

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, May 5.

Another week of dry weather has enabled farmers to get in most of their coarse grain seed, vegetables, etc., and to finish up their wheat seedling where that was not done last week. The country is now ready for some good soaking rains and would be the better for it. Grain deliveries throughout the country are light as farmers have been too busy to make unnecessary trips to town. The stocker cattle movement has been the principal feature of country trade. Shipments of stockers both west and south have been heavy. The general mercantile situation is without change. The demand for groceries, provisions, clothing hardware, etc., is moderately large and shipments are going forward to all parts of the country steadily. Values are for the most part unchanged. Hardware jobbers have reduced their prices of cut nails 10c per hundred pounds. Navigation is now open and shipments by the lake and rail route are coming in freely. Bulk clearings at Winnipeg increased over the previous week by \$352,000 and over the same week a year ago by \$264,219.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Saturday, May 5.

(All quotations unless otherwise specified, are wholesale for such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reduction on large quantities and to cash discounts.)

BINDER TWINE.

There is no change in the twine market. Dealers are booking orders at 11 1/2c per pound for sisal and standard, 14 1/2c for Manila and 16c for pure Manila, f.o.b. Minneapolis, Duluth and Fort William in carlots. For less than carlots prices are 1-1c per pound higher.

BUILDING MATERIAL.

Stone and lime are in active demand at the following prices: Stonewall rubble \$4.50 per cord; Stonewall fulling, \$5.50 per cord; Stony Mountain rubble, \$4 per cord. White lime is worth 2c per bushel, and grey lime 1 1/2c per bushel.

FISH.

Dealers have been disappointed in their expectation of receiving supplies of fresh caught fish so are still supplying their trade with frozen. Fresh caught fish should, however, be in in a few days. We quote prices for frozen fish as follows: Whitefish, frozen per pound, 6 to 6 1/2c; pickerel, 5 1/2c; lake trout, 10c; salmon, 12 1/2c; salmon, round cuts, 10c; halibut, 11c; salt whitefish, in half barrels, \$6.50; lake trout, salt cod, 7c; mackerel, fresh, 15c, fresh herring, 20c; Labrador herring, in half barrels, \$4.00.

GREEN FRUITS.

Demand this week has been good and jobbing houses are all kept fairly busy. Prices remain unchanged as follows: California navel oranges, \$4.75 to \$5 per case for regular sizes. California seedlings, \$3.50 to \$3.75; fancy Mod. sweets, \$4; California lemons, per box, \$4.75; bananas, \$1.00 to \$3.50; pineapples per dozen, \$5.00, apples, winter, \$1.00

to \$5.00 per barrel; strawberries, \$0.50 per case; coconuts, per dozen, 80c; Grenoble walnuts, 15c; Tarragona almonds, 15c; filberts, 12c; peanuts, green, 9c, roasted 12c; pecan nuts 15c per lb; new maple sugar, per pound 15c; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels; fruit cider put up in 20 and 30 gallon kegs, per gallon, 35c; California layer figs in 1 lb. pound boxes, \$1.10; new Smyrna in glove boxes, \$2.00 per dozen; 10 lb. boxes, \$1.50 per box; dates, 7c per lb. in 1 lb cartons, 10c; honey in 1-lb. glass jars, per dozen jars, \$2.50; American red onions, 3c per lb.; lettuce, radish, onions and parsley per dozen bunches, 50c; sweet potatoes, per barrel, \$7; California celery, 90c per dozen bunches; new California cabbage 5c per lb.

GROCERIES.

Trade has been moderately active this week. Collections are slow. Sugar has declined 5c per 100 pounds for both granulated and yellow. The sugar market is very unsettled and manufacturers' prices have fluctuated as much as 15c, but jobbers have not followed the extreme change, so that the net result of this week's trading is the decline of 5c. Canned goods are steady and unchanged. Valencia raisins are exceedingly scarce and prices have advanced about 1c per pound this week. Fine offstalks are now worth 25c per box more than a week ago and are selling at \$2.35 to \$2.40. Layers are worth 20 to 25c per box more at \$2.50 to \$2.60. Evaporated apples are easier at 3-4 to 1c per pound decline. Molasses is very firm and higher at an advance of 3c per gallon on New Orleans, which is now selling at 37 to 40c per gallon. Porto Rico molasses is worth from 5 to 6c per gallon more at 45 to 46c, and Bartoleros about 5c more at 50 to 55c per gallon. The recent destruction of Eddy's mill at Hull will undoubtedly create a scarcity in a good many lines of woodenware, but what particular lines it is not yet possible to determine. Though in the meantime no change has been made in prices it is quite possible that an advance will take place in these goods in the near future. For prices see page 1124.

HAIRWARE.

A decline of 10c per 100 pounds in the jobbing price of cut nails which went into effect on Thursday is the most important feature of the hardware market. Another important item is an advance of 50c per 100 on shot which also took effect Thursday, due to makers advancing their prices. Soft shot is now jobbing at 63-1c per pound, chilled at 71-1c and buckshot at 73-1c. The recent sensational decline in the price of wire nails and barbed wire in the United States has been the subject of considerable interest in Canada in view of its possible effect on Canadian prices, but inasmuch as the decline only applied to the United States markets and as they have long been away above Canada in the matter of prices the effect here was at first only sympathetic. The American Steel and Wire company have a much lower price for their Canadian trade than they sell at south of the line. Moreover, shrewd market observers are asserting that United States prices will be back to the old figures shortly, but this is, of course, only a guess. Our Toronto market telegram of this morning shows that eastern jobbers have already made a sharp cut in their prices. Business has been good with Winnipeg jobbers throughout the week.

PAINTS, OILS AND GLASS.

Coal oil declined 1-2c per gallon this week, which is the only price change here. It may be worth noting, though that British and European makers of plate glass have recently formed a combination and raised their prices 50 per cent, which means that Winnipeg jobbers will have to pay more for their glass hereafter, and will shortly be obliged to raise their prices. Already the advance has been followed at Toronto and Montreal. Even if the full amount of this advance goes into effect here prices will still be lower than they are in the United States where the glass combine has held prices at a very high figure for some time. Linseed oil and turpentine remain at the new prices fixed last week. Trade in the city is good and there is an active demand from country points as well.

RAW FURS.

The feeling here seems to be weakening and buyers are not so keen for furs as they have been, at least not at the high prices heretofore prevailing. The general opinion seems to be that the fur market has been badly inflated and that prices must decline before business can be done on a safe basis.

SCRAP.

We quote prices as follows: No. 1 cast iron free from wrought and malleable \$14 per ton, No. 2, \$7 per ton; wrought iron scrap, \$6.50 per ton; heavy copper, 10 1/2c per pound; red brass, 8 to 8 1/2c per pound; yellow brass, heavy, 7 1/2c per pound; light brass, 4 1/2 to 5c per pound; lead pipe or tea lead, 2 1/2c per pound; zinc scrap 1c per pound; rags, country mixed, 50c. rubber, free from rivets, buckles and articles, 5c per pound; white ledger paper 1c per pound.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—There is not much change in the wheat markets from a week ago. They have been mainly steady as to price, with only a routine trade done. European markets are at the week's end rather off in price, but American markets are at about the same figure as a week ago, and have recently showed a nervous tendency, causing prices to make sudden advances within a short period of time. A more urgent cash demand is observed, and a large movement of wheat, partly in consequence of the opening of lake navigation in North America. The increased movement has caused a marked change in the statistical position. Thus the American visible supply decreased last week 2,342,000 bushels, compared to a decrease of 459,000 bushels the previous week and a decrease of 1,035,000 bushels same week a year ago, and the aggregate American visible now stands at 52,472,000 bushels, against 28,144,000 bushels last year. The world's shipments last week were moderate, being given at 6,596,000 bushels, against 8,490,000 bushels the previous week, and 8,742,000 bushels the same week last year, resulting in a decrease on passage of 1,851,000 bushels. The world's visible supply according to Bradstreet's decreased 2,418,000 bushels, against a decrease previous week of 968,000 bushels and a decrease last year of 3,531,000 bushels. There is much interest being taken at the present time in the prospect for the current year's crops, as the future (both immediate and more distant) of prices depends on the progress and ultimate result of the growing crops. The winter wheat crop in the States is in a mixed condition. In the Central States of Ohio, Indiana and Michigan the crop is in very bad condition, principally owing