

Groceries.—In sugar no changes have occurred in the local market, in spite of fluctuations in New York. No large amount of business is being carried on in this commodity. In dried fruits an increasing trade is being done, as is usually the case at this time of the year. Currants occupy a somewhat stronger position than was the case a week or two back. This is in sympathy with greater firmness and increased prices in Greece.

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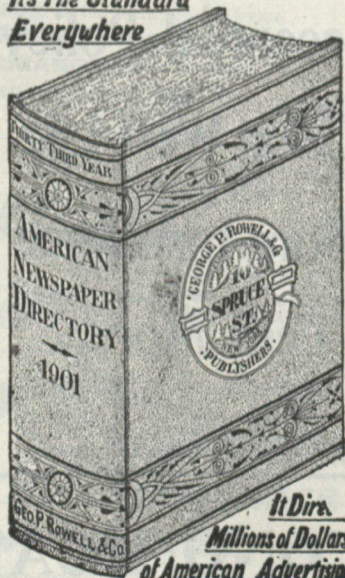
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The supplies of dates are somewhat smaller than usual. Scarcity still prevails in many lines of canned goods. Corn and peas, besides tomatoes, are especially scarce, with prices ruling high.

Hides and Skins.—Offerings of hides are moderate with fair demand. For sheepskins, the demand is good. Calfskins are quiet. Tallow is unchanged. In Chicago, a fairly steady market is reported for packer hides, it being stated that the large buyers are showing increased interest, although no sales of importance are reported. Prices quoted are 12¾ to 13c. for native steers, 13¾ to 14c. for heavy Texas, 11½ to 11¾c. for butt brands, 11¼ to 11½c. for Colorados, 11¾c. for heavy native cows, 9½ to 9¾c. for light do., and 9¼c. for branded do. Country hides are quiet at 8¼c. for No. 1 buffs.

Live Stock.—Not much change has taken place in the conditions of dullness prevailing during the last week or two in the cattle market. Offerings have been of a somewhat better quality, but buyers complain that drovers are asking too much. There is still room for improvement, too, in many of the cattle coming into the city. Some of them are altogether too "unfinished." Prices in Britain for cattle have declined, and exporters here, in consequence, are meeting with but a dull demand. For butchers' cattle the demand is steady and prices remain much as before. Milch cows are in better request.

Provisions.—Dairy products are mainly in about the same position as last week. Butter is coming forward in fair quantities and meeting with a pretty good demand, at any rate the choice grades. Cheese is firm. Eggs are a somewhat uncertain commodity just now. They are coming forward in more than usual plentifulness just now, on account of the mild weather, though future contingencies are unknown, and at the same time the stocks in cold storage are quite large. Prices vary widely therefore. The poultry market is very firm under light supplies. For hog products, a good market exists. Hogs are coming in in normal quantities, and though demand is good, prices fail to go up. Referring to the western pack, the Cincinnati Price Current says there has been an enlarged marketing of hogs, and for the first time this winter the weekly comparison of packing operations is practically equal to the corresponding period last year. Total western pack, 545,000, compared with 470,000 the preceding week, and 480,000 two weeks ago. For corresponding time last year the number was 550,000, and two years ago, 590,000. From November 1st the total is 5,900,000, against 7,375,000 a year ago—a decrease of 1,475,000. The quality appears to be well maintained. Prices have been considerably advanced, the average for prominent markets at the close being \$6.55 per 100 pounds, compared with \$6.35 a week ago, \$6.35 two weeks ago, \$6 a year ago, and \$5.15 two years ago.

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