

slack for everything except barley. Holders have not been inclined to push sales, as outside markets have been steady, and prices here have been in consequence fairly well maintained. In wheat the feeling towards the latter part of the week was very firm, with the offerings very small, so that some good sales were made, but later on the demand fell off as millers were fully supplied, and prices too high to suit exporters. In oats there were no transactions, the movement being small and holders indisposed to make any concession. In provisions business was generally quiet but steady. There was an active demand for choice qualities of butter all the week, all offered being readily taken at firm prices for selected dairy. Other grades were neglected, except a shipping demand which set in for a fairly good quality. Business in meats has been rather quiet, the demand being rather less active, but prices were generally unchanged.

## WHEAT.

The feeling in this market in the latter part of the week was very firm with offerings very small. No. 2 fall sold at 88c to 89c, and No. 3 fall at 86c, but the demand later on fell off as millers were fully supplied and prices were too high to suit exporters. At the close No. 2 seemed unlikely to bring over 87c or No. 3 over 84c, but No. 2 spring, owing to its great scarcity, would likely have still brought 90c, though there was no movement reported in any grade.

## OATS.

The movement has been small and holders indisposed to make any concessions. No transactions were reported in the latter part of the week, but in the first 34c was paid, and new was sold at 33c. The market closed inactive, with little or no demand, and prices were nominal at 33 to 34c.

## BARLEY.

Has begun to move but at rather unsettled prices. No. 2 sold at 54c, extra No. 3 of choice quality at 62c, and 61c at Lake port, and later on at 60c. No. 3 of choice quality sold at 57c and 55c. At the close the feeling seemed quieter but values were fairly steady at former prices for the above grades, with No. 1 worth 72c.

## RYE.

Nothing doing, prices nominal at 60c.

## PEAS.

Still inactive, no car lots offered as yet, prices nominal at 60c.

## POTATOES.

The business in car lots was rather better with sales of one lot at 40c and another as high as 45c on track, these being of really sound quality.

## EGGS.

The receipts have been small and altogether insufficient and prices have continued to advance. At the close round lots of fresh were bringing 16½c to 17c and pickled at 15c.

## BUTTER.

The demand for choice qualities suitable for local consumption has been active all week, and all offered was readily taken, with prices firm at 15 to 16c for selections of dairy. Other grades were neglected till near the close, when a shipping demand set in, some good sales being then made at 10c, and a few small lots of selected store packed at 11 to 12c, the rest being of fairly good shipping quality. These sales, however, seemed to have satisfied the immediate demand. Rolls of really choice quality were steady at 15c, with very small offerings, and medium rather slow at 12 to 13c.

## CHEESE.

The demand was fairly inactive with prices

firm. Some round lots sold at 8½c and smaller lots brought from 8½c to 8¾c for fine, but at the close dealers were holding at 9c.

## PORK.

Has sold fairly well and steady at \$12.50 to \$13 for small lots.

## BACON.

Very little of any sort offered, but that evidently enough for the demand. Prices were generally unchanged at 6½ to 7c for long clear; and 6½ to 6¾c for Cumberland; with some new Cumberland offered at 8½c. Rolls were quiet at 10 to 10½c and bellies at 12c for now in small lots, with a very few old rolls offered at 10c.

## HAMS.

Seem to have been rather less active and only moving in small lots at 11½ to 12c the latter for light weights. Green was quiet at 10 to 10½c.

## LARD.

Much the same as the previous week. One lot of tinnets changed hands at 8½c; small lots usually at 9c; with pails at 8½ to 9½c. Tierces offered at 8½c, but no demand.

## APPLES.

Nothing doing in car lots. The receipts of summer fruit and winter falls very large and prices weak at \$1 to \$1.75, the latter for hand-picked.

## POULTRY.

Spring chickens in fair supply at 40 to 50c; ducks at 60 to 75c per pair; turkeys are offered sparingly and sold usually at 70c to \$1 each. A few geese have brought 60 to 80c.

## Commercial Summary.

The check to the activity in business circles at the east, noted in *Bradstreet's* last week, has become more pronounced. In England the distribution of boots and shoes is as heavy as ever, but the demand for woolen and cotton goods has fallen off. Both staples are quieter. Raw wool is fairly active, and the advance in prices previously noted is sustained, but the tendency to an advance in quotations is less marked. Late sales are less than during weeks in the latter part of August and in the earlier portion of September. There is a diminished activity in dry goods. Prices are no more than sustained. Commission and jobbing houses find a check in the demand, and state that it will now be necessary for the retail demand to step in and take the wholesale purchases of the last month or two, if the late activity is to be upheld. Within a month it will be made plain whether the general public has the ability as well as the desire to buy more largely than within a year past. The movement of textile staples from second hands has visibly declined. Providence R. I., advises are that cotton and woolen manufacturers now think that the foundation of the improvement in business within the past month or so is not as solid as had been hoped. Machinery generally is running, but the effort to obtain better prices has resulted disappointingly. At Boston, Philadelphia, New York and other eastern business centers there is no material change in the situation beyond the fact that buyers appear to have reached a limit to their purchases in anticipation of wants. At Savannah, Galveston and Memphis there has been a disappointing trade during the week, largely on account of unfavorable weather. At Cincinnati, too, business is more quiet and prices in some lines are weaker. At Pittsburgh and Cleveland the distribution of goods is fairly active only. At St. Paul there is a moderate

activity, with no signs of a boom. At Chicago trade is still fairly satisfactory, and the demand for funds from the country has advanced loan rates from 3 to 4 per cent. At St. Louis, too, in spite of wet weather, staples are in fair demand. The request for iron east and west is of fair proportions with no indications of an advance in prices. Less is heard of southern iron at the east than formerly. Anthracite coal is firmer, and in moderately better demand. Grain is dull and low. The export demand is not specially improved, and stocks in sight in this country are heavier than ever. Flour stocks throughout the country are about 38 per cent less than on July 1st, as reported by *Bradstreet's*, but the staple has been in relatively light export demand at current quotations. Cotton has advanced owing to reports of damage to the growing plant, and mercantile failures are unexpectedly but little in success of the total for nine months of 1884. Grocery staples are without improvement. In dairy products butter is dull and cheese higher. There were 172 failures in the United States during the past week, as compared with 140 the previous week, and with 188, 160 and 122 respectively in the corresponding weeks of 1884, 1883 and 1882. About 84 per cent. were those of small traders whose capital was less than \$5,000. Canada had 23, decrease of 3.—*Bradstreet's*.

## The Penalty of Improvidence.

In a recent conversation with an excellent gentleman, who is superintendent of one of the finest manufacturing establishments in the world, he said to us that something must be done, or there would be revolution and blood. "Why," said he, with great earnestness, "we are unable to supply some of our best mechanics with work—men who have been with us for a long time. They are actually in want, and something must be done, or there would be revolution and blood." Now let us calmly look at this sad condition of affairs squarely in the face. Here are a number of "good mechanics" out of work and in need. They have had work for years at from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per day. During these years the firms have made money and saved it—laid it up for such a time as the present—and are, therefore, by this providence, able to weather the storm—span the hiatus. If these mechanics had done the same thing they would now have enough to supply them, and they could rest comfortably now, instead of riding on the jagged and ragged edge of want. "But," says the anti-monopolist and equalizer, "the factory made more, and labor did not get its share of the result of the combination of work and money." We do not know of any rule of equity to decide this question by; but this we know—that this very factory offered to share profits with their employees, and they declined, preferring a stipulated amount for their services. Here are men reported in want who have received from seven to ten hundred dollars a year, and never laid up one dollar of it—who have provided no homes for their families to live in, and have no bank account against a rainy day. This is a contingency against which no government can provide. There are but two powers in this or the other