

CONDITION OF OMAHA'S TRADE.

Staple Lines Rather Slow as Usual at This Season of the Year.

JOBBERS' SALES OF FANCY GOODS LARGE

Retailers Report Best Trade in the History of the City—Very Busy—More Expensive Class of Goods Sold Freely.

The principal feature of last week's trade was of course the demand for holiday goods of all varieties. It is needless to say that local retailers have never enjoyed a good holiday trade as they have experienced this year. Practically every store in the city has been crowded from morning till night and many third-class dealers found it impossible to handle their trade properly. People seem to have plenty of money this year to spend on Christmas presents, as is shown by the quality of the goods in demand, as well as by the volume of business. Reports received from surrounding points show just about the same conditions—that is, holiday goods are in big demand, but staple and nearly all kinds of cold weather goods are more or less neglected. For that reason the local jobbing trade last week was not especially active.

Retailers outside the country are too busy selling goods to spend time to order more supplies and many jobbers are of the opinion that they will not receive more stock until more favorable weather puts in an appearance. The general condition of the markets is much the same as last week. There is a general feeling of firmness all along the line and no special advances of importance have been heard of.

Look for Higher Prices.

Wholesale grocers are doing just about their usual amount of business in staples and more than usual amount in such lines as candies, nuts and raisins. A falling off in collections from outside points is a general account of the rather tight trade general stores are having. They seem to be selling goods at a profit, but the goods, boots and shoes are moving slowly and for that reason much of the money that is being collected is being used to make up the deficiency in other lines. One jobber remarked that a good billiard would increase receipts anywhere from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per day. There is very little to be said about the clothing market. Nearly all lines are in a good, strong position and higher prices are being requested for the greater part of the season of the big demand and also because of the advanced freight rates to go into effect Jan. 1. The situation in regard to the same position as it was a week ago, although prices are stronger in the east, and a far greater amount of stock has advanced last week, with oatmeal looking rather strong, but prices are the same as at last report. Starch, however, was advanced on account of a report that it was also being quoted a little higher on account of the advance in tallow.

Big Hardware Movement.

Hardware jobbers are doing a remarkable business for this time of year. Last year at this time they had what they called an immense business, but it was accounted for by the fact that everyone was looking for higher prices after the first of the year. This year there seems to be no reason for retailers buying more stock at this time than they would for ordinary use. When these conditions are taken into consideration jobbers figure that trade in the hardware line is about the same as last year's business for the corresponding period by 25 per cent, which was a very good showing. There is nothing new to be said about the condition of the market, but it is worth just about what they have been for several weeks past. A few changes there are reported, but nothing of importance has taken place during the week.

Some Lines Quiet.

Dry goods, boots and shoes, and rubber goods are not in very great demand just at the present time. Dry goods jobbers, of course, are not doing a very good business, but at the same time trade in cold-weather goods is hardly what it should be at this season. There is no reason to expect that the market will be any better than it is now. There is no reason to expect that the market will be any better than it is now. There is no reason to expect that the market will be any better than it is now.

Fruit and Produce.

Fruit and produce men are well pleased this year with the Christmas trade. There was a good demand from the surrounding country, as well as from the city, and consequently stocks are pretty well cleaned up. Oranges and apples were good sellers and cranberries were in great demand. Christmas greens were more popular than usual and very few were left on the market. Prices on fruits and vegetables are pretty good, and certainly nothing need be said on that score. The turkey market was overstocked, and prices are low. There is a comparatively high price prevailing at this point. At the close of the week the market was considerably quiet, and so about the end of the week it looks as if a good deal of stock would have to be carried over. The supply of chickens was excessive, but there were enough received to cause prices to be about a trifle higher than last week, and but very little change in the market. There is no reason to expect that the market will be any better than it is now.

OMAHA GENERAL MARKET.

Condition of Trade and Quotations on Staple and Fancy Produce.

EGGS—Receipts light; fancy stock, 16c. DRESSED BIRDS—Choice to fancy turkeys, 2c; ducks, 8c; chickens, 4c; geese, 10c; old and stagg roosters, 3c; ducks, 8c; turkeys, 16c. BUTTER—Common, 15c; choice, 16c; separator, 20c; gathered creamery, 22c. PIGS—Live, per doz., 75c. VEALS—Choice, 50c. GAME—Trapping, per doz., 45; 50; 55; 60; 65; 70; 75; 80; 85; 90; 95; 100; 105; 110; 115; 120; 125; 130; 135; 140; 145; 150; 155; 160; 165; 170; 175; 180; 185; 190; 195; 200; 205; 210; 215; 220; 225; 230; 235; 240; 245; 250; 255; 260; 265; 270; 275; 280; 285; 290; 295; 300; 305; 310; 315; 320; 325; 330; 335; 340; 345; 350; 355; 360; 365; 370; 375; 380; 385; 390; 395; 400; 405; 410; 415; 420; 425; 430; 435; 440; 445; 450; 455; 460; 465; 470; 475; 480; 485; 490; 495; 500; 505; 510; 515; 520; 525; 530; 535; 540; 545; 550; 555; 560; 565; 570; 575; 580; 585; 590; 595; 600; 605; 610; 615; 620; 625; 630; 635; 640; 645; 650; 655; 660; 665; 670; 675; 680; 685; 690; 695; 700; 705; 710; 715; 720; 725; 730; 735; 740; 745; 750; 755; 760; 765; 770; 775; 780; 785; 790; 795; 800; 805; 810; 815; 820; 825; 830; 835; 840; 845; 850; 855; 860; 865; 870; 875; 880; 885; 890; 895; 900; 905; 910; 915; 920; 925; 930; 935; 940; 945; 950; 955; 960; 965; 970; 975; 980; 985; 990; 995; 1000.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL.

Holiday Dullness Depresses Wheat, Corn and Oats. All Closing Lower.

LITTLE INCENTIVE TO TRADE IN WHEAT

Outside Exchanges Closed and No Liverpool Cable News Easy. But Quiet Closing Here to Seven Cents Lower.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—The holiday dullness was upon the market today. My wheat closed under yesterday's advance, and down and may oats fell depressed. Provisions closed easy at 5 1/2c lower. The record of the wheat market here today could be blotted out without materially affecting commercial history. With outside exchanges closed and no Liverpool cable there has been little incentive to trade. The small pit crowd amused itself by kicking about a foot ball most of the time. Statistics were incomplete. There was a trading bid for foreign buying, but with New York not open the cash business was practically shut off. May wheat opened and closed at 87 1/2c, 1c under yesterday. Local receipts were 100 cars, 5 of contract grade.

Corn barely held its own. Country offerings were small, and the market quiet. May opened at 22 1/2c and closed 1/4c down, at 22 1/2c. Local receipts were 271 cars.

Oats were at a standstill, with barely a fluctuation. Receipts here were 24 cars. May closed at 17 1/2c, 1/2c under yesterday. Local receipts were 100 cars, 5 of contract grade.

Provisions were easy, but very quiet. A bit of selling may have caused some weakness. May pork closed 1/2c under yesterday. Lard closed 1/2c lower, at 15 1/2c. May lard closed 1/2c lower, at 15 1/2c. May tallow closed 1/2c lower, at 15 1/2c.

The following futures ranged as follows: Articles Open, High, Low, Close, Yesterday.

Table with columns: Article, Open, High, Low, Close, Yesterday. Rows include Wheat, Corn, Oats, Flour, etc.

Cash quotations were as follows: FLOUR—Steady; winter patents, \$4.00 to \$5.00; spring patents, \$3.00 to \$4.00; straight, \$2.50 to \$3.50; baker's, \$1.50 to \$2.50; low grades, \$1.00 to \$2.00.

WHEAT—No. 2, 34 1/2c; No. 2 white, 34 1/2c; No. 2 yellow, 34 1/2c; No. 2 white, 34 1/2c; No. 2 yellow, 34 1/2c.

CORN—No. 2, 22 1/2c; No. 2 white, 22 1/2c; No. 2 yellow, 22 1/2c; No. 2 white, 22 1/2c; No. 2 yellow, 22 1/2c.

OATS—No. 2, 17 1/2c; No. 2 white, 17 1/2c; No. 2 yellow, 17 1/2c; No. 2 white, 17 1/2c; No. 2 yellow, 17 1/2c.

PROVISIONS—Mess pork, per cwt., \$8.75; lard, per cwt., \$15.00; short ribs, per cwt., \$12.00; short ribs, per cwt., \$12.00; short ribs, per cwt., \$12.00.

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