

## LARD.

There has been some movement in large pails; several lots of fifty have sold at 8½c; small lots of these and of small pails have sold at 9 to 9½c.

## PORK.

Light offerings and the demand quiet. Car lots sold at \$13.75, with small lots at from \$14 to \$14.50.

## HOGS.

Offerings have been very light. A few lots sold at \$6.25, and \$6 to \$6.50 on street.

## General Notes.

The orange crop of California this season is a large one, and is estimated at fully 400,000 boxes.

The attempt made by the U. S. Government to cultivate the tea plant in South California has proved a failure.

The Toronto Syrup Company has rebuilt their burned factory and refitted it with the latest machinery and appliances for making syrups, grape sugar, rose malt, glucose and corn starch.

The Canadian Pacific railway will run a series of through colonist trains from points in Ontario and Quebec to Winnipeg and the Canadian Northwest, beginning in March, by their rail Canadian route.

A special committee has been appointed by the British House of Commons to inquire into and report on the advisability of establishing a British mail line between Victoria, B.C., and Japan and China.

The demand at Montreal for cotton goods has fallen off somewhat during the week, but the demand for spring woollens is active, the mills being unable to execute their orders fast enough. Some of the mills it is said are already working on fall samples.

The Ontario earthenware manufacturers' association have passed resolutions condemning the statements in a country paper as to a case of poisoning caused by lead from the enamel of crocks, and appointed a committee to watch for such statements in future.

The production of oil from Indian corn will soon be attempted in St. Louis, Mo., not only experimentally, but upon a commercial footing. The machinery is now building for the interested parties, and will probably be tested in less than a month's time. The oil is intended for competition with the cotton seed article, and parties engaged in the enterprise seem to think its manufacture from corn an easy enough matter.

At a meeting of the Northern Pacific Lumbermen's Association, at Brainerd, it was decided to maintain the recent advance in prices. They further agreed upon a uniform time to sell and cash discount, which was 60 days and six per cent. The matter of uniform grades and terms used in grading was freely discussed. The Association adjourned to meet again in Duluth, Wednesday, April 7, when the matter of a further advance will be considered.

## The Spring Trade.

Trade in Calgary this spring and summer promises to be excellent, and to place itself on a much better footing than ever before. The

building operations which are at present being entered upon will set a large amount of money in circulation, and the substitution to a large extent of stone and brick for wood will keep most of the money in the locality.

There is a fair amount of money in the district remaining from last summer's rebellion outlay, a good deal that used to be sent out being now distributed among the settlers. The district is already learning to supply itself a good deal more than it did. For twenty car loads of potatoes that came in a year ago there is hardly one now. Oats, beef, pork, mutton, fowls, eggs and root crops of every variety are at present raised in the immediate vicinity in sufficient abundance to supply the district. Fruit, dry goods, leather and flour will have to be imported for some years to come, but if a license system is extended to the Territories by which beer can be manufactured there will be a good market for barley, which is one of the best crops in the district.

Probably the most active agent in the distribution of wealth in the district at present is the haying industry, which is one of considerable profit to the settlers; the freighting business to Edmonton is also a large item, and the amount expended in the district by the various ranches. The most active agent in dissipating the wealth of the district at present is of course the illicit whiskey trade, which sends thousands of dollars to the States every month. — *Calgary Herald*.

## Picking out Good Oranges.

To very many an orange is an orange, the only variation distinguishable being in the size and corresponding price, while those who know the difference between "Florida," "Seville," and "Messina" are considered experts. The "Florida Catechism" tells us better than that. We learn from it that there are "over thirty" varieties of sweet oranges, not to mention the regular stock, which is larger and handsomer fruit than the sweet orange, and is excellent for orangeade and marmalade, but being very sour, is seldom shipped north. The medium sizes are apt to be the choicest, and "probably the very sweetest orange that is marketed is the rusty-coated and rather ill-looking orange which might be considered inferior by an amateur." Furthermore: "The way to detect oranges is to heft them in your hands; pick out the thin-skinned, heavy fruit and you are all right." The light weight fruit is apt to be juiceless, a condition caused either by a slight freezing while on the tree, or more probably by the poverty of the soil in which it grew.

All this applies to sweet oranges. "The kid glove oranges" are grown in Florida from two stocks brought respectively from China and Tangiers. Hence they are called Mandarin and Tangerine oranges. Both are small; the skin is loose and easily removed, and the sections fall apart so readily that a lady can eat one without soiling her gloves, hence the name.

Some other interesting bits of information may be picked out from this "catechism." It is not generally known, for instance, that an orange that is entirely red ripe in December will hang on the tree until March and is ready

at any time to be picked and shipped; while so far from deteriorating, the longer they hang on the trees the sweeter they grow, and Florida oranges, purchased in February or March, are therefore apt to be better than those procured early in the season. Again, the notion that to know what an orange is really like, one must go where the oranges grow appears to be a popular fallacy, as we are told that the orange picked from the tree is no riper or better than the orange on the fruit stall in the north. — *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

## Better than Supposed.

If the government estimate is correct, the present situation in the wheat market is much more favorable to the bulls than anybody had supposed. The March report of the agricultural bureau estimates the visible and invisible wheat supply at 159,000,000 bushels, against 212,000,000 at the same date last year. It is true that so far as reports go, the winter wheat crop is in far better condition now than at this time last year, although there were many who would not believe the reports of crop damage then. There is yet time for bad weather to do the work of destruction, which is our leading reason for declaring the situation stronger. The crop may come out all right, but the fact that it is in a critical stage, added to the change in the statistical position, affords a peg on which to hang strong bullish action. A sudden, heavy advance would be the worst thing that could happen the market. A slow moderate enhancement in values would be a benefit to the grain trade of the world, as well as a benefit to business in general. — *Northwestern Miller*.

## Commercial Summary.

Special telegrams to *Bradstreet's* from the more important business centres report the movement of general merchandise rather below than above previous totals. At St. Louis and in the Southwest the report of business is at a standstill, owing to the continued interruption to traffic over the Gould Southwestern railways and the Texas Pacific line. The number of strikes throughout the country has increased beyond all precedent, and the number of employes so idle is reported as 51,000 east of the Rocky Mountains. In December, 1884, the total, covering the same territory, was about 18,000. Both the bituminous coal and textile strikes outran the Southwestern railroads, taken in point of number. Contrasted to the stagnation in trade circles at St. Louis, Chicago reports a good business in almost all staple lines, 3 per cent. more than last year at a like period in dry goods alone. But this report is quite exceptional. At leading eastern cities business has been of moderate proportions only, though a feeling of confidence that an improvement will be felt in the near future is frequently mentioned. Increased caution in making contracts is noted on the part of textile mill-owners. At other cities general trade is less active than had been expected at this time, while at the Northwest particularly more favorable reports are made of the movement and outlook. — *Bradstreet's*.