THE MARKET BASKET.

The Lull That Follows Holidays Now on in Retail Trades.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES GO SLOW.

An Active Demand for Fish, Oysters, Poultry and Flowers.

APPETITE FOR GAME ON THE WANE

OFFICE OF PITTSBURG DISPATCH, FRIDAY, January 11, 1889.

The lull which always follows holiday trade is fully on as regards retail trade for market basket materials. "Shadow and shine is life." Through the closing week of the dead year and the opening week of the new, tradespeople had a fair share of the shine. This has been a week of shadow, not only in trade lines, but as regards the terrible calamity which has befallen our city. The calamity before which all classes stand in awe, and which has brought sorrow and anguish into many hearts and homes, has also had its effect on trade.

The uniform report which is heard from dealers in meats, fruits and vegetables is that the week's trade has been very slow. The spring-like weather has, no doubt, had the effect of restricting demand in many lines of market basket filling.

Everything Cheaper.

At the fish and oyster stalls a fair week's trade is reported. Florists also report that business has been fair to middling. The fancy prices which ruled for flowers during Christmas week, when it was impossible to meet demands, no longer rule. Prices, as will be seen by quotations, are drifting back to ante-holiday figures. Tulips of rarest beauty are in supply for the first time this season.

The drift of eggs for the past week has been steadily downward. The same is true of creamery butter. The great scarcity of fancy country rolls at this season keeps prices of this article up, notwithstanding the downward tendency of other grades.

The appetite for game is evidently on the wane, judging from reports of dealers. And strange to say, demand for old reliable meats does not grow in proportion. At the Diamond Market butcher stalls these were general complaint that the volume of trade had fallen below that of last week. Following are retail prices given by dealers in materials for Saturday's market basket:

Meats.

The prices called for at the Diamond Markets remain unchanged. The best cuts of tenderloin steak range from 20 to 25c, with the last figure for very fancy, which are very often no better than the 20c article; sirloin, best cuts, from 18 to 20c; standing rib roast, 15 to 20c; chuck roast, 10 to 12c; best round steaks, 15c; boiling beef, 5 to 8c; sweet breads, 25c per pair; beef kidneys, 10c apiece; beef liver, 5c a pound; calf livers, 25c apiece; corned beef from 5 to 10c per pound. Veal for stewing commands 10c; roast, 12½ to 15c; cutlets, 20c per pound; spring lambs, fore quarter, 12½ to 15c; hind quarters, 15 to 20c. A leg of mutton, hind quarter, of prime quality, brings 12½c; fore quarter, 8c; loin of mutton, 15c.

Vegetables and Fruit.

Jersey sweet potatoes, 25c a half peck; potatoes, 15c a half peck; celery, 10c a bunch; squash, 10 to 25c; tomatoes, 50c per quart box; pumpkin, 15 to 25c; cabbage, 5 to 10c; apples, 15c to 20c half peck; bananas, 15 to 25c a dozen; lemons, 25 to 50c per dozen; oranges, 35@40c; Malaga grapes, 25c per pound; onions, 25c a half peck; spinach, 25c per peck; lettuce, 10c per bunch, 3 for 25c; radishes, 5c per bunch; cranberries, 15c per quart; cucumbers, 25c a piece.

Game.

Plovers $2 00 a dozen; woodcock, $6 50 dozen. Ducks, 75c to $1 00 a pair. Pigeons, 50c a pair. Squirrels, 40c a pair. Mallard ducks, $1 a pair; quail, $3 00 to $3 50 dozen; red birds, $1 00 per pair. Teal ducks, 65c a pair; canvasback ducks, $3 00 per pair; redhead ducks, $2 50 per pair. Pheasants, $1 25 a pair. Rabbits, 25c a pair. Venison, 35c pound, saddles; whole deer, 15c to 18c. Prairie chickens, $1 25 a pair. Bear steaks, 35c per pound.

Butter, Eggs and Poultry.

The best creamery butter is 40c. Fancy pound rolls of country butter are 50c.

The ruling retail price for eggs is 25c. Choice country eggs bring 40c.

The range for dressed chickens is 75c to $1 00 per pair. Turkeys, 15c per pound.

Fish and Oysters.

Following are the articles in this line still on the stalls, with prices: Lake salmon, 12½c; California salmon, 40c pound; white fish, 12½c; herring, 4 pounds for 25c; fresh mackerel, 25c apiece; Spanish mackerel, 45c to 50c a pound; sea salmon, 40c a pound; blue fish, 20c; perch, 10c; halibut, 25c; rock bass, 30c; black bass, 20c; lake trout, 12½c; lobsters, 25c; green sea turtle, 25c. Oysters: standard, $1 per gallon; select, $1 50 to $1 75; N. Y. counts, $1 75 per gallon; snaps, 90c; shell oysters, 25c dozen; smelts, 20 to 25c pound; clams, $1 25 gallon; scollops, 50c a quart.

Flowers.

La France roses, $4 00 per dozen; Bride roses, $3 00 per dozen; Perles, $1 50 per dozen; Niphetos, $1 50 per dozen; Bennetts, $3 00 per dozen; American Beauty, $1 00 apiece; Mermets, $3 00 per dozen; De Wattville, $3 00; carnations, 75 cents a dozen; Marguerites, 30 cents per dozen; Violets, $3 00 a hundred; Lily of the Valley, $1 25 per dozen; Maiden Hair fern, 50c per doz. fronds. Bermuda Easter lilies, $3 50 per dozen; tulips, $1 per dozen.

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

Wheat Breaks Under a Flood of Selling Orders—Corn, Oats and Pork Active and Higher—Lard Stronger, and Short Ribs Quiet.

CHICAGO—In wheat to-day there was considerable trading within a range of 1½c. Prices were lower, and the speculative offering quite large, with a good deal of long wheat reported to have come out at the decline. The opening was weaker than yesterday's closing figures, rallied with some fluctuations ½c, but at the higher prices a flood of selling orders came on the market which carried prices down 1½c. There was a rumor that the Government report would show a crop of 420,000,000 bushels, but no one could be found that had seen such a report, and, like the rumor yesterday, it may have been started for effect. From the inside prices a recovery of ⅝c occurred, due to the covering by "shorts," again eased off, then ruled irregular, and ended about ¼c lower than yesterday.

There was a moderate speculative business in corn, though most of trading occurred early in the session, after which the market ruled dull and inactive. The opening was at about yesterday's closing prices, and under a good local demand prices advanced ⅛@¼c, reacted, became steady and closed ⅛@¼c higher than yesterday.

Trading in oats was fair and the market fairly supported, the close being steady at a slight advance over yesterday's. June received more attention, but trading as yet is light. The near futures also sold moderately at ⅛@¼c decline.

Considerable interest was manifested in mess pork at times, and trading was moderately active. Prices ruled irregular, though averaging higher.

A moderate trade was reported in lard and the feeling was stronger. Prices ruled 2½@5c higher early, but closed easier.

Very little interest was manifested in short ribs and trading was limited. Prices were added 2½@5c early in day, but settled back a little and closed quiet.

The total sales of leading futures ranged as follows:

WHEAT—No. 2, January, 86½@86⅝c; February, 88@88⅛c; March, 89@89⅛c; May, $1 03@1 03⅛; July, 1 02; July, 94⅛@95c; Aug., 93⅞@94c.

CORN—No. 2 January, 33½c; March, 34⅞@35c; May, 36⅞@36⅞@36⅞@