

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Sept. 9, 1899.

Business in the city has been active this week and without special feature. The movement of grain eastward has commenced and around this feature interest has mainly centred. Our news columns give the latest information as to the opening of the grain season. The fact that the grain is now practically all cut, a good deal of it stacked and threshing in active operation in most parts, coupled with favorable weather for outdoor work is having a stimulating effect on all lines of business. Fall trade promises to be the best for years.

In addition to the activity in the harvest fields the export movement of live stock is engaging a great deal of attention in some parts. Cattle are now moving eastward in large numbers.

Labor is employed throughout the west to its fullest extent and better wages are being paid this year for outdoor work than for a long time.

The Winnipeg clearing house statement bears evidence of continued expansion in the volume of banking business. The increase in clearings over the same week a year ago amounts to \$200,000.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Saturday, Sept. 9, 1899.

(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.)

CURED MEATS.

The advances in smoked meats have ceased for the time being and it is thought that prices have now reached their limit. Even the present high prices are causing a decrease in consumption. Local stocks are greatly reduced and importations from the south are taking the place of the home products where these are not obtainable. Stocks of spiced roll are practically exhausted.

DRUGS.

The drug market is without change. Prices are firm and steady for leading staples and both the local wholesale concerns are very busy.

DRY GOODS.

Business continues very active and the shipments to country points this week have been large. The favorable harvest reports are stimulating country orders to a considerable extent where these goods have not been already placed. Prices on all lines of staple dry goods are very firm and will be higher for all business subsequent to the regular fall trade. The advances which have been made at all manufacturing centres on cottons, woollens, silks, linens, etc., make it certain that higher prices will prevail here.

FISH AND GAME.

Winnipeg is yearly becoming more important as a fish market. The trade here this summer has been larger than in any previous year and the demand is growing daily. This week

shows continued expansion and trade has been quite active. Dealers are looking forward to a still larger business in country orders after harvest as the farmers will have more time for shopping then and always buy fish freely when they have opportunity. Wild ducks have been plentiful since the season opened and in good demand at 25 to 50c per pair according to size and variety. Fish quotations remain unchanged, although the supply from Lake Manitoba has been smaller owing to the exodus of the men employed at the fisheries to the harvest fields attracted by the large wages offered.

FRUITS.

The movement of fruit continues large. Washington and Ontario stuff is low in the market. Apples and grapes are the leading lines. Crab apples are very scarce. A few lots of California plums are still in the market at \$1.75. We quote prices as follows:

Bananas per bunch, \$2.00 to \$2.25, lemons, new, \$4.00 per case; apples, Ontario, \$3.50 in barrels; crabs, 90c per basket, in barrels, \$5.00; pears, per case, \$2.50; California peaches, \$1.40 per case; California plums, \$1.40; Washington plums, \$1.40; California grapes in 20-pound cases, \$2.25 to \$2.75; Ontario grapes in baskets, 35 to 40c; California prunes, \$1.60 per case; Washington prunes, \$1.30 per case, coconuts in sacks, of 100, \$5 to \$6; Grenoble walnuts, 15c; Tarragona almonds, 15c; peanuts, green, 9c; roasted, 12c, pecan nuts, 15c per lb; comb honey, \$2 per dozen sections, strained honey, \$1.2c per pound; maple sugar, per lb, 11c; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels; fruit cider put up in 20 and 30 gallon kegs, per gallon, 40c; figs, in boxes, 7c per lb; layer figs in 10 lb boxes, \$1.75, dates 7c per lb, onions, 3c per lb; celery, per dozen, 30c; cucumbers, 15c per dozen; tomatoes, per basket, 50c.

FUEL.

There is no change in the fuel situation. The fact seems to be fully established that the hard coal supply of this country for the coming winter will cost considerably more money than last winter. The Canadian anti-trust names agents here have already notified the public of an advance of \$1 per ton in the price of that coal which makes it \$8.50 for stove size delivered in Winnipeg. The Pennsylvania coal is now costing \$10 with a strong likelihood of still higher prices. Higher prices for coal were predicted by The Commercial early in the summer as it was then generally believed in the trade that owing to advances in fuel cost and higher lake freight rates the coal could not be laid down here at anything like last season's figures.

GROCERIES.

The principal feature in groceries this week is an advance of 10c per 100 pounds on sugars. This is in sympathy with the advance at refineries on Tuesday. Standard granulated is now quoted at 51-1c and yellows at 41-2c and 45-5c the latter for extra bright. Canned chicken, ducks and turkey has advanced 5c per dozen. Beans show considerable strength and although prices are not yet any higher here they have advanced 5 to 10c in the east. No new raisins have arrived in this market yet and prices remain unchanged for these. For quotations on all lines of groceries see "prices current" page.

HARDWARE AND PAINTS.

Several important changes have been made in this price list this week, all in the direction of higher prices. Nises, belows and lines are special lines which have been the subject of advances. The new prices will be found in our hardware list. Heavy hinges, 2 and straps, are 75c dearer. Harvest tools are dearer, the discount having been reduced from 6.2 1-2 to 60 per cent. Manila rope is 1-2c dearer at 10c and latin yarn 1-2c dearer at 10-1-2c. Axle grease and kerosene petroleum have advanced, the latter 1-1 to 1-2c. Linseed oil has advanced 2c per gallon. These are the principal changes, with the addition of an advance of 25c on steel boiler plate.

LUMBER.

Business here has been very active and the mills do not seem able to catch up very much in their orders, which are still some weeks in arrears. There is every prospect that they will get still further behind when the harvest is over and farm trade sets in earnest. Quotations on all kinds of lumber and mill work are very firm.

SCRAP.

We quote prices f. o. b. Winnipeg, as follows: No. 1 cast iron, 1c from wrought and malleable, \$10 per ton, No. 2, do., \$4 per ton; No. 1 stove plate, \$3.50 to \$4 per ton; wrought iron scrap, \$3.50 to \$4 per ton; heavy copper, 8 to \$1.2c per pound, copper bottoms, 7c per pound, red brass, 5 to 8 1-2c per pound, yellow brass, heavy, 7c per pound, light brass, 4 1-2 to 5c per pound, lead pipe or tea lead, 2c per pound, zinc scrap, 1-2c per pound; rags, country mixed, 50c per cwt; clean, dry bone, 30c per cwt; rubber boots and shoes free from articles and laces 5 1-2c per lb. Good quart beer bottles are worth 25 to 30c per dozen, plus 10c per dozen; square gin bottles, 30 to 35c per dozen.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—The markets have been steady this week and at the close yesterday afternoon prices did not vary materially from a week ago. There was a fractional decline on Tuesday and a little better than a full recovery on Wednesday, with a small easier price on Thursday and Friday. The United States crop is variously estimated at 500 to 575 million bushels, compared with a crop of about 675 million bushels last year, according to the official report. The actual movement, however, has shown that last year's crop was under-estimated possibly as much as 30,000,000 to 40,000,000 bushels. When it comes to considering stocks, however, the quantity of wheat carried over and in sight is so large, compared with last year, that it has a depressing effect on the market. American stocks, east of the Rocky mountains, were 31,768,000 bushels on September 2, compared with 7,147,000 bushels a year ago.

Locally the market has been very steady. Prices in the Winnipeg market have held all the week very close to 70c for No. 1 hard, for immediate delivery at Fort William. Thursday there was some demand to make up a shipment of new wheat, and 70 1-1c was paid. Yesterday, however, the quotation was 70c for old wheat with 1 northern and 2 hard quoted at 41-2 under 1 hard. Oct. delivery 68 1-2 to 69c was