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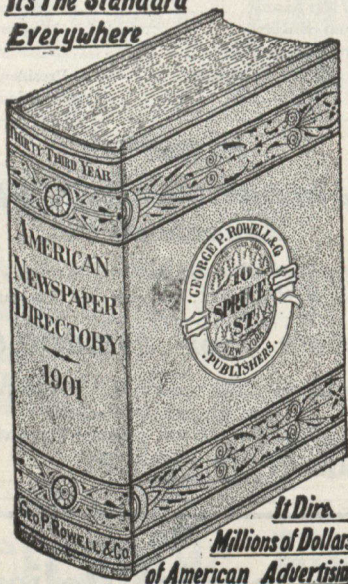
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cold weather and the emptiness of the people's coal bins created a perfect rush towards the dealers. In most cases, however, they could do but little to appease the anxiety. What hard coal they had was speedily dealt out in small dribbles to old customers, or to those who had given their orders months ago. Small quantities of anthracite continue to make their appearance from time to time, but they are speedily gobbled up, and the only recourse is of necessity to soft coal which most people consider an exceedingly poor substitute. It is almost useless to quote prices under present circumstances, but such as they are they may be considered as \$8 to \$10 for hard coal, and \$7 to \$8.50 or \$9 for soft. Hardwood is quoted about \$7 to \$9, but many dealers even have not any at that.

Groceries.—Several alterations will be noticed in the prices current for sardines. French are hard to obtain, though many Portuguese are masquerading under their name. The situation of sugar is a peculiar one just now. Prices quoted by Canadian refiners are 30c. lower than those in New York, yet it hangs fire, and there is but little movement. The strength of Valencia raisins is making itself more marked now at the near approach of Xmas. Canned vegetables too are still very firm.

Hides and Skins.—As foreshadowed a week or two ago the market here for hides has been depressed by the recent decline in Chicago, also by the falling off in the quality of the offerings. The prices, however, as yet show but little change. Tallow is on the easy side.

Provisions.—The receipts of butter are about average, and though the demand for extra choice grades is very good, the large quantity of second quality offerings is going but slowly. The cheese market is firm and prices show no tendency to recede. For strictly fresh-gathered eggs the demand is good at high prices. Cold weather and the approach of holidays have given an impetus to the sales of poultry, and the market is steady. The sale of hog products has slackened since the close of navigation, but apart from that, trade has been active. Offerings of dressed hogs are not large, and prices are steady.

Wool.—Prices of wools have stiffened still more during the last few days, though the export demand is light. Pulled wools are not going out very quickly, possibly owing to the fact that the mills are waiting to see further development at the London wool sales.

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