

at an advance. The following table of the closing bids of Aug. 19th and Aug. 26th will indicate the tone of the market.

	Aug 19.	Aug 26.
Montreal	200½	202
Ontario	108	108½
Molson's	120	—
Toronto	185	186
Merchants'	115	114½
Commerco	127	127½
Imperial	125	125
Federal	95½	96
Dominion	199	201
Standard	115	115
Hamilton	—	124
Northwest Land	41	40

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

In the grain markets this week the condition of affairs is about the same as it was the week previous. Business is very dull, there being almost nothing doing, and buyers and sellers appear to be so far apart that it is impossible to give anything like correct quotations. Wheat has continued dull and inactive, there being very little demand and very little offering. Oats were quiet but steady. In provisions the business of the past week was just fair, and at generally steady prices. The butter market does not show much if any change from our last report; the better grades appear to be scarce and in good demand, and seemingly not enough offering to supply the wants, while on the other hand medium and low grades are accumulating. Altogether, meats have been rather quiet during the week, except in the case of both bacon and hams, for which there was a rather more active demand than for others, all offered being readily taken as a rule.

WHEAT.

In this market business continues dull and inactive; there is very little demand and very little offering. Sales of No. 2 fall for future delivery were made at 82c. during the week.

OATS.

In this market business was quiet but steady, with prices easier. Sales were made during the week at 32½ and 33c. for car lots, while more was offered at 33½c., with only a bid of 32½c. obtainable

BARLEY.

Very dull, and little if any is wanted, there being a fair amount of old rye still on hand. Quotations are nominal.

RYE.

In this market there is nothing doing, and prices are only nominal at 55c.

PEAS.

There was none offered during the week, nor was any required for. Prices are nominal at 60c.

POTATOES.

In this market the feeling is reported to be somewhat firmer, but there is not much doing. Large lots are quoted at 50 to 60c. per bag.

EGGS.

The supply seems to be very plentiful, if anything there is more offering than wanted. Prices are weak at 10½ to 11c. for round lots.

BUTTER.

In this market the business of the past week does not show much change. Gilt edge is scarce and in good demand, and seemingly not enough offering to supply the wants, while on the other hand medium and low grades are

accumulating. Choice dairy has been selling freely at 14 to 15c., best store packed at 12 to 13c., and inferior is nominal at 7 to 8c.

CHEESE.

Quiet and unchanged at 8 to 8½c. for good to choice, and 7½c. for inferior in small lots.

PORK.

In this market business during the last week has been quiet, with prices easier, quotations being from \$13 to \$13.50.

BACON.

In this market the demand has continued quite as active as during the previous week. Long clear has been in steady demand at 6½ to 7c., and Cumberland at 6½c. Cars of long clear usually held at 6½c., but no further sales were reported. There are no rolls in the market, and bellies are scarce at 11c.

HAMS.

These have been in good demand, all offering being readily taken at firm prices, or at 11½ to 12c. for smoked, and 12½c. for canvassed.

LARD.

In this market business continues quiet and easy. Stocks are not heavy, but there is so much bad butter in the market that the demand for lard is light. Timmets are quoted at 8½ to 9c., and pails at 9½c. in small lots.

APPLES.

These have continued to be very plentiful during the past week, and have been selling off at from \$1.00 to \$2.50 per barrel, according to quality.

The Customer we Like.

The "Jolly Customer" we all like to call upon. Good nature and good-will is written upon his smiling face. Business generally is usually a very sobering affair, but with the J. C. it is simply one of his aids to cheerfulness. He never seems in a bad temper, no matter whether you disturb him at his meals or when engaged with one of his best customers. He will very likely ask you in to take a cup of tea, and while you are discussing it with him and his brisk little wife, will manifest a friendly interest in the business you have done lately, the state of trade over the ground you cover, and will even go so far as to enquire after the welfare of your wife and family. When you look at him and his cozy better-half, your mind runs back to the dear ones at home, and the knowledge that you cannot have their company is very frequently not at all cheering. However, our jolly friend soon banishes all melancholy.

There is no dawdling about him—in a great many cases he has had a short term "ON THE ROAD" himself, and flatters himself he knows "what's what." He is ready for business whenever you are. He orders at once, or declines promptly. Your order is booked, and the account paid quickly and without question, and you mentally wish that your list of customers included many more like him. At night he will step over to your hotel and spend an hour or two, enjoy himself, and contribute to the pleasures of others; and if you start even by the earliest train in the morning, you will find him at work, encouraging his assistants, and preparing for the day's duties. With all its sordid, heart-sickening and competing influences, money has not chased away the spirit of kindness and affection from the good man's heart.—*On the Road.*

Cure for Hard Times.

To those who are helping to make hard times harder by their yielding to a feeling of depression and waiting till things brighten up before displaying much energy themselves, a lesson has been given by the *St. Louis Republican*. In that city times are dull—very dull, as they are everywhere. Everybody is feeling the effect of the depression of trade, from the merchant to the office boy. Clerks in particular are suffering severely. A vast number are out of work, and declare pitifully that it is no use trying, there is no work to be had, struggle as they may to get it. To ascertain just how things really were, a reporter was detailed by the *Republican* to go round the city in the character of an unemployed clerk and seek work. He started out with no introductions or recommendations beyond his own statement that he wanted work, any kind of work connected with an office or store, and was able to do it. He went with dogged determination from one place of business to another, and met with a great deal of courtesy—and at most places a great deal of discouragement. He found that work was very hard to get, and his chances seemed dismal indeed. But he persevered, and plodded on steadily. The result of a long day's weary canvass, while not fully successful in procuring him what he wanted, there and then, gave him reasonable hopes, as the following comments from the *Republican* will show, of getting employment of some kind:

"He was given every encouragement to keep on his quest. At Meyer Bros., at Shapleigh & Cantwell's and at S. C. Cupples he was advised to call again. While he did not get any very substantial encouragement, it is more than probable that at one of these three places he would have got work before the end of the week. In each case the employer seemed more anxious about it than the employed. He saw enough to convince him that a careful canvass of Second street alone, gone about in the right way, by a man absolutely without references or friends, would, in a few days, result in his finding work. It would only depend upon how thoroughly his canvass was made. Certainly he would not have received the little encouragement which he did had he passed the day dreaming with the others disemployed at Washington park."

We think the journal from which we quote is right in his conclusions. A large percentage of the unemployed would not belong to that much to be pitied class were they only to set about looking for work in the resolute dogged way adopted by the enterprising reporter. Unfortunately they are rather too prone to wait like Mr. Micawber, for "something to turn up." And so it is too often with business men of all kinds. They had rather wait for business than make it. It is no use waiting for times to improve. The thing to do is to put one's shoulder to the wheel, and help to improve them. What is wanted among business men is a little more "grit."—*Commercial Bulletin.*

The Barbed-Wire Combination.

The committee appointed by the barbed-wire manufacturers at their recent meeting at Chi-