

SENECA ROOT—Nominal at 15 to 20c per lb. Advice from outside markets are very unsatisfactory, the demand being very slow and holders are not getting rid of their stocks to advantage. The quantity being consumed is so small that it is believed some substitute is being used for this article.

VEGETABLES—Celery is scarce and higher. Prices are as follows: Potatoes, 35c to 40c per bushel; carrots, 90c to \$1 per bushel; onions, native, 2 to 2 1-2c per lb.; imported, 3c; celery, 60 to 75c per doz. bunches; cabbage, \$4 to \$5 per 100; beets, 30 to 40c per bushel; turnips, 15 to 20c per bushel; parsnips, 1 1-2 to 2c per lb.

HAY—The market is easier. Offerings are liberal and the demand is slower. \$6 per ton is now about the outside price for baled hay, f.o.b. country points. Loose hay is offering very freely. The big prices expected for hay this winter have not been realized.

LIVE STOCK.

There is very little doing in live stock of any kind. Butchers cattle are nominally higher at 3c for cows and heifers and 3 1-4 to 3 1-2c for choice well fed steers, but there is really next to nothing doing. Sheep nominal at about 3c.

HOGS—The market for live hogs is firm. We quote choice bacon hogs, weighing 150 to 250 lbs. at \$1.75 per 100 lbs; 250 to 300 lbs, \$4 to \$4.25; heavy hogs, over 300 lbs., \$3 to \$3.75, as to quality, live weight.

Business at Toronto

Toronto, Jan. 28.—There have been a good many failures in Ontario since the first of the year and the maturity of a large amount of paper on the 4th of February may be attended with a considerable crop of additional failures. This may make it appear to the casual observer that the condition of business in the east is not as healthy as generally represented. But these failures are in themselves an indication of the improving conditions of trade. In the first place they are for the most part the result of the accumulated weight of indebtedness of the past three or four years—a state of affairs that six months of prosperous times could not be expected to remedy. Formerly the large distributing houses in Toronto and Montreal were disposed to deal more leniently with these delinquents and to renew their notes from time to time and frequently when a retailer in the country became discouraged and "threw up the sponge," the wholesale man would keep on the business as a supply account. Now the folly of the long credit system and adding to old sore, throwing good money after bad, is generally recognized and owing to the adoption of the cash business by many retailers throughout the country, the chance of delinquents wiping out old debts, getting a fresh start and taking cash discounts, which they would have to do in order to compete with men of capital, who sell only for cash, is so slim that it is generally considered best to allow the debtors to go into insolvency. The fact that the wholesale firms are now in a position to do this and refuse to keep unprofitable retailers afloat, shows that they are more independent of such firms than formerly. When the weeding out process is over and with a continuance for a few years at least of the present more prosperous times,

the business of this province will be on a sounder and more healthy basis.

From the Coast.

Mr. E. Nicholson, commission merchant, Winnipeg, has returned from a trip to the Pacific coast. He visited Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and points south in California. At Seattle there is great excitement over the Klondike and the streets swarm with people who are going north. Thousands of dogs are also visible, he says, about Seattle. These dogs are being taken north for service in the Yukon and Alaska but many of them, he thinks, will prove of little value, as all sorts of dogs are being taken. It is not safe to own a valuable dog about Seattle, as dogs are being picked up regardless of ownership. A great business is being done at Seattle in supplying the people, many of whom seem to have scarcely any knowledge of the requirements of the north country or where they are going. They are like a flock of sheep following a leader at random, little knowing what may be in store for them. At other points, Mr. Nicholson says, the Klondike fever is not so severe as at Seattle, though Portland merchants are now making a strong effort to capture some of the trade. A sort of bazaar has been established at Portland, where parties going north can see samples of goods supposed to be required for the gold regions, and learn where they can get supplies. In California Mr. Nicholson was surprised to find the weather cold and disagreeable, and he felt the cold there quite as much as here. Frost was experienced throughout Northern California, but up to the time he left they were not able to say whether or not the orange crop had been damaged. California merchants he says, are looking for a sharp advance in dried fruits as stocks are light, and large quantities are being shipped to the Yukon or to parties who are outfitting for the northern country.

Western Business Items.

J. H. Brock returned Thursday from a trip to the States.

Siddons & Montgomery are putting up a new implement warehouse at Stonewall, Man.

J. F. Forbes, of Fort Saskatchewan, is opening a real estate and accountant office at Edmonton.

Wm. J. Stinson, of Austin, Man., is selling out his business and intends removing to Vernon, B. C.

V. Couture has purchased the Mondor hotel St. Boniface, Man., and will take charge on March 1st.

Mr. Driscoll, manager of the McClary Manufacturing Co., Winnipeg, returned Thursday from London, Ont.

R. Johnson has sold his interest in the saddlery business at Stonewall, Man., to Jos. Stinson, who will continue the business.

The Ogilvie Milling Co. are having two more large boilers placed in their Winnipeg mill, which will materially increase the power plant.

Davidson & Poiré, butchers, in Ian Head, Assn., have dissolved partnership. The business will continue under the firm name of Smith & Price.

The stock and book debts of the estate of John Ely & Co., of Salteaux, Assn., will be sold at a rate on the dollar at Winnipeg, on Saturday, Feb. 5. The stock amounts to about \$1,500, and book debts \$600.

Frederick Ashford, confectionery, Winnipeg, has assigned.

Sparling & Meser, grocers, etc., Mordean, have assigned to H. S. Lemon.

George Kennedy, restaurant, Carberry, Man., has added groceries to his business.

Chris Duneau, of Carberry, has gone to Shovel Lake, Man., where he will open up a bakery and confectionery store.

G. B. Ryan & Co., dry goods, Guelph, Ont., will close their branch at Regina. C. H. Mills has been in charge of the branch.

The McGregor Herald states that Geo. Rogers, M. P., is negotiating for the purchase of W. Knox's general store and business at that place.

Thompson, Codville & Co., wholesale grocers, Winnipeg, have opened their new business at Edmonton. W. S. Robertson, of Edmonton, will be in charge of the new branch. A large stock of general groceries has been put in with special regard to such goods as will be required for the northern and Klondike trade.

The J. B. Henderson failure at Carberry Man., is likely to turn out unfavorably for the creditors. The claims filed so far amount to \$24,076, and a number of small claims are likely to turn up yet, probably increasing the liabilities to \$25,000. The total assets, including stock and book debts, amount to \$14,226, of which \$13,536 is stock and fixtures, making a deficit of over \$10,000 to start with, and of course the stock and book debts will shrink in value largely before the estate is closed out. The bank has a claim of \$3,000, but this is secured by \$3,800 of paper under discount. As the bank is understood to be willing to waive their claim on the estate, in view of the security held, the amount of the bank's claim is not included in the liabilities, nor the securities in the assets.

Minneapolis Markets.

Prices are ruling strong and demand is steady in corn and oats. A raise of 1-2 to 1c in the former and 1-2c in the latter this week. Flour sales are heavy and prices up 5 cents. In produce, the keenest demand is for eggs, butter is easier, poultry unchanged, demand good.

Flour—Prices in barrels: First patents, \$1.90 to \$5.00; second patents, \$1.75 to \$1.85.

Millfeed—Shorts in bulk, \$9.25 to \$9.50; bran in bulk, 9.50 to \$9.75; corn feed, \$10.00 to \$11.00 per ton.

Corn—Quoted 25 to 25 1-2c for No. 4; 25 3-4 to 26c for No. 3; 26 1-4c for No. 3 yellow per bushel of 56 pounds.

Oats—Held at 23 1-4c for No. 3 white and 23 to 23 1-8c for No. 3 per bushel of 32 lbs.

Barley—Feed quoted at 25 to 25 1-4c.

Flax seed—\$1.27 for No. 1 per bus.

Eggs—13c for strictly fresh including cases; cold storage 11c to 12c; held fresh, 10 to 12c.

Cheese—Choice to fancy, 9 to 10c; fair to good, 7 to 7 1-2c.

Butter—Creamery, 16 to 18c; seconds, 13 to 14c; dairy, 10 1-2 to 16c.

Dressed meats—Button, 4 to 6c; lambs, 5 to 8c; hogs, 3 1-4 to 3 1-2c for heavy and 4c for medium and light.

Potatoes—Car lots mixed, 30 to 38c; choice, named varieties, 40 to 55c.

Poultry—Chickens, 5 to 7 1-2c; old fowls, 4 to 5c; turkeys, 7 to 11c; ducks, 8 to 9c; geese, 7 to 8c.

Live stock—Hogs \$3.50 to \$3.75. Cattle, 23-4 to 41-4c.