

JAPS WIN GREAT BATTLE

Key to Russian Position Captured by the Japanese.

A Tokio despatch says: After five days of fighting, largely with artillery, the first Japanese army, under Gen. Kuroki, has forced a crossing of the Yalu River, and Sunday, with a gallant infantry charge covering a frontage of four miles, it drove the Russians from Chiu-Tien-Chang (known by the Russians as Twentchen) and the heights of the right bank of the Iho or Aida River, which enters the Yalu from the north, almost opposite Wiju. The Japanese turned the left flank of the Russian position, and in the battle of Sunday they swept away the new front interposed by the Russians to check their onward movement.

The Japanese losses on the Yalu Sunday were about 700 killed and wounded. The Russians lost over 800 men. The Japanese captured 28 quick-firing guns, 20 officers and many men. The Russians made two stands.

The present position of the Japanese is a dominating one, and they may force the abandonment of the defences erected by the Russians at Antung and other points lower down the river.

DETAILS OF THE FIGHTING.

Advices from the front say that Japanese forces began an attack on the Russians on the Yalu River last Tuesday. The battle was continued Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and Sunday. On Thursday the Japanese effected a crossing of the Yalu and secured a lodgment on the right bank of the river. The fighting on Saturday was at long range, and there was a duel with heavy guns across the river. Fighting was resumed at daylight on Sunday. The 12th division of the Japanese army forced a crossing of the Yalu River, above Wiju, just before dawn Saturday. The second pontoon bridge across the river near Wiju was completed at 8 o'clock Saturday night, and the Imperial Guards, of the second division, crossed during the night. The Russians' left flank has been turned, and a general attack began at dawn on Sunday, nearly all the Japanese batteries on the south bank of the river and a flotilla of gun-boats co-operating with the army. The Japanese have advantages of position and numbers, and are confident of routing the enemy. Early Sunday morning they captured Chiu-Tien-Chang, ten miles north of Antung, which is regarded as the key to the Russian position on the right bank of the Yalu River. It is expected that the Russians will retreat to Feng-Huan-Cheng, which is on the road to Liao-Yang.

Gen. Kuroki began the movement on Tuesday by ordering a detachment of the Imperial Guards division to seize the Island of Kurito, which is in the Yalu above Wiju, and a detachment of the second division to seize the Island of Kinteito, below Wiju.

THE ADVANCE.

One battery of Japanese artillery, which had taken a position on a hill to the east of Wiju, fired three volleys at Kosan, and at noon the Russian batteries behind Chiu-Tien-Chang shelled Wiju, wounding one Japanese soldier with sharpness. On Wednesday the Russians resumed the bombardment of Wiju, firing at intervals throughout the day. The Japanese artillery did not respond to this fire.

Gen. Kuroki had received reports to the effect that the Russians were fortifying the heights on the right bank of the Iho River. These new defences were declared to extend from Chiu-Tien-Chang through the village of Kakao to Koshoki, a distance of three and a quarter miles. The Russians resumed their bombardment on Thursday, but it was generally ineffective. Subsequently, Gen. Kuroki ordered two companies of the Imperial Guards to cross the Yalu and make a reconnaissance along the left bank of the Iho, for the purpose of discovering the character of the Russian fortifications along the heights on the right bank of the river. The Japanese force advanced toward Kosan, and then detached a small detachment to the village, where a party of Russians were encountered. In the engagement which followed five Russians were killed. The Russians shelled the reconnoitering party from an emplacement in the hills in the south-east part of Yoshoko. This fire was without effect.

The Russian artillery on the hill behind Chiu-Tien-Chang, firing at a high angle, opened on Wiju, the Island of Kurito, and Soikodo, to the south of Wiju, where some Japanese batteries had taken possession.

This firing continued into Thursday night, and Gen. Kuroki reports that while it was ineffective it disturbed his preparations for an attack. The Russians resumed the shel-

ling of Wiju on Friday, but the Japanese guns did not reply.

The twelfth division of the Japanese army was chosen to make the first crossing of the Yalu. It began its preparations on Friday by driving the Russians from their position on the bank of the river opposite Suikochin, which is eight miles above Wiju, and the point selected for the crossing. This division constructed a pontoon bridge over the river, and at 3 o'clock Saturday morning it began crossing. The entire division passed over the river during the day, and by 6 o'clock Saturday evening it was in the position assigned to it for the battle of Sunday.

The movement of the 12th Japanese division was covered by the Second Regiment of Field Artillery, and another regiment of heavy guns.

At 20 minutes of 11 o'clock Saturday morning the Russian artillery posted to the north and to the east of Chiu-Tien-Chang began shelling the patrols of Japanese infantry, which has been despatched from Kinteito Island to Chukodi, another island north of Kinteito, and under Chiu-Tien-Chang.

SILENCED RUSSIAN FIRE.

The Japanese batteries replied to this shelling, and silenced the Russian fire. Later eight Russian guns posted on a hill to the east of the Village of Makao opened upon the Imperial Guards.

In this shelling the Japanese artillery to the east of Wiju responded and the Russians ceased firing. Then both the Chiu-Tien-Chang and the Kakao batteries reopened, and this fire brought a vigorous response from the chain of Japanese batteries on the Korean side of the river. The Russian guns fired for two hours before they were silenced. In this report, Gen. Kuroki expresses the belief that his shelling was very effective against the Russians.

The Japanese losses in the bombardments of Saturday were two men killed and five officers and twenty-two men wounded. A flotilla of gunboats from the squadron of Admiral Hosoya participated in the fighting of Saturday. It encountered a mixed force of Russian infantry, cavalry, and artillery on the Manchurian bank of the Yalu below Antung, and after a sharp fight scattered them to the hills.

A bridge across the main stream of the Yalu, just above Wiju, was completed at 6 o'clock Saturday night, and the second Japanese division and the Imperial Guards immediately began crossing.

They advanced and occupied the hills back of Kosan, facing the Russian position on the right bank of the river. All through Saturday night regiment after regiment of Japanese soldiers poured across the bridge, and at a late hour Saturday night, Gen. Kuroki telegraphed to the general staff of the army: "I will attack the enemy on May 1, at dawn."

True to his promise, Gen. Kuroki at daylight on Sunday centred all his artillery on the Russian position between Chiu-Tien-Chang and Yoshoko. To this fire the Russians made reply with all their batteries.

At 7 o'clock in the morning the Russian battery at Yoshoko was silenced, and half an hour later Gen. Kuroki ordered his line, stretching for four miles, to attack. The Japanese infantry, on the word of command, charged across the Iho, wading that stream breast deep, and began storming the heights at 15 minutes past 8.

At 9 o'clock they had swept the Russian line back across the plateau. The reports of this fighting which have been received at Tokio do not indicate whether the Russians retired down the river or in the direction of Feng-Wang-Cheng on the road to Liao-Yang.

ANTUNG ABANDONED.

The Russians were forced to abandon Antung on Sunday, says a Tokio despatch. They burned the town and retreated to Feng-Wang-Cheng.

The Japanese now control the estuary of the Yalu River.

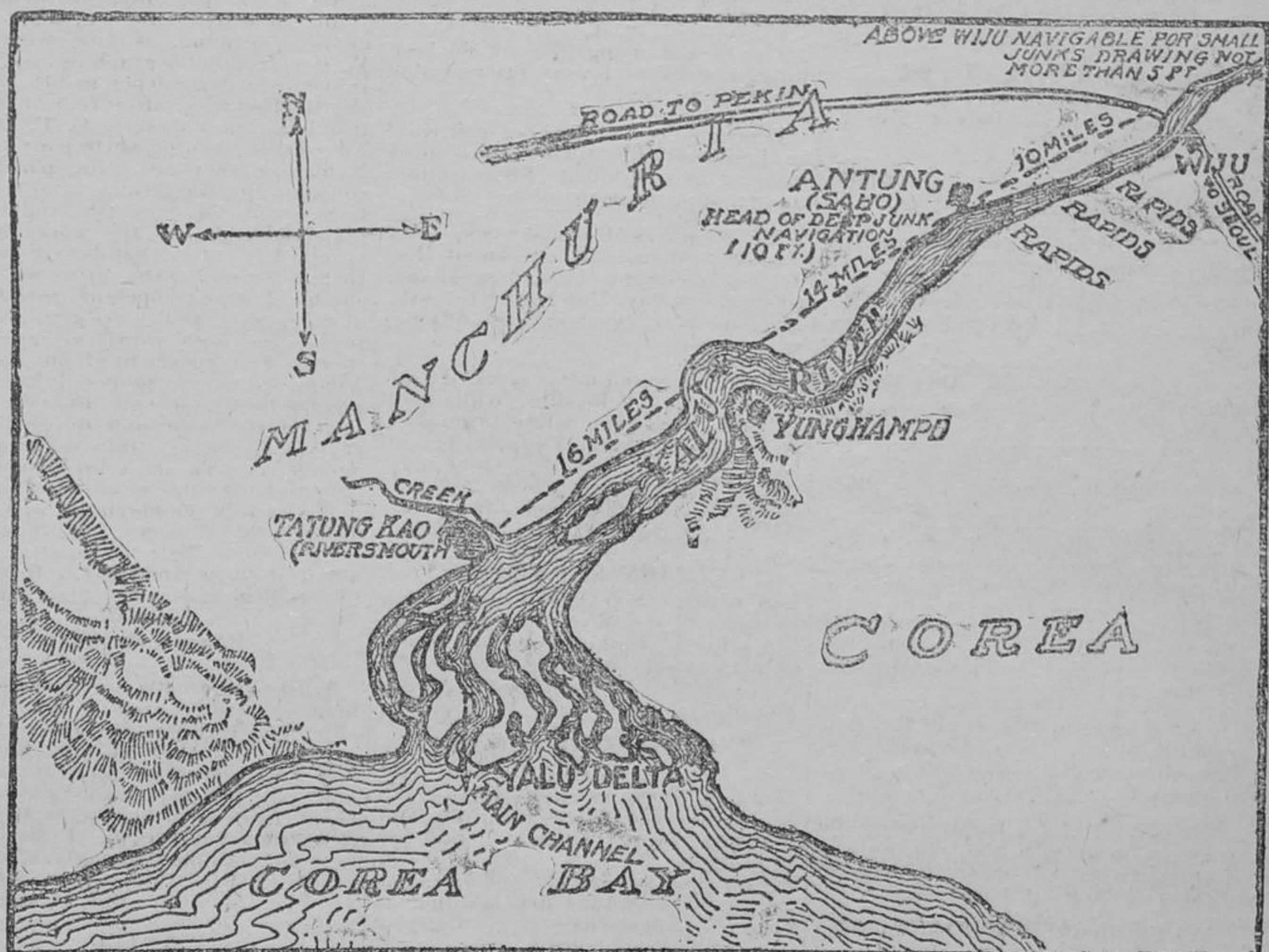
BRAVE JAPS.

Russian torpedo boats belonging to the Vladivostok squadron sunk a Japanese military transport, the Kinshiu-Maru, of 4,000 tons, during the night of Wednesday, with all on board, with the exception of 17 officers, twenty soldiers, sixty-five of the crew, and eighty-five coolie carriers. The others, who refused to surrender, were sent to the bottom with the ship. The steamer Nakamura-Maru was also sunk.

The satisfaction of the people of St. Petersburg at the exploits of the Vladivostok squadron is tempered with admiration for the bravery of the Japanese soldiers, who were on board the Kinshiu-Maru, and who preferred to drown rather than surrender.

The Russian Admiralty defends the sinking of the vessel on the grounds that a prize crew could not be spar-

MAP SHOWING THE TOWNS ON THE RIGHT BANK OF THE YALU RIVER, OCCUPIED BY THE JAPANESE ON SUNDAY.



The map shows an enlargement of the mouth of the Yalu River, where the Japanese fleet aided the infantry in crossing the stream the past four days. It also shows the location of Wiju and Antung, near which latter town the Japs captured the key to the Russian position.

ed from the Russian vessels, and that it was impossible to impede a swift squadron by attaching a slower steamship to it. It is reported, moreover, that the Vladivostok squadron had to hurry because it was threatened by a Japanese squadron. The Russians learned that the Japanese were in the neighborhood while the Russian torpedo boats were destroying the Japanese merchantman Goyo Maru at Gensan the previous day. On that occasion the Vladivostok squadron was watching outside Gensan in a dense fog, which suddenly rose. While the fog was thickest the Russians fortunately intercepted a wireless message from the commander of the Japanese squadron to one of his cruisers. The exact sense of the message could not be deciphered, but enough was learned from it to indicate that the Japanese were near and moving towards Gensan. The Russians therefore hastily left, not desiring an action. It was while they were sailing north from Gensan that they found the Kinshiu Maru off Port Chestakog.

MAY BE COURT-MARTIALED.

It is generally recognized at St. Petersburg, that Rear-Admiral Yezzen cannot do more than frighten the Japanese, and compel them to exercise greater care in their military movements, as the sinking of a few transports, or even cruisers, can have no permanent effect on the result of the war. Moreover, he is bound by his instructions not to risk his ship unduly, the intention being to keep them safe for an attack with the Baltic fleet when it arrives in the Pacific.

The officials say that there is no similarity between the sinking of the Kinshiu Maru and of the destruction of the Kowshing, which was sunk by the Japanese before the declaration of war with China, as Russia is at war with Japan.

The Czar is much annoyed over the incident, and a court-martial of the Admiral is talked of.

FERNIE FIRE SWEEP.

Business Centre of the Prosperous Town Gone.

A Fernie, B.C., despatch says:—Of the greater part of Fernie's flourishing business centre nothing is left but smoking ruins, with here and there a vault and a tottering chimney, where yesterday stood smart looking business blocks.

The fire started Friday morning near the southern end of Victoria Avenue, the main street of Fernie, and with a wind from the south it spread, carrying everything before it, and in a few hours almost the entire length of the main street was cleared, leaving only a few business houses at the northern end of the town. The buildings being all wooden fell an easy prey to the flames, despite the valiant efforts made with hose and buckets.

The fire started, no one knows how, in the rear of Charles Richards' general store, and was not large when first discovered. The chemical engine was on the spot twenty minutes after the fire started, and the windows were broken in to give the hose play, but the chemicals did not work and the broken windows made a draft which soon sent the flames puffing through the roof. The hose reel then arrived, but there was so little pressure in the pipes that the stream was not sufficient to quench the flames. A south wind was blowing and when the flames reached the Victoria Hotel they threatened the residential part as well as the business section, but the wind changed slightly to the west, and decreasing at the same time it removed the danger from the residences.

THE WORLD'S MARKETS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES.

Prices of Cattle, Grain, Cheese, and Other Dairy Produce at Home and Abroad.

Toronto, May 3.—Wheat—The market is quiet for Ontario grades, and the feeling firmer. No. 2 white and red winter are quoted at 89 to 90c low freights. Spring wheat is nominal at 84c, east, and goose at 73 to 74c east. Manitoba wheat weaker, with No. 1 Northern quoted at 94c Georgian Bay ports; No. 2 Northern at 90c, and No. 3 Northern at 86c. No. 1 hard is nominal at 95c. Grinding in transit prices are 6c above those quoted.

Oats—The market is quiet at unchanged prices. No. 2 white quoted at 29 to 29c low freights, and No. 1 white at 30 to 30c east.

Barley—The market is quiet, with the demand limited. No. 2 quoted at 42c middle freights; No. 3 extra at 40 to 41c, and No. 3 at 39c middle freights.

Peas—The market is unchanged, with No. 2 quoted at 64 to 65c outside.

Corn—The market is quiet, with prices steady. No. 3 American yellow quoted at 56c on track, Toronto; No. 3 mixed at 56c. Canadian corn is firm at 42c west for guaranteed delivery in good condition.

Rye—The market is dull, with No. 2 quoted at 56 to 57c east.

Buckwheat—The market is unchanged, with demand moderate; No. 2 quoted at 50c middle freights.

Flour—Ninety per cent. patents are unchanged. Buyers' at \$3.50 middle freights in buyers' sacks for export. Straight rollers of special brands for domestic trade quoted at \$4.10 to \$4.30 in bbls. Manitoba flours are unchanged. No. 1 patents, \$5; No. 2 patents, \$4.70, and strong bakers' \$4.60 on track, Toronto.

Milled—Bran is steady at \$17 to \$17.50, and shorts at \$18.50 here. At outside points bran is quoted at \$16, and shorts at \$17. Manitoba bran, in sacks, \$20 and shorts, \$21 here.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Apples—There is a quiet trade with prices unchanged at \$2 to \$2.50 per bbl. for the best stock.

Dried Apples—The demand is limited, and prices are steady at 3 to 3c per lb. Evaporated apples, 6 to 6c per lb.

Beans—Trade is quiet, with prices steady. Prime beans are quoted at \$1.50 to \$1.60, and hand-picked at \$1.65 to \$1.70.

Hops—The market is unchanged at 28 to 32c, according to quality.

Honey—The market is quoted at 6 to 7c per lb. Combs quiet, at \$1.50 to \$1.75.

Hay—The market is quiet, with offerings moderate. Timothy quoted at \$9.50 to \$10.50 a ton here.

Maple Syrup—The market is quiet, at \$1 per Imperial gallon.

Potatoes—The market is quiet, with offerings small. Choice cars are quoted at 90c per bag on track here, and inferior quality at 80c per bag.

Poultry—The market is steady, with limited offerings. Chickens, 11 to 13c per lb., turkeys are quoted at 15 to 17c per lb. for fresh killed.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—The market is quiet, with prices unchanged. Medium and inferior qualities are very plentiful, with demand moderate. We quote:—Finest, 1-lb. rolls, 16 to 17c; choice large rolls, 15c; selected dairy tubs, 15 to 15c; medium and low grades,

13 to 14c; creamery prints, 20 to 21c; solids, 18 to 19c.

Eggs—Receipts continue good, and prices are unchanged, there being sales of case lots at 13c per doz.

Cheese—The market continues quiet, with prices steady. We quote:—Finest September's, 10c; new cheese, 9 to 10c.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Dressed hogs are unchanged, with offerings small. Car lots, \$6.25 to \$6.40, delivered here. Cured meats are in good demand at unchanged prices. We quote:—Bacon, long clear 8 to 8c per lb., in case lots. Mess pork, \$17 to \$17.50; do., short cut, \$18.50.

Smoked meats—Hams, light to medium, 12c; do., heavy, 12c; rolls, 10c; shoulders, 9c; backs, 13c; breakfast bacon, 12 to 13c.

Lard—The demand is fair, with tierces unchanged. We quote:—Tierces, 7c; tubs, 8c; paifs, 8c; compound, 7 to 8c.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Minneapolis, May 3.—Wheat—May, 90c; July, 90c; September, 80 to 80c; on track, No. 1 hard, 93c; No. 2 Northern, 90c. Flour—First patents, \$4.90 to \$5. Bran—in bulk, \$15 to \$15.50.

Buffalo, May 3.—Flour—Steady. Wheat—Spring, small quantity No. 1 Northern offered at \$1.07, but track held at \$1.09; Winter, No. 2 red, to arrive, rail, offered at \$1.05. Corn—Strong; No. 2 yellow, 60c; No. 2 corn, 57c; Oats—Firm; No. 2 white 44c; No. 2 mixed, 41c. Barley—Spot to arrive, 53 to 60c.

Milwaukee, May 3.—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, 94 to 95c; No. 2 Northern, 91 to 94c; old July, 84c. Rye—No. 1, 72 to 72c. Barley—No. 2, 63c; sample, 36 to 61c. Corn—No. 3, 43 to 51c; July, 48 to 48c.

Duluth, May 3.—Wheat—No. 1 hard 90c; No. 1 Northern, 99c; No. 2 Northern, 86c; May, 80c; July, 80c; September, 80c.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Toronto, May 3.—The ruling quotations to-day for exporters' were \$4.40 to \$4.80 per cwt. The most were sold at \$4.60 to \$4.75 per cwt.

The prices of butchers' cattle were strong, and high figures for choice and fancy animals were not hard to obtain. We quote prices as follows:—Choice butchers', \$4.40 to \$4.60; fair to good, \$4 to \$4.30; common to fair; \$3.25 to \$3.60; rough cows, \$2.60 to \$3.25 per cwt.

No change took place in the values of bulls, which were in fair demand. We quote:—Export bulls, \$3.25 to \$3.60; butchers', \$3 to \$3.30, and lights, \$2.50 up.

A firm feeling pervades the market for feeders and stockers to-day. The offerings were moderate, and holders had little difficulty in selling their stock at good prices. We quote:—Feeders, 1,000 to 1,300 lbs., \$4.25 to \$4.60; feeders, 800 to 1,000 lbs. \$3.50 to \$3.75; stockers, 600 to 800 lbs. \$3 to \$3.75; stock calves, 350 to 500 lbs., \$3.25 to \$3.50; off colors and roughs, same weight, \$2.75 up.

Export ewes advanced 15 to 25c; light ewes, 15c, and lambs 25c per cwt., and buying was active at the rise. We quote as follows:—Heavy ewes, \$4 to \$4.40; light sheep, \$4.40 to \$4.75; bucks, \$3.50 to \$3.75; grain-fed lambs, \$6 to \$6.50; barnyard lambs, \$4.50 to \$5.50 per cwt.; Spring lambs, \$3 to \$6 each.

Calves brought \$2 to \$8 each, and 3 to 5c per lb. Hogs—Were reported unchanged. We quote:—Selects, 165 to 200 lbs. of prime bacon quality, off cars, Toronto, \$5; fats, \$4.75; sows, \$3.50 to \$3.75; stags, \$2 to \$2.50 per cwt.