

FRUIT.

Trade has been improving rapidly in this line during the past week, and the different dealers are feeling more hopeful. There has been few changes in prices, and the most noticeable has been in oranges, which are quoted at from \$13 to \$14. Apples have sold from \$6 to \$7, and lemons at \$5.50. Cranberries are now very scarce, and held from \$18 to \$10 a barrel. Grapes, figs, raisins and other fruits are unchanged from the previous week.

FUEL.

The supply of fuel during the week was abundant, and the business transacted was upon the same basis as last week. For coal the current prices were: Anthracite \$13.75 on track, and \$15 delivered; bituminous \$13.50 for grate and \$12.50 for steam. The supply of wood during the week was abundant, the open market being large, and prices varied according to the quality. Good sound poplar found ready sale in car loads at five dollars a cord, and tamarac was bought at six dollars. A noticeable feature on the open market is the hauling in of fence rails by farmers, who are substituting wire fences. There is no prospect of a higher market for wood, and if a change take place it will be in the other direction.

FURS AND SKINS.

There is a good enquiry for furs, but deliveries are very light. In hides during the past week there have been few purchases made, but five cars were shipped south ex-warehouse. Prices have suffered a decline, the quotations now being: Raw 5c; salted 5½c to 6c; November pelts up to 60c still offered.

GROCERIES.

In the grocery trade, the volume of business transacted during the week showed a decided improvement over the preceding week, the record since the holidays having been one of a steady recovery. Though there has been no advance in prices, the advance reported last week has been maintained and the tendency is still that way. In canned meats there has been no advance, simply because in this line there has been no demand for the goods. The wholesale houses are asking firmer prices all round, and the market has a far better tone than has been reported this year. Collections, which have been fair, are, if anything, a little better.

HARDWARE AND METALS

In the hardware business during the week a great improvement was manifest over any week this year. Quite a number of new accounts were opened, and more business of this class could have been done had the wholesale houses been inclined to incur risks. Business is now opening up satisfactorily and the prospects for the spring trade are good. Collections are reported satisfactory.

LUMBER.

In lumber a quiet demand was experienced during the week at the prices before reported, which seem to be fixed until building is actively resumed: sheeting \$28; common dimensionals \$30 to \$32; fencing \$28 to \$34; stock \$33 to \$40; flooring \$35 to \$45; graded clear \$50 to \$70; shingles \$4.50 to \$6; laths \$5.

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

The stationery and paper trade during the past week was neither active nor inactive, a fair demand being reported from the country and city. Some orders have been received from the far west for shipment at the earliest moment that traffic is possible. Collections were reported up to the average.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

In wines and spirits a fairly good week's business was done, the improvement upon any week since the holidays being marked. Satisfaction is felt with the weeding out going on in the hotel business. Collections during the week were good, and the wholesale houses were well satisfied with the week's business.

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

The past week has been one of great activity in the demand for money. A great many payments on real estate have been falling due, and there has been considerable close scraping to meet these especially as the banks have been refusing to advance for real estate business even at short rates, except in cases of last payment on saleable property. There has consequently been quite a tight feeling, which is strengthened by the fact, although money matters in the east are easier, no addition to the resources of local banks has as yet reached here. In commercial circles there has been rather more renewals than were expected which is attributed to the fact that so little produce has been marketed during the past month owing to the extreme cold, and country retailers have been compelled to fall back upon wholesalers. There is no want of confidence, however, and a week or two of mild weather will bring some relief in this respect. Rates have not changed and held at 10 per cent. for mortgage loans or improved lands, and for commercial paper 8 to 10 for gilt edge, and 10 to 12 for ordinary.

THE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

The past week has been one of the dullest in the grain trade in the city since the marketing of the crops of 1882 commenced, and receipts of grain have been so limited as to prevent mills from running full. The long spell of cold weather has made street receipts grow every day less, while by rail they have been decreasing also. Reports from points in the country show considerable grain stored and waiting transit to the city, but the scarcity of rolling stock on the C.P.R. hinders greatly, and keeps the receipts light.

WHEAT.

has held at the prices of the previous week with a firmer tendency. The range was from 70c to 78c, but as one miller remarked, a few days more of this extreme cold weather, and 80c or perhaps more must be paid. Shipping to the east has completely stopped, and a sufficiency for the mills cannot be had. It is very likely that the current week will develop an advance in prices.

OATS

The receipts of this grain have also been light, but the demand has been correspondingly so. It is well known that a good supply of these are stored at points within easy reach of

the city, and this knowledge has prevented any advance in prices, and indeed there has been an easier feeling than during the previous week. The range has been from 40c to 45c, but very few lots brought the latter figures. The advent of a mild spell of weather would in all probability bring about a decline.

BARLEY.

The receipts of this grain during the week have been limited to a few loads on the street. No car lots arrived during the week, and none so far as could be learned were in course of transit. What few loads came to town sold from 45c to 47c, but the range offered is from 40c to 50c. No other classes of grain were on the market.

FLOUR.

The mills have not been pushed during the week owing to the scarcity of wheat receipts, and the stock on hand has not increased. The home demand has fallen off somewhat, but near the close showed a livelier feeling. Shipping to eastern markets has fallen off very much, and during the entire week amounted to only a few cars. Prices remain the same as the week previous: Patents, \$3.10 to \$3.20; 4x or Strong Baker's, \$2.50 to \$2.55; Baker's \$2 to \$2.10; Traders, \$1.50.

BRAN.

The demand for this product has fallen off considerably during the week, and stocks have increased. There has been a slight tumble in prices, quotations being \$1 less than the week previous, or \$11 a ton on track and \$12 delivered.

SHORTS

have also eased off and dropped \$1 a ton, quotations during the week being \$13 on track and \$14 delivered. The demand has been very light.

CHOPPED FEED.

No change in price has taken place during the week, and the few sales made have been at \$30 a ton.

POTATOES.

The stock in sight in this city is gradually growing less, and should the extreme cold weather continue for any length of time, more or less of a scarcity would be unavoidable. Prices have been firm during the entire week, \$1 a bushel being the unvarying quotation during the early days, while near the close \$1.10 was asked. There are plenty of potatoes ready to come to town, but milder weather is necessary before hauling can be carried on with safety.

BUTTER.

There have been almost no changes in the prices of different grades of butter during the week, although a stiffer feeling has been gradually gaining ground. The receipts from the east and south have been very light, owing to the interruptions in railroad travel south of here. Choice dairy is still scarce, and there has been little more demand during the past few days for lower grades. Creamery has sold from 30c to 34c, Choice Dairy 25c to 28c, and lower grades from 19c to 23c. The stock in the city has diminished considerably during the week, but a turn of mild weather and open railway transit would soon replenish it.

EGGS.

The receipts during the week have been nil, and only the fact that the demand has been very light has prevented an advance of prices. There is no trade with the country, and the unsafety of shipping west, confines the supply to the city. Prices have not changed, and quotations still remain 35c to 38c.

HAMS.

The demand during the week for hams was good and though stocks were still ample, higher