

## FRUIT.

A good trade was done in fruit last week, and in this line there is now no cause for complaint. During the week no new variety was added. Apples are in good demand at \$0.50 to \$7.50. Valencia oranges are in fair demand at \$12 to \$13, being a substantial reduction in price during the past fortnight. There are no lemons in stock, but large consignments of fine Naples are in transit, and a shipment of dates is expected daily. Cranberries are very scarce, and are held at \$18 a barrel; Almeida grapes are in demand at \$10 to \$11 per barrel; figs sell in mats at 10c; large boxes 14c; small boxes 20c; raisins are in fair demand at the following prices: Valencias \$3.50; black crown \$5.25; triple crown \$3.50; four crown \$3.75. The market is firm and lively.

## FUEL.

The fuel war has settled down to a stereotyped run, the demand and supply being nicely balanced and prices fixed as a law of the Medes and Persians. The quotations are: Anthracite \$13.75 on the track and \$15 delivered; bituminous, \$13.50 for grate and \$12.50 for steam. The supply of wood in the market has been abundant but the prices are so low that a break is hardly possible. In car-loads poplar is worth \$5 and tamarack \$6 per cord. The price shows no tendency to advance.

## FURS AND SKINS.

Furs are in better demand than supply, but prices cannot yet be quoted. In hides very little is doing. During the week there were no shipments and receipts did not exceed four hundred fresh frozen. Prices are raw \$5.45; salted 5½c to 6c; pelts, nominal, 50c.

## GROCERIES.

During the week the volume of business transacted considerably exceeded that of the preceding week, which had been the best recorded since the holidays. One or two houses profess to have noticed no improvement, but others freely admit that the trade has taken a distinct turn for the better, the slight advance in meats reported last week being firmly held. Sugars are quoted, raw 9c to 9½c, yellows 10c to 10½, granulated 11½c. Paris lump 12½c. Coffees: Rio 16c to 22c; Java 22c to 32c. Both country and city trade have revived and collections are noticeably better, though they might be more satisfactory.

## HARDWARE AND METALS.

The amount of business transacted during the week was equal to last and gave moderate satisfaction. Had the leading houses been induced to relax the conservative lines upon which they have been conducting their business for the past four months they could have turned out heavier shipping bills. Quite a brisk demand is reported from points far west and it is evident that the spring trade is going to work inward from the end of the track. Collections during the week did not improve, but are not yet what can be called worse than indifferent. In metals there has been a fair demand at the following prices: Tin plate 14 x 20, \$7.75 to \$8.00; 20 x 28, \$15 to \$15.25; Bar iron \$3.75 to \$4.00; sheet iron 5½c to 7c; iron piping 25 per cent off list price; ingot tin 32c to 35c; pig lead 6½c to 7c; galvanized iron No. 28, 8½c to 9c according to brand.

## LUMBER.

A small custom trade was done during the week at the following prices: sheathing \$28; common dimensions \$30 to \$32; fencing \$28 to \$34; stock \$33 to \$40; flooring \$35 to \$35; graded clear \$50 to \$70 shingles \$1.50 to \$6; laths \$5. These prices seem stereotyped and no change may be expected before building operations are actively resumed.

## STATIONERY AND PAPER.

The stationery trade during the past week was abnormally active for this season of the year. The demand for school material is large both from country and city. In staples the demand has been steady. Collections are reported up to the average, and the outlook is bright.

## WINES AND SPIRITS.

Though one or two houses report trade and collections worse during the past week, the others have a marked improvement in both to record, and a correct estimate of the whole trade will be formed by concluding that the week was really the best since the holidays, both as regards the deliveries from the warehouse and the receipts in the counting room.

## THE MARKETS.

## WINNIPEG

## GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

The moderation of the weather all over the province during the past week has given some life to the grain trade, and there has been considerably more activity in the city. The receipts by rail have not made any marked increase, but on the streets the supply has been much more liberal, and quite a number of cars of different grains are in course of transit. The scarcity of cars, which existed a few months ago, has to a great extent disappeared, and free tracks will soon bring a full supply to the city:

## WHEAT.

Mills have not had enough wheat to keep them running full all week, but the increase in receipts during the past few days promises that they will have plenty before the close of the current week. The street receipts have, during the past few days, proved quite a valuable assistance. Shipping to eastern points has again commenced, but has as yet only reached a few cars. There has been no change in prices, although an advance is probable at any time. Figures have ranged from 75c to 78c, with the bulk of the sales at the latter, and within one cent of it. Should moderate weather continue, no advance may occur.

## OATS.

As in wheat the receipts have increased considerably during the past few days, but the stock in the city has not accumulated. It is known that considerable quantities are stored at points west and south of here, and deficient railway facilities during the late cold spell prevented them from reaching town. The short receipts of three weeks, therefore, have not caused any advance in prices, which are, if anything, easier this past week; 40c to 43c with 45c for a few choice lots have been the figures paid, and there is no longer any probability of an advance upon these prices.

## BARLEY

Has been very scarce, none having been received by rail, and the street receipts were limited to a few loads, which have been received during the past few days. Prices are nominal, and are from 40c to 50c. No other kinds of grain have reached the city during the week.

## FLOUR.

The home trade in this product has been in

the way of improving during the past week, while shipping to the Eastern Provinces has again commenced. During the past three days at least mills have been running full, and sufficient wheat to keep them so is now confidently expected. About fifteen cars have been shipped east during the past week, and this number will be greatly increased during the current one. Prices have not changed and remain: Patents \$3.10 to \$3.20; xxxx or strong bakers \$2.50 to \$2.60; bakers \$2 to \$2.10; traders or xx \$1.50.

## BRAN

Has not changed hands in price since last quotations, being \$12 a ton on track, or \$13 delivered. The stock on hand has decreased slightly owing to mills being shut down during the early part of the past week.

## SHORTS

Are still quoted at \$13 a ton on track, and \$14 delivered. The demand has not been heavy during the week.

## CHOPPED FEED.

There has been but a light demand for this product during the week, and the price has not changed from \$30 a ton.

## POTATOES.

There has been quite a sharp advance in the price of these during the week. Stocks are very low in the city, and as yet hauling from the country has not commenced to any extent. A slight scarcity is felt, and prices now stand firm at \$1.20 to \$1.25 a bushel.

## BUTTER.

There has been but a light trade in butter during the week, and the demand has been principally for choice dairy. Several consignments from the east have arrived, and the stock in the city is liberal. Prices have ranged: Choice dairy 25c to 28c; inferior grades 19c to 23c, and Ontario creamery 30c to 32c. There is plenty of poor qualities, but choice dairy and creamery are not too plentiful.

## EGGS.

The long severe cold spell has been felt in the price of eggs at last. The fact also that the cold has not been confined to the North-west, but has been general in the Eastern provinces and Western States from which supplies come, has added to the scarcity now felt. Prices have advanced sharply, and new consignments of fresh are quoted at 40c to 45c. Iowa barrel eggs are still to be had at 38c to 40c. There is every probability of prices going even higher for a week or two, as a great scarcity is unavoidable.

## HAMS.

There has been a fair demand for these during the week, and prices have held firm at 17½c to 18c, only choice lots bringing the latter figure.

## BACON.

There has been a general stiffening in prices during the past week, and an advance in some qualities has taken place. Dry salt has been quoted 15½c; long clear smoked 16c to 16½c; rolls 16½c to 18c; breakfast bacon 17½c to 18c. There is every probability of a slight advance during the current week.

## MESS PORK.

The advance in the price of this product in Chicago and other packing centres has had more or less of a sympathetic feeling in this city, and prices have advanced somewhat during the past week. During the early part, quotations were \$25.50, but towards the close an advance to \$26 was made, which is now the general quotation. This advance has not been quite as much as in Chicago during the past two weeks, and the margins of dealers here are not any larger with the advance.

## CORNEB BEEF.

This product is down to the most monotonous inactivity. The demand during the week has not been heavy, and prices have not moved from \$18.