

BARLEY.

The demand has been active all week and in excess of the supply. No. 1 wanted at 73c f.o.c. but unobtainable; No. 2, 97c, and No. 3, 60c.

RYE.

This market during the past week has been inactive and unchanged at 65c.

PEAS.

Have been very scarce and in good demand with small street receipts, prices ranging from 56 to 58c.

POTATOES.

Prices in this line are nominal, none being offered, and none wanted. Street receipts small and taken at 40 to 45c per bag.

EGGS.

Prices have been rather unsettled owing to increased receipts. New laid would have sold higher than quoted were they obtainable.

CHEESE.

Quiet and unchanged at 11½ to 12½c for good to choice in small lots.

BUTTER.

No improvement has taken place in this market. Really choice tubs have been wanted to a small extent at 17 to 18c; street receipts rather on the increase, and prices easy at 22 to 24c for rolls, and 15 to 18c for tubs and crocks.

PORK.

Nothing has been done in round lots, and sales have been all of a retail character at \$15 to 16.

BACON.

Prices in this article are unchanged and firm, holders not being surprised at the slack demand for this season of the year. Prices are as follows: long clear, quiet at 8½c; Cumberland, 7 to 7½c; short, 10c; long rolls, 10½c; and 12c for bellies in small lots.

HAMS.

Have been inactive during the past week, but steady, with round lots of smoked held at 11c.

LARD.

The feeling has been easier and prices have slightly declined and are from 10 to 10½c for tins.

POULTRY.

In this line receipts have been very light, and in price have remained firm. Turkeys 10 to 11c per lb; geese, 6½ to 7c; fowls, 30 to 35c per pair; ducks, 65 to 80c.

APPLES.

Firm, and but in little demand. Street receipts small. Common, \$1 to 1.25; choice, \$1.50 to \$1.75.

Commercial Summary.

The general commercial situation throughout the country, as reported by special telegrams to *Bradstreet's* from leading trade centres, corroborates the view expressed last week, that while there is a feeling abroad of greater confidence respecting the outlook for business, there is little apparent basis therefor beyond the advance in the price of wheat, which in turn is of course the proximate cause of the gain in Indian corn, oats, flour and partially so for the movement in hog products. As previously indicated, an improvement due to the spring demand was not unlikely to take place in the staples, and mainly in food products and dry goods. The gain in prices at Boston is the same as that noted over a month ago. Manufacturers still claim they are producing at a loss. Wheat had long been selling

from farmers' hands somewhat below the cost of production. The quarterly statement of stocks abroad showing heavy shortages, together with the arrival of that time in the season when the United States is the only wheat-exporting country able to unload wheat directly into the United Kingdom, was the first opportunity the bulls had had since harvest to demonstrate the force of their views and the market naturally reacted. As it had been unnaturally depressed the recoil was the heavier. Those favoring higher prices for wheat argue that it will go to \$1 within thirty days and possibly higher. The renewed purchases of dry goods at this season were to be expected, yet the volume is smaller than one year ago now. The renewed inquiry for crude iron at the west has not resulted in new business—except where concessions in prices have been granted. The industrial situation, as a whole, is rather worse than it has been. Continued reductions of wages at the east and west, strikes and violence in Indiana and Ohio, do not mark an improvement. At leading cities the situation is as follows: Boston says the gain in dry goods prices has been maintained, but at a loss of sales. Philadelphia reports a continued feeling of confidence, but a smaller volume of transactions. Pittsburgh announces an increase in manufactured iron production, but no encouraging outlook, especially since the failure of Oliver Brothers & Phillips. Cincinnati reports a stronger tone to trade, but sales are not increasing. Chicago: no marked signs of a revival, "but working that way." At St. Louis the dry goods movement is smaller than last year. The markets generally fell away yesterday, after the failures reported, but were well maintained. Wheat is still bullish and corn is close behind. No. 2 red wheat closed at 95½c against 94c last week. No. 2 mixed corn closed at 53c, against 53c a week ago. Lard, refined, closed at 7.50c, against 9.70c last week, and spot mess pork at \$13.25, as against \$13.25 the week before. In grocery staples the market opened dull, but developed some activity and firmness toward the middle of the week, closing weak. The jobbing demand was rather restricted. Raw sugar was decidedly neglected yesterday. There has been a fair consumptive demand for wool, and values generally have continued firm. Cotton receipts and exports continue in excess of last season, with the demand drooping and markets easy. Dry goods at New York are receiving more attention from jobbing buyers, and the trade in specialties has developed a moderate degree of activity. Kentucky whiskeys are more active and firmer, the revised Treasury regulations having imparted strength to the market, which was already improving by reason of the prolonged suspension of distillery operations, and the steadily maintained consumptive demand. Western leaf tobacco is firm at New York, and animated, strong and highest at Louisville and interior cities. There were 445 failures in the United States during the past week reported to *Bradstreet's*, as compared with 448 in the preceding week, and with 317, 342 and 210 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 37, an increase of 15.

Returning Prosperity.

If straws show which way the wind blows, there can be little doubt that the industrial zephyrs are blowing in the direction of gain and more permanent activity. This is gathered from the fact that a number of rolling mills and furnaces at Cleveland, Ohio, are about resuming business after a long period of idleness. The same is also true of some Pittsburgh establishments of a like nature. It is further announced that the proprietors of certain idle mills in the West, realising that the demand for rails must necessarily be large for some time to come, are about charging their works into merchant iron mills in order to get up again.

These indications of returning activity, not overwhelming, it is true, but as far as they go they are cheering. They indicate that the plus stocks are gradually worked off and, although prices rule extremely low, the demand for iron and steel is increasing. Small concerns are better than no profits and mills are and depreciate in value while idle. Large concerns have one merit, at least—they help to stimulate consumption, and the fact that a few are starting up at present indicates that the law of trade is pre-working out its legitimate result. The public will hope that these resuming establishments may prove as the faint streak of dawn which are to usher in full sunlight or returning prosperity.—*Journal of Commerce.*

Pure Air and Electric Lights.

The good or evil influences of the light we use upon the health is of the greatest importance, although hitherto it has to a great extent overlooked. The *Electrician*, in discussing this important subject, says that ancient custom has so familiarized combustion as a source of light that, even years, we hardly ever dreamed there was any other. Nevertheless the introduction of the electric light has been opening our eyes of late to the manifest advantages of this kind of illumination. Pure air is what we seek when we go to the seashore or the top during our holidays. How important is it that we should have pure air in our homes! The necessity which obliges us to live in cities also obliges us to live in more or less confined atmosphere. Pure air and light are essential to good health, but in close, ill-ventilated offices, and in thousands of houses and shops, what prospect is there of a healthy life while the lights which burned all day are of themselves polluting the air? It is only does a candle, oil, or gas flame consume the oxygen of the air, and thus rob it of its purifying virtue, but it actually sends out noxious vapors, the products of combustion. These are chiefly water or steam and carbonic acid; but carbon dust, or soot, is also sent off, and in the use of gas, of sulphuric acid, and other lights produced by coal gas, they rob the air of its health-giving properties. They adulterate what remains of it with acid gas, which is supplied to the system from a flame, is an active poison fatal to life.