

## POTATOES.

Have declined in receipts and were quite hard to obtain, causing an advance in prices. Cars of early rose sold at 60 to 65c on track. On the street prices were from 65 to 75 per bushel.

## APPLES.

Have been nearly out of the market. Small lots sold at \$2.50 to \$3 per bbl.

## EGGS.

All offered have been taken at 11 to 11½c for round lots, with rather lights offerings.

## BUTTER.

There has been a marked falling off in receipts of box lots of rolls, but tubs have come in rather more freely. Rolls have brought from 12 to 13c, and occasionally 14c for extra choice, with common as low as 10c. White in tubs has been slow at 10c, and fair yellow at 10½ to 11c, and 12 to 13 for good. Some inquiry has been heard for shipping lots, but stocks were not on hand in quantities for that purpose.

## CHEESE.

Prices for small quantities for local trade have held fairly steady at 8 to 8½c for small lots.

## PORK.

Quiet and steady at \$13 to \$13 50.

## BACON.

Quiet and held firmly. Long clear in tons and cases sold at 7 to 7½c. Cumberland was slow at 6½c for green and smoked at 7½ to 8c. Rolls 8½ to 8½c; bellies 10½ to 11c.

## HAMS.

Smoked sold at 11½c for small lots and 12 in large quantities. Pickled sold at 10c.

## LARD.

The demand has been principally for small pails, which have sold at 9 to 9½c according to quantity. Large tins have sold at 9c.

## HOGS.

Offerings light and insufficient for the demand. Prices have held firm and higher at \$6.75 to \$7.

## A Voice from the North.

The Edmonton *Bulletin*, a paper published in that far Northwestern Saskatchewan country, though diminutive in size, is by no means so in ideas, and its columns sometimes contain as much common sense condensed into a few inches space as may be found in the broad pages of some more pretentious journals. The following from its columns is a sample:—"For parties who put up to be sharp business men the members of the board of trade of the good city of Winnipeg seem to have very great difficulty in seeing through a ladder. The city is agitated about discriminating freight rates over the C. P. R. The board of trade and city council have had delegations make pilgrimages to the feet of the great Van Horne respectfully praying him to deign to consider their pitiful case and out of his great and merciful heart grant them relief by giving lower proportionate rates to Winnipeg than to points further west. The mighty Van Horne speaks them fair, because it is his interest to do so. He also holds up the rates, because it is his interest to do so. And he will continue to do likewise as his interest requires. Which will be until Winnipeg becomes a competing point of rival railway systems. Which will never be as long as Winnipeg men sit down and snivel and beg and pray and submit to political exigency instead of taking active measures to secure connection with competing lines in the States. Which will never be as long as they allow their allegiance to a political

party to dominate their common sense. But disallowance stands in the way. So it will until the Winnipeg people either swoop it out of the way or get around it. There was a time not many years ago when Winnipeg was offered the advantage of being made a competing point by the Northern Pacific. The sharp Winnipeg men saw that their interest lay in debasing themselves under the feet of the C. P. R. instead. They did it. And now they are paying for it. And paying for it alone. These discriminating rates are the funeral of Winnipeg. They are the life of wholesale trade in towns west. The next time Winnipeg men get the chance of a competing line they will probably take it. But they have taken several years to learn this much. Which a basswood man should have known without being told. The *Bulletin* editor, however, makes a mistake, which he has probably been led into from reading country papers, when he states that Winnipeg asked for lower rates than points farther west. As has already been explained several times in THE COMMERCIAL and by the board of trade circulars, the only demand was that Winnipeg be placed on an equal footing with Montreal, or in other words that discrimination in favor of the latter city be removed. The *Bulletin* editor is also far astray when he says: "These discriminating rates are the funeral of Winnipeg. They are the life of wholesale trade in towns west." It would be difficult to see how wholesale trade in towns west of Winnipeg could prosper under the same conditions which retarded growth here, for the discriminating rates in favor of Montreal and against Winnipeg also operated proportionately against wholesale trade west of Winnipeg.

## Clerk or Merchant.

A desire to get on in the world may be very laudable, but it is a great mistake to suppose that one cannot get on unless he goes into business for himself. There never was a greater delusion, and it is one that has brought bankruptcy to many a man who went into business for himself rather than be an employee living in comfortable circumstances.

For a number of years past the profit in most kinds of business have been of a very precarious nature, and many a merchant would have been willing to exchange his profits with those of some of his clerks. Employees are apt to forget that there are years when their employers absolutely lose in their business, and a heavy profit in a favorable year scarcely makes the thing average. But the large profits of a good year is what the employee bears in mind, and imagines that is what he can do when he gets into business for himself.

But the reality is far different from the expectations, and at the end of a year the new merchant finds that what he has drawn for his own living is so small that had it been offered to him as wages he would have scorned to take it. We have known young men who were getting from \$13 to \$18 per week go into business for themselves, and the exigencies of the case required that they should put themselves on a weekly allowance of \$7 each. Of course, such self-denial is an excellent indication for future

success, but it emphasizes the point we would make, that a man is often much better off to remain an employee than to start in business for himself. Let well enough alone is a very good rule to follow. It is better to save a few hundred dollars as an employee than to save nothing and work much harder for the sake of being at the head of a business. It is vanity alone that causes many to leave a good position in order to see their names on a sign over a store door.—*St. Louis Grocer.*

## The Lumber Area.

The superficial area of the United States is, outside of the District of Columbia and the Indian Territory, 1,856,000,000 acres. There are 44,555,000 acres in forest, 285,000,000 acres of improved and 1,126,000,000 of unimproved and waste land. At the present rate in which the forest is disappearing, the timber cannot be expected to last longer than 20 to 25 years. In Michigan, the greatest lumber producing state in the Union, the first saw mill was planted about fifty years ago. At the time it was estimated that there were 150,000,000,000 feet of white pine standing in the forest of the State. The estimate for 1885 is 35,000,000,000 feet, which it has disappeared at the rate of 2,300,000,000 feet annually for fifty years. The estimated amount cut into lumber in Michigan in 1884 was 5,100,000,000 feet, board measure, which is about one-sixth of the whole amount cut in the United States for that year.—*Mississippi Valley Lumberman.*

## Not Altogether Encouraging.

That President Smithers of the bank of Montreal does not take a hopeful view of the future of wheat growing on this continent, may be gleaned from the following extract from his speech at the annual meeting of the bank. "The future is a sealed book, and it is idle to attempt to penetrate far into it: it is wisely hidden from our view; as in all things, so in banking. The most that we can do is to indicate what seems probable from the present standpoint. It is little better than a waste of time to speculate about the crops at this season of the year; so far, they promise well, and they may be ever so promising up to a certain point; but still they are liable to all sorts of—I will not say accidents—but contingencies, such as rust, insects, drought, or the reverse, but worst of all, early frost in certain sections, sometimes destroying in a single night our most cherished hopes of a bountiful harvest. But assuming that the country is favored with a good crop, in these latter days the matter does not end there. Given a good crop, the next question that arises is—what about a market? Formerly a good crop was looked upon as a panacea for all our troubles; but of late years the production of wheat has been so much increased, and the competition with other countries has become so keen, that prices in the English market have fallen lower than ever before. In the case of India it is an unequal contest, the extremely low prices to which silver has fallen enabling that country to lay wheat down in England at a price with which it is nearly, if not quite, impossible to compete; and it looks as though