

There is an excellent demand for barb wire and also for ordinary fencing wire. The price of barb wire has been advanced from 2½ to 3c., and the special privileges formerly given border towns cancelled. Cut nails, it is said, are to be advanced 15c. per keg on May 10th, while wire nails are to be advanced 2½ per cent. on May 1st, making the new discount 70 and 5. Trade in spades, shovels, harvest tools and garden tools is active. In metals there is fair enquiry for galvanized iron and tin plate. Galvanized iron is a little easier in price; import orders are being taken at \$4.25 instead of \$4.35 as hitherto. Import orders for Canada plate, fall delivery, are now being booked, dealers quoting \$2.35. Business in plumbers' supplies continues slow and orders small. Free enquiries are being made for spray pumps, garden hose and other warm weather requisites.

HIDES AND SKINS.—A dull market continues to rule in hides. The quality of offerings is very inferior, and in the absence of demand sales are being made at low figures; dealers quote 5½c., and we have not learned of transactions under this quotation. In Chicago, packers are apparently firmer in their views than the holders of country hides. Calfskins are quiet and dull, with but nominal enquiry from consumers. Tallow is weak and prices again lower, merchants now quoting rough at 1½c., and called at 2½c. per pound.

PROVISIONS—Trade is in fair condition. The butter market is weak. The heavy receipts of dairy noted the past several weeks have been continued, with the inevitable result of an accumulation of stock. The bulk of the offerings consist of large rolls, and many of them came to hand in poor shape during the hot

spell. In warm weather, if it be impossible to hold the butter over, shipment should be made by express rather than freight, as the delay is almost certain to cause deterioration. We quote:—Large rolls, 13 to 15c.; tubs, 13 to 15c. Cheese is dull and weak locally, the warm weather having curtailed the consumptive demand; merchants are jobbing at 8 to 8½c. per pound. Foreign advices are, if anything, more favorable, reporting a fair consumption with stocks reducing and an upward tendency in prices. Occasional shipments of new cheese are arriving from Western Ontario factories; but as yet, the new make attracts little attention. In the few hot days last week, a number of sacrifice sales of dressed hogs were made and affairs still remain depressed. Products are rather slow of sale. Free deliveries of eggs are being made, and prices have fallen to 10 to 10½c., at which prices picklers are taking stock. This outlet will probably serve to prevent a further decline in values for some weeks. Dried and evaporated apples are quiet with prices unchanged.

SEEDS.—The recent fine weather has brought out a very active demand for seeds; both orders and shipments are active. In view of the increased demand the markets are firmer and prices of both red clover and timothy have substantially advanced. Red clover is quoted \$4.80 to 5.40 and timothy \$1.90 to 2.10, while for fancy unhulled seed considerable more money is asked. There is no change in the value of alsike clover seed; transactions can be effected only at low prices, dealers quoting \$3 to 4.25 from low to medium and fancy grades.

WOOL.—News of a decided character was difficult to obtain this week. Actual transactions are small, although some large shipments of previously sold wool have been made. It is said that the shipper loses some 2 to 3c. per pound on the sale, and it is further added the same party will carry 850,000 pounds into the next season. Country buyers are anxiously enquiring as to values for the season of 1896. Dealers are now paying 12c. for deliveries of unwashed and 20c. for selected fleece, but it is impossible to accept these figures as a basis for the new market. Little that is satisfactory has been heard from the United States since our last report. The demand is slow, and values weak. Although English reports are more encouraging, the tendency of prices appears to be slightly downward. All bright classes of wool are steady. Mohair is firm, but without much business. Cross-breds and English wools are unchanged.

LIVERPOOL PRICES.

Liverpool, April 23, 12.30 p. m.

	s.	d.
Wheat, Spring	5	7
Red, Winter	5	8
No. 1 Cal	5	8
Corn	3	1½
Peas	4	8½
Lard	25	0
Pork	50	0
Bacon, heavy	25	6
Bacon, light	26	6
Tallow	24	6
Cheese, new white	42	6
Cheese, new colored	42	6

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