

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, March 25, 1899.

The extremely cold weather for the time of year has rather a quieting effect on business. Travellers, however, are getting their samples made up, and there will be a general exodus of travelling salesmen for the country about the first of the month. Importations of heavy goods will be held back as much as possible until navigation opens. There have been remarkable advances in many lines of goods this season, as given in more extended references from time to time under various headings, in our column. Barb wire and bluestone, two commodities which have a large sale here for the spring trade, are examples of this. Manitoba farmers are now buying these goods at prices far below the present cost of laying them down in Winnipeg from the factories, in car lot quantities. Collections continue slow from the country, and it is evident that there will have to be considerable carrying to prevent failures. This is to a considerable extent owing to the fact that farmers have held their wheat and stood off the storekeeper. It would have been an advantage to the farmers themselves if the merchants had compelled them to sell their grain and pay their accounts. Nothing has been gained in the direction of higher prices by holding the grain. In fact prices are lower. Besides this, it is to be feared that many farmers are holding damp grain which they will lose as soon as the weather turns soft. It has been a very difficult thing to make farmers believe that their grain would not keep, as they fancy that any statement that wheat is too damp to keep is made for the purpose of bearing down the price.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Winnipeg, Saturday, March 25.

(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.)

FISH.

City fish dealers are much disturbed over the giving out of the supply of whitefish, which is the principal fish consumed here. The demand for fish for shipment east and south this year has been remarkably good and the fish companies here oversold themselves for export. All the summer caught fish stored in the freezers here were shipped out, and high prices have been paid for the winter catch for shipment, the result being, that the season for winter fishing has now about closed with all the fish shipped out of the country and none left for the local trade. It is said that as high as \$2 to 3c was paid for winter whitefish for shipment recently, at the supply points. Summer fishing cannot begin until the ice goes out of the lakes, so that the market is

likely to be entirely bare of whitefish for some weeks. Spring variety of salmon are now coming and receipts this week have cost high. The jobbing price has been advanced 1c, but this does not cover the full increase in the cost. Haddies have about ceased coming. All the stock is now held by one dealer. Lake Superior trout are in the market again. The common varieties of native fish such as pike, pickerel, etc., have not been in as liberal supply this year as usual, though there will probably be enough to keep the local trade supplied until summer fishing begins. The close season for pike and pickerel begins April 15, and lasts one month.

GREEN FRUITS, ETC.

A few spy apples are still being offered at about \$5.50 to \$3 per bb'l., although as low as \$5 has been accepted for some lots of damaged stock from one car which was brought in by a speculator. Washington apples in boxes, 3 of which make a barrel, are selling at \$2 per box. Oranges are still quoted at the recent advance and primary markets are very firm. Best navels bringing \$4.50 and next grades \$1.75 to \$1.25, half boxes of blood oranges in 108s, 125s and 144s are selling at \$2.50. California grape fruit, a comparatively new variety here, is offered in cases of 61s, 80s and 106s at \$1.50 to \$3 per case; California Tangerines, in boxes of 200s and 230s are quoted at \$3.50. California orange cider is offering in kegs at 40c per gallon. Imported celery is no longer to be had. Imported onions have advanced in price to 4c. Prices are: California naval oranges \$3.50 to \$1.50 as to quality; Mexican oranges \$2.50 per box; bitter oranges, \$5.50 to \$6 per box; bananas, per bunch, large, \$2.50 to \$3; Messina lemons, \$4; California lemons \$4 to \$1.50 a box; apples, sp. s., \$5.50 to \$1.50; other varieties obtainable \$1 to \$5 as to quality; frozen cranberries, \$5.50 to \$6 per barrel; cranberries, unfrozen, \$3 per barrel; coconuts, \$1 a dozen; Sicily filberts, large 11 to 12c per pound; Grenoble walnuts 14c; Tarragona almonds, 15 to 16c; peanuts, green, 9 to 10c; roasted, 12c; pecan nuts, 12 to 14c per lb; new shelled walnuts, 21 1-2 to 26c per lb; comb honey, \$2.00 to \$2.15 per dozen sections; strained honey, 8 1-2c to 9c per pound; maple sugar, 11c; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels; California figs, in boxes of ten bricks \$2 per box in 1 pound glass boxes, \$2.50 per dozen; dates, 7c per pound; imported lettuce per dozen, 60c; California cabbage, 7c per lb; California pea plant, 10c per lb.

GROCERIES.

Business in groceries during the week has been fair. More spring-like weather will improve trade. There have been no important changes in prices here. Woodenware has advanced at the factories 10c per dozen on wooden pails, 75c per dozen on wooden tubs and 71-2c per dozen for butter tubs. The advances on woodenware do not appear in our grocery list. This will appear in the list next week. The quotations there are really withdrawn pending the arrangement of the new list, which will appear next week. Fried fruits continue to advance but not sufficient gains have been made this week to alter the quotations here. The only change to note is an advance of 1-2c on unpeeled peaches.

HARDWARE.

The hardware trade is rapidly developing in volume as the season advances. Wholesale houses are all busy. For the first time in several weeks there has been practically no change in prices. The only exception is in the case of sisal and manilla rope, which has gained 1-2c per pound. There is every prospect of further advances in several lines, notably barb wire, as the eastern markets all continue to report upward movements. Iron, steel and other metals were easier in the United States this week.

LEATHER.

The local situation remains much the same as last week. There is a feeling of expectancy as regards prices owing to the fact that eastern houses have either withdrawn some of their quotations or advanced them. Prices are very firm here at figures given on our market page. There is a large amount of business doing for the season. An important news item regarding several leading western concerns is given on another page.

TEXTILES.

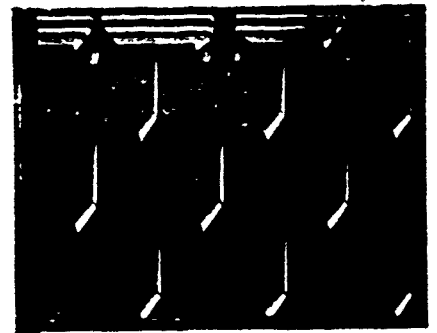
Travellers now have their samples made up in many lines. In the clothing branch a number of travellers are already on the road with their fall samples. Styles and patterns in men's clothing are practically the same as last year. The tendency to put a better quality of ready made on the market, which has been noticeable the last year or two, is further accentuated this season, and more attention has been given to fit and finish, some goods quite equal to tailor made garments being shown.

In the dry goods branch the push just now is on knitted goods. Samples in underwear and such lines for the fall trade are now being shown, and some travellers are on the road with these lines. The continued cold weather has held back trade to some extent.

NO TROUBLE TO LAY

EASTLAKE SHINGLES

They are accurately squared and fit together perfectly at the sides by our patent telescopic side lock.



In choosing them you gain the best Fire, Lightning and Leak proof protection—save time in the laying, and are sure of durable, economical satisfaction.

Avoid imitations and get genuine Eastlakes, either galvanized or painted.

Write, we'll tell you more about them.

Metallic Roofing Company, Ltd.

1195 King Street W., Toronto.

THOS. BLACK, AGENT, WINNIPEG, MAN.