

tent been nominal. Oats are freer in sale, but have been too plentiful to allow of any advance in prices. New barley is now on the market, and from this forward quotations will be more easily reached. In provisions the business done has been considerable, and shows an increase on the previous week. Butter has now reached a moderately healthy state, and the last evidences of the spring and summer glut have disappeared. Meats of every kind have sold with moderate freedom, and in some lines there has been considerable activity.

WHEAT.

Very few sales are reported, and only nominal quotations can be given. No. 2 spring was held at 86c, and No. 2 fall at 84c to 85c, but with no buyers at these figures. Other grades were not offered.

OATS.

Buyers have had no difficulty in securing all they wanted at slightly reduced prices. Sales of car lots are reported from 33 to 34c.

BARLEY.

Prices are nominal as yet for most grades. No. 1 was wanted last week at 65 to 66c, while No. 2 sold at 62c. No other grades changed hands so far as known.

RYE.

There have been no offerings during the week and no quotations heard of as yet.

PEAS.

No sales of car lots reported as yet. A few loads on the street have sold at 61 to 62c.

POTATOES.

Not much doing except in small lots. Car lots were offered at 42c but only 40 was bid.

EGGS.

A good steady demand has kept up, and all offered have sold at 12 to 12½c.

BUTTER.

There has been quite an active feeling all week, and all offerings of choice and good medium have been freely taken. Low grades too seem to have been pretty well cleared out, so that a good healthy feeling is expected during fall and winter. Choice lots sold at 14 to 15c, medium from 8 to 11c, while some very poor lots sold as low as 4c.

CHEESE.

A fair demand has existed for good qualities at 8 to 8½c. Lower grades sold from 7 to 7½c.

PORK.

Scarcely any business doing and prices nominal at \$13.

BACON.

Sales have been rather slow, although a few car lots have changed hands. Car lots of long clear sold at 6½c, and small lots at 6½ to 6¾c. Cumberland in small lots sold 6 to 6½c. Rolls were scarce and not quoted.

HAMS.

The demand has held moderately steady and prices pretty firm. Round lots of smoked sold at 11½c and small lots at 12c. Green were in good demand at 10½c in small lots.

LARD.

Very little demand existing. Tinnets and pails sold at 9 to 9½c. Tierces were offered at 8c.

APPLES.

Prices have held steady and firm. Medium sold at \$1 to \$1.50, and choice cooking qualities at \$1.75 to \$2.

POULTRY.

The supply has been light and offerings have been freely taken. Spring chickens sold at 40 to 65c a pair; fowl, 50 to 70c; ducks, 60 to 80c; turkeys about 12½c a pound,

Commercial Summary.

The general business situation, as reported by wire to *Bradstreet's*, continues quite as favorable as reported last week. The activity is mainly confined, as heretofore noted, to print cloths, bleached cottons, wool and boots and shoes, but the feature of the week is found in the improvement noted in eastern markets. Notwithstanding the reported gain in this line at the south and west, manufacturers and dealers east of the Alleghenies had failed to report a like gain. Within the past week the improvement has become more general. The inquiry for pig iron has increased, and one sale at New York is noted of 7,000 tons of forge at \$15, for which \$14.50 had been offered. While none in the trade admits the likelihood of a boom, all appear satisfied that there is a better business in sight. Dealers in Scotch pig have advanced prices 50c. per ton, and orders have been cabled in some instances for shipment to this port. Steel rails for moderate sized lots may be had at \$28 to \$28.50, while smaller quantities command \$29. No large orders extending in delivery beyond January 1st will be taken at these figures. One small lot for prompt delivery has been sold during the week at \$32, furnace delivery. These are very encouraging features. Scotch pig at Glasgow is 9d to 1s. higher, with some speculative buying. The movement of wool at all sea-board markets has been liberal. Prices are firm and gradually advancing. The six weeks' gain is sustained, and production is in excess of that at the like period last year. The movement of dry goods from agents' and jobbers' hands at the east has been free, and previous advances are fully sustained. August sales of dry goods at Boston are heavier than those in that month of 1884. The movement of general merchandise, affected as it is in the lines noted, is regarded as seasonably active. The lack of speculative activity in the cotton market, lower Liverpool quotations, and an unexpectedly favorable report on the condition of the growing cotton crop by the National Exchange, are all responsible for the decline in spots and futures. Wheat-growers west and northwest are holding back their grain, and the result in some regions will be to unfavorably affect general trade. The price of wheat continues to disregard the short crop and the probabilities of heavy demands for surplus grain by foreign buyers. A special to *Bradstreet's* reports serious damage to the crops in Minnesota and Dakota from frosts. Grocery staples are quiet, with the exception of sugar, which shows an improved consumptive demand. Dairy products are higher, with an indifferent demand. Petroleum presents no new features beyond some slight speculative activity. Provisions have been lower and in only nominal request. There were 169 failures in the United States during the past week, as compared with 146 the preceding week, and with 178, 142 and 121 respectively in the corresponding weeks of 1884, 1883 and 1882. About 84 per cent. were those of small traders whose capital was less than \$5,000. Canada had 17, a decrease of 9, -- *Bradstreet's*.

The State of Trade.

There is a general concurrence in this that trade is mending. The sickening story of depression and overwhelming lassitude has given way to the cheerful tune of merry merchants who are singing a new song—better prices, better movement of goods, better feeling. The closeness in collections has not been entirely removed, but the conditions for payment have been improved, and with the marketing of oats and wheat the per capita of money is steadily increasing. One of the most encouraging features of the business is the improved outlook in iron. All of the Indianapolis works are talking of the good times coming. One or two establishments are increasing their capacity largely. Others are preparing to begin operations full handed, and all of them are receiving numerous orders.

The great strength of the sugar market and the continued scarcity are the features in groceries. Canned goods are exciting much attention. Peaches lead the way. The packing of new goods has fairly opened. Buyers everywhere are taking hold with unexpected freedom. Values have not as yet been materially affected. -- *Indianapolis Grocer*.

Bankruptcies and Their Causes.

The causes of failure in business are in the main the same the world over. Ignorance, carelessness, and extravagance are ugly words, but they are at the root of many of the disasters we see among shopkeepers. A man begins as a merchant without sufficient knowledge of merchandise or book-keeping—here is ignorance. A man or woman who has undertaken the responsibilities of a dealer buying on credit neglects the business, forgetting what depends upon it—that is carelessness. A man whose business yields him \$2,000 a year, and who has no other income, lives at the rate of \$3,000—that is extravagance. That a shrinkage in the volume of business or traffic does not necessarily cause a great increase of mercantile failures would seem to be proved by the remarkable fact that the number of bankruptcies in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland was smaller last year than it was in 1883, although the aggregate of business in nearly all directions was less. This very fact speaks volumes in favor of the efficacy of economy in store-keeping, for storekeepers have been sailing close to the wind last year if they ever did.

The report of the Inspector-General in Bankruptcy for the year 1884 shows that the number of bankruptcy cases in Great Britain in 1884 was 4,179 against 8,555 in 1883, and that last year's was lowest for the past 10 years. "Although the decrease was so large, in the number of cases there was an increase in their importance, the cases in 1883 averaging a total liability of £3,486 per case; while 3,260 cases in the first year of the new Act showed an average of £3,082 per case; in the same way the assets under the old Act averaged £700 per case against £926 under the new. From these figures it appeared that there was a great diminution in the number of insolvencies wound up under the provisions of the Bankruptcy Law; and that the average size of the estate is larger."