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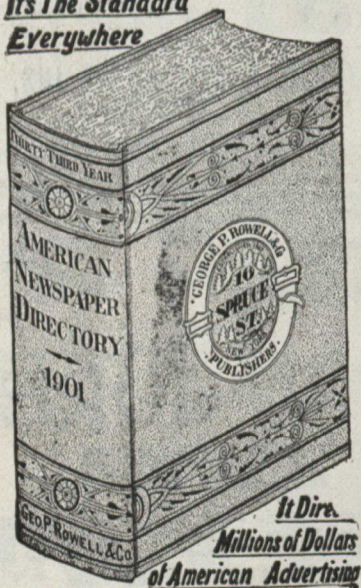
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formly good. Prices of cotton goods have made no further change.

Flour and Grain.—There is but a poor demand for flour just now, and the market is easy. Bran and shorts are both somewhat more easy. Oatmeal is quiet, and prices are slightly less firm. In grain, winter wheat is about 1c. lower, but other staples remain unchanged. Trade is inactive.

Fruits.—No special feature has developed in the local fruit market, and trade is on the dull side. Prices are quoted as follows: Extra fancy California, Washington navels, \$3.50 to \$4 per box; Valencia oranges, \$4.50; Bahama, \$5.50 per barrel; marmalade, \$2.75; new Messina lemons, \$2.25 to \$2.75; Almeria grapes, \$5.50 to \$6 per keg; apples, \$5 to \$5.50 per barrel; bananas, fancy, \$1.50 to \$2 per bunch.

Hardware.—The association is holding meetings this week and next, and may possibly make a few alterations in prices, but these are likely to be in an upward direction. Partially owing to the early opening of the season, trade is exceptionally brisk just now. Travellers are all on the road, and report good conditions, and shipments are being made in bulk to all directions. Metals are experiencing a good movement and prices are very firm. In Great Britain, according to last reports, iron ore was very firm, and a good business was being done owing to the better outlook for iron. Imports, however, showed a further decline. As regards pig iron, however, the manufacturers appear to have come to the conclusion that recent advances had been too rapid, and prices have now receded somewhat. Other metals have not been moving over-briskly.

Groceries.—We cannot add anything of importance to what was said last week under this heading. Business is dull. Sugars have made no further change in price, but the movement is fair. In canned goods the situation remains the same, and tomatoes are very strong.

Hides and Skins.—The quality of the hides being offered is growing worse, and prices have dropped about ½c., the demand being poor. For sheepskins, which are coming in in normally large quantities, there is a pretty good demand. Tallow is in request, and has a tendency to higher prices.

Provisions.—The egg market has settled down to 12c., and picklers are busily engaged. Fresh roll butter has gone down to 17 to 17½c. Choice dairy tubs are very scarce. Some low-grade butter has been cleaned up at 10 to 12c. Cheese is firmer, jobbing now at 11½c. The hog product market is firm, in sympathy with the advance in the price of live hogs.

Wool.—But scanty offerings are so far coming forward of new clip, and probably it will be some weeks before it moves in any quantity. For fleece the market is very dull. From Philadelphia comes word that in the absence of important transactions, quotations are largely nominal; but this is the usual result of a light demand, and does not necessarily indicate a softening of prices. Some few holders have modified their extreme views; but as domestic wool is now relatively cheaper than foreign with duties added, most owners are not disposed to make concessions in order to effect sales. As many sellers think there is but little to lose by waiting, and much that may be gained from a possible advance, in sympathy with hardening prices abroad, the situation has become a waiting one, and the general tone of the market, though quiet, is firm.

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