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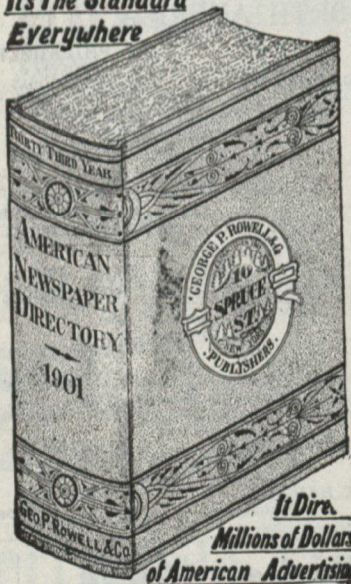
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proving, and prices are strong in sympathy with hides. The outlook is good. A report from Chicago says that large hide buyers are giving close attention to the market, and with packers offering supplies indifferently, the tone of the market is firm. One packer is reported as turning down bids of 13c. for light Texas and 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. for extreme do. Recent sales include 3,500 April butt brands at 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ c., April heavy native cows at 11c., May Colorados at 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ c., and do. butt brands at 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. Prices quoted are 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. for native steers, 14 to 15c. for heavy Texas, 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. for butt brands, 12 to 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. for Colorados, 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 11c. for heavy native cows, and 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. for branded do. Country hides are unchanged and firm at 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 9c. for No. 1 buffs.

Live Stock.—The expected drop at the cattle market is still to take place in the future. Some very choice export cattle were sold this week for a higher price than has been reached since 1879, the figures being \$6.75 per cwt. In spite of fairly large offerings, there was a general advance of 5c. per cwt. Butchers' cattle of choice quality sold at an advance of 15c. per cwt. Feeders and stockers were in good demand. Lambs were higher and sheep steady.

Hardware.—A very good trade is being done in shelf hardware, and for some articles the demand is exceptionally brisk. Among these are lawn mowers, poultry netting, screen doors and window screens and accessories. In fact the factories are barely able to keep pace with the demand for such goods. In other lines deliveries keep up pretty well. Prices are firm. The metal trade also is very satisfactory, the demand in several lines being more than usually keen. From Glasgow comes the report that prices of pig iron have advanced smartly on the receipt of favorable Board of Trade returns and reports of further sales to America. Rather more business has latterly been done with local consumers.

Provisions.—Butter is arriving freely and is lower at 14 to 15c. Cheese keeps up well at 11c. at the factories, and 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. in jobbers' hands. Hog products are very strong. There is a very good demand, prices are firm, and further advances are probable. Eggs are firm at 13c. The market supply of hogs in the West is without much change. Total western packing 390,000, compared with 385,000 the preceding week, and 335,000 two weeks ago. For corresponding time last year the number was 485,000, and two years ago 415,000; from March 1st, the total is 3,855,000, against 4,410,000 a year ago—a decrease of 555,000. The quality is being maintained, and in some instances has improved. Prices are higher, under the competition among packers, and at the close the average for prominent markets is \$7.10 per 100 pounds, compared with \$6.85 a week ago, \$6.95 two weeks ago, \$5.70 a year ago, and \$5.25 two years ago.

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