THE BUSINESS BAROMETER.

As Index to the Condition of Trade Generally.

A BIG DEMAND FOR FOODSTUFFS.

Houston Grocers Report an Excellent Trade in Breadstuffs and Packing House Products.

Office of The Post,
Houston, Monday, March 15.

The demand for foodstuffs in Texas this year has been greater than ever before known, and the fact that such supplies can be bought at very low prices has been a great help to the agricultural classes of this State. The corn crop of Texas last year was a failure. The total yield was ridiculously small and not one farmer in ten produced a crop even sufficient for his own needs. The oats and hay crops were likewise small and in consequence thereof the State has sent thousands of dollars to Kansas and Nebraska for corn, corn products, oats, hay, bean, lard and bacon. Houston growers report the best demand for breadstuffs and hog products they have ever experienced. The only article that is higher than usual is flour, which is held at advanced prices on account of the short supply of wheat. Corn, corn meal, lard and meats have sold at ridiculously low prices for the past six or eight months. There has been an advance of 1-8@¼c per pound on packing house products recently, but it is not believed that prices on these articles will go much higher, while some predict that the present advance will not be maintained.

South Texas Fruit.

Mr. P. A. Baldwin of the Houston Produce and Commission company made a visit to Brenham yesterday and returned with a very enthusiastic view of the fruit prospects in that section. Mr. Baldwin stated that the pear orchards, for which South Texas is famous, are now at their best, and that, unless a severe frost intervenes the crop will be the largest ever produced.

Speaking of the strawberry crop, Mr. Baldwin said: "The Brenham growers have commenced shipping earlier than they have before, and will be ready to ship from one to three carloads per day next week. The berries are of large size and delicious flavor. The berry crop has been carefully watched by the growers, and there will be no lack of care in the matter of packing. The shipping season promises to be a very profitable one, and it will be followed by a large crop of peaches."

A strong letter from San Francisco says: "Raisins are selling quite freely at the prices, are closely cleaned up and that holders there are looking for higher prices."

There is a considerable increase in the receipts of strawberries today and prices ranged from $1.50 to $2.50 per crate. Some of the best arrivals were consigned of Hearne and sold upon arrival.

HOUSTON PRICE CURRENT.

These quotations are revised daily and their correctness can be relied upon. The prices are those ruling in the Houston wholesale markets:

CANDLE—GOLDAKE Diamond, $6.75 per gross; Brazier, 10 oz in boxes, $5.00 per gross; Golden, 5 oz, per dozen boxes, $5.00; oil, 5 gallon; Akeline, 1 lb tin, per dozen, $1.00.

AMMUNITION—Powder, per keg, $4.00; blasting powder, $1.65 per keg; agents powder, $3.00 per keg; $1.80 per half keg.

BAGGING—Short clear, brand "Eagle," 7c; long clear, brand "Lion," 7c; extra long, 7½c; Western, 6½c; New York salt bellies, 6½c; Chicago salt bellies, 6½c; smoked bellies, 6½@7c.

BAGGING AND TIES—Carload lots, f. o. b. Houston or Galveston: Bagging, 5 lb, 6½c; 2¼ lb, 5½c; 2 lb, 5c. Ties, Arrow, assorted, 30c. In small lots, from store, bagging 5c per yard higher; ties, 5c per bundle higher.

BAKING POWDER—Apex, 1 lb, $2.00; ½ lb, $1.25; ¼ lb, 75c; Arlor, 1 lb, per dozen, 90c; ½ lb, 75c; ¼ lb, 45c; Ice Cream, 1 lb, per dozen, $2.00; ½ lb, $1.25; ¼ lb, 80c; X. C., 16 oz cans, $2.40 per dozen; Prices, 1 oz, $5.00 per dozen; Royal, 15 oz, $5.00; Bon Ton, 20 oz, 85c; 10 oz, 60c; 6 oz, 40c.

CANNED FRUIT—Per dozen: Strawberries, 30@$1.60; pineapples, standard, $1.60@1.80; grapes and cherries, $1.65; seconds, 90@$1; pears, standard, 90c@$1.00; Clingstone Bartlett pears, 2 lb, $1.60@1.80; 3 lb, $2.60@2.40; peaches, standard, 2 lb, $1.60; seconds, 2 lb, 80@90c; 3 lb, standard, $1.70@1.80; 3 lb pie peaches, 75@80c; 3 lb pie peaches, 65@70c; blackberries, 60@70c; 2 lb standard apples, 70@80c.

CALIFORNIA CANNED FRUITS—Standard goods, 2½ lb cans: Peaches, $1.30@1.70 per dozen; apricots, $1.30@1.45; pears, $1.60@1.70; egg plums, $1.35@1.45; green gages, $1.30@1.45; nectarines, $1.30@1.80; grapes, $1.30@1.45; white cherries, $1.50@2.00; black cherries, $1.50@2.00.

CANDY—Plain stick, 5@6c; assorted, 6@7c; fancy mixed, in pails, 7@8c.

CANNED VEGETABLES—Marrowfat peas, 80@$1.00; Lima beans, 80@$1.00; string beans, 60@70c; corn, 80@$1.30; tomatoes, 2 lb, 62½@80c; seconds, 50c; 3 lb, 80@90c; red kidney beans, 3 lb, 80@90c.

CANNED MEATS—Roast beef, 1 lb, $1.10@1.35; 2 lb, $2.40@2.25; 1 lb corned beef, 2 dozen, $1.90@2.25; 1 lb lunch tongue, 1 dozen, $2.00@2.75; ¼ lb Oxford sausage, 1 dozen, $1.00; Frankfort sausages, 1 lb, $1.00; ¼ lb potted ham, 4 dozen, 40@50c; ½ lb potted ham, 2 dozen, $1.25; ¼ lb deviled ham, 4 dozen, 50@60c; ½ lb deviled ham, 2 dozen, $1.00@1.75.

CANDLES—Grandis 6s and 8s, 7@7½c; 16-oz paraffine, assorted colors, 1¼@1½c; Star combines, 8@9c.

COFFEE—Rio and Contous: Fair, 19@20c; prime, 21@23c; choice, 25@26c; fancy, 28@30c. Peaberry, 29@30c. Roasted coffee: Apex basis, 100 lb cases, $14.00; 50 lb packages, $14.50; 20 lb cases, $14.10; in 5 lb cases, $14.20. Mocha and Java blend, 30c.

FLOUR—Carload lots: Tidal Wave, $3.60; Sun Fairy, second roller patent, $3.40; Nymph, extra roller fancy, $3.20; Pearl of Texas, by flour, $3.10; Imperial, $4.20; special rates for shipments to interior points; four in barrels to the above sacks; in half barrels five above barrels. Albatross, first patent, $3.80 per barrel in small lots.

FARINACEOUS GOODS—Grits, hominy and cream meal, in bbls, $3.20 per barrel; in 5 lb sacks, $1.60 per bbl or four sacks. Scotch oats $2.50.

FISH—Mackerel, No. 1, in 10 lb kits, $1.00; $7.00 per bbl; No. 1, half bbls, $6.00; No. 1, quarter bbls, $3.50; sardines, American quarters, in oil, $2.80@3.00.

HAMS—Standard, 10@12c; medium hams, 9@10c.

HONEY—In 60 lb cans, extracted, 5@6c; in comb, fancy, 12 lb cans, extra, 14@15c.

JELLIES—Assorted flavors, compound, 4@5c; best quality, 8@10c; cans, 2c higher than the above prices; 5 lb cans, 2c higher; 2 lb cans, 1c higher.

MOLASSES—Fancy fancy, 35@40c; prime, 28@32c; choice open kettle, 35@40c.

RICE—Fair, fancy head, 5@6c; choice, 4½@5c; fancy imported, 5½@6c.

SALT—Liverpool, coarse, 100 lb sacks, $1.00; Liverpool, fine, 50 lb sacks, $1.00; Liverpool, fine, 5 bushel sacks, $1.25; Liverpool, fine, 2 bushel sacks, 75c; Liverpool, fine, 1 bushel sacks, 50c; Liverpool, fine, ½ bushel sacks, 35c; Liverpool, fine, ¼ bushel sacks, 25c; Liverpool, fine, 5 lb sacks, 15c; Liverpool, fine, 2 lb sacks, 10c; Liverpool, fine, 1 lb sacks, 10c; Liverpool, fine, ½ lb sacks, 10c; Liverpool, fine, ¼ lb sacks, 10c; Liverpool, fine, 5 lb packages, 15c; Liverpool, fine, 2 lb packages, 10c; Liverpool, fine, 1 lb packages, 10c; Liverpool, fine, ½ lb packages, 10c; Liverpool, fine, ¼ lb packages