

## THE SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, April 14.

Weather has been colder, with rain and snow during the past week, and seeding has hardly been started yet. From two or three points in the west reports come that some seeding was being done, but this was decidedly exceptional, and in most sections nothing has been done yet. Navigation is expected to open at Thunder bay about May 1 or a little later. Business is showing signs of improvement in hardware, paints, lumber, etc., but prices remain about as before. No changes have been made on account of the tariff yet, in prices, and there is not likely to be much change until goods come in by the water route. In hardware, paints, etc., heavy goods now in stock have been carried for some time, with expenses accumulating upon them, which offsets for the present any tariff reductions. In lumber no change has been announced yet in prices.

## Winnipeg Markets.

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

**GREEN FRUITS**—Oranges, lemons and bananas are about the only full lines in the market. Some apples are still to be had. Malaga grapes are out. New maple sugar is offering, and a little syrup has arrived, but there will be more here when navigation opens, at lower prices. Prices are: Oranges, Florida, \$4.50 to \$5.00 per box, as to sizes, etc. California oranges, \$3.25 to \$3.75. Lemons, new Messina, \$5.00 to \$5.50. Bananas, \$3.00 to \$4.00 per bunch. California comb honey, \$8.50 per case of 48 sections. New maple sugar, 13c per pound in 1-lb. cakes.

**RAW FURS**—There is very little doing lately in furs, and the quantity received here this season continues to fall short of former years. Quotations below will about cover the range of price in Winnipeg. The value of a skin varies as to size, color, and condition of fur. The top price is for large skins, of prime quality. Occasionally an extra large, fine skin is received which will bring even more than the top quotation:—

Badger, per skin .....	\$ 05 to \$ 60
Rear, black .....	50 to 20 00
Rear, brown .....	50 to 20 00
Rear, grizzly .....	1 00 to 16 00
Beaver .....	2 00 to 7 00
Beaver castors, per pound .....	2 50 to 5 00
Ermine, per skin .....	01 to 02
Fisher .....	50 to 7 00
Fox, cross .....	75 to 6 00
Fox, kit .....	10 to 00
Fox, red .....	25 to 1 50
Fox, silver .....	5 00 to 70 00
Lynx .....	25 to 3 00
Marten .....	75 to 2 50
Mink .....	25 to 1 50
Musquash .....	02 to 10
Otter .....	1 50 to 9 00
Raccoon .....	50 to 85
Skunk .....	05 to 50
Timber wolf .....	25 to 3 00
Prairie wolf, large .....	25 to 75
" small .....	25 to 55
Wolverine .....	50 to 3 50

## GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

**WHEAT**—The firm tone shown in wheat last week had a bad set-back this week. On Monday, United States markets were rather irregular, but the close was a shade above Saturday at some points. Cables were lower. Liverpool 4d lower. The visible supply decreased 696,000 bushels, making stocks in the United States and Canada, at points of accumulation, aggregate 70,762,000 bushels, as compared with 77,283,000 bushels a year ago. On Tuesday United States markets were lower, but without special features. On Wednesday there was a heavy break in United States markets, prices declining about 2c. The Washington govern-

ment crop report was the principal feature, and it was taken as a bearish document. The condition of winter wheat on April 1 is placed by the official report at 86.7, as compared with a condition of 77.4 on the first of April last year, which makes the crop nearly ten points better than a year ago, in spite of the expected damage from the recent frosts in the south. The report, however, was compiled so soon after the frosts that it would be almost impossible to estimate the damage, and later reports may be less favorable. The official figures of the winter wheat area are generally believed to be underestimated at least 2,600,000 acres or more. The area is generally placed at about 23,500,000 acres, which would produce a crop of about 293,000,000 bushels, providing the present condition of the crop is maintained. The winter wheat crop last year was about 275,500,000 bushels. On Thursday United States markets were irregular, and cables lower. Kansas and California reported drought and crop news generally were less favorable. The markets closed fractionally lower. On Friday wheat was irregular and higher in United States markets and cables were lower. Rain in Kansas produced a weak spot on the market, but European crop advices were less favorable and there was good export buying in the United States.

Wheat exports, both coasts (flour included) aggregate 1,955,005 bushels this week, against 2,788,000 bushels the week before, 2,918,000 bushels in the week last year, 2,910,000 bushels in the week two years ago, and with 2,450,000 bushels in the second week of April, 1891.

The local situation is quite stagnant, and prices are just about nominal. No business in May wheat has been learned of, and there is a wide divergence in the views of buyers and sellers. We quote May to-day at 63c, Fort William delivery, afloat. Most holders are higher, but it was offered on Friday at 63c for No. 1 hard. Cash No. 1 hard held at about 60c on track, Fort Wil. m delivery. A car sold at 59c and No. 2 hard at 57c, but this was on the break in United States markets. Stocks in store at Fort William on April 7 were 2,290,730 bushels. Receipts for the week were 34,517 bushels, and shipments nil. A year ago stocks were 3,133,926 bushels, being an increase of 77,000 bushels for the week that year.

**FLOUR**—Flour is firm but irregular. Reports from the East talk of advances in flour, of 5 to 10c, and local millers are quoting 5c and in some cases 10c higher, but prices actually obtained seem to vary from quotations, and sales of the best brands have been made at the lowest quotations of a week ago, so that we have to again repeat quotations of last week, though it seems probable that the bottom price will not hold long. Quotations in small lots to the local trade, delivered in the city are as follows: Patents \$1.55 to 1.65; strong bakers \$1.45 to 1.55; XXXX which varies widely in the quality of different mills, is quoted at 75 to \$1.00 as to quality. Lower grades, 60 to 75c. Prices per sack of 98 pounds.

**MILLSTUFFS**—Very scarce all the week, and dealers have only been able to obtain a few sacks at a time. We quote bran \$12 to \$13, and shorts at \$14 to \$15 per ton, as to quantity.

**OATMEAL, ETC.**—Rolled oatmeal is quoted at \$2.25 in small lots for 80 lb. sacks; standard, in 98 pound sack, \$2.40 and granulated, \$2.40.

**GROUND FEED**—More has been taken owing to the scarcity of bran and shorts. Prices range from \$18 to \$19 per ton as to quality for oat and barley feed.

**OATS**—Quiet and steady, though a firmer feeling reported by holders. Cars on track Manitoba country points are about the same, at 24 to 25c per bushel for feed grade, or equal to 30 to 31 on track Winnipeg.

**BARLEY**—No actual business reported. We quote 30 to 35c per bushel of 49 pounds on track, country points.

**FEED WHEAT**—A good sample of feed wheat will bring 40c per bushel of 60 pounds.

**FLAX SEED AND MEAL**—The price holds at 75c per bushel of 56 pounds here, and 70c in country markets. Ground oil cake meal quoted at \$24 to 25 per ton.

**BUTTER**—The market is much the same as reported last week and is fairly firm, but there is the general caution against an accumulation of undesirable stock at this season of the year, which will cause a decline as soon as any disposition is shown to increase the receipts beyond immediate wants. Old dairy tubs are held at 17 to 20c as to quality, and fair to good new at 20 to 22c, these being selling prices here in small lots.

**CHEESE**—Held at 12 to 13c, selling price in a small way.

**EGGS**—Have been firm under light receipts, doubtless owing to colder weather and bad roads. The price advanced to 13c early in the week, and closed firm, at 13 to 14c for fresh. Lined stock were selling at 6c.

**CURED MEATS**—Mr. Foster announced a farther change in the meat duties on Thursday. The new tariff made the duty on cured and canned meats, lard, etc., 25 per cent ad valorem, instead of 3c per pound as in the old tariff, except mess pork, which was 1½c per pound in the old tariff. The ad valorem duty has again been changed back to a specific duty of 2c per pound on cured and canned meats, lard, lard compound and cottolene. This is higher than 25 per cent on lards and lower priced meats, such as dry salt, but lower on hams and fine bacons. The 25 per cent duty would have admitted lard compounds and cottolene quite freely. Prices are: hams, 11 to 12c; breakfast bacon, 11½ to 12½c; dry salt long clear bacon, 8c; smoked long clear 9c; spiced rolls, 8½c; boned hams, 12c; mess pork, \$16.00 per barrel. Sausage is quoted: fresh pork sausage, 8c; bologna sausage 8½c per lb; German, 8½c; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 10c per half lb. packet. Pickled hogs tongues, 5c lb. Pickled pigs feet, \$1.40 per pail; pickled hocks, 3c lb.

**LARD**—Pure lard held at 5½c in 5 lb. pails; \$1.05 in 5-lb pails; \$2.00 in 20-pound pails, and \$5.00 in 50 lb. pails; compound at \$1.75 per 20lb pail; compound in 3, and 5 pound tins, \$6.65 per case of 60 pounds. Pure leaf lard in 3, 5 and 10 pound tins, quoted at \$7.25 per case of 60 pounds.

**DRESSED MEATS**—Prices fairly steady at 5 to 7c for beef. Mutton is held at 8 to 10c. Only cold storage stock offered so far, but fresh is expected in the market next week, and will be offered at 10c it is said. Hogs, 5 to 5½c. Veal, plentiful and easier, 7 to 8c.

**POULTRY**—Following prices are quoted:—11 to 12½c for turkeys, 9 to 10c for geese and ducks and 8 to 10c for chickens. Choice fresh stock will bring the top price, and lower quotation for held.

**HIDES**—Easier, and it seems probable that all the dealers will drop their prices to 2½c for No. 1 cows and 2½c for No. 1 steers, as there is evidently no margin in hides on the present basis of prices here and in the East. We quote Winnipeg inspected hides as follows:—No. 1 cows, 2½ to 2½c; No. 2, 1½ to 1½c; No. 3, 1c; No. 1, heavy steers, 2½ to 3c; No. 2 heavy steers, 1½ to 2c; No. 3 steers 1c. Calf, 8 to 13-lb skins, 4 to 5c per pound. Kips about the same as hides. We quote 40 to 50c for sheep and lamb skins, average lots, as to size, etc. Tallow, 4½c rendered; 2 to 3c rough.

**VEGETABLES**—Potatoes have been firmer, owing to bad roads, at 35 to 40c per bushel for loads on the market. There has been considerable buying for shipment to western points. Other vegetables are quoted: Turnips, 20 to 25c; carrots, 50 to 60c; beets, 40 to 50c; parsnips, 2c per lb; onions, 3c per lb. Cabbage, 2c per lb.