

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, September 22.

The business situation has changed very little since Saturday, a week ago. The weather has continued unsettled which has had a depressing effect on trade. Until the wheat crop is threshed there will be no material change in the situation as wholesale merchants are not anxious to supply any goods beyond what are required for passing wants until they know what things are going to be like. There is a little retail trade being done in the city and at leading country points, but for the most part this too is in a stagnant condition. Harvesting and threshing proceed very slowly. Wheat is moving in limited quantities at some points but other grains have not even started yet. The cattle trade is more active, the export movement continuing on the same extensive scale as in past weeks. Receipts of butter, cheese, and eggs are quite large, the production of these having increased largely this year throughout the province. The labor market is quiet excepting for the active demand for farm laborers. There has been quite a large enquiry for these from provincial points and the C. P. R. is bringing in a special excursion from Ontario to-day to meet this demand. Bank clearings for the week have fallen off as compared with a week ago, over a quarter of a million dollars. As compared with two years ago they are over \$100,000 larger.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Saturday, September 22.

(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.)

BUILDING MATERIAL.

Demand has slackened off but prices remain as follows: Stonewall rubble, \$3.50 per cord; Stonewall footings, \$5.50 per cord; Stony Mountain rubble, \$4.00 per cord. White lime is worth 20c per bushel, and grey lime 15c per bushel, all f.o.b. at quarry and kiln. Brick is quoted here at \$10 per thousand for kiln run and \$11 per thousand for veneer.

CURED MEATS.

There have been some further advances this week in cured meats. Smoked shoulders are 1c higher, dry salt long clear bacon, smoked long clear and backs are each 1/2c higher. Pure leaf lard is 10c per pall higher at \$2.00 and cases 50c higher at \$6.50.

DRUGS.

Business is fairly good and prices remain unchanged here. Camphor is very firm at primary points. It is said that the supply of Japan refined is practically exhausted. Another feature of the outside markets is the very firm feeling in regard to cod liver oil and an advance is generally looked for in the near future. Carbollic acid displays an upward tendency. Quinine is firm.

DRY GOODS.

Trade has been quieter this week than for some time and jobbing houses look for quietness until the sorting demand sets in. They are all carrying large stocks of fine goods for fall and winter use and expect a fairly good sorting season. As will be noticed from our dry goods news column cottons have been advanced by one Canadian mill and others are expected to follow. This advance may be expected to take effect here as soon as new supplies have to be obtained. Woollen goods are steady at firm prices and there seems to be very little change in values anywhere.

FISH.

Whitefish are now being sold from the freezers and prices are a little firmer. The demand for fresh fish is good. Oysters are now coming forward freely. We quote: Whitefish, fresh caught, 5c to 6c per lb., pickered, 1c pick. 3c, trout 10c, salmon, 12 1/2c, halibut, 12 1/2c, mackerel, 15c, salt cod 7c, Labrador herring, half barrel, \$4. Oysters, eschets, \$2.50 per gallon.

'GREEN FRUITS.

California fruit is about done. Shipments are coming forward regularly from Oregon and Washington and a car of fruit from British Columbia arrived on Friday. This consisted mostly of pears, but there were also some apples and crabs. Ontario fruit is also arriving freely. Grapes are now plentiful, principally Concord, Rogers and Niagara. We quote prices here as follows: California lemons, \$6.50 per box; bananas, per bunch, \$2.75; sweet potatoes, per barrel, \$6.50; Ontario fall apples, per barrel, \$3.00; Washington box apples, per box, \$1.75; Ontario crab apples, per barrel, \$4.00 to \$5.00; Montana box crabs, \$1.90; California Freestone peaches, per case, \$1.45; Washington blue plums, \$1.35, with a rebate of 10c per case for five case lots or over; Washington pears, per case, \$2.25; with 25c off large lots; Ontario grapes, Concord, 40c, Rogers, 50c, Niagara, 50c, Tokay grapes, per case, \$2.75; basket pears, 75c; basket crabapples, 60c; basket tomatoes, 50c; green tomatoes, per lb., 2c; celery, per dozen, 35c; cabbage, per dozen, 50c; cauliflower, per dozen, 60c; onions, per lb., 3c; Grenoble walnuts, 15c; Tararagon almonds, 15c; filberts, 12c; peanuts, green, 9c; roasted, 12c; pecan nuts, 15c per lb.; maple sugar per pound, 12 cents; maple syrup \$6.00 per case of 1 dozen 1/2 gal. tins; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels; fruit cider put in 20 and 30 gallon kegs, per gallon 35c. California layer figs in 10 lb. boxes, \$1.25. now Smyrna in glove boxes, \$2 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, \$7.50.

GROCERIES.

In canned goods there have been some further advances. Bartlett pears have gone up 25 to 30c and raspberries 10 to 15c. The former are now quoted at \$3.75 to \$3.90 and raspberries in syrup at \$3.35 to \$3.40. Beans are now somewhat easier and we quote them at \$2.00 to \$2.05. In dried fruits the rise in currants is the feature of this week. These are now 1 cent per pound higher, and they are now worth in New York 13c per lb. or about 20 more than they are being jobbed at here. The price in the city is 11 to 11 1/2c for ordinary, 12 to 12 1/2c for cleaned. Old stocks of raisins are pretty well cleaned up and no new ones have yet arrived. What few Muscatels are still left are held at \$ to \$4c, according to grade. New Valencias are expected early in October. Eddy's matches are becoming very scarce, in fact most of the wholesale houses are sold out. A match similar in quality to Telephone but put up in somewhat different style is being sold in their place in the meantime until the new Eddy factory is ready for business. Sugars remain unchanged, Japan tea quotations are holding up and it is still impossible to get the lower grades. Winnipeg jobbing prices for groceries will be found on our "prices current" page.

HARDWARE.

Locally there is no change in hardware prices. Trade is very light and the outlook for fall business not too bright. Paints, oils, and glass are also unchanged.

IMPLEMENTS.

Beyond a few odd sales of wagons and plows there is nothing doing in this line. A few threshers are being delivered as they come forward on old orders. Buggy trade is badly hampered by the wet weather. Dealers are getting ready for collections, which are likely to be very poor.

LUMBER.

Some lumber is being taken in the city for work already under way, but otherwise trade is very quiet. Retail dealers are finding it difficult to get list prices on some orders, owing to cutting propensities of some yards. The white pine mills are piling up stocks in their depleted yards to meet future requirements. Logs are plentiful now, owing to recent heavy rains.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—The advancing tendency in the wheat markets reported in our last week's review, continued to grow in the forefront of the present week, and stimulated by the recurrence of notoriously bad weather over the spring wheat country, preventing stacking and threshing, the speculative markets became somewhat excit-

ed by Tuesday and Wednesday, and only the return of clear and favorable weather on Thursday stopped what was in a fair way of becoming another unreasonable whirl in prices such as was experienced in June. There is no doubt that the accumulated damage done to the spring wheat crop cannot be undone or even ameliorated to any extent, no matter how fine the weather may be for the remainder of the season, and unless it continues steadily favorable for a few weeks, a further percentage of the crop will be totally destroyed for milling purposes. The markets became quite active by the beginning of this week, advancing daily, and culminating in the high point of the week on Wednesday, when they showed an advance of about 3 1/4c from closing prices of last week. Since then a decline of about a cent has taken place, which is a natural reaction, but the situation is quite strong, and higher prices are confidently predicted throughout the season. The movement of wheat in the United States continues on a liberal scale, but the marketing of it at winter wheat points is reported falling off, and unless replaced by spring wheat deliveries the primary receipts will soon decline. Owing to the delayed threshing in the Northwest the receipts at Minneapolis and Duluth are running only about half what they were a year ago. Weather in Europe is favorable for farm work. Seeding prospects continue favorable in India. The crop in Argentina is coming along fairly well, but does not yet give big expectations. The Australian crop is reported as having a most favorable outlook for the coming season. The American visible supply increased last week 2,192,000 bushels against an increase of 1,441,000 bushels the previous week, and an increase of 3,171,000 bushels for the same week last year. The world's shipments for the week were 7,455,000 bushels against 5,462,000 bushels the previous week, and 6,168,000 bushels last year. The world's visible supply according to Bradstreet's increased 5,118,000 bushels compared to an increase of 2,463,000 bushels for the previous week and an increase of 6,098,000 bushels for the same week last year.

Business in the local market wakened up somewhat under the influence of advancing markets outside, but owing to the movement of the new crop being so much delayed trade is naturally on a limited scale. The value of 1 hard in store at Fort William advanced 1c per bushel, and sales were made at \$7 1/2c on Wednesday, since then a decline has taken place, sales being made yesterday at from \$7 1/2c to \$8 1/2c spot. Fort William and en route, also for October delivery at same figures: 2 hard and 1 northern continue at 3c under 1 hard; 3 hard is 10c under 1 hard, with the prospect that the spread will widen on the new crop; scoured and dried and other off grade wheat is irregular in price and reliable quotations cannot be given.

FLOUR—Mills advanced their prices on Friday 10c per sack all round. Trade is steady and without special feature. We quote: Ogilvie's Hungarian, \$2.30 per sack of 93 lbs; Glenora Patent, \$2.15; Lake of the Woods, Five Roses, \$2.30; Patent, \$2.15; Medina, \$1.70, and XXXX \$1.35 per sack.

MILLFEED—Bran is \$1 per ton higher since Friday at \$12.50 per ton. Shorts remain unchanged at \$15 per ton.

GROUND FEED—Oat chop is now worth \$26 per ton, barley chop \$21.50, mixed barley and oats \$23, corn chop \$22, oil cake \$26 per ton.

OATMEAL—The market is being supplied from the south. Carlots on track are worth \$1.55 per sack of 50 pounds.

WHEAT—The country market has hardly opened yet as there has been so little threshing done. Buyers have been placed at most points and everything is ready for the usual fall rush. To-day we hear of bids of 70c per bushel to farmers at 17 1/2c freight rate points for best wheat.

OATS—Offerings of new oats are practically nil. The backward weather and delay to wheat harvest has caused oats and other coarse grains to be neglected, and the market is dead. Nobody will do any thing with old oats at present prices beyond immediate requirements. Carlot prices at Winnipeg to-day range from 37 1/2 to 38c for best feed grades of old oats on track.

BARLEY—There is no business doing. Prices are quoted nominal at 45c per bushel on track. No new barley has yet been offered.

CORN—Market steady at 50c to 51c per bushel for No. 3 in carlots on track here.

HAY—The market is about dead, there being but little demand and a very desultory supply. Prices are weaker. Dealers are paying \$6.00 to \$6.50 per ton for carlots of fresh baled hay on track here. Loose hay on the street market is worth about \$6.00 per ton.

BUTTER—Creamery—The amount of trading done this week has been larger. Some factories have sold large lots of butter covering their make for as far back as May at prices ranging from 17 1/2 to 19 1/2c at the factory. The latter price is only obtainable for choice September makes.

BUTTER—Dairy—Receipts are large and the feeling in the market heavy. Prices hold up remarkably well in view of the plentiful supply. A feature of the trade this season which is giving great satisfaction to shippers is the absence of low grade butter. Most of the offerings are of export quality. Really fine butter is also very scarce. Prices are unchanged from last week at 12 to 13c per pound commission basis.

CHEESE—Factory cheese is regularly quoted at 9 1/2c to 10c per pound delivered here, and dairy at 9 to 9 1/2c.

EGGS—Receipts are heavy and the market seems weaker again. Some houses will not pay more than 12c per dozen for case eggs subject to candling, others are paying 12 1/2c. These figures are net, delivered here.

VEGETABLES—Prices are steady for most lines. The wet weather is delaying receipts somewhat and thus helping to keep prices up. Potatoes would be lower if the weather were more settled. We quote: Potatoes, 15c per bushel; rhubarb, 20c per dozen; lettuce, 10c per dozen; parsley, 20c, green onions and radish, 10c per doz., carrots, 10c, beets, 10c per dozen, turnips, 25c per bus., cabbage, 25c to 40c per dozen, ripe tomatoes, 3c per lb., imported tomatoes, 40c per basket, green tomatoes, 40c per bushel, celery, 20c per dozen, cucumbers, 10 to 25c per dozen; pickling cucumbers, 50c per pall; gerkins, 7c per pall.

DRESSED MEATS—In plentiful supply. We quote: Choice beef, 5 1/2 to 6c per lb., veal, 7 to 8c; mutton, 10c, lamb, 10c to 11c, hogs, 7 1/2 to 7 3/4c.

DRESSED POULTRY—Poultry is in a little better supply at steady prices. Live hens are worth 9c per pound; dressed fowl, 12c; dressed chickens, 14c; ducks, live weight, 8c, dressed, 10c; turkeys, live, 10c, dressed, 13c.

HIDES—Receipts are increasing, but prices remain unchanged. We quote: No. 1 inspected hides, 6c per lb for all weights, No. 2, 5c per lb, No. 3, 4c; shearing sheep skins, 20 to 25c for late killed, cat skins, 5c, deakins, 25 to 35c each; horse hides, 75c to \$1.25 each.

WOOL—Receipts are practically nil. We quote 3 to 3 1/2c per pound for unwashed fleece and 12 1/2c per pound for washed.

TALLOW—Quoted at 3 1/2 to 3 3/4c.

SENECA—The market is firmer, owing to better feeling at Minneapolis and New York. The former place reports an advance of 2c this week. Prices here have advanced 1c to 2c per pound for best grades and 25 to 50c for inferior stuff.

LIVE STOCK.

CATTLE—The movement of exporters continues and this has been the heaviest week yet. The cattle maintain their fine appearance and ship well. We hear of some movement of stockers at one or two country points, shipments having been made to the west. Choice export steers, weighed off cars here, are worth 3 1/2c per pound, best butchers 2 1/2c and common to good grades 2 to 2 1/2c.

SHEEP—There have been some sheep in from the western ranges this week but as the demand for mutton is light there is very little to say about the market. Choice grades of sheep are worth 4 1/2 to 4 3/4c per pound off cars here.

HOGS—Offerings are very light. In fact, there is scarcely anything doing. Prices hold firm at 5 1/2c per lb for hogs weighing from 150 to 250 pounds. Thick fats and heavies 4 1/2 to 5c.

MILCH COWS—These are very