

GOING SKYWARD.

If Prices Keep Up Their Gait an Ordinary Dinner Will Be a Luxury.

If the prices for produce continue to climb as rapidly as they have the past few weeks, the prospects are that only those with a big bank account can afford the luxury of dining even upon the ordinary necessities of life, with the exception of flour, which remains at about the usual figure. Vegetables, meats and dairy products have been very high for the past month and the end seems not in sight.

Potatoes are now a greater delicacy than frogs' legs, lobsters or clams—at least the prices asked for them would so indicate. In fact, the common people, who have heretofore looked upon "murrphies" as one of the mainstays in life, will soon find them beyond reach, if they keep on in their mad career to reach the top. Commission men were selling potatoes yesterday at wholesale for \$1 and \$1.10 per bushel. Choice northern are quoted at the former price and Colorado at the latter. Retail prices range from \$1.15 to \$1.25. Kansas City is dependent at this time of the year for its supply of potatoes upon shipments from the northern states and Colorado. The sudden shortage is caused by the extremely cold weather prevailing in those states and the danger of freezing en route. When the weather mitigates a slight tumble in potatoes is looked for, but that will not seriously affect prices, as the demand throughout the country is much greater than usual. If stiff prices can not be obtained in particular localities or cities the potatoes are shipped by dealers to some eastern point where there is a demand. Potatoes are not the only mountain starling

in the poor man's face. Commission men say that everything with the probable exception of flour and fruit is much higher than for several years. Failure of small crops in many localities and increased demands in large cities are the causes. Then the cold weather prevents farmers in this immediate territory from coming to market with their stored produce, and consequently the commission men are having the market to themselves. As soon as the farmer comes in competition with them and the grocers many vegetables will be offered at more reasonable rates.

Meats and fish are in sympathy with the potato market. Pork is very dear on account of the shortage in the supply of hogs throughout the principal stock raising states. Beef is firm. Fish are quite high and the supply limited. Most of the fish on the market at present come from Louisiana and the southern states, northern fisheries being closed because of the cold weather.

Fruit is comparatively cheap, much cheaper than was expected at the beginning of the winter. Apples are \$3 and \$4 per barrel, the usual price at this season of the year. Bananas, oranges and pears are very cheap. The commission men and fruit dealers, fearing loss by freezing, prefer to close them out at almost a sacrifice rather than run the risk of shipping.

Chicken and turkeys are in the vanguard in the race of steepness, and if their movement accelerates they will run themselves out of the market. Extra fine dressed turkeys are bringing from 16½ to 18 cents and chickens 11 to 12½ cents, while geese and ducks waddle at 10 and 11 cents.

Eggs and butter are still among the dear things of life. However, economists will be glad to learn that eggs may