

1882' business have been of the most encouraging nature.

FISH, POULTRY AND GAME.

Fresh fish have been very plentiful during the week, and although there has been a heavy consumption and big demand, there is now to some extent a glut of the market. The variety has not extended any, Lake Manitoba white fish and river jack fish being the only kinds in the market. The former have been quoted at 2c, and the latter at 4c, but on one day at least the street market was glutted, and these prices were not reached. Dried fish are scarce, and Findon Haddocks are the only kind to be had outside of the most staple varieties, and these are unchanged in price. Poultry has been very scarce, one or two dealers being entirely out. There is not enough on sight at present to admit of wholesale quotations. Game is still to be had, but is not so plentiful as a few weeks ago. The variety on the market includes prairie chickens, duck and venison.

FRUIT.

There has been a quietness in this branch during the week, but quite an improvement is noticeable upon the business of the previous week. The variety on the market is about the same as last week, with the exception of California pears, which are entirely out of the market. There has been a slight advance in the prices of some fruits, while all round there has been more or less of an upward tendency. Apples have ranged from \$6.50 to \$7.50, according to quality. Valencia oranges are still quoted at \$14.50 a case. Lemons are slow of sale at from \$5.50 to \$6.00. Cranberries are getting very scarce, and are quoted at \$18 a barrel. Almeida grapes are unchanged in price, although scarcer, quotations being \$10 to \$11 a barrel, according to quality. Figs in mats are quoted at 10c, in large boxes at 14c, and in small at 20c. The demand for these is a light one. Raisins are still plentiful, and in considerable variety at unchanged prices. Valencias are worth \$3.50 a box; Black crown \$5.25; Triple crown \$8.50, and Four crown \$8.75. The dullness, which has been general in the trade since the opening of the year, is gradually breaking away, and a few days more will bring matters to a steady and more active state.

FUEL.

The coal trade of the city is now down to a steady level, and prices are probably fixed for the remainder of the season. Anthracite is quoted at 13.75 a ton on track, and \$15 delivered; Bituminous sells at \$13.50 for grate, and \$12.50 for steam. The demand for coal has been heavy during the entire week, and at one time a scarcity was feared, which was obviated by the arrival of a liberal supply. It is very difficult to give any reliable quotations of wood. Poplar can be contracted in car lots at \$5, and tamarac at \$6. As the market is crowded, however, these figures are by no means steady, and at times car lots have to be sacrificed at much lower prices to save demurrage. One lot we have heard of going at \$3.50, but it was rather green poplar. There is no denying the fact, that the wood market is glutted, and as heavy stocks are piled up at points in the country, the price must depend upon how much is rushed into the city. The possibility of a scarcity is now gone for this season.

FURS AND HIDES.

During the week there has been a steady increase in the receipt of raw furs, although the trade is not yet in a condition to admit of regular quotations. The shipping to eastern markets has not yet commenced, and will not be much indulged in during this month. Reports from the west indicate a heavy supply for the season. Hides have held firm all week at 6c to 6½c. The demand for them is active, and the supply is by no means heavy. Pelts are almost unknown in the market, but good Novembers are still wanted at 60c.

GROCERIES.

There has been a decided improvement in this line of business during the week. The quietness of the previous week is gradually disappearing, and particularly during the past few days there has been considerable activity. The ballancing up of the business of 1882 has had a good result, and started the trade off with renewed confidence. There has been considerable trade from the country during the past few days, and at least two houses report the receipt of opening orders. The city trade also is steady, although not heavy, and altogether the recovery from the after-holiday dullness has been much more rapid and general, than was anticipated two weeks ago. Collections are reported fair to good and improving, and travellers who are now out report the prospect of a rapidly increasing business during February.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

There has been a very little life in these goods during the week, and the little noticeable was confined to shelf hardware. The heavy goods are in very slow demand, and are not expected to improve much for some weeks to come. In shelf-goods the bulk of the trade has been from the city, the country orders being few. There is great confidence in a revival of business soon, and stocks are being replenished to meet the expected demand. In metals business has been at a stand still almost, stocks have been arriving during the week, however, and one house has received thirty-two cars of bar iron. Prices have not changed during the week, and quotations have been as follows:—Tin plate 14 x 20 \$7.75 to \$8; 20 x 28, \$15 to \$15.25; Bar iron, \$3.75 to \$4; Sheet iron, 5½c to 7c; Iron piping, 25 per cent. offlist prices; Ingot tin, 32c to 33c; Pig lead; 6½c to 7c; Galvanized iron, No. 28, 8½c to 9c, according to brand.

LUMBER.

There has been very little business done in this line during the past week, and yards have had a deserted appearance. So far, the month of January has been nearly a blank, and the opening up of spring operations seem to be surrounded with considerable doubt. Dealers are in a puzzle how to act at present. Should the C.P.R. syndicate take over the road from Rat Portage to Thunder Bay from the contractors this spring, Ontario lumber will then find its way to the city over that route, and dealers here are now anxious to know how that will affect the cost of it laid down here. It is thought that Minneapolis lumber will, in that case, be very little in demand in Manitoba. Prices are nominal and remain the same as the week previous: Sheeting \$28.00; common dimension \$30 to \$32; fencing \$28 to \$34; stock \$33 to \$40;

flooring \$35 to \$45; partition \$45 to \$50; graded clear, \$50 to \$70; shingles, \$4.50 to \$6; Lath \$5.

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

This branch of trade still remains quiet. The business being done is in the most staple goods as a rule, fancy being in very light demand. Some country trade is being done, but its volume during the week has not been heavy. The city demands are down to a steady but not heavy trade. Collections are reported moderately good, and the trade altogether is in a healthy state.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

There has been a steady quietness in this business during the past week, and it is expected that the same will last during January. From the country demands are light, but steady, while the city trade has been in a similar state. There is sufficient doing to prevent actual dullness, and there is no feeling of disappointment in the trade, as slow business is expected at this season of the year.

THE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

In both grain and provisions there has been a marked quietness during the past week, and dealers have not been rushed during any portion of it. The slack upon provisions is only what might be expected at this season of the year, and consequently causes no uneasiness. The grain lull may be attributable to the falling off in receipts, owing to the inclement weather, and the fact that another rise in freights to Montreal has been put in force on the Grand Trunk portion of the route. There has not been the life in grain buyers which they seemed to have during the last few weeks of 1882, although the general advance of prices in eastern markets would lead us to expect otherwise. There has been very little shipping of wheat to eastern markets, and the surplus over and above the demands of the mills has not been great. Altogether the trade has been in rather a quiet state.

WHEAT.

Although receipts have fallen off on eastern markets they have firmed up considerably, there has been no advance in prices here, and 78c has been the general price paid for good hard Fife, only a few lots having reached 80c. Poorer lots have sold down to 75c, but these have been few, and the quality of wheat generally has been good during the week. Millers have had a full supply for their mills, but the surplus shipped east has not exceeded a dozen cars. There is considerable grumbling among farmers at low prices. The margin between Winnipeg and Minneapolis has now reached over 25c for the first time during the present season.

OATS.

The receipts have fallen off considerably during the past week, and the quantity handled has been the smallest of any week since November. Only a few cars have reached the city by rail, and the street receipts have been anything but heavy. Prices have been firm, and would have advanced had the demand held as active as during December. There has been considerable of a falling off, however, in this, and it is not expected to be very heavy until spring opens. Prices have held from 40c to 45c, and a few choice lots have sold as high as 46c.

BARLEY.

Has been very scarce during the week, but has been sufficient for the demand. No car lots have arrived as far as we can learn, and the week's street receipts would not exceed 500 bushels. Prices have ranged from 40c to 50c, only a few loads bringing the latter figure. There have been no other grains on the market.