

ported a little better than they have been for some time past.

FRUIT.

A very fair trade has been done. The city demand is good and considerable orders are being received from outside. Prices are well maintained. A large consignment of oranges and lemons has arrived, and the supply on hand is large. The new fruit is of very fine quality and superior to anything that has been offered this week. Quotations are: Apples, good fruit, \$7 to \$8 per barrel; oranges, \$11 to \$13, according to quality; lemons, boxes, \$7.50 to \$8; cases, \$10 to \$10.50; Almeria grapes, \$10 to \$11 per barrel; figs in mats, 10c; large boxes, 14c; small boxes, 20c; raisins, loose Muscatels, \$3.50; black crown \$5.25; triple crown, \$8.50; four crown, \$9.75.

FURS AND SKINS.

Very little doing. A few hides are coming in which bring \$5 per cwt.

GROCERIES.

There has been quite a revival in the grocery trade. Orders are coming in more freely, country merchants preparing for spring trade, and also providing against the possibility of a blockade on the railways, which is most likely to happen this month. Collections are improving, and some houses report them as better than they had expected. Quotations are about as they were. Sugars are quoted at: Raw, 9 to 9½c; yellow, 10 to 10½c; granulated, 11½c; Paris lumps, 12½c. Coffees, Rio, 16 to 22c; Java, 22 to 31c.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

The past week has been the best of the winter. Considerable orders are being received, and inquiries are being freely made. A large number of buildings are being tendered for and contractors are furnishing their estimates, which of course inspires new life into this line of trade. There is no change in prices, which are: Tin plate, 14x20, \$7.75 to \$8.00; 20x28, \$15 to \$15.25; bar iron, \$3.75 to \$4.00; sheet iron, 5½ to 7c; iron piping, 35 per cent off price list; ingot tin, 32 to 35c; pig lead, 6½ to 7c; galvanized iron, No. 28, \$3 to 9c, according to brand.

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

Small sorting orders are being received. The prospects for spring are reported excellent. Collections have been very fair.

FUEL.

The supply of fuel in the city is good and sufficient to meet all demand. Quotations are: Coal, egg, stove and nut, by car-load on track, \$14; Blossburg car-lots, \$13.25; soft coal, car lots, \$10.80 to \$12, according to quality. Wood, poplar, \$5 to \$6 per cord; ash, oak and tamarac, \$7 to \$8.

LUMBER.

As the building season approaches there is freer inquiry. Prices are: Sheeting, \$28; common dimensions, \$30 to \$32; fencing, \$28 to \$34; stock, \$33 to \$40; flooring, \$35 to \$45; graded clear, \$50 to \$70; shingles, \$4.50 to \$6; laths, \$5.

FISH AND OYSTERS.

There is a fair supply of fish in the city, and the demand is good and will continue so until

the Lenten season is passed. White fish are worth 8c per pound; smoked white fish, 13c; finnan haddies, 12½c. Oysters, selects, 55c; standards, 45c per can.

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

This week is very gratifying to be able to report an easier feeling in the money market. The change is not very great as yet, but still it is well defined and augurs well for a very comfortable state of affairs in the near future. As we stated last week, the fourth of this month turned out much more satisfactorily than even the most ardent had anticipated. Well on to 75 per cent of the paper maturing on that day was met, which is certainly a very creditable percentage. Renewed confidence has therefore been inspired in financial circles, and the bonds which fettered many business men a week or two ago have become comparatively loose, if they have not altogether dropped off. The money procured by the city on the recent issue of debentures has been placed in the banks, and this has had considerable effect in bringing about this easier state of feeling. The immigration which will shortly begin to pour into the country will bring with it a large amount of ready money, which will be spent in our midst, and this will tend to still further remove the trammels that have borne hard on business men throughout the country. There has, however, not as yet been any change in the rate of discount. First-class commercial paper has still to be discounted at from 9 to 10 per cent, and the latter figure is more frequently asked than the former. Good ordinary has to be negotiated at from 10 to 12 per cent, more generally at the latter figure. The usual rate in the loan companies is 10 per cent on first-class security. The rate of exchange to eastern Provinces ranges from ¼ to ½ per cent; exchange on New York, ¾ to 1 per cent.

The same difficulty in obtaining money for real estate purposes which we have noticed for some time past still exists, but in a slightly abated degree. Private funds are the only means available for this purpose, and pretty stiff rates have to be paid.

The stringency that exists in the eastern Provinces has its effect upon the money market here, but with the opening of navigation and the advent of spring things generally will be much more relieved than they are at present.

THE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

The receipts of grain this week have been rather on the light side. Prices have not changed materially, and in most cases are firm at last week's quotations. Provisions are in good supply, and prices are well maintained.

WHEAT.

There has been little wheat coming in during the past week. The mills, however, have good supplies on hand, sufficient to keep them running full time. The ruling figure continues to be 78c. For very choice lots as high as 80c is paid.

BARLEY.

The supply is very light, and quotations may

be said to be only nominal. From 40 to 60c per bushel is paid.

FLOUR.

Of late the mills have been running steadily, and there is considerable being shipped to eastern markets. The local demand keeps about the same. Quotations are: Patents, \$3 to \$3.20; xxx or strong baker's, \$2.50 to \$2.60; baker's, \$2 to \$2.10; trader's or xx, \$1.50.

OATS.

Receipts have been very fair, and prices hold firm, with a slight advance on last week's quotations. There is still a big supply in the country, sufficient to fill the demand which, with the opening of construction on the C. P. R., will be keen. The ruling figure are from 40 to 43c.

BRAN.

There is a plentiful supply, which sells at \$10 per ton on track, or \$11 delivered.

SHORTS.

There is a slight drop in price, and a good supply on hand. Quotations are \$12 per ton on track, or \$13 delivered.

CHOPPED FEED.

Good supply and fair demand. Quotations are \$28 per ton, and firm at this figure.

EGGS.

Are now plentiful, large consignments having been received, principally from the neighborhood of St. Louis. There is not likely to be a scarcity again this season. Quotations are from 35 to 38c. Lined are completely out of the market.

POTATOES.

A fair supply keeps coming in from the country, and prices are firmer than last week. From \$1 to \$1.25 per bushel has been paid as a rule. With the continuance of mild weather and good roads a good supply is expected right along.

BUTTER.

There is a very good demand, and the supply is quite equal to it. Choice dairy is worth 25 to 26c; inferior grades, 19 to 22c; Ontario creamery is scarce. A choice article would bring 31 to 32c.

DRIED APPLES.

Are not very plentiful, but still sufficient to supply all demand. They hold firm at 12½c per pound. Evaporated are worth 19 to 22c.

CANNED MEATS.

Are still firm with a tendency to advance.

MEATS.

There is considerable activity in the market. Quotations are: Hams, per pound, 16c; spiced roll, 16 to 16½; barrel pork, \$25.50 to \$26; mess beef, \$18.50 to \$19.

MINNEAPOLIS.

The receipts for the week, especially of wheat, were liberal. It is generally supposed, however, that the home supply of this cereal is becoming limited, and will not be sufficient to keep the mills running full time without bringing it in from outside points. The price fluctuated considerably. On Tuesday wheat was firm, and corn had a tendency to advance. The business of the day is represented by the following quotations:

WHEAT, No. 1 hard, \$1.13½ to \$1.15½; No. 1, \$1.06 to \$1.10; No. 2 hard \$1.07 to 1.11.

CORN, No. 251 to 52c; rejected, 48 to 49½c, according to sample.

OATS, No. 2 white, 41½ to 42½c; No. 2, 40 to 40½c.

FLOUR, patents, \$6.50 to \$7.00; straights, \$5.50 to \$6.50; clears, \$5.25 to \$5.55.