

improving, and as a rule coming along all right.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

A light trade is being done this season as yet. The leading houses are not pushing business eagerly; still there is quite a little bit of sorting up being done by outside merchants. The prospects for spring are reported good. Collections are fair.

DRY GOODS.

It cannot be said that the state of the trade in the dry goods line has changed much since our last report. Things are a good deal livelier than they were a few weeks ago. A good many orders are being received for spring delivery, and in a week or two a general revival is expected. Collections are about as they were. No line of business has had so much reason for complaint in this direction as dry goods. Notes maturing are not yet being met with that promptness which could be desired, but it is supposed that the large majority of the firms which have weathered the storm thus far will be able to pull through without any further difficulty. The fact of the matter is that the retailers overstocked themselves last fall. Their shelves are still well filled with goods, and such being the case they do not care to purchase unless it be actually necessary. In this they are wise, and will result better to all parties concerned than if the rash and indiscriminate buying of last fall were continued.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

Business in this line during the week has been very fair, although not by any means brisk. The houses are actively preparing for the rush of spring trade which will soon set in. Collections are better than they have been for several weeks.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALL WARES.

A decided improvement is reported in the trade. Orders are coming in more freely, and collections are considerably better. Prospects for the spring are good, and the houses are well prepared for it. Heavy stocks are held in the city, sufficient to meet all the anticipated demand.

FRUIT.

The trade for the week has been very fair, orders from the city and from outside points as well coming in freely. In prices there is but little change to note. There is a limited supply of apples on hand, which are quoted at \$7 to \$7.50 per barrel for good cooking, and \$8 for fancy stand repacked. Oranges are worth \$11 to \$13, according to quality; lemons, boxes, \$7.50 to \$8; cases, \$10 to \$10.50; Almeida grapes per barrel, \$10 to \$11; figs in mats, 10; large boxes, 14c; small boxes, 20c; raisins, loose Muscatelles, \$3.50; black crown, \$5.25; triple crown, \$8.50; four crown, \$9.75. Collections cannot be complained of, being well up to the mark.

FURS AND SKINS.

There is scarcely any movement. Hides, of which a few are brought to market, bring \$5 per cwt.

GROCERIES.

The trade in groceries for the week has been decidedly brisk. The leading houses are kept busy supplying orders from the country. Merchants outside are laying in good stocks so as to be prepared for any delay in traffic that may

occur through storm or flood. Collections are just about as they were. Although there cannot be said to be any decided improvement, still there has been no falling off. Quotations remain unchanged: Sugars are quoted: Raw, 9 to 9½c; yellow, 10 to 10½c; granulated, 11½c; Paris lumps, 12½c. Coffee; Rio, 16 to 22c; Java, 22 to 31c. Teas, congous, 22 to 60c; Japans; 25 to 65c; Hysons, 30 to 85c; gunpowder, 30c to \$1.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

Business has been on the quiet order during the week. Collections are fair. Prices remain unchanged at the following quotations: Tin plate, 14x20, \$7.75 to \$8; 20x28, \$15 to \$15.25; bar iron \$3.75 to \$4; sheet iron, 5½ to 7c; iron piping 35 per cent off price list; ingot tin, 32 to 35c; pig lead 6½ to 7c; galvanized iron. No. 28, 8½ to 9c, according to quality.

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

There is a brisk trade being done especially in building paper, and spring prospects are good. Collections, while not to be complained of, show no improvement upon the last week or two.

FISH AND OYSTERS.

There continues to be a very fair amount of business done. The supply in the city is tolerably large, and prices remain firm at last week's quotations. White fish are quoted at 8c per lb.; smoked white fish, 13c; finnan haddies, 15c. Oysters, New York counts per can, 75c; selects, 55c; standards, 45c.

FUEL.

Since the break in the weather the demand for fuel has not been so keen. There is a good supply both of coal and wood on hand. Quotations are: Coal, egg, stove and nut by carload on track, \$14; Blossburg, car lots, \$13.25; soft coal, car lots, \$10.80 to \$12, according to quality. Wood, poplar, \$5 to \$6; ash, oak and tamarac, \$7 to \$8.

LUMBER.

Prices remain at old quotations, viz.: Sheet-ping, \$28; common dimensions, \$30 to \$31; fencing, \$28 to \$34; stock, \$33 to \$40; flooring, \$35 to \$48; graded clear, \$50 to \$70; shingles, \$4.50 to 6; laths, \$5.

THE MARKETS.

WINES AND

RAIN AND PROVISIONS.

This week the receipts of grain have been very light. In fact there is scarcely anything coming in, and the mills are consequently not running full time. Grain prices remain as they were in most cases. The provision market is well supplied, and prices have undergone little alteration.

WHEAT.

The receipts of wheat have been very light, consequent no doubt to a large extent upon the state of the roads in the country. An improvement may now be looked for with the fine weather of the past few days. A good sample of wheat is worth from 75 to 78c, and an exceptionally fine sample will bring as high as 80c.

BARLEY.

There is scarcely any coming in, and quotations are nearly nominal at from 45 to 48c per

bushel. There is a good demand if the product were available.

FLOUR.

As we have stated above, the supply of wheat is so light that the mills are not running full time, consequently flour holds firm at old quotations. There has been very little shipment east during the week. Quotations are: Patents, \$3 to \$3.20; xxx or strong baker's, \$2.50 to \$2.80; baker's, \$2 to \$2.10; trader's or xx, \$1.50.

OATS.

The receipts of oats have been better than of any other grain. There is still an abundance in the country if they could only be got to market. The better state of the roads and more moderate weather will contribute largely to increase the supply for the next few days. Quotations are 38 to 41c, and for choice lots as high as 43c.

BRAN.

The market is well supplied, but with the mills running light the demand may soon catch up to it. Quotations are \$10 per ton on track, and \$11 delivered.

SHORTS.

The same remarks that apply to bran are equally applicable to shorts. Quotations are \$12 per ton on track and \$13 delivered.

CHOPPED FEED.

There is a good supply on hand and the demand is fair. With the commencement of spring operations on contractor's work there will no doubt be a heavier demand. Quotations are \$28 per ton, and firm at the figure mentioned.

EGGS.

This useful product is now very plentiful, and there has consequently been a big break in prices. Besides the supply now in the city large consignments are in transit. Then there is a danger of a glut on the market. The ruling figures now are from 30 to 35c per dozen.

POTATOES.

The supply from the country is good. Farmers are opening their pits and taking advantage of the moderate weather to bring their contents to market. There is little danger of a scarcity of this valuable vegetable product this season again. Quotations are from 7c to 75c per bushel.

BUTTER.

The market is well supplied with butter, and some large consignments from Ontario are expected every day. Prices have, however, not changed materially as yet. Choice dairy is worth 25c to 27c; inferior grades, 19 to 21c. Ontario creamery is still scarce, a choice sample of which would bring considerably over the highest figure quoted above.

DRIED APPLES.

The supply held in the city, although no large, is fully equal to the demand. They still hold firm at 12½c per lb. Evaporated fruit is worth 19 to 22c.

CANNED MEATS.

The firmness which has prevailed for some time still continues, and the tendency is toward an advance in prices.

MEATS.

The fluctuations in Chicago and other eastern markets have not affected prices here, which remain as they were last week. Quotations are: Hams, per lb. 16c; spiced roll, 16 to 16½c; barreled pork, \$25.50 to \$26c; mess beef, \$18.50 to \$19.

CHEESE.

Holds firm at the old figure of 16c per lb. The provision houses are well supplied.

SUNDRIES.

Quotations for the following articles are: Oat meal, per bbl., \$7 to \$7.25; corn meal, \$6; beans, per bush., \$3.25; lard, per lb. in pails, 18c; in tins, per case, \$10.75 to \$11.00.