

ers appear to have been by no means anxious to press sales, even though they could in some cases have offered an advance in price; and whether farmers are going to bring forward their grain or will be able to hold it for an advance is a question on which opinion at present would seem to be divided, while some are of opinion that whichever course they may choose to take, their action can effect prices only to a very small extent. The movement is still light, as there is very little old on hand and holders felt unwilling to move that little, and new has not yet begun to offer to any considerable extent, while the tendency of prices has been upwards. Oats have been fairly active at firm prices with sale for all offered. In barley not much is doing yet, but stocks appear to have been increasing. In provisions trade seems to be fairly good at firm prices during the week. In butter there has been very little change noticed from our last report, the better grades have continued in active demand and at firm prices, while medium qualities have been very slow of sale and weak, and the old stock seems to be almost entirely finished. In meats, generally, business has been moving along fairly well.

WHEAT.

The movement has been very small as there has been very little old on hand and holders have felt unwilling to move that little, and new has not begun to offer to any considerable extent here as yet, while the tendency of prices has been upwards. No. 2 fall sold on the first part of the week at 84½c, but later on a cargo lot outside brought equal to 87c. Spring was inactive with bids of 89c for No. 1, and 88c for No. 2. Towards the end No. 2 fall sold equal to 89c and a mixed car of No. 2 red winter and No. 2 fall sold at 87c.

OATS.

Have been fairly active at firm prices, with a sale for all offered. Car lots were sold at from 33 to 33½ and 34c which last price would have been paid at the close, when holders wanted 35c.

BARLEY.

Stocks have increased some during this week. On the first of the week equal to choice extra No. 3 sold at equal to 60c, and at the close No. 2 changed hands at 62c.

RYE.

None offered, prices nominal at 60c.

PEAS.

None offered in car lots, and prices of these purely nominal.

POTATOES.

Car lots not in demand during the week. Prices closed easier at 40 to 45c per bag.

EGGS.

The receipts have fallen off some, and appear to have been insufficient during the week. Prices have been firmer and closed at 14½ to 15c for round lots.

BUTTER.

There has been very little change noticed in this market during the week. Select dairy has continued in active demand, and firm at about 15c for the best, for local consumption, one lot not quite up to this standard sold for shipment at 14½c. Medium qualities have continued to be very slow of sale and weak in price, values still range from 9 to 12c. One lot changed hands at 10c, but stocks seem to be accumulating and likely to keep doing so. Old has been moving to a small extent, one lot of culls sold at 4c, and a lot of select at 6½c, but is almost entirely finished now. New rolls of fine quality have sold well when offered at 14 to 15c, but supplies of these are small.

CHEESE.

Fine has been selling off readily at 8½ to 8¾c; medium to average has been slow at 7½ to 8c, with but little offered at the inside figures.

PORK.

Has been moving fairly well and at steady prices, holders in almost all cases standing out for \$13.

BACON.

Stocks have run down to a low point and these are being held very firm. Long clear at 6½ to 6¾ for tons and cases, and Cumberland sold usually at 6½ to 6¾. New rolls have begun to offer, and sold at 10½c, and new bellies at 12, but old seems to be almost out.

HAMS.

In good demand and steady, smoked have sold in small lots at 12c and in lots not under 100 and 200 at 11 to 11½c, the former being for heavy weight averaging 18 lbs.

LARD.

Much the same as last week; pails in lots of 25 and 30 have sold at 9½c and in smaller lots at 9½c, while tinnets have been quiet at 9c and tierces offered at 8½c, but these seem to be neglected.

APPLES.

Packed have been inactive during the week, but a few changed hands at \$1.75 to \$2.

POULTRY.

The receipts were small and prices much the same as last week at 45 to 60c for spring chickens and 60 to 75c for ducks. Turkeys are worth about 10c per lb.

Too Many Middle Men.

Said a manufacturer of this city yesterday: "There are too many middle men and brokers out of employment to make times good. They are the class who spend money most freely when they have it, and make trade lively. But too many have deserted the ranks of producers and joined those of consumers to make trade active. There are very few mechanics out of employment," said he. None need to be. This is just what ails business to-day. It is these middle men who have no trades and have lived like gentlemen by their wits or by speculations, until they have eaten up the surplus wealth of the country, and left it poor from supporting so large a class of people who give the country nothing back. Times will improve, but never be really, soundly and permanently prosperous until these useless millions who have swelled the population of our great cities and the memberships of all the speculative exchanges in the country, to live on their fellow men and get something for nothing, thin out, go west or into the country or shop and go to work and produce something that is of use to mankind. "That would not be respectable," says the starving broker in his threadbare suit, with his stomach clinging to his backbone, "I would not be a gentleman then, and my old acquaintances would not recognize me." Neither will they if you stay here much longer and bring up in the poorhouse. But suppose they don't, what is the good speech of men worth? When a man has it he doesn't need it; when he needs it he doesn't have it. Thousands to-day are going hungry and cold for fear of what people will say, if they accept their situation and go honestly to work. The good speech of men, purchased at such cost, is worthless, because coming from a class of people whose opinions in

the first place are worth nothing, and in the second place such people can do one no good. Sensible people who can, will never think less of a man for doing the best he can. Middle men, will you keep the respect of fools and starve, or your own self-respect and that of wise men and live in comfort and health? It is one thing or the other. Survival of the fittest will not help any of you. It is only the survival of the pocket-book that will save you. When that is gone you must either go to work, to the poorhouse, or to jail. Which will you do? You will have to decide before long. The only alternative is to jump off the dock.—*New York Dial.*

Recent Legal Decisions.

TELEGRAPH MESSAGE—NEGLIGENCE—LIABILITY.—In the case of Pennington vs. Western Union Telegraph Company, decided by the Iowa Supreme Court, it appeared that the plaintiff's agent telegraphed him an offer to buy apples at \$2 per barrel, but by the negligence of the agents of the telegraph company the telegram was not properly copied. Plaintiff took no notice of it and afterwards the price of apples advanced, and in purchasing he was obliged to pay the advanced price. Thereupon he brought suit against the telegraph company for his loss. The court held that he could only recover the amount paid for the telegram. The court cited the opinion of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin in another case against the Western Union Telegraph Company to the effect that "profits on a contract never made are quite too remote and uncertain to be taken into consideration," and said: "In the case at bar the plaintiff merely lost an offer, and if we were to apply the rule above mentioned, it would be clear that the plaintiff could not recover more than the cost of the telegram. But we need not go so far as to hold the above rule applicable. In no event could the plaintiff recover more than the value of the offer, and that could not be greater than the value of the contract would have been, in case the offer had been received and accepted. Now, the value of a contract for the purchase of property, where nothing is paid, is the difference between the amount agreed to be paid and such greater amount, if any, as the property may be worth in the market, and where damages are allowed for a breach of the contract they are to be estimated as of the time of the breach. * * * The offer in this case, which the defendant was asked to transmit, was of a carload of apples at two dollars, which it is said meant two dollars a barrel, and would have been so understood by the plaintiff. Now the loss of the offer was not greater than the difference between the price of a carload of apples at two dollars a barrel, and such greater amount, if any, as a carload was worth in the same market at the time the defendant's liability accrued. No rise or fall in the price of apples after that could change the defendant's liability. But the offer contained in the telegram is not an offer of specific apples at two dollars, nor of a given kind or quality; nor is there any evidence tending to show that apples of any kind or quality in the Vicksburg, Michigan market