

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, Dec. 12.

Business in wholesale circles has been quiet this week, and the business doing has been principally in small parcels of such odds and ends as are wanted for the holiday trade. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week show a large increase over the corresponding week of the two previous years. The grain trade has been very dull. Very mild weather has been a cause of some anxiety to holders and shippers of meats and poultry. There is a good demand for men to work in the woods getting out cord wood, railway ties, etc., and the supply is scarce. There are men idle about the city, but they do not care to go to the woods.

There were 42 business failures in Canada this week, five more than last week, three more than in the week a year ago, eight more than two years ago, and four less than in the same week of 1893.

At New York yesterday money on call was easy at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Prime mercantile paper, 4 to 5 per cent. Bar silver, 65 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢, silver certificates, 65 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; Mexican dollars, 51.

In the United States this week, according to Bradstreet's the tendency of prices was downward for bessemer pig iron, steel billets, rails, hides, leather, flour wheat, corn, oats, lard, cotton and petroleum. Steady for wool, print cloths, lumber, pork and sugar. Coffee was higher. The demand for leather has fallen off and a number of factories have been closed. Dry goods are depressed by the large stocks of print cloths in the hands of manufacturers and although some New England woollen mills are well supplied with orders, there is no revival in woollen manufacturing.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Dec. 12.

[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.]

COAL.—The mild weather this week has been a comfort to the public, but fuel dealers say it has decreased their sales one-third to one-half. However, they have no reason to grumble, as they have had a rattling good season so far, the month of November having been about the coldest on record here, and sales of coal have been in proportion to the weather. The large demand for the native soft coals keeps up the output at the Souris and Lethbridge mines being much greater than in past seasons. The output of the Souris mines is about four times greater than last year. The consumption of native coals in preference to the imported coals is gratifying as it is building up a home industry. There is no change in prices. Prices here are as follows: Pennsylvania anthracite \$10.00; western anthracite, \$9.50 per ton. Souris coal \$1.50 ton; Lethbridge \$5.50. These prices are delivered to consumers in Winnipeg. Car lots on track of Souris coal are held at \$3.85 to 3.90 per ton here, or \$1.50 per ton on cars at the mines.

CORD WOOD.—Wood fuel is still rather scarce. While there has been no actual shortage in the supply, it is held in fewer hands and is not offering at all freely. This is owing to the fact that the winter roads are in bad shape for hauling loads out of the woods to the railways. The snow fall has been heavy and it came in the mud, and

though the weather has been cold, the frost has not penetrated the snow sufficiently to freeze the swamps, consequently the roads are in bad shape in the wet swamps through which the wood must be hauled by teams to reach the railways. The roads will have to be broken up to let in the frost. Pine is held about \$1 for cars on track here, per cord; tamarac \$1.50 for last winter's cut, and poplar at \$2.50. Dead cut poplar, \$2.25.

DRUGS.—Prices here for parcel lots are as follows, with liberal reductions for large orders: Alum per pound, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; alcohol, \$5.25 gallon; bleaching powder per pound; 6 to 8¢; bluestone, 5 to 7¢; borax 11 to 18 cents; bromide potash, 65 to 75¢; camphor, 85 to 95¢; camphor, ounces 90 to 1.00; carbolic acid, 40 to 65¢; castor oil, 11 to 15¢; chlorate potash, 28 to 35¢; citric acid, 55 to 65¢; copperas 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4¢; cocaine, per oz., \$6.50 to \$7.00; cream tartar, per pound, 30 to 35¢; cloves, 20 to 25¢; opson salts, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4¢; extract logwood, bulk, 11 to 18¢; do., boxes, 18 to 20¢; German quinine, 40 to 50¢; glycerine, per pound, 30 to 35¢; ginger, Jamaica, 30 to 35¢; do., African, 20 to 25¢; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 45 to 55¢; iodine, \$5.50 to 6.00; insect powder, 35 to 40¢; morphia sul., \$1.90 to \$2.25. Opium, \$1.50 to \$5.00; oil, olive, \$1.25 to \$1.40; oil, U. S. salad, \$1.25 to \$1.40; oil, lemon, super \$2.75 to 3.25; oil, peppermint, \$4.00 to \$4.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.50 to \$4 per gallon as to brand; oxalic acid, 18 to 16¢; potass iodide, \$1.25 to 4.50; paris green, 18 to 20¢ lb; saltpetre; 10 to 12¢; sal rochelle, 30 to 35¢; shellac, 45 to 50¢; sulphur flowers, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 5¢; sulphur roll, per keg, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 5¢; soda bicarb, per keg of 112 pounds, \$3.75 to \$1.25; sal soda, \$2 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55¢; strychnine, pure crystals 80¢ to \$1.00 per oz.

FLUID BEEF, ETC.—Following are prices of the goods put up by the Johnston Fluid Beef Company of Montreal:—Johnstons Fluid Beef—No. 1, 2-oz. tins, per dozen, \$2.70; No. 2 4oz., \$1.50; No. 3, 8oz., \$1.83; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.83; No. 5, 2 lb., \$21.30. Staminal—2oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do, 4oz, \$5.10.

FISH.—Prices are as follows: Finnan Haddies, 7 to 8¢ per lb., the lower quotation only in large lots; Whitefish, 6¢; Lake Superior trout, 9¢; Pickerel, 4¢; salmon, 12¢ halibut, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; Cod, 10¢; Haddock, 10¢ per lb; smelts 10¢; Oysters, \$1.80 per gallon for standards and \$2.00 for selects; shell oysters, \$8 to 8.50 barrel; smoked salmon, 15¢ lb.; bloaters, \$1.50 box; red herrings, 20¢ box; pickled trout, \$7.50 per barrel of 100 lbs; pickled whitefish, \$6 per barrel; salt herrings \$1.50 per barrel.

GREEN FRUITS.—Mexican oranges are about cleared up, and the market will hereafter have to depend on California. California navels are now in. Lemons to ship later on are offering lower, but they will not be here in time for the holiday trade. Malaga grapes are very firm, stocks being light, and an advance is looked for on this line. Prices are as follows: Apples \$2 to \$2.50 per barrel as to quality. California lemons \$6 per box; Mexican oranges \$5.50 California navels, \$6 per box; Cape Cod cranberries \$7 per barrel; Washington pears \$2.50 box; Malaga grapes, \$3.50 per keg. Sweet potatoes \$1.50 to \$5 per barrel.

HARDWARE.—Business is quiet, as usual at this season. Prices are as follows:

Tin, lamb and 56 and 28 lb. ingots, per lb. 19 to 20¢.

TIN PLATES.—Charcoal plates, I. C., 10 by 14, 12 by 12 and 14 by 20, per box, \$1.50 to \$1.75; I. X., same sizes, per box, \$5.75 to \$6; I. C., charcoal, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$8.50 to 9.00; I. X., per box, 20 by 28, 112 sheets per box, \$10.50 to 11.00.

TERNE PLATES.—I. C., 20 by 28, \$8.00 to 8.50.

IRON AND STEEL.—Bar iron, per 100 lbs. base price, \$2.35 to \$2.50; band iron, per 100 lbs., \$2.85 to \$3.00; Swedish iron, per 100 lbs., \$5.25 to 6; sleigh shoe steel, \$3.00 to 3.25; best cast tool steel, per lb, 11 to 12¢; Russian sheet, per lb, 12 to 13¢.

SHEET IRON.—10 to 20 gauge, \$3.00; 22 to 24 and 26 gauge, \$3.25; 28 gauge, \$3.50.

CANADA PLATES.—Garth and Blaina, \$3.10

GALVANIZED IRON.—Queen's Head, 22 to 24 gauge, per lb., 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; 26 gauge, per lb., 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; 28 gauge, per lb., 5¢.

IRON PIPE.—50 to per 60 cent. off list.

LEAD.—Pig, per lb., 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.

SHEET ZINC.—In casks, 5.75 lb., broken lots, 6.00.

SOLDER.—Half and half (guar) per lb, 14 to 16¢.

AMMUNITION.—Cartridges—Rim fire pistol, American, discount, 40 per cent.; rim fire cartridges, Dominion, 50 and 5; rim fire military, American, net list; central fire pistol and rifle, American, 12 per cent.; central fire cartridge, Dominion, 30 per cent.; shot shells, 12 gauge, \$6 to 7.50; shot, Canadian, soft, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; shot, Canadian, chilled, 6¢.

WIRE.—Galvanized barb wire, plain twist-ed wire and staples, \$3.25 per 100 lbs.

ROPE.—Sisal, per lb., 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 8¢ base; manilla, per lb., 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ base; cotton, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and larger, 15¢ lb.

AXES.—Per box, \$6.00 to 9.00.

NAILS.—Cut, per keg, base price, \$3.16 for 60 d. with usual extras; common steel wire nails, 5 to 6 inch, \$3.60 per keg; 3 to 4 inch \$3.91 keg; 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, \$1.22 keg.

HORSE NAILS.—Pointed and finished, oval heads. List prices as follows: No. 5, \$7.50 box; No. 6, \$6.75 box; No. 7, \$6 box; No. 8, \$5.75 box; No. 9, 10 and 11, \$5.50 box. Discount off above list prices, 45 per cent.

PAINTS, OILS, ETC.—There is very little doing in this branch. Prices are steady as follows:

PREPARED PAINTS.—Pure liquid colors, per gallon, \$1.15 to \$1.25.

DRY COLORS.—White lead, per lb., 7¢; red lead, kegs 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; yellow ochre in barrel lots, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; less than barrels, 3¢; golden ochre, barrels, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; less than barrels 4¢; Venetian, red, barrels, 3¢; less than barrels, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; American vermilion, 15¢; English vermilion, \$1 per lb., Paris green, 18 to 19¢; Canadian metallic oxides, barrel lots 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; less than barrel lots, 3¢; English purple oxides, 100 lb. kegs, 4¢; less, than kegs, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ lb.

VARNISHES.—No. 1 furniture, per gal., \$1; extra furniture, \$1.35; pale oak, \$1.50; elastic oak, \$1.50 to \$1.75; No. 1 carriage, \$1.50 to \$1.75; hard oil finish, 1.50 to \$2; brown Japan, \$1; goldsize Japan, \$1.50; No. 1, orange shellac, \$2; pure orange shellac, \$2.50.

SUNDRIES.—Glue, S.S., in sheets, per lb., 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 15¢; glue, white, for kalsomining, 15 to 18¢. Stovo gasoline, per case, \$1.00; benzine, per case, \$1.00; benzine and gasoline, per gallon, 50¢. Axle grease, Imperial per case, \$2.50; Fraser's axle grease, per case, \$3.75; diamond, do, \$2.25 per case. Coal tar, per barrel, \$8; Portland cement, per barrel, \$1.00; plaster, per barrel, \$3.10; plasterer's hair, P.P. 90¢ per bale; putty, in bladders, barrel lots 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per lb., for less than barrel per lb., 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.

WINDOW GLASS.—1st break is quoted at \$1.75 per box of 50 feet and \$2 for second break.