

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

The movement in the local grain markets has continued to be very small during the last week, perhaps partly due to an adjournment of three days, but the main cause would seem to have been the one previously ruling, and that being the season of the year, reluctance of holders to make any concessions, and the indifference of buyers to make purchases till the result of crops are known. In wheat the demand has been slack and the movement small, but prices were fairly well maintained all over. In oats the movement all through the week has been very small, with a downward tendency in prices. In provisions, not much activity has been noticed though in some instances, the demand has improved, but others were rather weak and declining. In butter, the better grades has continued to be wanted at firm prices and all offered found a ready sale, and perhaps more would also have met the same, if really of the quality indicated. There was no demand heard of for shipping lots, and very little was done in old butter, though some lots went off at a very low figure, more being available on the same terms without finding any buyers.

WHEAT.

In this market the demand has been slack and the movement small, but prices were well maintained all over. No. 2 fall changed hands at 88c, with the first car of new equal to No. 2, at 86c on track. Red winter was inactive but brought 89c, spring was rather scarce and held firmly, No. 2 being sold at 88c. The close was quiet but steady.

OATS.

The movement all through the week was very small and the tendency of prices downwards. Sales were made of choice at 34c and of average at 33½, and the close remained quiet.

BARLEY.

Has continued inactive and purely nominal with crop reports rather discouraging.

RYE.

In this market there is no business being done at all.

PEAS.

There was none offered during the week, nor does it seem likely that if offered, buyers could have been found as readily as before.

POTATOES.

Business in these was very quiet there being very little doing, the only sales heard of were a few small lots that went off at about \$1.25 per barrel.

EGGS.

Some improvement was noticed in this market during the week, the receipts were large and fully sufficient, but prices closed weak at 11c for round lots.

BUTTER.

In this market choice new dairy has continued to be wanted at firm prices, all offered has found a ready sale at 14 to 15c, as perhaps more would have done, if really of the quality indicated. In a few instances the prices of lots of finestore packed changed hands at 12 to 13c, but the leanings have not been worth over 7 to 8c, and slow at these figures. There was no demand for shipping lots heard of, old was sold off in one case at 4c, but more was available at the same price, and also a good lot of old rolls were offered without obtaining a buyer.

CHICKEN.

Sold off fairly well, but at easy prices, good to choice going off at from 8 to 8½c, and poor offered at 7½c, but not very readily taken.

PORK.

In this market business was not very active during the week, prices being weak and declining, and the only sales heard of were a few small lots that sold off at \$14.

BACON.

In this market the demand seems to have improved, and this at steady prices, long clear went off quite readily at 6½c for tons, and usually at 7c for cases, Cumberland also was more wanted and generally brought the same figures as long clear. Rolls appear to have been about out, and bellies almost so, but a few may still be had at 11c. There was some enquiry for cars heard of, but no sales has been quoted.

HAMS.

Stocks have been running rather low with prices holding firm at 11½ to 12c for smoked, and 12 to 12½c for canvassed. There was nothing done in green.

LARD.

In this market business was rather quiet during the week, chiefly owing to the abundance of poor butter. The range of prices were from 8½ to 9c for tinnets and 9½c for pails.

APPLES.

Very little business was done during the week, imported have continued to move to a very small extent at \$2.75 to \$3.50, and a few of native growth were sold off at about \$2 to \$2.50.

POULTRY.

The receipts of these have increased and prices have been easier at 45 to 60c for spring chickens, 55 to 65c for fowl, and 75 to 90c for ducks per pair.

Commercial Summary.

Special telegrams to *Bradstreet's* from leading cities throughout the United States report an increase in the improvement previously noted in various lines of staples. A significant feature is the advance of ¼c per yard in print cloths since July 31, when they were quoted at 3c bid. At Boston the gain in demand for dry goods continues, as well as that for boots and shoes. Dry goods at Philadelphia are likewise in better request, though not in excess of sales at corresponding periods in preceding years. It is regarded as of special significance, however, that the general feeling in dry goods circles is more buoyant and that greater confidence exists as to the probable stability of prices. The country demand for dry goods at St. Louis is also heavier and the trade there is characterized as fair. From Cincinnati word comes that there is a marked improvement in almost all staple lines, and even at New Orleans some gain is reported. Cooler weather at the west has had a stimulating effect on business. At Chicago, however, there has been only a slight increase in business. No special call for currency from the country is noted there, as was to be expected at this time. At Cleveland and at Pittsburgh no gain whatever is reported. At the latter city there appears to be a slight tendency on the part of consumers of pig iron to buy a little more freely, but this is more than offset by continued apathy at other important selling points. This is the only feature in the iron market. No result has been reported from the meeting of steel rail makers, at which it was hoped to advance the price of rails. Prices of iron and steel are unchanged. Anthracite coal is more depressed than ever by the refusal of the Lackawanna

and the Reading companies to agree to a reduction of the excessive output arranged for August and for succeeding months. Some anxiety on this account is felt by the trade, and buyers are more disinclined to stock up than ever. Stocks in first and second hands are heavier than ever, and prices are very heavy. Wool is as firm as reported one week ago. Stocks are full and holders firm. There are no special changes in prices. Wheat steadily refuses to bulge despite the generally bullish cast of the outlook. The increase in the visible supply, notwithstanding it is but one-third that of the like week last year, the apathy of the exporters, and the heavy stocks in sight, continue to depress prices. Free offerings of Russian and Indian in Liverpool, and a fair British harvest, help to maintain the situation. The damage done the spring wheat in the Northwest has not been as severe as anticipated. Indian corn is relatively stronger than wheat, owing to light stocks, a moderately active inquiry and light receipts at the west. Crop reports are very favorable. The demand for wheat flour has improved, owing to reduced stocks at tidewater. Provisions have been weak and lower, and hog products have been depressed to the lowest point for the season. The demand for cash stuff has been fair, but heavy stocks at home and abroad, backed by heavy sales, produced the decline. At St. Louis the cattle market is weakening, owing to the expected shipments from the Indian Territory. Ocean freights have been dull and low, with relatively little offering. The movement of grocery staples is still disappointing, and in leading lines is behind last year. Dairy products are still depressed. There were 192 failures in the United States during the past week, as compared with 184 the preceding week, and with 241, 166 and 95 respectively, in the corresponding weeks of 1884, 1883 and 1882. Canada had 19, an increase of 4.—*Bradstreet's*.

A Bankruptcy Case.

A decision has been recently rendered by the Supreme Court of New York, at special term, with respect to the assignment of Halstead, Haines & Co., of more than ordinary importance. In 1884 an individual and joint assignment was made. The preferences amounted to \$409,000, including \$24,800 to a brother, \$20,000 to a son, \$11,000 to a sister, \$4,900 to the estate of Wm. M. Halstead, \$102,000 to the estate of the father of one of the partners. The assets were more than sufficient to pay the preferred debts in full, and a suit was brought to set aside the assignment on several grounds. The first was the insertion of sums due to preferred creditors in excess of that actually owed them. Thus it was shown by the books that the debt to Robert was only \$20,278, instead of 24,800, the amount of which he was preferred. This excess was not disputed on the trial, and it was also conceded that Drexel & Co. were preferred for \$7,456 more than was due them, and that, in all, some \$11,000 more than the actual debts of the firm to various preferred creditors were included in the preference. On the part of the defendants it was claimed that these were unintentional errors; but, if so, they were not