

## PROVISIONS.

A somewhat slackened demand for cooked meats is anticipated during Lent. The outstanding feature in the trade last week was the increase of 10c to 15c in the price of live hogs, choice stock weighed off cars selling at \$15.35 to \$15.40 per cwt. Dressed hogs are quoted at \$21.00 to \$21.50 for fresh killed stock. Lard is in good demand at unchanged prices.

Current prices are as follows:

	Per lb.
<b>Hams:</b>	
Smoked Hams, 8-14 lbs. ....	0.28
Do., 14-20 lbs. ....	0.25
Do., 20-25 lbs. ....	0.24
Do., over 25 lbs. ....	0.23
<b>Bacon:</b>	
Breakfast ....	0.28
Windsor Bacon, selected ....	0.27
Windsor Bacon, boneless ....	0.32
<b>Barrel Pork:</b>	
Short cut pork ....	40.00
Clear Fat Pork ....	43.00
Mess Pork ....	39.00
Bean Pork, American ....	39.00
Plate Pork, 200 lbs. ....	38.00
<b>Pure Lard:</b>	
Tierces ....	0.22½
Tubs ....	0.22¾
Pails ....	0.23
Tins ....	0.23
Cases, 3, 5, 10's ....	0.23½
Prints ....	0.24
<b>Compound Lard; Western Grades:</b>	
Tubs ....	0.17½
Tins ....	0.18
Cases, 3, 5, 10's ....	0.18½
Prints ....	0.19
<b>Cooked Meats:</b>	
Roast shoulder pork ....	0.33
Roast hams, boneless ....	0.35
Tierces ....	0.17½
Cooked hams, boneless ....	0.38
Cooked hams, rind off ....	0.38
Head cheese ....	0.12
English brawn ....	0.11

## LIVE STOCK.

**MONTREAL:** The supply of live stock on sale at the Montreal stockyards last week amounted to 600 cattle, 100 sheep and lambs, 1,700 hogs and 350 calves. Cattle prices were unchanged in a firm market as receipts were limited on account of the heavy condition of the roads throughout the country, and the congestion which still prevails on the railways. Trade was inclined to be slow owing to the high prices ruling and the fact that the consumption of meat is less in Lent. A fair demand was reported for canning stock of which offerings were limited.

The supply of sheep and lambs coming forward was light and consequently prices advanced 25c per 100 lbs. Calves were also stronger and prices of milkfed calves advanced 50 cents a cwt. Hogs remain unchanged under a steady demand from packers, sales of selected lots being made at \$15.25 to \$15.50.

**TORONTO:** Receipts of live stock for the past week amounted to 3,974 cattle, 609 calves, 10,941 hogs and 576 sheep and lambs. The split between prices for good butchers' and for common and medium cattle was widened by 25c to 30c as a result of the week's trade. On the opening market of the week, good cattle were steady at the previous week's close, and medium cattle were 10c to 15c off, with difficulty experienced in some cases in getting bids on some green cattle. The price movement for the week enhances the premium on finished cattle of good quality.

The run of hogs was considerably larger this week, being 10,941 head as compared with 7,340 for the previous week. Packers stated that their needs were well filled, and predicted that prices would go lower this present week if the run continues to be large. Calves were weaker in spite of the fact that the run was smaller. An increasing proportion of the calves brought into Toronto weigh between 80 and 100 lbs. and should not be marketed. Sheep and lambs were steady with the supply about the same.

Current prices in carload lots are as follows:

	Per cwt.	Per lb.
<b>Butcher steers, best..</b>	10.75	11.00
Do., good ..	10.25	10.50
Do., fair ..	9.75	10.00
Do., medium ..	8.75	9.00
Do., rough ..	8.25	8.50
<b>Butchers' cows ..</b>	8.75	9.00
Choice ..	8.25	8.50
Do., good ..	7.75	8.00
Do., fair ..	7.25	7.50
<b>Butcher bulls, best..</b>	9.75	10.00
Do., good ..	9.25	9.50
Do., medium ..	8.75	9.00
<b>Canners' cattle, bulls</b>	6.25	6.50
Do., cows ..	5.50	5.75
<b>Light Ewes ..</b>	9.75	10.00
<b>Heavy Sheep ..</b>	9.25	9.50
<b>Cattle ..</b>	9.25	9.50
<b>Lambs, Quebec ..</b>	13.25	13.50

Do., Ontario Stock..	13.75	14.25	14.50	15.00
Calves, choice ..	12.00	12.50	12.50	13.50
Milkfed ..	7.50	8.50	6.00	7.00
Do., hayfed ..	15.50	15.25	15.40	
Hogs, select, weighed off cars ..	14.50	14.75	15.00	15.22½
Do., heavy weights ..	13.25	13.50		
Sows ..				

## WINNIPEG GRAIN INSPECTIONS.

The receipts of grain at Winnipeg for the week ended March 3:

	This week.	Last week.	Last year.
No. 1 Northern ..	61	71	....
No. 2 Northern ..	274	252	....
No. 3 Northern ..	310	244	....
No. 4 Northern ..	164	149	....
No. 5 Northern ..	71	52	....
No. 6 Northern ..	46	35	....
Feed wheat ..	36	38	....
Rejected ..	35	16	....
No. grade ..	554	526	....
No. 4 Special ..	31	26	....
No. 5 Special ..	26	26	....
No. 6 Special ..	17	6	....
Winter wheat ..	0	1	....
<b>Totals ..</b>	<b>1,814</b>	<b>1,433</b>	<b>3,714</b>
Oats ..	637	542	604
Barley ..	57	41	118
Flax ..	83	68	63

## FLOUR, CEREALS AND MILLFEED.

The outstanding feature in the flour situation is the advance of 20c per bbl. which took place on Saturday, in sympathy with firmness in the wheat market. Since the last change in the price of spring wheat flour, wheat has advanced 15c a bushel, which is equivalent to 70c to 75c a barrel of flour. This fact, coupled with the low supplies on hand accounts for the increase, in today's prices. The railway situation has improved materially since our last report, as milder weather has given the workmen at the yards an opportunity to make good progress in sending out the cars. Nevertheless, shipments to points East of Montreal are slow and millers are having a great deal of difficulty in supplying their customers particularly in the Maritime provinces. The mills in general are busy filling the large orders for flour placed by the Government ten days ago. There continues to be a good demand for flour from United Kingdom buyers, but very little business can be done owing to the fact that it is next to impossible to get ocean freight space. A sale of 2,000 sacks of regulation flour was made at 58s 6d per 28s sack for shipment to Belfast, which is 1 shilling higher than the price of the previous sale.

Winter wheat flour remains unchanged, but higher prices are looked for in the near future as the Ontario mills are asking 25c to 30c a barrel more than they were. White corn flour being very scarce is up 40 cents a barrel, selling at \$7.60 a barrel in bags. Rolled oats are strong as the greater part of the output of Canadian mills is booked up for overseas orders. Mill feeds are very firm, an advance of a dollar a ton having taken place in leading lines straight cars of bran sold last week at \$38 a ton and shorts at \$43. The demand appears to be as keen as ever, in spite of the fact that supplies coming forward are materially reduced as the mills both locally and in the west have been only working to part capacity during the past month.

Current quotations are as follows:

	Montreal.	Toronto.
<b>Flour:</b>	per 96-lb. bag.	
First patents ..	4.90	4.85
Second patents ..	4.65	4.60
Strong Bakers ..	4.55	4.50
Feed Flour ..	2.85	3.70
Winter wheat flour, 90 per cent ..	4.10	4.25
<b>Cereals:</b>		
Rolled Oats, 90 lb. bag ..	3.35	3.45
Oatmeal, 98-lb. bag ..	3.80	3.80
Rolled wheat 100-lb. b. ..	3.60	....
Bag ..	4.05	....
Rye flour, 98-lb. bag ..	3.75	4.00
<b>Feeds:</b>	Per ton.	
Bran ..	36.00	35.00
Shorts ..	39.00	40.00
Middlings ..	40.00	44.00
Mouffe, pure grain grades ..	43.00	50.00
Do., mixed ..	44.00	47.00
Barley feed ..	41.00	....
Crushed Oats ..	47.00	....
Oatfeed ..	46.00	....
Hay, No. 2 ..	13.00	11.00
An extra charge of 30c is made for flour in barrels.		

## THE GRAIN MARKETS.

The grain situation is very erratic and prices are all tending upwards despite the assurances of the railroads concerning traffic conditions. The option markets have been advancing all the past week and now stand about 10c a bushel higher than they did last Monday with the premium reduced to one cent between cash and May delivery. The big demand for grain throughout the entire country cannot be met until the railway situation improves and that may not be until late after the opening of navigation if even then. What oats there are here are being held for the greater part by the Canadian Government and are awaiting to be bagged and shipped for overseas account. Oats quotations in sympathy with those for wheat have jumped up two and three cents per bushel. The C. P. R. have enormous quantities of grain to move to sea-board for overseas and this with the already acute car shortage, slightly relieved it is true in the past few days, has its effect on the market. European buying and new record prices on hogs are the reasons behind the corn situation. Corn is demanding the very highest premium, in some cases selling as high as 1.38 per bushel under a steady demand. Another factor is the estimate that domestic farm reserves of corn at some 256,000,000 bushels short of last year's aggregate while shipments from America last week were about four times those during the same period in 1916. The announcement by a large American shipping concern that it would not arm its vessels but instead transfer them for sailings to South America placed the wheat bulls at a disadvantage but the extreme probability that Congress will authorize the arming of merchantmen counteracted this.

It may be remarked that Montreal's stock of grains is the lowest on record.

The market during the past week has been decidedly bullish, with corn the leader as far as price is concerned. On the Chicago exchange wheat a week ago closed at \$1.77½ (May), \$1.51½ (June) and \$1.39½ (September) as compared with today's (Monday's) closing price of \$1.88½ for May, \$1.68½ for July and \$1.46½ for September. The Winnipeg exchange shows a similar rise; the prices a week ago being \$1.76½ (May), \$1.74½ (July) and \$1.47½ (October) in contrast to today's (Monday's) close of \$1.86½ for May, \$1.84½ for July and \$1.48½ for September.

The cash grain situation is as follows:

Grains:	per bushel.
Spring Wheat Manitoba, No. 1 ..	2.02
Do., No. 2 ..	1.99
Do., No. 3 ..	1.94
Do., No. 4 ..	1.83
Winter Wheat Ontario, No. 2 ..	1.73
<b>Oats:</b>	
No. 2 C. W. ..	0.77
Do, No 3 C W ..	0.76
Do, Extra No. 1 feed ..	0.75
Do., No. 1 feed ..	0.74
Do., No. 2 feed ..	0.73
Ontario Oats, No. 2, white ..	0.73
Do., No. 3 ..	1.72
Barley, No. 3 C. W., Red ..	1.20
Do., feed ..	1.18
Corn, American, ex-track ..	1.30

## EMBARGO MAY BE PLACED ON POTATOES.

With more favorable weather and consequently improved transportation facilities, heavier receipts of potatoes were received at Montreal last week. Prices are slightly weaker, although many good sized lots have changed hands at \$3.25 and \$3.50 a bag. Much lower prices are predicted for the near future. When the farmers have set aside their supplies for feeding, every available potato will be marketed in order to take advantage of the high prices. This unloading of supplies is bound to depress the market. With the opening of navigation shipments by boat are anticipated from Prince Edward Island where the crop was good last year, and also from the bays and inlets in the Rimouski district that are not accessible by rail.

Meanwhile the price of potatoes is very high, mainly owing to the insistent demand of American buyers who are shipping out of the country all the root vegetables they can lay their hands on. Last autumn the American Government repealed the law prohibiting the importation of blighted Canadian potatoes into the United States and since that time, although in reality we had no surplus over and above our own requirements, potatoes have been going over the border at the rate of ten or twenty carlots at a time.

The Government has been urged to take action in the matter and although no definite word has been received, it is confidently expected that an embargo will be placed on the subject.