

BARLEY.

Purely nominal, none being offered and none wanted. Prospects of a good crop and a good fall trade, have been rather damped by the recent rains.

RYE.

The only business doing was a few lots of new which changed hands at 56c.

PEAS.

There was no business done during the week, none being offered, but had any been available, they could have found a sale at 66 to 67c.

POTATOES.

Business in these was rather quiet during the week, some lots were sold off at \$1.50 for poor and \$1.75 for good quality.

BUTTER.

In this market choice new dairy has been coming forward slowly, although there has been an active demand for it, at a rise of one or two cents. Really fine has been taken at 13 to 15c, but medium and inferior were not wanted, though a few pails of the former have sold off at 7 to 8c. There has been no demand for shipping lots. In old, nothing at all was done, neither offered nor wanted at 3½c even, and there are doubts as to how the balance of the crop will be got rid of, as to the quantity still held; there are also some doubts but that there is a balance appears tolerably sure.

CHEESE.

Very little doing. The dullness outside appears to have been acting unfavourably on the market, small lots of fine new sold off at 8 to 9c, and a few old is still offered at 7c.

PORK.

In this market very little change has been noticed during this week from the one preceding. Some small lots were sold off fairly well as before, at \$14.50 to \$15.00.

BACON.

In this market business during the past week was very flat. Lard, clear was offered freely in car lots at 6½c without finding buyers. Some trade lots were sold off at that figure, while small lots very seldom brought over 7c. Cumberland has rather an increased demand for city consumption at 6½c. Rolls we quite at 10c, and bellies at 11c with stocks of either small.

HAMS.

In this market a steady demand at firm prices was maintained all through the week. Smoked have been selling off at 11½ to 12c, and canvassed at 12 to 12½c with stocks of these running low. There was nothing done in green.

LARD.

In this market business was rather quiet during the week, and prices easier. Tinnets and pails were usually sold off at 9c all round, though the latter sometimes brought a fraction more.

APPLES.

Very little business was done during the week, the only thing heard of, was a few barrels of imported, which sold usually at \$3.00 to \$3.75, while no local growth was offered.

POULTRY.

The receipts of these have been small, and prices rather firmer at 40 to 55c for spring chickens, 45 to 65c for fowl and 70 to 90c for ducks per pair.

Commercial Summary.

Special telegrams to *Bradstreet's* while indicating no material change in the general movement of merchandise, continue to report greater steadiness in eastern and other leading

dry goods, wool, and boot and shoe markets.

There are no changes in prices of these commodities, but sales are a little more frequent and dealers inclined to be correspondingly cheerful. The cotton goods market has been slightly stiffened, particularly that for mourning goods, due to the special demand at this time. A number of special makes of the latter are reported to have been exhausted. The supply of raw wools at eastern markets is ample and varied, and while there are no advances in quotations it is doubtful whether holders would accept figures offered six weeks ago. When these points have been noted there are no others on which to base expectations of an improvement. Iron and steel are as dull as ever. The decreased production and increased stocks during the past half year are specially significant. Coal is in no better demand, and the arrangement to take out a large quantity per month during the next few months encourages buyers to hold off. Petroleum speculation has lost its snap so far as the bulls are concerned, though the statistical position of the product has remained quite as strongly in favor of higher figures as heretofore. Owing to the increase in the visible supply of wheat, the continued absence of interest on the part of exporters and the heavy stocks in sight, the price of wheat has continued depressed and downward. Yesterday there was a reaction based on the reported damage to the spring-wheat crop in Minnesota and Dakota. A special to *Bradstreet's* from St. Paul states that the weather in the region indicated has greatly favored the bull side of the market, as there has been great heat followed by rain and serious damage to the crop. The measure of the injury has not been determined. This has been particularly true in the north. In the southern portion of the region indicated some damage has been done by chinch bugs, but there has been little or no rain. The hog products market has been weak in sympathy with wheat, its only basis of strength being the decline in receipts of hogs and relatively high prices thereof as compared with products. The demand for grocers staples has been moderate and without any special improvement. Dairy products are lower, with restricted demand both for the home trade and for export. Cotton has been higher, owing to the current manipulations of the bulls with August opinions. In sympathy therewith spots have been stronger. The reports from financial centres east and west bring no signs of improvement. Those from Chicago point to a decline in the demand for money during the week. There were 184 failures in the United States during the past week, as compared with 215 the preceding week, and with 199, 155 and 105 respectively, in the corresponding weeks of 1884, 1883 and 1882. About 56 per cent. were those of small traders whose capital was less than \$5,000. Canada had 15, a decrease of 11.

-- *Bradstreet's*.

Low Prices and Fair Prices.

By many it is maintained that low prices are the goal towards which we should always run. They believe that under such a condition our country would reap unparalleled prosperity.

This is one reason why they are opposed to the present industrial policy, because the tendency of it is to maintain higher prices, and they would abolish it in order to bring in that much desired era. We are unable to assent to this doctrine that prosperity and low prices are synonymous. If they were why are they not prospering at the present time? Certainly prices are low enough to satisfy the worst bear, and yet we all know that we are not living in prosperous times. Complainers abound everywhere. Nor are these confined to one class of people. But it so happens that every person living in this planet is either a buyer or a seller. He has two faces or sides to him like the moon or a cheese: but these low-price people unfortunately never see but one. They contemplate the human race solely as buyers, and forget that there are also sellers. We cannot buy unless we sell, and if we demand a low price in purchasing we must also expect a low price in selling. Now, this is only one way of stating the fact that prosperity is synonymous not with low prices, but with fair ones. We are all anxious to buy at the lowest prices and sell at the highest, but this cannot be done. We cannot take advantage of one another universally in this way. If we attempt this we shall miserably fail. Perhaps as striking an effect of low prices at present as could be mentioned, are the freight charges of our principal railroads. Some of these lines which had for years paid dividends with the utmost regularity, are on the brink of bankruptcy. Who are gainers by such a change? Certainly not that class who find their wages reduced in consequence. Nor are shippers, for they frankly say that they do not complain so much of the low rates as of the unequal ones which have been prevailing of late. Now, when a man sells a thing for less than it cost him, the loss is either taken from his capital or, what is true in many cases, from that of the persons from whom he originally purchased; hence the enormous bankruptcies of which we hear from day to day. It is a long and doleful list. These bankruptcies mean that people have been selling without a profit and using up the capital of others besides their own. The consumer may rejoice over his cheap purchases perhaps, but he does not think that some one else was paying a portion for him. Perhaps he did not care, but such was the case. We do not believe that in a healthy state of society such things would exist. When times are truly prosperous, people will get fair prices all around, and this is the test of truly solid civilization. If they become too low, then losses and bankruptcy arise, from which society in the end is generally the loser.

It may be mentioned in this connection that low prices are not always a good thing, or can be considered as low when they are the result of enormous combinations of capital and great manufactories and very small rewards for labor.

It is a deplorable state of things, when a few make all the money, and the great majority of people suffer. When we turn to our census and read of the enormous accumulation of wealth, and the comparatively small number of people who enjoy that wealth, we are inevitably led to exclaim, there is something wrong with our civilization. Great wealth and great poverty