

## GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

Since our last report there has been a livening up in the grain market, and especially in connection with wheat. Holders and buyers have at last met each other, and the movement during the past week has been the heaviest for nearly two months. Business has been stimulated by the hope of an early opening of navigation, and for some weeks to come quite a little activity is looked for. Although prices have stiffened a little under the more active state of affairs no great advance has taken place, and an effort to raise prices to any material extent would have the effect of dampening things. In meats the business done has been moderate, but not sufficient to warrant any advances; while butter has been much in the same state as last reported, choice lots selling freely and medium and lower grades being little called for.

## WHEAT.

Quite a liberal business has been done, and offerings within the regular range of prices have been freely taken. No. 1 spring has sold at 84c, and No. 2 at 82c; No. 2 fall has been in good demand at 81c, and No. 3 fairly active at 82c. Goose has been selling from 70 to 73c.

## OATS.

All offerings of white have been freely taken and millers want more, while mixed lots have also sold without difficulty. White has sold at 37 to 37½c, and mixed at 36 to 36½c.

## BARLEY.

There has been a fair demand for this grain and quite a quantity has changed hands. No. 1 was not too plentiful and sold at 72c. Car lots of No. 2 went at 66c; No. 3 extra at 62c, and No. 3 slowly at 57 to 58c.

## RYE.

No business doing and no sales of any consequence reported. Price nominal at 59c.

## PEAS.

There has been very few sales, and prices are purely nominal ranging from 60 to 61c.

## POTATOES.

The demand has been fairly active, and quite a few car lots have sold at 35c.

## EGGS.

Receipts have been abundant, and prices have steadily declined. Early in the week 16c was paid for round lots, but 15c was soon reached, and latterly quotations of 14c were heard.

## BUTTER.

There has been a steady good demand for choice dairy, and all lots offered have been freely taken at 17 to 18c. There has been a limited demand for good mediums but at very low prices 10c being about the general figure. Inferior lots were altogether unsaleable at any price. Receipts from the country have been steadily on the increase.

## CHEESE.

A few small lots of choice have sold from 12 to 12½c, and poorer lots from 10 to 10½c. The demand has been light.

## PORK.

Has been quiet and steady, with small lots going at \$16, but no active demand existing.

## BACON.

Has been inactive and with very little moving. Car lots of long clear have been offered at 8c, and of Cumberland at 7½c. Small lots of one and two tons have sold at ½c higher.

## HAMS.

Quite a few sales of small lots are reported, but no car lots. Pickled have been offered at

10c, and smoked have been selling at 11½ to 12c.

## LARD.

Very few sales are reported and a quietness is felt. Tinnets have sold at 10 to 10½c. Tierces are offered at 9½c.

## POULTRY.

The demand has been in excess of the supply during the week, and prices have been firm. Fowl sold at from 75 to 85c a pair; turkeys, \$1.50 to \$2.50; ducks, 80c to \$1 a pair; geese not to be had, but could be sold at \$1 to \$1.10.

## APPLES.

There has been a good shipping demand all week, but lots suitable were scarce. Choice lots were wanted at \$2.50 to \$3 a bbl. Medium to good sold at \$1.75 to \$2.25.

## Commercial Summary.

The milder weather has exerted a favorable influence upon general trade. Special telegrams to *Bradstreet's* sustain this view, but do not record a material improvement thus far. The shipment of grain and provisions eastward has decreased slightly but the distribution of general merchandise has maintained proportions. The gain in the movement of grain to west and northwest, combined with the late check to the export movement has resulted in maintaining the visible supply at previous high levels, notwithstanding the heavy consumptive demands at home, particularly of Indian-corn. At New York, Boston, and Baltimore the sales to interior jobbers and retail merchants have been no heavier than the previous week. Dry goods commission houses report less business than during the first half of March, and jobbers say trade is dull. At Philadelphia there has been a rather better feeling, and a movement on a par with previous weeks; and at Chicago there is said to be some gain. The general industrial situation is no better than that of the week before. Considerable machinery in the Lowell and Lawrence cotton mills was expected to stop running about April 1. Although stocks at the mills are no larger, and in some instances are smaller, prices are no better, and production is therefore without profit. The western Pennsylvania bituminous coal strike, involving 10,000 men, appears no nearer an end, and the Philadelphia and Yonkers carpet-mill operatives, by the aid of trades-union contributions, refuse to return to work. It is noteworthy that 1,000 silk-mill operatives at Paterson, N. J., struck for and secured an advance of wages. The warlike news from London had an effect on speculative prices in nearly all lines. Trade at the Produce, Cotton, and Stock exchanges for a while became more active, and prices advanced. No. 2 red wheat closed at 91½c, as compared with 90½c March 20. Indian-corn sympathized to the extent of an advance of ½c on the week, closing at 50½c. War news has had more to do with the advance in wheat during the week than reports of restricted area, damage to the autumn-sown grain, or other causes. Hog products, also, were higher, but to a less degree, showing some reluctance in following prices of cereals. Refined lard closed at \$7.40, against \$7.35 a week previous; and spot mess pork at \$13.25, as compared with \$13.50. Iron continues dull and practically unchanged. Scotch imports are heavier, and receipts of southern

have been, and still are, averaging about 60 to 75 tons per week by steamer to New York, which leaves sailing vessel receipts out of account. Coal is quiet; recent sales have been fairly active; prices are low. With the exception of territory wools, which are comparatively scarce, most varieties are weak, and prices tend lower. The sales foot up to a fair figure, but business drags. Between the continued unsatisfactory state of the goods trade and the reports of a profitable foreign war, cotton for future delivery declined on the week an average of 20 points: this in spite of decreasing receipts. Spot cotton at New York is down to 11 3-16c. Another week of dull trade must be recorded in nearly every grocery staple. Sugar is lower. Canned goods, particularly tomatoes, have been active in a speculative way. Dry products are lower. There were 212,425 bales in the United States during the past week reported to *Bradstreet's*, as compared with 220 in the preceding week, and with 162,176 and 129 respectively in the corresponding weeks of 1884, 1883 and 1882. About 83 per cent. of those of small traders whose capital was less than \$5,000. Canada had 30, a decrease of 7.

## The Canadian Pacific.

Nothing definite about what is proposed to be done between the Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. has yet come before the public in an authentic shape. As the reason probably is that the negotiations have not yet resulted in a definite contract. Meanwhile rumor is busy in attempting to lift the veil, and is giving different versions of the affair. That the Government has been asked to release its lien on receiving back 7,500,000 acres of land and \$15,000,000 of the company's bonds, scarcely admits of a doubt. To this proposal, it has been said, the Government refuses to agree. Another \$20,000,000 of bonds besides those the Government was asked to take, would have had to be issued, and owing to some accounts the Government is asked to guarantee the bonds. This proposition contemplated the cancelling of the \$3,000,000 of issued stocks. It is said that the Government has shown a disposition to return on receiving a larger quantity of land and a larger amount of bonds.

The Government could afford to keep the lands till they could be disposed of, but a fear they would prove a dangerous possession in its hands; the future Governments of the Northwest would be sure to make all sorts of demands in respect to them, and the Government would get no peace if it attempted to resist. But for this, there would be no objection to taking back the lands; but as the case stands the objection seems fatal.

The company's bonds would not be a desirable security for the Government to hold in the hands of private individuals the interest on them might be regularly met, while if the bonds were due to the government, it might not be paid, so strong would be the temptation to employ the money otherwise, as in extensive betterments.

If the Government must once more take the aid of the company, and it is difficult