Held at about 22 to 23c on track at country points.

Butter.—Rather firmer feeling in butter, and local dealers are more active buyers to store. A fair range of quotations appears to be from 12 to 13c for round lots of dairy, while 15c is obtained for choice single packages.

CHEESE.—Factories are holding at about 9c for later makes.

EGGS.—Dealers are paying 10 to 11c for receipts, as to quality, and selling at 12 to 12½c, candled, per dozen. The average quality is rather mixed, and there is considerable loss in handling over, which demands a wider margin than usual.

CURED MEATS.—We quote: Dry salt long clear bacon 12c; smoked long clear 13c; spiced rolls 10½ to 11½c; breakfast bacon 14 to 15½c; smoked hams, 14c; shoulders, 12 to 12½c; mess pork, \$20.00 per barrel. Sausage quoted: bologna sausage 9c lb; German sausage, 9c; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 9c per half lb. packet.

LARD.—Pure held at \$2.50 to 2.60, in 20-pound pails, per pail; compound, at \$2.10 to \$2.20 per pail.

DRESSED MEATS.—Beef quoted at 5 to 5½c as to quality, Mutton at 11c. Pork, 7 to 7½c. Veal 7 to 8c.

HIDES.—Dull and unchanged. We quote Winnipeg inspected here as follows: No. 1 cows, 3c; No. 2, 2c; No. 3, 1½c; No. 1, heavy steers, 1c; No. 2 steers, 3c. Real veal 8 to 13-lb skins, 4 to 5c per pound. Kips about same as hides. Sheepskins, shearlings, 15 to 25c each. Lambskins, 20c to 25c. Tallow, 4½ to 5c rendered; 2 to 3c rough.

WOOL.—The general quality of unwashed Manitoba fleece brings about 5½c. Ordinary long wools bring 7 to 8c per lb; mixed quality, containing some finer grades 8 to 9c lb; downs 9 to 10c as to quality; fine wools, such as good merino grades, 10 to 11c.

SENeca ROOT.—The tendency is lower and dealers are cautious, some are not buying, as the export market is very uncertain. We quote 25 to 26c for good dry root and 10c for green. Some very dirty and partially dried root has been rushed in, in order to catch the high prices offered recently, but it is being refused. The root should be thoroughly washed, so as to have a bright appearance, and then be well dried.

Silver.

The course of the silver market this week has been controlled by the possibility of a favorable compromise on the questions before Congress, supplemented by rumors that the Indian government was considering a proposition to reopen its mints to free silver coinage at an increased ratio, say 24 to 1 in gold. Under these influences prices advanced steadily to the highest level touched since the Indian mints closed, the London price advancing 1½d, to 34½ pence per ounce, while in New York the commercial quotation stood 2½c higher, at 76c. Purchases by the treasury since the beginning of the month have been more liberal, and offerings are correspondingly free. On Friday the market was slightly lower on realizing sales and less favorable prospects for silver in Congress. Silver prices: London, August 11, 34½; New York, 75c.

Fresh canned herring are now in very active demand here, says a Toronto paper, owing to the higher prices asked for salmon. They are put up chiefly in Aberdeen, Scotland, in cases of 100 tins each. The jobbing price is \$1.20 per doz.