

the grounds upon which extended accommodation is asked.

FISH, POULTRY AND GAME.

In the market for fish poultry and game, there was no material alteration to record during the week. Whitefish are not plentiful but a fair supply is obtainable at 5c to 8c. River jack fish are abundant and are selling at 4c. Dried fish and poultry remain scarce and quotations cannot be given. The supply of game is not large and prices are without any definite range.

FRUIT.

During the past week the fruit market improved in firmness and demand, the variety remaining unchanged. Apples are quoted at from \$6.50 to \$6.50. Valencia oranges can be had at \$13 to 14 a case. Lemons were sold at \$5.50 to \$6.00, according to quality. Cranberries are scarce and held at \$18. Almeida grapes can be had at \$10 to \$11 a barrel, stock low. Figs are selling in mats at 10c; large boxes 14c; small boxes 20c. Raisins were plentiful and in fair demand, at the following prices: Valencia \$3.50; Black crown \$5.25; Triple crown \$8.50; Four crown \$8.75. The tendency of the market is to improve in tone.

FUEL.

The fuel trade has settled down to a steady demand at unchanged prices. Current prices are: Anthracite \$13.75 on track, and \$15 delivered; Bituminous, \$13.50 for grate, and \$12.50 for steam. The price of wood during the week was variable, not alone on account of the uneven quality of what was offering, but to the irregularity in the supply. Poplar in car load could be bought at five dollars a cord and tamarac at six dollars. When these prices were exceeded it was to supply urgent needs. A break in prices is a possibility of the market this week if the weather remains open, for the stock in the country is very large.

FURS AND SKINS.

The supply of furs and hides during the past week continued light, but five car loads of hides were shipped east. Furs have not yet settled down to a definite range of prices, but hides are quoted: Raw 15c; Salted 6 1/2c to 6 3/4c; November 60c.

GROCERIES.

The volume of business transacted during the week left no cause for complaint to those who approached the dull season in a reasonable commercial spirit. There was no material change in prices. Syrups will likely advance next week. Dried fruits were firmer and have a tendency to advance. Dried apples advanced 1c and condensed milk was quoted \$1 per case higher. Canned meats are expected to advance 15c a case during this week, owing to an advance in price in southern markets. The sale here was slow. Collections were reported only fair.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

No improvement during the week was to be noticed either in the city or provincial demand for hardware either heavy or slight. Business was quiet and collections might have been better. In metals stocking up was continued

and sales were an average at this season of the year. The quotations continue steady. Tin plate 14 x 20 \$7.75 to \$8; 20 x 28 \$15 to \$15.25; Bar iron \$3.75 to \$4; Sheet iron 5 1/2c to 7c; Iron piping 25 per cent. off list prices; Ingot tin 32c to 33c; Pig lead 6 1/2c to 7; Galvanized iron No. 28, 8 1/2c to 9c according to brand.

LUMBER.

In lumber little was doing, the demand being no better than what was recorded during the preceding week. The prices remain unchanged, quotations being: Sheeting \$28; common dimensions \$30 to \$32; fencing \$28 to \$34; stock \$35 to \$40; flooring \$35 to \$45; graded clear \$50 to \$70; singles \$4.50 to \$6; laths \$5.

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

The stationery and paper trade is subject to less fluctuations than most and the report for the past week was perhaps the most favorable in any line of business. The demand while not heavy was fair ordinary business and collections were satisfactory. In the school book department there has been more than the usual activity, so that the week may be said to record a decided improvement.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

In wines and spirits through retailers are running stocks low there was nevertheless a fair quiet business transacted. Collections have been only fair, hotels showing a slight improvement and shops a counter-balancing falling off. The state of the trade is satisfactory and an improved demand is expected soon.

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

The stringency in the Winnipeg money market during the past week continued unabated and for any other than commercial purposes money could not be procured. The demand for money for real estate payments was not so large, but no accommodation whatever was procurable upon any terms. The funds on hand in the banks are just sufficient owing to the withdrawal of deposits for the east, to provide for commercial wants. Bankers report payments far from good. No easiness in the money market here may be expected before the middle of February, but the banks will attend to all purely commercial wants, though they would prefer to see fewer renewals. A fair business has been done by the loan companies upon improved properties, the rate charged being 10 per cent. Gilt edged commercial paper was discounted at 8 to 10 per cent. and ordinary paper was taken at 10 to 12.

THE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

There has been a dull feeling in grain circles during the past week, and the movement has been very limited indeed. Receipts of every kind have been light, owing to bad roads and severe weather. The few days of mild weather near the close have not yet produced any marked effect, so that the whole week's receipts have been extremely light. By rail the number of cars of

WHEAT

have been very few, and the shipments to eastern points have only reached a few cars. The mills have had quite a sufficiency for their de-

mands, and have kept them running steadily. The advance in eastern and American markets has not affected prices here and no change in figures has as yet taken place. The best lots of No. 1 hard have sold for 78c, but the general figure for the week has been 75c.

OATS.

The supply of oats during the week was abundant though the receipts by cars and from the street were not heavy, owing partly to the hard weather and partly to the expectation of holders that the prices would rise. Of this there is at present no indication, the prices remaining during the week steadily at 40c to 45c. The demand was fair and no immediate improvement is anticipated.

BARLEY.

The receipts during the week were not worth recording, nor were the sales of much importance. The market as regards prices remained unchanged. The samples shown of the stock on hand were of good quality, and quotations had a range of from 40c to 50c.

FLOUR.

There has been quite an active home demand for flour during the week, and the shipments to the east have been heavier than for several weeks. Somewhere about 25 cars have been sent to different points, and on one day eight were billed. There has been no change in prices, and quotations still are: patents \$3.00 to \$3.20; 3 X or strong bakers \$2.50 to \$2.60; bakers \$2 to \$2.15; 2 X or traders \$1.50. There are some ominous hints about changes being made, but as to whether an advance or a decline is meant, millers are rather reticent.

BRAN.

There is a light but steady demand, and during the week prices have held steady at \$12 a ton on track or \$13 delivered.

SHORTS.

There has been a slow sale for this product during the week, but stocks in the city have not accumulated to any extent. Prices are the same as the week previous, \$14 a ton on track, \$15 delivered.

CHOPPED FEED.

This article is still quoted at \$30 a ton. The demand is light, and has fallen off much during the week.

POTATOES.

The demand for potatoes during the week more than equalled the supply, and an advance took place from \$1 to \$1.25 per bushel. Receipts were very small, but a better supply will be had during the next ten days, arrangements having been made to haul from the country if the weather be open. Outside stocks are good, but as the demand has every appearance of continuing brisk it is questionable if the advance will be lost.

BUTTER.

The supply of butter in the market continues good and the prices are even firmer than they were during the preceding week. Choice dairy ready commands 25c to 27c, extra fine lots being taken at 27c. Low grades were sold at 21c to 24c, the supply being more than equal to the demand. For the few parcels of Ontario creamery in the market 31c to 33c was freely paid.

CHEESE.

The firm prices of cheese during the preceding week were fully maintained. No advance took place on 16c for prime, but the quotation is likely to advance a peg during this week.

EGGS.

The stock of eggs continues to be good, and as the visible supply is also large the quotation of 35c to 38c was continued unaltered during the week without the prospect of advance. Sales were satisfactory.