

easier than last week. Lemons are held at \$5.50 to \$6, according to quality. Cranberries can hardly be had, the few barrels in the market being held at \$18; there is no future supply visible. Almeida grapes can still be had at \$10 to \$11 a barrel, though stocks are running low. Figs are selling in mats 10c; large boxes 14c; small boxes 20c. Raisins were plentiful and in fair demand, at the following prices: Valencias \$3.50; Black crown \$5.25; Triple crown \$8.50; Four crown \$9.75. The week closed firm, and the outlook for still better business is good.

## FUEL.

A steady business was done in coal last week, the supply being equal to the demand, which, owing to the continued hard spell, has been good. The quotations remain unchanged: Anthracite being sold at \$13.75 on track, and \$15 delivered; Bituminous selling at \$13.50 for grate and \$12.50 for steam. Wood, of which there was a glut at the early part of the week, was in good demand, and the supply, though plentiful throughout the week, did not embarrass the market. In car loads, poplar can be purchased at \$5, and tamarac at \$6. While there is no sign of a break in prices these cannot advance so long as the supply remains good. The stocks in the country are large, and if a break does occur it will be through holders rushing on to the market for money.

## FURS AND HIDES.

The receipts of furs continue to improve slowly, but shipping to the east has not yet begun and the receipts are not sufficiently large to permit of wholesale quotations. Indications are not wanting of a good supply. Raw Hides are quoted at 5½c; Salted Hides 6½c to 6¾c. For sound November pelts 60c are paid.

## GROCERIES.

In Groceries, the improvement recorded last week has been fully maintained, the recovery from the holiday stagnation having been unexpectedly rapid. Country trade and city trade have been quite satisfactory. Sugars are quoted: Raw 9c to 9½c; yellows 10c to 10½c; granulated 11½c; Paris lumps 12½c. Coffees: Rio 16c to 22c; Java 22c to 32c. Reports from travellers on the road are encouraging for a steady revival, and collections have been as good as can be expected in the depth of winter, when retailers have to enlarge credits.

## HARDWARE AND METALS.

The improvement in hardware and metals during the week, though not great, was noticeable. In shelf hardware business is evening up, the demand from the city being about the usual with a slight increase from the country. In heavy goods there was not much doing, though one or two good orders were sent out to the mines. In some classes stocks have run down, not a single seven or eight pound striking hammer being purchasable in the city. Replenishing of stocks continues, and a revival is expected in the spring. A fair demand is anticipated, when the snow goes for prospectors' implements. In metals, stocking up has gone on during the week, but few parcels have moved out of the warehouses. Prices remain steady: Tin plate 14 x 20 \$7.75 to \$8; 20 x 28, \$15 to \$15.25; Bar iron \$3.75 to \$4; Sheet iron, 5½c to 7c; Iron piping 25 per cent. off list prices; Ingot

tin 32c to 33c; Pig lead 6½c to 7c; Galvanized iron No. 28 8½c to 9c, according to brand.

## LUMBER.

This is the deadest season for lumber, and very little, indeed, has been doing during the past week. Prices have settled down to a fixed groove: Sheeting \$28; common dimensions \$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. The cut of timber in the woods will be large this winter, and will provide a full supply of logs for the increased milling capacity now being provided.

## STATIONERY AND PAPER.

The quietness recorded during the past week continues, the demand being mainly for staples, the prices for which allow of a good margin. The bulk of the demand during the past week was for the city trade, orders from the country being scarce. Collections continue moderately good, and the general tone of the trade is one of quiet satisfaction.

## WINES AND SPIRITS.

In Wines and spirits no material improvement is recorded over last week's steady though quiet trade. This month will be past before any marked improvement can be expected. The lull after the holidays is what is always expected, and this year there is no cause of disappointment at its duration. After the elections the trade will likely show renewed vitality.

## THE MARKETS.

## WINNIPEG.

## GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

In grain and provisions during the past week while the volume of business has only sensibly increased the hopeful feeling with which the preceeding week closed has been maintained undiminished. If anything provisions have been in slightly better demand but not so much better as to more than compensate for the slightly slower movement of grain which is due partly to the heavy travelling in the province, owing to an increased fall of snow and boisterous weather, and is due also, partly to the nominations and political agitation preceeding the provincial elections. An expectation of higher prices, owing to the difference between the home and Minneapolis markets may also have contributed to the somewhat diminished receipts. The prevailing high freights coming so soon after cut rates under which eastern markets were well stocked, have a retarding influence upon shipping and until the demand still further improves the export trade will not show increased vitality, though the home consumption is likely to be maintained if the demand do not improve. The week closed with a quiet market.

## WHEAT.

During the past week 78c was paid for the best of the lots of good hard Fife which were offering, though 75c in many cases bought good samples, which showed careless husbanding, without being damaged. The quality of the wheat offered was generally good and the mills have had a sufficient supply. Shipments east were only twelve cars but this quantity would have been exceeded had it not been for the severe weather interfering with the traffic arrangements. This week will undoubtedly be large if the same cause do not again interfere with the intentions of shippers. In some portions of the provinces wheat has been offering freely while in others the farmers are holding back in anticipation of better prices. Upon the whole the volume of business transacted

was a little in excess of the preceeding week. The disparity between the Minneapolis markets and that of this city still continues and this doubtless has the effect of causing wheat to be withheld from the market.

## OATS.

Though there is an abundance of oats in the country the amount offered and bought during the past week was hardly more than equal to the preceeding week; which showed the smaller business since November. The street receipts were again small and very few cars reached the city. The stocks are considerable and the prices remain firm at from 40c to 45c. The demand continues very fair with no signs of improvement.

## BARLEY.

During the week receipts were light, having been entirely from the street, not a car load having reached the city, probably on account of the difficulties of transportation. Farmers are, however, generally holding back their barley and many of them have taken to feeding it. The prices remain firm at last week's quotations: 40c to 50c. What is offering is generally of good quality, though the manner in which it has been secured leaves something to be desired.

## FLOUR.

The local demand for flour during the week was somewhat better than that last recorded, but is still slow, and the stocks at the mill are only moderate, though they been running at their full capacity. Twelve cars were shipped east during the week. The prevailing prices were: Patents, \$3 10 to \$3 20; Bakers', \$2.50 to \$2.60; 3 x, \$2.00, traders' \$1.50.

## BRAN.

The Market for bran remained unchanged, the demand being low. Prices held \$12 a ton on the track \$13 delivered.

## SHORTS.

The demand for shorts showed a slight falling off, but the prices remained steady, the quotations being \$14 a ton on the track and \$15 a ton delivered.

## CHOPPED FEED.

For chopped feed there was a steady demand, last week's quotation of \$30 a ton remaining unchanged.

## POTATOES.

The active demand for last week has cleared off the stock of some dealers and the demand is still strong at \$1.60 a bushel. Unless some shipments be received speedily from the country, where there is a plentiful store, an advance will take place before next week. The heavy traveling has interfered with hauling during the past week.

## BUTTER.

The supply of butter in the market is fairly good and a considerable quantity of the lower grades has been moved off. Choice dairy is in good demand at 25c to 27c, a few lots of extra having found purchasers at 28c. Low grades are quoted at 21c to 24c, considerable quantities offering, but not much demand at the close of the week. Ontario creamery while not plentiful can be purchased at 31c to 33c.

## CHEESE.

During the week the prices of cheese have been firm and the market shows a tendency to advance. Prime sold at 16c.

## EGGS.

There has been a fair stock of eggs in the city and the prices have ranged from 35c to 38c. The stocks in the east continue good and there is no immediate prospect of an advance here. The tendency despite the cold weather is rather the other way. The trade done during the week was satisfactory.