

staple goods matters are quite brisk. The present week promises to be one of unusual bustle, and a good trade is expected until the close of the present month. Reports of collections are also of an encouraging nature.

FISH AND POULTRY.

The trade in fresh fish has been active during the week, and the variety on the market has been greater than for several weeks back. Lake Superior trout are plentiful and sell at 11c. Lakes Manitoba and Winnipeg white fish have been received in great quantities, and are offered at 8c. River fish have also reached the city in heavy consignments, and sell at 5c. The principal varieties are pickerel and bass. Dried fish are very scarce, and are confined in variety to finlon haddocks and smoked salmon, both of which are at fancy prices. Oysters have been received in great quantities, and the stock in the city is now heavy. Prices have been, selects, 60c; standards, 50c. in bulk counts are quoted at \$4, but are getting scarce. Poultry still remains reasonably plentiful. Dressed chickens are quoted at 21c and turkeys at 22c. Prairie chicken and partridge have been much more general in the city during the week than for a month previous, and have found ready sale at 60c a brace. Rabbits are the only other game on the market.

FUEL.

For a portion of the week there has been a coal famine in the city so far as anthracite was concerned. The snow blocks in Southern Minnesota have materially interfered with cars now in transit, and quite a scarcity has ensued. There has been no change in price however, and no scarcity of bituminous coal. The steady quotations of the week have been, anthracite, \$13.75; bituminous, for grate purposes, \$13.50, for steam purposes, \$12.50. The glut of the wood market still continues, and prices have declined during the week, and there is no prospect of any rise in prices for some time hence. Dry poplar now sells at \$5 a cord on track, and tamarac from \$6.50 to \$7. The fall in prices has reached the retail trade, and figures range from \$1 to \$1.50 above the wholesale. It seems that the quantity of available wood this season has astonished even the dealers of the city, and the fact that coal is from \$2 to \$8 cheaper than last winter, caused many to lay in a winter stock of coal instead of wood. A little more liberal policy on the part of the wood dealers in the early portion of the season might have preserved a heavier demand during the balance of the winter.

FRUIT.

There has been no material change in the state of trade in this branch during the week. There has been much more activity in fancy dried fruits, while in green it has been reasonably good. Grapes are now practically out of the market, and a few California pears are to be had at fancy prices. Lemons are growing scarce, and oranges are on the market once more. Apples have been selling during the week from \$0.50 to \$7.50 a barrel, according to quality. Cranberries are to be had at from \$16 to \$17, according to quality. Figs in boxes and mats are unchanged in price from last week. Malaga and other raisins are plentiful, and

some neatly gotten up boxes of dried fruits and nuts for the holiday trade are now on the market.

FURS AND HIDES.

There has been no trade in raw or dressed furs during the week, but the dealers of the city are preparing for business at an early date, and within three weeks it will be possible to give regular quotations. In green hides the demand has not been very active during the week, and a slight decline in prices has taken place. The regular quotations has been 6c, although 6½c has been paid in a few cases. Pelts are scarce, and good Novembers are worth 55c to 60c.

FURNITURE.

It seems that this branch is to some extent affected by the holiday season, as wholesalers and manufacturers have been rushed very much with orders for delivery during the past and present week. The trade generally gives a very satisfactory report and prospect, and a good steady demand both from city and country is anticipated during a great portion of the winter.

GROCERIES.

The trade in this staple branch has been fair but not rushing during the week, and some complain of a slight quietness. This would doubtless be more general but for the active demand for fancy groceries for Christmas trade. Several travellers have just returned from the West, and they report business steady, but not extra active. Collections are reported fair to good. There has been no material change in prices except in a few fancy lines. Sugars are quoted 10c to 11c for light yellows; granulated 12c. Green coffees are unchanged. The variety of Rio on the market ranges from 15c to 18c, according to quality. Government Java 22½c to 24c. Dried apples have advanced in price, and are quoted at from 11½c to 12c. Dried peaches are quoted at 11c; evaporated 35c. There is a general upward tendency in fancy lines, which will probably cease with the opening of the new year.

HARDWARE.

The brisk trade reported in our last issue still continues in this branch of business, and the past week has been one of general activity. The goods in demand have been of a varied character, that of the heavy departments being the lightest. Orders are now in hands which will assist in making the present week a busy one. Country collections are reported moderately good and city fair.

LUMBER.

There is no change to report in this line of business during the week. A general quietness pervades the trade, and dealers are reconciled to a time of inactivity. The only orders of the week have been for a few light sorts. Prices remain the same as the week previous: Sheet-ping, \$28; 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.

Activity has been general in this branch of trade during the week, and wholesale houses

have had quite a rush. There has been considerable running about to fill up orders, and there is evidence that the trade in fancy goods for the season has been underestimated. Staple goods are also in good demand, and a turn of prosperity is general throughout the trade.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

The reports of the week from this branch of business are very satisfactory. Orders for both city and country have been numerous, and general activity has been the state of trade during the week. The prospect ahead is good, and one or two travellers who have recently returned from the country report collections good, and the retail trade prosperous.

THE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

The plentiful snow and good sleighing all over the province has made the receipts of grain in the city liberal during the past week. Wheat has been received in plenty by the millers, and a raise of three cents per 100 pounds on through freights to the East, has put a slight check upon shipments there. Still quite a number of cars have gone during the week, and there is a determination to try shipping as long as any special advantages are within reach.

WHEAT

Has sold at from 75c to 80c but does not hold as firm as it did a week ago. There is not much prospect of any decline in the better grades for home milling purposes, but softer samples are likely to be affected by the rise in through rates. During the week about thirty cars from this city and points south have been shipped to the Atlantic seaboard and to Europe by Winnipeg houses, and there would be a great increase in this trade were rates more favorable.

OATS.

The receipts of this grain have been liberal both on the street and by rail, while there has been no extra demand during the week. Car lots are wanted most for points east of this, and the demand from that locality promises to hold good during the greater portion of the winter. Prices have eased off slightly, and were a few cents lower in the end of the week than at its beginning. The range has been from 40c to 45c, and the sales above the latter figure have been very few. There are numerous complaints about a large share of the oats being light this season, and on this fact a few dealers look for a heavy advance before spring. The freedom with which receipts now come in would seem to oppose this theory.

BARLEY.

Has been much more plentiful during the week than for a month previously. Several cars have been received by rail, and quite a quantity on the street. The quality of some lots was much better than any received during November, and there is now a hope of some really fine bright barley coming to market. Prices have weakened somewhat, and 52c is now the highest figure offered. Poorer samples have been bought as low as 45c. A still further increase in receipts is expected during the current week.

Neither flax, rye or buckwheat have made their appearance during the week, and they may now be considered out of the market.

FLOUR.

Mills have been running full all the week, and have plenty of wheat ahead to insure steady running. The local demand has remained still steady and rather increasing, and considerable shipping to the East has been carried on; about 18 cars have gone during the week, and the