

from imported Minnesota lumber keeps the situation interesting, and makes dealers less independent as to schedule prices. The Winnipeg city contract for pine plank for this season's requirements was given by tender at \$16 per thousand, which is a very material reduction from last year's figures. This, however, cannot be taken as establishing a price for this class of lumber, but rather it may be considered a special cut rate. The quantity required by the city will be about 200,000 feet or less. Water on the streams is not nearly as high as it was expected it would be, the heavy snow seeming to have been all absorbed by the very dry ground. Lumbermen, however, are hopeful that they will be able to move logs all right yet, and if there is no difficulty in this direction, the season will be an active one at the mills.

PAINTS, OILS AND GLASS.

The local situation is reported to be dull at present, the earlier movement having abated to some extent. Linseed oil is firm on spot. Leads and paints have an easier tendency abroad, but domestic markets are steady. Quotations here are as follows: Turpentine in barrels, inscribed gages, 75c per gal; turpentine, in barrels, guaranteed measurement, or in 5 gallon cans, 80c gallon; linseed oil in barrels, raw 77c; boiled 80c; benzine and gasoline, 50c; pure oxide paints, in barrels, 90c per gallon; coal tar \$6 a barrel; Portland cement, \$4.90 a barrel; Michigan plaster, \$3.40 a barrel, putty, in barrels, 34c a pound, bulk in barrels, 3c; whitening, in barrels, \$1.50 a cwt; Crown pure white lead, \$7.50; Royal Charter, \$7.00; Railroad, \$6.50; Elephant pure white lead, \$7.50; Elephant No. 1. do., \$6.50; Bulls head do., \$6; Calomine, \$6 per 100 pounds; Alabastine, \$7.25 per case of 20 packages. Window Glass, first break, \$2.20.

RAW FURS.

There is not much doing in raw furs, though a few lots are coming in every now and then which are put up for competition. The catch of furs last winter is believed to be small, owing to the prevalence of the grippe and other disease among the Indians up north. Prices here are well sustained, and notwithstanding the heavy declines at the late London sales, some local buyers are bidding nearly if not quite up to old prices. A Montreal circular, speaking of the London sales, says: "The decline in value has been excessive, and it is difficult to tell precisely how low skins should be bought. Beaver and raccoon only have shown favorable returns; while bear, lynx, marten and mink are neglected, so as to make even present low quotations liable to further decline. Fox, muskrat, skunk and otter will likely remain firm for this season; low prices, however, will make it difficult to obtain profit in raw furs this spring and much caution will be required to avoid loss. The circular quotes prices at Montreal as follows for average prime skins. Extra size or quality are worth more, damaged or unprime skins proportionately lower. Beaver, per lb., \$4 to \$4.50; bear, per skin, \$10 to \$14; bear cub, per skin, \$4 to \$5; fisher, \$3 to \$5; fox, red, \$1.20 to \$1.30; fox, cross, \$2 to \$4; lynx, \$2 to \$4; marten, \$0 to 90c; mink, dark, 60 to 80c.

JOS. CARMAN, wholesale fruits, produce and commission dealer, Winnipeg, returned last week from a trip south.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

WHEAT.

Wheat was steadier last week, and values were well sustained, though there were the usual ups and downs in leading markets. The visible supply statement on Monday last showed a decrease of 1,634,000 bushels, which was more than twice as large as counted upon, causing a firmer feeling. The visible supply is now down to 24,512,952 bushels against 26,989,444 bushels a year ago, 33,633,531 bushels two years ago, and 44,677,625 and 44,554,829 bushels three and four years ago respectively. The report that a cable order for 20,000 packages of Minneapolis flour had been received at an advance of 3d on previous bids, caused a strong feeling in wheat on Tuesday. The crop damage situation seems to be that the opinion is strengthening that there is very considerable damage after all to fall wheat, notwithstanding contradictory reports. Central Ohio, Central Missouri, and a strip through Indiana and Illinois are the districts most seriously affected. Boats are arriving at Duluth, and 2,500,000 bushels were reported early last week already billed for immediate shipment east. Stocks at Duluth will soon fade away. The heavy rains of a week ago covered Northern Minnesota and the state of North Dakota, vastly improving the prospect in that quarter, as the report of the previous week complained of dry soil in Dakota.

In Manitoba seeding was retarded considerably last week by a three days' rain, which started on Monday, and was followed by a light snow on Wednesday night. The rain was not heavy, but it kept up a pretty steady drizzle, extending all over the country, and giving the ground a thorough soaking. The result is that the outlook is vastly improved, and every one is now enthusiastic as to the prospects. The soil is certainly in better shape for the spring crops than it has been for several years past. A large acreage of wheat had been sown before the rain, in the western part of the province wheat seeding having been from one half to three-quarters through with. The moisture would cause some delay, but there is yet abundance of time to finish seeding, and altogether the outlook is now excellent.

Manitoba wheat has advanced sharply in Eastern Canada markets from the lowest point, the advance being from 10 to 15c altogether. Mail advices from Toronto reported holders in that market asking \$1.16 to \$1.17 for No. 1 hard, with little business doing. Delivery was offered on Tuesday at \$1.1. Montreal quotations were at \$1.15 to \$1.16.

FLOUR.

Flour continues on in its upward movement so far as local prices are concerned, and this week we have to again report an advance of 5 to 10c per 100 lbs. Eastern markets are reported firm at the recent advance there, though buyers are holding off to some extent. The Toronto *Empire* of Tuesday last reports Manitoba patents held at \$3.45 and strong bakers at \$3.10. The sharp advance in the price of Manitoba wheat in eastern markets, makes hard wheat flours very strong there. At Winnipeg prices are as follows per 100 pounds to the local trade: Patents \$2.80; strong bakers, \$2.60; second bakers, \$2.20; XXXX, \$1.40; superfine, \$1.25 Graham flour, 2.60; middlings, \$2.80 per 100 pounds.

MILLSTUFFS AND FEED.

There is still no change in bran and shorts

though prices are firm and in good demand, with the supply hardly equal to requirements. Prices held at \$14 for bran and \$16 for shorts. Ground feed is firm, owing to the advancing tendency south, which increases the cost of importations. Ton lots sell here at \$21 per ton and further advances probable, as prices are again higher south. Some already talk of advancing prices here to \$22 per ton for broken lots.

MEALS, POT BARLEY, ETC.

The firmer tendency in oatmeal has resulted in an advance of 10c per 100 pounds, due to higher prices for oats east, and locally. Prices are quoted as follows: Standard, \$2.40; granulated, \$2.50 per 100 lbs.; rolled oats, \$2.60 per sack of 90 lbs. Rolled oats are also obtained in 80 lb sacks at \$2.50. Cornmeal is held at \$1.50 per 100 lbs.; pot barley, \$2.75, and pearl barley, \$3.25 per 100 lbs.

OATS

Oats continued firm, and further advances may be necessary if the advancing tendency in outside markets keeps up. Prices in Minneapolis have advanced fully 6c per bushel from the lowest point of a few months ago. At Toronto last week feed qualities were held at 33 to 35c per bushel on track. Locally 45c per bushel is now about the inside quotation for feed qualities from store, and up to 50c for seed oats. On track prices range from 44c upward.

BUTTER.

New butter is very slow in coming forward, and the quantity of new yet offered is very small. What is received is picked up at from 17 to 19c for good to choice, and a little has sold up to 20c. These prices, however, are only in very small quantities. The very backward season is proving exceedingly favorable to holders of stocks of old butter, and the supply will be reduced considerably lower than was at one time expected, before the supply of new butter will be equal to the requirements of the market. The shortage of feed leaves cattle in poor shape, and this with the late season will make it some time yet before new butter will be moving freely. It is even reported that there has been some call for butter from country points, owing to local stocks having been exhausted and no new butter coming in of any consequence. The season has therefore been very favorable to holders of old butter and has let them out much better than they could have hoped for. Last year at this time there was about enough new moving to supply the local demand, and had the season been as early this year old butter would now be considerably more of a drag than it is. Old brings now from 10 to 12c for poor to medium, and 13 to 15 for good to choice. Only very good will bring 15c and then only in small quantities. Any holder would be glad to sell a round lot at a lower quotation.

EGGS.

Easier and selling generally at 13c per dozen. The market is now well supplied with country eggs, though the movement is rather slow for the season.

LARD.

Steady at about \$2.20 per pail of 20 pounds. Sales were heard of at \$2.10, but this was a cut rate, and in an irregular way.

CURED MEATS.

Prices have not experienced any further change locally. Provisions were not quite as strong at Chicago last week as during the previous week, though pork kept up the former advance fairly well. Provision prices can maintain a firm tone and have advanced 1 to 2c per pound all around since the increase in the duties. Prices here are as follows: Long clear dry salt bacon, 9 to 9 1/2c, spiced rolls, 11c; breakfast bacon, 12 to 12 1/2c, the higher price for boned; smoked hams, 13 to 13 1/2c per pound; mess pork, \$13 per bbl.; bologna sausage, 7c, German bologna, 9c per pound; fresh pork sausage, 8c per pound; pickled pigs feet, \$1.50 per kit of about 20 pounds; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 9c per packet.