

In provisions matters have been very quiet all round. In some lines the holidays will account for this, but in others there are special circumstances at the bottom of it. In almost every class of meats sales have been few and light, and in dairy products there has been no demand unless for selected fine lots. Altogether the week has been a very slow one, and in almost every line stocks have been steadily increasing.

## WHEAT

The same indisposition to do business noticed in our last report continued to be the leading feature of the wheat market during the week. However, if there was an evident disinclination to buy there was also equally as little anxiety manifested by holders to sell. Prices therefore held firmly at last quotations without variation during the week. Buyers and sellers were generally apart. No. 2 fall was held at 80c, with 84 to 85c offered. May delivery sold at 90½c; No. 2 spring was worth about 86c F.O.B.

## OATS.

were in a good demand throughout the early part of the week but somewhat slackier at the close, with an evident weakening in values. White milling sold at 34c, and mixed ranged from 32½ to 33½c on track.

## BARLEY.

The same feature previously noted has again been manifested in this market, namely: an active demand for the higher grades with a scarcity of the qualities wanted. This fact limited the amount of business transacted to dimensions. One car of No. 1 is reported to have been sold at 95c. For No. 2 8½c was asked with buyers at 80c, at which latter figure some little business was transacted. Extra No. 3 stood at 70c; No. 3 choice at 64½c, and No. 3 in plentiful supply offered at 55c without buyers.

## RYE.

Unchanged and inactive at 60c.

## PEAS.

In light request and prices unchanged. The limited quantity offered sold at 60c on track. Street prices were 1c better.

## POTATOES.

Cut lots have been coming to hand in fair supply and are offered at 50c, which shows an easier feeling. Bags sold from 60 to 65c.

## EGGS.

The demand for these has been rather slack in comparison with the supply which is coming in pretty freely. Prices have held about the same as last quotations, with an easier and unsettled feeling. Round lots of fresh sold slowly at 19c, and salted at 16 to 17c.

## BUTTER.

The butter market manifests no new feature but holds tenaciously to the main symptoms of the past few weeks. The only activity manifested is in choice qualities of selections, which are generally taken as fast as offered at fair prices. Medium and inferior grades are constantly increasing in offerings, with no demand whatever existing for such. Shipping qualities of medium could be readily obtained at 10c if asked for. Holders take a very despondent view of the situation and consider the prospects of the trade gloomy. Prices for different grades rule as follows: choice selections 15 to 16c; good to choice rolls 12 to 14c; poor rolls 10c.

## CHEESE.

Demand fair and prices unchanged. Choice is worth 9 to 9½c, and medium 7 to 8c.

## PORK.

Unchanged in prices at \$13.50, which has

been steadily offered and taken for the needy quantities coming into the market.

## BACON.

The feeling is easier on account of an increasing supply. Long clear in round lots could have been obtained at 6½ to 7c. Cumberland is still scarce and rules about the same as long clear. Rolls sell at 8½ to 9c, and bellies at 10 to 11c.

## HAMS.

Now smoked is the only sort in the market for which a fair demand exists at 11 to 11½c, according to quantity wanted.

## LARD.

Quiet and steady at 9 to 9½c for pails.

## APPLES.

The only sale reported was a car of golden russets at \$2. Street prices range from \$1.50 to \$2.25.

## POULTRY.

The dressed poultry market has been glutted with excessive offerings during the week. Prices have generally dropped all around. Turkeys sell at 8 to 10c and geese 6c per lb; ducks bring 50 to 60c and chickens 25 to 35c per pair in box lots.

## The Flour Trade of Minneapolis.

The crop year 1884-5 was one of which the average miller could not complain, as the margin, while not large, were fair and of a healthy character. Wheat occupied a position about on a par with flour, admitting of its being ground with a profit, and the conditions were such that a good export business could be done. War scares on two or three occasions contributed to the gain of the miller, he selling freely on the bulges and pocketing a good profit. Since the gathering of the new crop, the situation has been very different, millers declaring the past four months the dullest and most unsatisfactory in their experience. Flour has steadily declined until it has reached a point very much out of proportion to the current values of wheat, and milling has become almost a non-productive business. Although freights have been mainly favorable, speculative influences have kept wheat so high that the mills could not compete in supplying foreign countries with breadstuffs, and our exports have been greatly reduced. These unfavorable conditions have seriously interfered with operations by the local mills, and for the past month in particular they have been operated very irregularly.

The great disparity between wheat and flour may be shown by giving the prices of one year ago and those at present quoted. In January last, No. 1 hard wheat was quoted at \$1 per bushel, and patent flour at \$6.30 to 6.50 per bushel. On Dec. 16, No. 1 hard was quoted at 90c, and patent flour at \$4.70 to 5. This leaves the wheat equivalent to a barrel of flour worth about 45c less and patent flour \$1.55 less now than a year ago. Or, in other words, it costs \$1 more to make a barrel of flour now than then. In order to run their mills at all under such a shrinkage of values, millers have been compelled to cut corners and reduce the cost of manufacture to the minimum. One direction in which they were slightly assisted has been in getting barrels at a reduced cost, prices having fallen four to five cents.

The mills make a splendid record as to operation. Notwithstanding the flour production was heavily curtailed by a shortage of power during last winter, and the fact that most of the mills were kept in enforced idleness nearly three months in the fall by improvements to the canal, the sum total of the year's work is highly gratifying. The output of the year, ending with Dec. 1, exceeds that of the previous calendar year by over 160,000 bbls. The mills did remarkable work in October, at the time of starting up, after being closed down for nearly three months. A large number of orders had accumulated, and with ample power, the mills were allowed to show their mettle. The flour production for six consecutive weeks was from 10,000 to 26,000 bbls more per week than ever before.

## RECEIPTS AND SHIPMENTS.

The receipts of wheat at Minneapolis for the crop year of 1884-5, ending Sept. 1, 1885, demonstrated fully that Minneapolis was the largest primary wheat market in the United States. The receipts from Jan. 1, 1884, to Jan. 1, 1885, were 29,000 bus., nearly 10,000,000 more than those of Chicago. New York was left as the only market in the United States that received more wheat than Minneapolis. The increase of nearly 10,000,000 bus in the receipts at Minneapolis over 1883, was a surprise to the trade, but it is estimated that the increase during the current crop year will be still greater. The shipments of flour show an increase of nearly a half million barrels, and the receipts were over 90,000 barrels less. The receipts of millstuff were likewise very much diminished, and the shipments increased.

## RECEIPTS.

	1883-4.	1884-5.
Wheat, bus. ....	23,514,567	32,112,840
Flour, bbls. ....	116,084	23,378
Millstuff, tons. ....	11,721	3,003

## SHIPMENTS.

Wheat, bus. ....	3,132,749	5,584,320
Flour, bbls. ....	4,814,424	5,298,941
Millstuff, tons. ....	139,261	142,715

For the year ended Dec. 1, 1885, the figures are as follows:

## RECEIPTS.

Wheat, bus. ....	34,306,850
Flour, bbls. ....	23,505
Millstuff, tons. ....	3,973

## SHIPMENTS.

Flour, bbls. ....	5,339,180
Wheat, bus. ....	5,732,640
Millstuff, tons. ....	51,632

—Northwestern Miller.

## Commercial Summary.

Special telegrams to *Bradstreet's* from the leading trade centers this week report the dullness in wholesale lines customary at this season. There are some exceptions, notable at St. Louis, where the distribution of dry goods is as full and firm as it has been of late. Throughout a good portion of the Northwest, also, notably in Iowa, the movement of merchandise has likewise been large. At Chicago arrangements have been made by bankers for an active and increased business during the remainder of the winter. The general merchandise markets