

cause will have yet more marked effect upon March payments.

FISH.—The demand has been very good, and the market is now reported quite bare of fish. A well posted dealer claims that there are not 100 barrels now in first hands in the city. No. 1 Cod, 200 lbs., are quoted \$6.00 to \$6.50, while No. 1 large are not to be had at any price; \$8 to \$9 has been named, but the figures are purely a matter of conjecture, and we therefore withdraw quotations. Labrador Herrings, \$6 to \$6.25. We also withdraw quotations for Pickled Salmon and No. 2 Mackerel, there being none in market. Fresh Cod and Haddock are up again to 4c. to 4½c.

FLOUR AND GRAIN.—The price of wheat at this point has moved up 3c. to 4c. during the week, at a rate of progress just sufficient to defeat transactions. Millers have been inquiring and seeking to buy, but figures are kept above their reach, and at the moment when they become ready to pay the market, a new advance upsets their calculations and defeats the purpose. The quotation for Canada Spring No. 2 is to-day \$1.30 to \$1.41, against \$1.30 to \$1.38 a week ago. This rise is probably due to increasing strength in Liverpool, where the market has advanced to close upon shipping point, notwithstanding further improvement at Chicago. It begins to look as if the much talked of grain pool would be enabled to escape disaster after all, for the markets of the world are now working steadily in their favor, and current opinion is nearing the conclusion that Europe must have all the wheat the United States can supply, measurably regardless of price. The blockade of grain at Chicago and other points is attracting wide attention, and there is some talk of legislation to defeat such doings, but it is safe to say that it will all end in talk. Whenever speculation becomes concentrated, or runs riot, a certain class of people hurry off to the nearest legislature for a new law to remedy the apparent evil, but, fortunately they don't often get it, and, as a matter of fact, when they do they oftentimes wish they hadn't. That "the world is governed too much" is a good business maxim to have in mind whenever it is proposed to control trade or direct speculation by legislative enactment. The course of the Chicago market for the week is as follows: Friday, \$1.24½; Saturday, \$1.25; Monday, celebrated as Washington's birthday, and Board of Trade closed; Tuesday, \$1.25½; Wednesday \$1.25½ and to-day at 1.04 p.m. 1.24½. In coarse grains, sales of *Oats* are reported at 30c to 31c, and a sale for May delivery at 34½c; *Pease* have been marketed at 77c; *Barley* is quoted 55c. to 60c, with sales of 20,000 bushels on line of railway at 58c. Sales in the New York market are reported of 17,000 bushels No. 1 Canada bright Barley at \$1.05, and 12,000 bushels Canada Malt at \$1.15 to \$1.30, also sales of prime Canada Rye at 97c. in bond. Flour is more active than for some time past, and the new dealings are accompanied by strength and a more confident tone. The particularized sales for the week foot up over 4,500 barrels, but in addition to these there are indefinite numbers that escape report. The following are the figures at which business has been done: Extra Superfine, \$5.50; Spring Extra, \$5.80, \$5.82½, \$5.85, and \$5.90; Strong Baker's, all prices ranging from \$6.25 to \$6.50; Medium Bakers, \$6.00, \$6.05 and \$6.10; Fine, \$6.60; Superior, \$6.10 and \$6.15; Extra, \$6.00; Choice Spring Extra, \$5.95; City bags, \$3.10 and \$3.15; Ontario bags, \$2.85 and \$2.82½, and Oatmeal at \$4.55. The ruling quotations to-day will be found complete in our prices current.

FRUITS.—Very little change, if any. The market continues quiet almost to sluggishness in all lines except apples, which are still shipping. The foreign market for this fruit is more favorable. Account sales, dated 11th inst., of consignments ex Steamer "Quebec," show finest lots bringing as high as 22 s. freely, but the fruit has to be very good indeed to take this rank in the British Markets. Some considerable

shipments lately packed, and therefore losing but very little in repacking, have realized a very fair profit, but except under such advantageous conditions the export of apples presents no special attraction to shippers, even at present prices. The English market is, however, hungry for extra good fruit, and anything fairly answering this description commands a ready sale at full prices. Free arrivals of oranges are reported from Liverpool by cable in very bad condition and the market there is heavy and demoralized. Here this fruit remains at \$6 for selected, with possibly \$6.50 for choice. Cranberries are still \$9, and Grapes range from \$4 to \$8 per keg according to condition.

GROCERIES.—Western trade is depressed largely on account of want of winter roads. **Teas.**—Auction sale yesterday was, on the whole, moderately good, although prices of the finer Japans did not come up to expectation. Finest were not sold. About 750 packages in all of Green, Japan and Black Teas sold 3½c. to 33c. for Hyson, 31c. to 34c. for Imperial, 37½c. to 41c. for Gunpowder, 31c. to 43c. for Young Hyson, 30½c. to 40c. for Jap in, and 28c. to 35½c. for Congou. Some business, doing at private sale, but not very extensive, at about last week's figures. **Sugars.**—About a reduction on all kinds, as per revised list. Market is fairly steady, but not tending upward. **Molasses.**—34c. to 39c. for Barbadoes, Trinidad 29c. to 33c. **Rice.**—Dull, \$4.25 to \$4.50. **Coffees.**—Advance reported in United States. With us business is light, and market nominally as before. **Spices.**—Pepper from 10½c. to 12c. Other spices inactive. **Fruits.**—Valencia Raisins sold 7½c. Auction held 7½c. to 8½c. Layers dull but steady. Currants again firmer.

HARDWARE.—There is no such flourish to the reports from travellers now to hand as the trade may have been justified in expecting. With the market for raw material going up here, there and everywhere week after week without halt, it was natural to look forward to an extra active demand at the opening of the season for spring sales, and the great eagerness shown by bids and inquiries in advance gave good ground for such anticipations. Nor is there any reason now to question that expectations would have been and will yet be fully realized, but the protracted season of bad roads has impeded business throughout the western section, and serves at least to retard spring sales. Another occasion for lighter business at this time lies in the fact that to some extent wholesale dealers have met the demands of their customers by supplying the early orders during the period of constant advances, but, as then indicated, this was only done to a limited extent, since prices could not be made to keep pace with the foreign markets. Withal, a very fair business is reported, and the incoming orders are accounted, so far as advised, quite satisfactory. Remittances are not up to the mark in this as in other lines, which is again due to bad roads. The era of rising prices has not yet quite passed away, notwithstanding the quieter feeling prevailing, and we have to report the following higher quotations for iron wire and steel: *Iron Wire.*—No. 6, per bundle, \$2.40; No. 9, \$2.70; No. 12, \$3.00; No. 16, \$3.70. *Steel.*—Spring, per lb., 4c; Tire, 3½c; Sleigh Shoe, 3c. On the other hand Canada Plumes reflect the more sober feeling of the hour, and we quote Hatton at \$3.25, a concession of 50c. from highest point.

HORS.—The market is heavy. Sales can only be made at concessions, and very few in very small parcels at that. The only actual sale of which we are informed since last report is a trifling one at 24½c, but other sales have been made on private terms which we dare assume would have transpired if calculated to give the market a better look. There is more stock on the market, some fresh arrivals of samples having taken place during the week, representing, it is understood, a considerable lot. This added pressure was not needed to give the market a blue look; it was practically impossible to sell before, except in dribbles, and the same can only

be true now. We quote 20c. to 25c., confessing that we have but heard the bid of 20c., but supply it as a nominal figure. The New York market is flat at quotations reported on Wednesday as follows: state crop of 1879, 38c to 40c; choice, 35c to 37c; good to prime, 32c to 34c; low to fair, 28c to 32c.

HIDES.—The timeness of the Western markets meets with no response in this. Prices are subdually maintained, and all the hides offering are steadily picked up regardless of the protest of leather men that they are too high, and that supplies can be brought from Chicago and Toronto at a considerable saving. The only explanation we find of this anomaly is that the local inspection is more reliable and satisfactory than that made in any other available market, and consequently the butchers are cleared out here with some measure of disregard for price. Yet Chicago hides being sorted according to weight have the offsetting advantage of offering the buyer just such stock as may suit his purpose, and so the strength of this market would still appear eccentric. No change in the character of business doing is advised; butchers could readily dispose of more stock if they had it at the established figures: \$8 for No. 2, \$9 for No. 2 and \$10 for No. 1. Calfskins and Lambskins also unchanged.

LEATHER.—Quiet and steady under a very light business. A shade of improvement in inquiry is noticed, but its only effect is perhaps that of justifying the continuance of previous quotations. The season is now close at hand when activity will naturally set in, and the trade seems to look upon the situation with complacency. From Quebec we learn of private advices of more demand for black leather, which is reported scarce, and a consequent hardening of prices. This may have its medium of influence on the tone here, and doubtless does, though not traceable in its effects.

LIVE STOCK.—The receipts at Point St. Charles by rail for last week were 33 car loads. The offerings at the markets were greatly in excess of the demand, and prices were a little easier than last week. The sales reported are as follows:—4 choice cattle at \$55 each, or at \$4.40 per 100 lbs; 4 cattle for \$180; 2 do for \$70; 4 do for \$90; 4 do at \$50 each; 1 bull at \$42, or at 3c. per lb.; 1 do at 3½c. per lb., and a few head of the best cattle at 4c. per lb. The good cattle brought on an average about 3½c., and bulls about 3c. per lb. Dressed hogs were sold in considerable numbers at \$5.50 per 100 lbs.

LUMBER.—Comparatively little lumber moving at present, stocks being mostly in second hands, are now holding for spring trade and opening of navigation. The sudden reaction of this trade has been very remarkable. Up to the late fall lumber was a perfect drug, and could have been bought at 25 per cent. less than at present. The oldest and shrewdest men in the trade were not prepared for the rise. Few bargains are to be had now, as all the lumber fit for shipment has either been sold or is held too high to speculate on. Retail prices gradually rising, but still some in the trade are selling lower than the same can be replaced. The city trade is rather dull.

OILS.—There is not much movement in Oils of any kind except Linseed, which has been moving off pretty freely, and in consequence of the keen competition and large stocks in the market it is being sold at a very bare, if any, margin of profit. *Nasal Stores.*—Turpentine maintains the recent advance, and will cost at least 58c. to 59c. to import now; yet it has been sold at 60c. per wine gallon. *Rosins and Tars* are without change and a light demand. *Points* are active at unhand prices. *Refined Petroleum.*—In London, prices are firm and unchanged. Local market, owing to heavy stocks bought last year before the advance, holders are dropping prices about ½c. per wine gallon. This is more than balanced by leakage in many cases. Fresh oil in full barrels, cars,