

THE PRODUCE MARKET.

THE past week has been one of uninterrupted dullness and depression in every kind of Provisions and Breadstuffs. No one article has broken the monotony and holders for the most part have had to content themselves with looking on and awaiting better times.

FLOUR.—Arrivals by canal have ceased, and the gross receipts have materially declined, but are still in excess of local wants. The general depression noted for so many weeks back culminated about the middle of the week in a panic, when anxious sellers, bent on relieving themselves, dropped prices full fifty cents on leading goods in a single day, and ordinary Superfine was offered at \$5, and in some instances it is understood at less, and some round lots were quiet at these rates. Holders of city brands and parcels from Western Wheat, however, as well as the principal receivers of desirable shipping grades, have been firm at higher prices. No. 2 has been placed at \$4 40 to \$4.60, and lower grades at a corresponding decline. The higher descriptions have been likewise offered at much lower rates, say \$6.75 to \$7 for Superior Extras, and \$6 to \$6.60 for Extras, but beyond an occasional hundred or retail parcel, little has changed hands. British advices received towards the close were more favourable, and more firmness was shown, but any sales transpiring thus far have been at the recent decline.

The receipts of *Bag Flour* have continued excessive, and the demand being still of the most restricted character, prices have tended downwards, keeping pace with the general decline. Latest sales noted have been at \$2.85 to \$3 for medium to choice. We are yet without snow, and no material relief can be looked for till winter roads are formed.

As anticipated at date of our last, prices have now reached a point at which shippers seem willing to take hold; and if there are sellers to any extent at present rates, the heavy surplus weighing down the market will shortly be reduced, and should the recent drop operate as is usual in limiting supplies, stocks may ere long be brought within reasonable compass and a more healthy state of things induced. The heavy stocks of grain and flour existing at most points, notwithstanding the large volume of business actually transacted, seem to contradict the idea of deficiency, on which the speculation of past months was mainly based; and until more accurate ideas of the amount of breadstuffs in the country and the probable extent of the domestic wants are obtained, millers will do well to operate with caution in laying in stock. Present appearances would indicate the filling up of the vacuum in the South, and trade for the future seems likely to flow through its ordinary channels; and so long as a surplus needing a foreign outlet exists, prices will necessarily be regulated by those obtaining in Britain.

OATMEAL.—We have few arrivals to note, and but little demand; the advanced pretensions of holders at date of our last, not being acceded to, lower rates are now asked; \$4 90 to \$5.10 may be given as the range.

WHEAT.—Few arrivals since the close of the canal, and no sales latterly to report, the views of buyers and sellers being widely apart.

COARSE GRAINS.—Little, if anything, doing on the spot; prices nominal.

PORK.—Remains nominally unchanged, but the demand is almost entirely ceased, and a decline is imminent as soon as any new is placed on the market.

DRESSED HOGS.—Receipts are still light for the season of the year, but, in the absence of any packing demand, are beyond what the city retail can consume. Prices are weak and declining; any attempt to place a wholesale parcel would probably depress the market without effecting a sale, so that holders are in some cases packing what they have, as the weather has lately been soft and changeable.

BUTTER.—Butter continues to accumulate, and must remain dull until holders concede to prices which shippers will pay; but having in most cases bought at high prices, they are reluctant to submit to a loss which however is likely to be heavier, as the season at which shipments can be safely made is rapidly passing away, and a little later on shippers will not be disposed to buy at any price. Holders in the West will do wisely to get their stocks to market as soon as possible, as in all cases of glutted market and consequent decline in price, the first loss is almost invariably the least.

ASHES.—During the whole week have been very dull, and only saleable at gradually drooping prices. The news from Britain was less favourable than had been anticipated, and in the absence of orders, shippers refused to operate to any extent. Shipments to Britain

for many weeks past have been on the most limited scale, and as the stock there, as well as in New York and Boston, is unusually small, an advance before long is confidently looked for.

The stock in this market, although heavy, is almost entirely in the hands of a few houses, and those well able to hold; so that with diminished receipts, the general opinion is that before long there will be a reaction, and prices will again materially advance. The difference in price between firsts and inferiors has been unusually great.

The telegraphic news received to-day by the Damascus and Java, is considered more favourable, and holders are firm for an advance, which shippers decline acceding to until their letters are received.

TRADE PERIODICALS

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