

almost disappeared. For knock-about cloth caps are to be very much in vogue.

#### PAINTS, OILS AND GLASS.

Country business is becoming quiet active and orders are coming in freely. There is a tendency on the part of country dealers to stock up freely in anticipation of a good season's business. City trade has not yet wakened up to any extent, although painters have been busy this week. For prices see market page.

#### SADDLERY HARDWARE.

Owing to advances in prices for copper and brass there has been a corresponding advance in the quotations for brass and nickel mountings, and city prices have followed the course of the markets in the east, though perhaps not to the full extent. Further advances in the near future are not unlikely, and country dealers should watch the situation closely.

#### RAW FURS.

We give a full report this week of the recent fur sales in London. We gave cable reports of these sales both last week and the week before. The report this week is a resume of the sales, and the figures given vary on some furs slightly from previous reports. The sales have been remarkable for the sharp advances. All our important furs, with the exception of beaver, muskrat and bear, are much higher. This will, no doubt, have a tendency to advance prices paid here for furs, though, of course, furs bought now will have to be held a long time, for next spring's sales, though some may be sent to the October sales.

#### GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

**WHEAT**—The speculative activity in the American markets, noted in our last week's report, has continued and somewhat increased during this week up till Thursday, which is as far as we can report on, as yesterday being Good Friday there were no markets. The net result on the business done up to close of Thursday's market, has been an advance of 3c over last week's close. This advance has not been gained without hard work, the fluctuations in the markets each day having been very erratic, at times advancing very rapidly and again declining equally fast, within the space of a few minutes. Damage reports on the United States winter wheat crop plentifully supplied to Chicago and other speculative markets, seem to constitute the principal reasons leading on the advance; but the best authorities on the crop situation continue to give more careful and conservative reports, disclaiming for the most part that any serious damage has yet been exhibited, and at same time pointing out, that it is if anything rather early in the season to form a strictly definite estimate as to the amount of damage that may have been done. Mr. Snow, of the Orange Jack Farmer, estimates the condition of the winter wheat crop in the States at 82 and this on an area of 30 million acres would mean a yield of 160,000,000 bushels of winter wheat. For 1894 the yield of winter wheat according to the final estimate of the department of agriculture, was 379,000,000 bushels. Mr. Snow summarizes his report by saying that while the crop has certainly deteriorated from last fall, there is nothing to warrant talk of crop failure. The primary movement in the States has rather enlarged this week, and on one

day the receipts were about double for the same day last year. Export clearances daily from both coasts are also of good volume. The American visible supply increased last week 75,000 bushels, and is now 6,000 bushels over what it was at same time last year. The world's visible supply decreased 799,000 bushels, against a decrease last year of 2,444,000 bushels. The Argentine shipments are very heavy for the week, 2,576,000 bushels, against 1,200,000 last week. Crop reports from Europe continue very favorable, and values there are not responding to the advance on this side to any appreciable extent.

The business situation in the local market has not improved on last week but continues dull and meagre in extent. While the excitement and advance in United States markets have caused an increase of interest in the trade, prices have not followed on the advance in these markets to the full extent. There is inaction on the part of buyers, and at the same time no pressure to sell on the part of holders. It is to be expected that the trade will be dull for some time. A great many dealers are carrying all the wheat they are able to and some of it at higher figures than current values. It cannot be sold at present for export—even for May shipment—except at a loss, and only a very little of it can be taken off the market by shipping it eastward before the opening of lake navigation. Some one must provide money to carry this wheat, and with the distrust—born of past experience—in the prudence of carrying large quantities of it for long periods, with storage interest and insurance adding daily to the cost of it, bankers feel more like discouraging their customers from increasing their holdings at this season of the year, than making them further advances for that purpose. This probably accounts in some measure for the indifference on the part of buyers. A few carloads or a few 5,000 bushel lots, easily fill up the longest day's business, and for large round lots there are no buyers at current prices. When lake navigation opens, and the stock begins to move eastward towards the consumer, the trade will become more or less active again in a natural way. Last week the value of 1 hard spot, Fort William closed at 69 1-2c. On Monday with the advance in Chicago, the price firm'd up to 70 1-2c. Tuesday with the decline in other markets it fell again to 69 1-2c. Wednesday sales were made in the morning at 69 3-4c then 70c, and later at 70 1-2c. In the afternoon, after the close at Chicago, with a 2c per bush. rise, sellers asked 71 1-2 but 71c was the highest paid. On Thursday buyers showed very weak feeling, and holders correspondingly anxious to sell pressed 1 hard for sale at 71c without much changing hands. No. 2 hard and 1 northern remain at 3c under 1 hard and 3 hard, 2 northern and 1 spring, about 6 1-2c under 1 hard. A curious state of affairs has arisen in regard to dried wheat. There has all along been very little demand for dried wheat, but this week a demand for 2 northern has developed and raised the price of it on Thursday to 63 1-2c in store Fort William. The curious part of it is there is no better demand for dried 1 hard, 2 hard or 1 northern than previously, and for any of these grades not more than 6 1-2c in store Fort William, can be got, and in fact they are not wanted even at that price, although the dried 2 northern has brought 63 1-2c.

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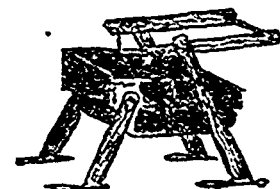
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