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especially, has been moving freely, owing partly, no doubt, to the fact that retailers believe prices have settled down to a more permanent basis.

**HARDWARE.**—Trade has been somewhat quieter this week, but this often happens about this time of the month. Some more barbed wire has arrived in the city, probably for use in the fall. Several orders have already been received for fall delivery, and though its use in that season is quite restricted, compared with that in the spring, yet no doubt consumers wish to make sure of receiving it when due, which for some time past they have been unable to do. The manufacturers now seem to be making pretty good deliveries of such goods as screen doors, hinges, harvesting tools, etc. Metal prices remain firm and a fairly heavy business is being done.

**HIDES AND SKINS.**—Hides have advanced, in sympathy with the advance in Chicago. They are now 1c. higher than last week's quotations. There has been a good demand from tanners for cured hides up to the present time, but this advance, in view of the dullness in leather, will have no doubt considerable effect in diminishing this. Tallow continues dull, with steady prices.

**LIVE STOCK.**—As foretold in a recent issue, prices for several lines of stock have fallen off during the past few days. At the market this week, comparatively few dealers made their appearance, and business dragged decidedly. The quality of the offerings was below par. The demand from England, perhaps due to the hot weather, has fallen off materially.

**PROVISIONS.**—The hot weather has affected the quality of the cheese, butter and eggs offered, and prices are easier. The demand for hog products continues brisk. Hops are dull.

**A CIGAR TRAVELLER'S FABLE.**

I dropped in on one of our city customers the other day, when the sky was drizzling its nastiest drizzle. He looked up from his correspondence and exclaimed: "For G—s sake, Blank, you wouldn't try to sell cigars on a day like this, would you?" Pardon my egotism, but I am something of a diplomat, and offering him a cigar, I answered: "Positively not! I could no more talk business on a day like this than you could listen to it. I just dropped in for a chat. Say, did you hear that So and So had busted? Offering to settle for 50 cents," etc., etc., telling him all the trade gossip I could recollect, and drawing him into a general conversation on topics in which I knew he was interested. After a few minutes of this, the merchant produced a bottle of cold-cure, with the picture of a man on horse-back on the label, and we took a dose together—I mean a dose each. Then I laid another of my puritanos on his desk and made my little sneak. Now, if I had talked business to that man, I would probably, by persevering, have succeeded in selling him some picayune bill of goods. But, now, soon as the weather changes, I am good there for a nice big order.

The firm wanted me to start out on the road two weeks ago. If I had done so, by this time I would have seen half my trade and would have had a blamed poor list of orders to show for my pains—and my route schedule wouldn't allow me to see them for another three months at least. When the sky clears I can start out with a light heart and be likewise received, and I can sell everybody clear up to their ears. In a spell of weather like this, old boy, it pays to wait for a signal from Old Sol."—Exchange.

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