

the only result of traffic interruption, and even this is not very marked. In provisions there has been a slightly improved feeling all round. Meats have been in fair demand, with prices slightly firmer. The higher grades of butter were in better demand during the past week than at any time since the opening of 1885. There is still no demand for poor quantities, however, and stocks of these are now heavy.

#### WHEAT.

Offerings were small, and neither buyers nor sellers seemed inclined to press sales. Prices are as follows: No. 1 spring, \$1 to \$2c; No. 2 spring, 80c; No. 2 fall, 82c; No. 3, 80c.

#### OATS.

This was scarce, but advanced in price, with good demand. Car-lots are quoted at 34c. On the street as high as 37c has been paid, and in good demand at that figure.

#### BARLEY.

The movement in this market has been slow and offerings were light during the week. Prices are, however, firm at No. 2, 68c; extra No. 3, 65c; No. 3, 61c.

#### RYE.

Rye has shown no change, is still inactive, and nominally unchanged at 56c.

#### PEAS.

There has been a steady demand all week at steady prices; offerings, however, were small. No. 2 sold at 61c in car-lots, and more wanted at this figure; street receipts unchanged at from 57 to 60c.

#### POTATOES.

Receipts in car-lots have been light, and were eagerly taken at 35c. Street receipts were also light, and have been selling at steady prices at from 40 to 45c.

#### EGGS.

The receipts of lined eggs during the week were heavy, but the demand for them has been very slow, and prices were weak at from 15 to 16c. Fresh-laid have been in good demand, and all offerings were quickly taken at 21c for round lots, and 23 to 27c for small lots.

#### CHEESE.

Prices are unchanged, and all lots on hand are still firmly held for better prices. Quotations are as follows: Medium, 11½c; choice, 12½c.

#### BUTTER.

There has been a steady demand maintained all week for good qualities, and these were taken at steady prices as fast as offered, at from 17½ to 18c for choice dairy, and from 14 to 15c for rolls. The demand for poorer qualities is unchanged, and these have been selling in small lots at 5 and 6c for grease.

#### PORK.

The demand still continues light, and prices remain unchanged at from \$15.50 to 16.

#### BACON.

Bacon is still inactive, and all sales have been of a very light character. Prices are unchanged and as follows: Long clear, 8½ to 8¾c; Cumberland, 7¾c; and rolls, 10 to 10½c.

#### HAMS.

The demand for smoked has been less active. Prices, however, are unchanged at 11½ to 12c.

#### LARD.

There has been a steady demand for job-lots, and prices are unchanged and firm at 9½c for tinnets, and 10 and 10½c for small lots.

#### POULTRY.

No box-lots were received the past week and none expected. Street receipts were light, and prices firm at \$1 to 1.25 for hen turkeys, and \$1.50 to 2 for gobblers; geese, each 75c to \$1; fowls, 65 to 80c per pair; ducks, 80c to \$1.

#### APPLES.

Market receipts have been small. From \$1.50 to 1.62 has been paid by dealers for shipment. Prices are as follows. Common to good, \$1.25 to 1.50; choice, \$1.75 to 2.

### Commercial Summary.

General traffic has been again greatly interrupted at the west by the severe cold weather and snow which have prevailed. Advices to *Bradstreet's* from Chicago intimate that the interruption to the distribution of merchandise and to the movement of produce destined to the seaboard, together with the damage done to railways by detentions and otherwise, are greater than have been generally made public. On yesterday afternoon roads running out of Chicago were still refusing freight at any rate, owing to the blockade. General trade at Chicago, of course, has been reduced to quite small proportions. The delay to transportation has been seriously felt also at St. Louis, Cincinnati and throughout the Northwest. The usual winter dullness characterizes commercial operations at St. Louis, which has been intensified by causes already outlined. The only exception is found in a slightly increased demand for dry goods. There is no gain in the volume of trade at Cincinnati, and advices from cities west of the Mississippi River report no animation in business circles and no signs of improvement. The week's business in Philadelphia in general lines has been on the basis of for immediate requirements only, though there is said to be a firmer feeling there as to values in most lines. At Boston the only encouraging features reported are a better demand for leather, with an advance of ½c on some grades, and a steady demand for dry goods. It is added that the tendency of brown cottons is upward, and on some an advance of from ½c to ¾c is asked. On the other hand, some of the larger Lowell and Lawrence mills are threatening to shut down if raw cotton does not become cheaper or the finished article dearer. Notwithstanding the season's stoppages and reduced wages, New England cotton-mill treasurers are said to be coming to the conclusion that they are making no money at all. In New York general business lacks vitality. There is complaint in all lines that sales are behind those of a year ago. In dry goods the movement is fair; but new sales were somewhat checked by the weather and the gradual completion of jobbers' preparations. Prices of textiles are generally firm, notwithstanding the competition of selling agents. Cotton contracts have been dull and neglected. They manifested some firmness and activity yesterday because of the small receipts. There is no improvement in the iron trade east or west, except what can be gathered from an advance in the price of nails by the combination controlling their manufacture. Nominal prices of raw and merchant iron can be shaded. The severe weather has rendered the iron trade at the east, if possible, more than usually dull. The reported improvement in the anthracite coal trade is entirely in domestic sizes, and is exaggerated at that. Petroleum closed at 70c—about where it did a week ago—and is still weak, waiting the result of the new wells soon to come in in the Thorn Creek district. Wheat

is dull and neglected, and Indian-corn has but proportionately little more attention. Ports are smaller, and speculators hold off. Wheat closes at 92c (No. 2 red) in elevator. Indian-corn at 57½c (No. 2 mixed) a loss of 1¢ per bushel each on the week. Groceries have not shown any improvement, derived from the country is limited; prices rule low. Dairy produce is tame, with indications of tinner weakness. The consumptive demand for wool has been mostly gauged by the wants of the mills; but values in all markets have been maintained with unabated confidence. Kentucky tobacco continues quiet and firm at New York, and strong and animating the west. There were 273 failures in the United States during the past week reported to *Bradstreet's*, as compared with 370 in the closing week, and with 243, 221, and 173 respectively in the corresponding weeks of 1883, and 1882. About 87 per cent. were of small traders, whose capital was less than \$5000. Canada had 34, a decrease of 1.

### Canadian Postal Business.

According to the report of the postmaster general for the fiscal year ended 30th September 1884, the extension of the postal service throughout the provinces of the Empire shows continued progress. Four hundred and forty-two additional post-offices were established, making the total number in operation on 1st November, 1883, 6837. Mail has been organized on 2488 additional post routes; and, besides placing mail on new post routes, increased frequency has been given to the communications on many already in existence. Under the operation of these improvements the annual mileage has been increased by 1,421,195 miles. The number of letters, post cards, and articles of mail matter passing through the post-office shows a material augmentation. This enlargement of the postal service has been accompanied by increase both of revenue and expenditure, and naturally demands a corresponding enlargement of the remuneration for carrying on the work and for improving its performance. Arrangements have been perfected for extending the mode of remittance by money-orders between the post-office and other countries. Money orders may be exchanged with France, Sweden, Denmark, and the Netherlands, and with all British possessions and foreign countries with which the British post-office has made arrangements. There has been a general increase in the money order business both domestic and foreign. The total of issues of all kinds was \$10,067,841 compared with a similar total of \$9,490,000 in the preceding year. The transactions of the post-office savings bank have also considerably increased during the year, the number of subscribers having risen from 61,059 in 1883 to 66,682 in 1884, whilst in the same time the amount held in deposit has increased from \$11,976,237 to \$13,245,552.

#### REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The postal revenue in 1884 was \$11,976,237. For the previous year ended 30th September 1883 it was \$11,490,000.