

winter an era of prosperity is confidently looked for.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

There is increased life and activity in the agricultural implement trade. Heavy consignments are being received from the factories, which are handled with the utmost dispatch and forwarded on to western agencies. One firm in the city alone shipped twelve car loads west this week. Inquiries are being freely made by farmers, and harvesting machinery is even at this early season of the year being asked for. The business to be done this season will certainly be far in excess of that of any previous year.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

There has been a very decided improvement in this line of business during the week, and the prospects for spring trade are bright. Heavy stocks are being received from eastern points, and the demand both from town and country is good and steadily improving. Collections show much improvement over the past few weeks. Boots and shoes people must have, and there cannot but be a big season's trade to be done this spring.

CLOTHING.

There has been a decided jump up in the clothing trade. Orders are coming in more freely, and the prospects for the future are very hopeful. Collections cannot be said to have improved much, but still they are no worse.

DRY GOODS.

There is this week a decidedly better feeling noticeable in the dry goods trade. Orders both from town and country have increased considerably. The worst has certainly been passed and from now out a much more satisfactory state of things is confidently expected. Collections, although not showing very much improvement, give a great deal better ground for hope. The leading houses have laid in heavy stocks of goods and are in every way prepared for a big season's trade, in which, judging from circumstances, there is no danger of disappointment.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

Travelers are now out on the road and are sending in fair orders. Trade is evidently stirring up, although the improvement cannot be said to be very marked as yet. Collections are reported anything but good.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALL WARES.

Orders are beginning to come in more freely, but trade generally is still quiet. No particular rush of business is expected till next month. Collections are reported fair.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

Trade in this line has shown a decided improvement during the past week, especially so far as the country is concerned. City trade is still a little dull. Collections are more promising than they have been for some time.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

In this line of business there is a lower tendency, and with eastern competition injurious price cutting has set in. Collections are reported very fair. Quotations are as follows: Tin plate, 14x20, \$7.25 to \$7.75; 20x28, \$11.50 to \$15.00; bar iron, \$3.75 to \$4; sheet iron, 5½ to 6c; iron piping 25 per cent off price list; ingot

tin, 32 to 34c; pig lead 6½ to 7c; galvanized iron, No. 25, 8½ to 9c.

FRUIT.

There has been a very fair demand for fruit during the week. The supply on hand is fairly large and prices are firm at the following quotations: Apples, \$7 to \$7.50 per barrel, a very choice article bringing as high as \$8; lemons, in boxes, \$8; cases, \$10.00; Alameda grapes, \$9.50 to \$10.00 per barrel; figs are scarce, in mats, 10; large boxes, 14c; small boxes, 20c; raisins, unchanged, loose Muscatelles, \$3.50; black crown, \$5.25; triple crown, \$8.50; four crown, \$8.75. There are no novelties in the market. Collections are very fair.

GROCERIES.

Trade has been looking up considerably during the past week. Good orders are being received from the country, and the city trade holds up to about the usual standard. Collections have not shown much signs of improvement of late, but the prospect for the future is more promising.

FISH, POULTRY AND GAME.

There is no change in prices to report. The stocks held in the city are limited, but sufficient for the trade being done, which is very light. Poultry is very scarce, in fact it may be said to be almost out of the market. Game, outside of rabbits, cannot be had as a rule, although a small lot now and then finds its way to the city.

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

Trade is brisking up considerably. Good orders are coming in from the country, and the town trade also shows some improvement. Collections have been fair to good.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

Business is reported very dull, nothing doing beyond little sorting up orders. Collections are not much to brag of.

FURS AND SKINS.

There is very little doing in this line. Hides are not in much demand, and the price has dropped to \$4 per cwt.

FUEL.

The fuel market remains just about as it was. Since the break in the cold spell the demand is of course not so great as it has been. Wood and coal are both in good supply and no danger of a scarcity is anticipated. Quotations are: Coal, egg, stove and nut by carload on track, \$14; Blossburg, car lots, \$13.25; soft coal, car lots, \$10.80 to \$12, according to quality. Wood, poplar, \$5 to \$6; ash, oak and tamarac, \$7 to \$8.

THE MARKETS.

WHEAT.

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

For the week grain receipts have been more liberal than for some time past, especially oats. Prices have held firm, and in some cases there has been a slight advance. The provision market is well supplied and there has not been any particular change in prices.

WHEAT.

The receipts of wheat have not been very

heavy for the week, and eastern shipments have been confined to a few cars. Quotations are 78 to 80c. For a specially fine car load of hard wheat 82c was paid.

BARLEY.

The street receipts for the week have been reasonably good, and the quality of grain brought in has been very good, both as regards color and plumpness. There is no change in quotations, the ruling figures being from 40 to 48c, according to quality.

FLOUR.

Prices are unchanged. The shipments to eastern markets will be over twenty cars for the week. On Tuesday evening a train of fourteen cars started for Montreal. The outlook east is rather dull, and it is not expected that shipments in that direction will be very heavy for some time. The home demand is good. 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.

Street receipts for the week have been very liberal, and the offerings of car lots from outside points heavy. There is evidently an abundant supply of oats in the country, and there will not likely be any necessity for importation from outside points. Quotations are from 40 to 45c.

BRAN.

There is a good supply in the city. Prices are unchanged at \$10 per ton on track or \$11 delivered.

SHORTS.

Prices are the same as last week, viz., \$12 per ton on track and \$13 delivered.

CHOPPED FEED.

Stands firm at the old figure of \$28 per ton. The demand for home consumption has been good.

EGGS.

The market is abundantly supplied with eggs and prices have consequently dropped considerably. Strictly fresh are worth 27 to 30c per dozen, and in some cases they have been sold as low as 25c.

POTATOES.

The market has been well supplied. The moderate weather has given farmers an opportunity to bring in the contents of their pits. There is still an abundant supply in the country. Quotations are from 65 to 75c per bushel.

BUTTER.

There has been no change in the price of butter this week. Several consignments from Ontario have reached the city, and the supply is consequently large. The demand is good. Choice dairy is worth 25 to 27c; superior extra, 16 to 21c. Ontario creamery bring as high as 31c.

DRIED APPLES.

The supply in the city is quite sufficient for the demand. Prices are firm at 12½c per lb. Evaporated fruit is quoted at 19 to 22c.

CANNED MEATS

Still hold firm with a tendency to advance. The opening of spring will bring a keen demand for this class of goods.

CHEESE

Is firm and slightly higher than last week, consequent upon a big advance in the Liverpool market. Quotations are from 15 to 17c.

MEATS.

Prices hold firm at old quotations, which were: Ham per lb., 16c; spiced roll, 16 to 16½c; barreled pork, \$25.50 to \$26; mess beef, \$18.50 to \$19.