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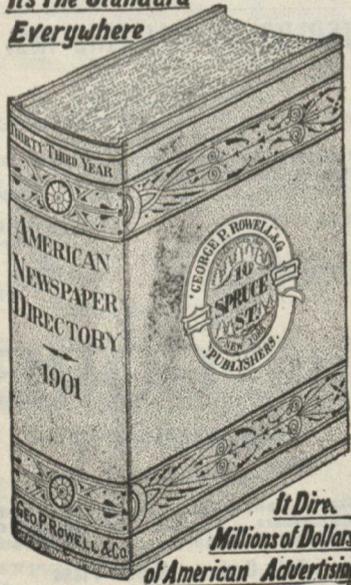
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Groceries.—A decline of 5c. took place in sugar on Wednesday morning, and the movement is slow. In fact, trade has been dull in practically all lines of groceries, largely owing to the bad roads throughout country districts rendering transportation of goods well-nigh impossible. Prices, with the above exception, are about stationary, though canned tomatoes are very scarce, and some brands have been advanced 5 to 10c. per dozen in the last week. The market for California evaporated fruits is stronger, especially for peaches. Mediterranean fruits remain in the same position. Cables regarding currants are a little stronger than they have been. In teas no new feature has developed, but the scarcity in young Hyson continues. Hardly any stock in this line now remains in Toronto.

Hardware.—The price of sisal rope has gone up to 12½c., in sympathy with the position of Manila. Other prices remain practically unchanged. Trade is not very heavy, but about equal to what may be expected at this time of the year. Values are expected to remain about as they are for this season, and prospects are very favorable. Orders are coming in satisfactory for future delivery in spring and summer goods, and if there is any difference to be noted, it is in the direction of heavier orders this year compared with previous seasons.

Hides and Skins.—Not much is coming forward just now, and the demand is fair. Good supplies are believed, however, to exist in the country. Rendered tallow has gone up to 6 and 6½c. In Chicago, a dull, dragging market continues to be reported for packer hides. Offerings are fairly large, as packers generally have good stocks on hand, and are ready sellers; the demand, however, is flat. Prices quoted are 12¼ to 12½c. for native steers, 13¼c. for heavy Texas, 12c. for butt brands, 11¼c. for Colorados, 10⅞ to 11c. for heavy native cows, and 10c. for branded do. Country hides are quiet at 8c. for No. 1 buffs.

Live Stock.—The feeling was somewhat easier at the cattle market this week owing to heavy offerings, and prices may possibly drop this week. In export cattle only those of very prime quality reached

last week's figures. Butchers' cattle were fairly steady, as were also stockers and feeders. Sheep and lambs sold fairly well.

Provisions.—Receipts of butter are about equal to requirements. The market is steady, and unchanged. Cheese is quiet and steady. Eggs continue very scarce, at 25 to 26c. for new laid, and practically no other stock is on the market. In hog products the dullness continues, and prices are unchanged. In live hogs, however, values have gone down. There is a good demand for unfrozen turkeys, which bring 12½c. Frozen stock brings 10c., and geese 8c. The total western pack of hogs for last week was 605,000, compared with 585,000 the preceding week, and 460,000 two weeks ago. For corresponding time last year the number was 625,000, and two years ago, 480,000. From November 1st, the total is 9,630,000, against 8,555,000 a year ago—an increase of 1,075,000. The quality of hogs coming forward continues good in most instances. Prices have been fairly well sustained, although receding somewhat from the recent position, and show an average of \$6 per 100 pounds for prominent places, compared with \$6.10 a week ago, \$6.10 two weeks ago, \$5.35 a year ago, and \$4.80 two years ago. The winter season now nearing its close will mark a new record, exceeding 10,000,000 in number of hogs for the four months for western slaughtering for the first time, says the Cincinnati Price Current. The increase of a million hogs over the number killed last year was not expected by anyone in the trade, and the anticipation of reaching a period of continuous decrease, which has failed to materialize, has had considerable to do with maintenance of values. The gain of more than ten per cent. in numbers will probably be about balanced by the decrease in weight of hogs.

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