

retailers have now considerable surplus cash from their holiday sales.

FISH, POULTRY AND GAME.

There has been an active demand for fresh fish during the week, although the variety to be had has been limited to Lake Manitoba white and jack fish. The former have been selling at 9c. a pound, and the latter at 4c. Lake Superior trout are now out of the market, and fresh salmon, although to be had, are not in sufficient quantities to allow of wholesale quotations. Dried fish are confined in variety to the most staple kinds. Findon haddocks being the only unusual article, and these are quoted at 10½c. Poultry has been very scarce during the week, and can scarcely be said to be in the wholesale market. Chickens have been quoted during the past few days at 20c.; geese and ducks at the same, and turkeys at 22c. A good supply of all are now on their way from the East, and the market will be replenished during the current week in all probability. Game is now plentiful, rabbits, venison, prairie chicken and wild duck being among the varieties. Notwithstanding the lull after the holidays the poultry demand has been brisk, and it is evident, that dealers have greatly underestimated the probable trade.

FRUIT.

There has been an actual dullness in this business during the past week, and the extreme cold has kept wholesale dealers busy attending to the prevention of green fruits freezing. The variety of these has not increased, although some kinds are more plentiful. There have been few advances in prices, although a higher tendency has been observable in all. Apples have been quoted at \$6 to \$7, and a few choice lots have been held at \$7.50. Oranges are more plentiful, and Valencias are still quoted at \$14.50 a case. Lemons are very slow in sale, and have been quoted at \$5.50 to \$6. California pears are now out of the market. Malaga grapes have held at \$10 to \$11 a barrel, according to quality. Cranberries are scarcer, and are quoted at \$17 to \$18 a barrel, according to quality. Figs in mats are unchanged, quotations being 10c. in large boxes, 14c. is asked, and in small 20c. Valencia raisins are worth \$3.50 a box; Black crown \$5.25; Triple crown \$8.50, and Four crown \$8.75. Dried apples are getting every-day scarcer, and quotations have reached 12½c. The dullness which has pervaded the trade during the week, it is expected will be relieved shortly, and with the opening of the present week, there are signs of renewed activity coming.

FUEL.

There has been very little change in the state of the coal trade during the week, except a brisker feeling caused by the extreme cold with which the year opened. There have been no change in prices, and the ruinous competition that was looked for by some has not yet set in, nor is it likely to this winter. Anthracite remains unchanged at \$13.75 on track and \$15 delivered. Bituminous holds at \$12.50 on track for steam, and \$13.50 for grate, with the \$1.25 extra in each case for delivery. Wood has been plentiful, although the demand has greatly increased, and there is no probability of any scarcity during the balance of the winter. There

have been no changes in prices since our last quotations.

FURS AND HIDES.

The receipts of raw furs are steadily on the increase, and dealers are about to make arrangements for a regular scale of prices for January. As yet reliable quotations cannot be given, Hides are in reasonably good demand, and are quoted at 6c. to 6½c., according to quality; only a few first class being worth the latter figure. Pelts are very scarce and are still quoted at 60c. for good Novembers.

FURNITURE.

Reports from this business are rather varied, some being dull and others fair to good. There are, however, evidences of an improvement on the previous week, and as January progresses, a steady if not heavy business is expected. Manufacturers are still as pushed as ever, and are likely to again be compelled to work overtime. The prospects of the trade, therefore, are by no means poor.

GROCERIES.

There is still a quiet feeling in this trade, and matters move in the most uneventful style. Most houses are taking advantage of the lull to balance up the year's business, and the feeling over the year's trade is one of general satisfaction. Country demands are small, and the town trade has diminished to a demand for the most staple articles. There has been no change in prices during the week worthy of notice. Raw Sugars are quoted at 9c.; yellows from 9½c. to 10½c.; granulated 11½c. to 11¾c., and Paris lumps 12½c. Coffees have not changed: Rio's being quoted from 16c. to 22c., and Java from 22c. to 33c.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

Trade in these goods has been very slow during the week, especially in heavy hardware. There has been limited demand for shelf goods, but not enough to cause any activity. The trade has been principally local demands for immediate use, and country orders are very few. In metals almost no business has been done, and very little stir is anticipated during the present month. Prices have changed none and have held as follows: Tin plate 14 x 20 \$7.75 to \$8; 20 x 28, \$15 to \$15.25; Bar iron, \$3.75 to \$4; Sheet iron, 5½c. to 7c.; Iron piping, 25 per cent. off list prices; Ingot tin, 32c. to 33c.; Pig lead, 6½c. to 7c.; Galvanized iron, No. 28, 8½c. to 9c., according to brand. There has been an advance of 50c. on tin plate in eastern cities but as yet it has not taken effect here, although it doubtless will shortly.

LUMBER.

There has been no improvement in this branch of business during the week. There is scarcely any demand in the city, and from the country literally no orders have come during the week. The month of January is expected to be a very dull one, but with the opening of February the getting in of stock for early spring demands will commence. Prices are nominal and remain the same as the week previous; Sheeting, \$28.00; 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 reports from this branch of trade has not been brilliant during the week, although a steady trade in staple goods has been doing. Fancies are row in but little demand, and are likely to remain so for some weeks to come. The trade altogether may be considered quiet but not really dull, and a feeling of satisfaction with the state of affairs exists. There are no travellers out at present, but quite a quantity of new goods have been received within ten days, and starting out to wake up the country trade will be general during the current week.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

There has been a decided quietness in this line during the week, and there is very little prospect of improvement during the present month. The trade are reconciled to this fact, as only what they expected, and as collections are reported good, satisfaction is general.

THE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

The past week has been one of wonderful activity in grain notwithstanding the new year holidays and the extreme cold weather. The street receipts have been the heaviest for over a month, while those by rail have fallen off somewhat. Shipments of wheat to the east have increased somewhat, and for the week have reached somewhere near to fifty cars. Flour shipments have not been heavy, about half a dozen cars being the aggregate, one of which went to St. John, N. B. There has been a full supply of good wheat for the mills, and they have scarcely closed down during the holidays.

WHEAT.

Owing to the heavy street and light rail receipts there has been something of a balance in supplies, and prices have held steady during the week. The best lots of hard tife have sold at 78c and a very few choice as high as 80c. Lower grades have sold down to 75c. Altogether the receipts have been more even in quality, and the very poor and damp lots which were common a few weeks ago, are now very rare. Farmers consider the prices very low, but keep hauling in freely, and are becoming more reconciled. The recent firmness in American and English markets if it continues may warrant an advance soon; but the fluctuations are so that steadily higher prices are by no means certain.

OATS.

The quantity of this grain received on the streets during the past week has astonished many who were predicting high prices and scarcity. The receipts in wagons have been the heaviest of any week of the season, and at the same time receipts by rail have fallen off. This latter fact is in a great measure due to storing at country points, in which some of our Winnipeg buyers are indulging. The receipts at most points west have in no way fallen off, and are not likely to. A heavy stock is still held by farmers for famine prices, but these are not likely to be reached this season, and in spring when a scarcity is expected, the supply on sight will be heavier than most people anticipate. Prices have not changed since our last report, 40c to 45c being the steady quotation.

BARLEY.

There has been a slight decline in the price of this grain during the week, and the demand for it is by no means active. Receipts by rail have been scarce, outside of the heavy purchases mentioned in last issue. On the street a number of loads have been picked up each day, and the quality of these have ranged from fair to