

ders have been taken during the week from spring samples. The feeling of disappointment expressed by some the previous week has passed away and a better tone altogether pervades the trade. A very decided improvement in collections in both city and country is reported since our last issue, which aids very much in producing the more hopeful feeling we have mentioned, and assists the general confidence throughout the trade.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

The slight quietness complained of in our last report of this branch has given place to a much more prosperous state of business. There has been quite an amount of country business during the week. Altogether there has been quite an improvement, and the prices of staple goods have been tending upwards. This feeling is expected to continue for several weeks, and travellers are likely to be out until the close of the year.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

This has been decidedly the busiest branch of wholesale business during the past week, and houses report enough of orders on hand to continue the rush up to the close of the present week. Staple goods have not been much in demand, but the trade in holiday goods has far exceeded the calculations of wholesalers, and has made December the busiest month of the season. It is generally expected that this week will close the activity, and a period of quietness if not dullness is expected during January.

FISH, POULTRY AND GAME.

There has been great activity in this branch of trade during the past week, and the stock and variety of goods on the market has greatly increased, and a heavy trade is anticipated for some weeks to come. Lake Superior trout are still to be had in plenty, and are quoted at 11c. Lake Winnipeg white fish have sold at 8c, and pike at 5c. Both are to be had in plenty, and while cold weather lasts will not be scarce. Oysters are quoted at 45c to 50c for standards and 55c to 60c for selects. In bulk \$2.50 to \$4 per gallon. Fresh salmon, halibut and cod are on the market, but not in quantities to admit of wholesale quotations. Smoked fish are scarce. Findon Haddock at 20c a pound being the only class of which quotations can be given. Poultry are very plentiful, and have quite a range in prices according to quality. Dressed turkeys are quoted at 20c to 24c, and chickens at 20c. Game of different descriptions are plentiful, and sell at reduced figures. Prairie chickens, partridge, wild duck and rabbits are among the selection. Venison and buffalo meat are also to be had.

FUEL.

There has been no change in the price of coal during the past week, although during a considerable portion of it quite a scarcity existed, and only by extra efforts on the part of the C.P.R. authorities was a much greater scarcity prevented. Over 100 cars have reached the city during the week, and the stock now on hand is very small. Anthracite holds steady at \$13.75 a ton on track, bituminous for steam purposes \$12.50, and for grate purposes \$13.50. There has been no material change in the price

of wood, and the stock in and around the city is no way diminished. Quite a quantity of good quality arrived in the city early last week from Rat Portage district. Prices are practically the same as in our last report.

FRUIT.

The trade in this branch has been rather active since our last report, and the variety of goods on the market has increased somewhat. Valencia oranges are the most recent addition and these were quoted at \$14.50 a case. Lemons are quoted at \$6. Malaga grapes have also been added to the novelties and these sell at from \$10 to \$11 a barrel according to quality. California pears are still to be had at \$8 a case, but are rather scarce. Apples have a wide range, being quoted from \$6 to \$7.50 according to quality. Cranberries are plentiful and hold steady at \$17 a barrel. Figs in mats are quoted at 10c and boxed at 12c. Valencia raisins are to be had at \$3.50 a box. These comprise the variety of fruit now on the market, and no additions are expected for some time to come. To fruit we might add California honey in the comb, which is to be had at 35c a pound.

FURS AND HIDES.

There is no trade doing in this season's furs that will warrant quotations, but dealers expect the trade to be in full swing with the opening of the new year, and during January reliable quotations will be obtainable. The demand for green hides will continue slow, and prices have not changed, 6c to 6½c being the quotations. Pelts are scarce, and 55c to 60c is still offered for good Novembers.

FURNITURE.

Business has not been quite so brisk in this branch during the past week as the one previous, yet business cannot be called dull. Quite a number of consignments have went out to western dealers as far as Regina, but the orders now on hand are not numerous. There is a quietness expected during the present and next week, but there is an expectation of a good steady demand as soon as the month of January fairly opens up. The feeling of the trade generally is a hopeful one.

GROCERIES.

There has been a slight improvement in this staple branch of trade during the week, and business may now be called tolerably good. The rush for holiday demands is about over and the general quietness expected has not set in, but a fair trade in staples exists. There have been no great changes in prices although the range in some staple articles is wider owing to a greater selection being on the market. Green coffees range, Rio 17c to 22c; Java, 22c to 32c. Sugars are quoted, Raw 9½c; bright yellows, 10c to 10½c. Dried apples are now almost out of the market, and are now quoted at 12c. Dried peaches are quoted at 11c, evaporated 35c. There is a tendency upward in coffees, while sugars also show some stiffness, and a slight advance is not unlikely during the next week or two. There is a feeling of confidence throughout the trade, and several travellers who have returned during the week report collections moderately easy, and the prospect of a good trade during the winter.

HARDWARE.

There are no new features to be reported in connection with this branch of business. During the week there has been a quieter feeling than for two weeks previously, but it does not amount to a dullness. The classes of goods now in demand are of a very miscellaneous character, but the demand in heavy goods is by no means active. The general report of the season's trade is a bright one, and each house has done a much greater amount of business than during 1881.

LUMBER.

The dullness still continues in this branch of business and has increased during the past week. Those dealers owning timber limits are at present attending to logging operations, there being very little necessity for their attention in the city. The sales of the week have been very light, and orders filled have as a rule been of the most trifling description. Prices remain the same as the week previous; Sheet piling \$25; common dimension \$30 to \$32; fencing \$28 to \$34; stock \$33 to \$40; flooring \$35 to \$45; partition \$45 to \$50; graded clear, \$50 to \$70; shingles, \$4.50 to \$6; lath \$5.

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

The week's report from this trade is a good one, houses are placing the week as the busiest they have had as yet. There has been an extraordinary heavy trade in holiday goods, and several lines have run short in the city. In staple goods there has been a good demand, and this is expected to continue through a great portion of the winter. Collections are reported a little tight, but are expected to ease up immediately after the holidays.

WINE AND SPIRITS.

Wholesale houses in this line report an active demand for their goods during the week, and a good volume of business has been done. Country as well as city retailers have been making heavy purchases, probably in anticipation of a holiday demand. Business generally is in a satisfactory state, although a tightness in cash matters is complained of by a few.

THE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

The fine weather and good sleighing of the past week has made grain receipts very liberal all over the province, although prices of some classes of grain have declined considerably. Wheat has been plentiful, and the fact that the cut on rates to the east which lasted for a month have now ceased, and through shipping has come to rather a sudden halt. Flour shipments still continue, but with the falling markets in the east this is not likely to prove so profitable as formerly.

WHEAT

Has maintained in the city the prices of the previous week, 80c being paid for No. 1 hard, and from 75c to 78c for lower grades. Receipts by rail have been liberal, while on the street the daily supply has been steadily increasing. Mills are running full and have considerable stock of wheat ahead.

OATS

Quite a number of car loads have arrived by rail, while the street receipts have been heavier than during any other week. Numbers of deal-