

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, July 13.

A hopeful situation continues in view of the continued favorable crop outlook. An encouraging feature is the improvement in sales of farm lands. The Canadian Pacific Railway land department reports sales largely in excess of last year. Sales now are mostly in Manitoba, whereas last year remote points in the territories, particularly in the Edmonton district were in favor. Advices from British Columbia of late are very encouraging and the depression there appears to be passing away. The lumber trade there is greatly improved, and business appears to be reviving generally. The coast markets are overstocked with Manitoba dairy butter of both this and last season's make. There is no use in sending anything but choice creamery butter to the coast. If the mining industry in British Columbia could once get a good start it would be quite a help to the Manitoba and territorial dairy and produce trade. Winnipeg bank clearings show a fair increase again this week, as will be seen by the table in another column. Cattle exports have increased largely this week, but very few hogs are going out lately. Shipments of butter and cheese in car lots are now going eastward. Three cars are reported lately. This is a new feature in the dairy trade here, as heretofore no cheese has been shipped eastward, and only a limited quantity of inferior grades of butter have gone that way.

In the United States this week grains generally, hog products, coffee and lead are lower. Bessemer iron is higher, with further advances expected. Steel billets, galvanized and black sheets, and hides are higher, and the general tendency in manufactured goods is upward.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, July 13.

[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.—Orders have been mostly placed, though repeat orders may be necessary, as the heavy crop outlook would indicate that a lot of twine will be required this season. There is abundance of twine offering, however, and there is no scarcity either in quantity or variety of brands. Prices range at about the same as previously quoted or from 6½ to 7½c as to brand and quality. Manilla twines are offering at 6½ to 7½c and sisal and mixed twines at 6½c upwards.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Everything still points to firm prices in boots and shoes. The tendency of leather has been again higher, which renders the outlook strong. Prices are still on the rise and some factories east are reported to have advanced prices 5 per cent the first of the month.

COAL.—The coal trade is very quiet at the moment but there is some figuring on prices for the opening of the fall trade. It is thought that prices will be lower, or probably about \$8.50, and perhaps as low as \$8.25, for Pennsylvania anthracite, per ton, to consumers. Prices last winter ranged from \$8.00 to \$9, with a few sales under \$8.50, delivered to consumers. The coal will cost much the same as last season laid down here. Freight rates are about the same. There may be some difference in the price of native coals. Cana-

dian anthracite was sold at a very close price last year, and it will be difficult to get prices down any lower. The Dominion Coal Company have taken an order from the Dominion government for 1,000 tons of Souris coal, some of which will go to Regina and the balance to the Manitoba penitentiary at Stony Mountain. This coal will likely come gradually into more general use, though the price should be reduced somewhat to give it as large a sale as it should have.

CORDWOOD.—There is only a very moderate business doing. We quote the following prices for car lots on track here: Tamarac, \$3.75 to \$4 per cord; pine \$3.00 to \$3.25 per cord; spruce, \$3 and poplar, \$2.25 to \$2.50 per cord.

DRY GOODS.—The city retail trade is somewhat demoralized by cheap clearing sales at present. Wholesale trade is now moving in a moderate way, with better prices ahead, but this all hinges on how the crop comes out. There are no new features to note, but woollens are firm, owing to late advances in wools.

FARM IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY.—There has been a very good sale of mowers and rakes, and a good many binders have been contracted for. Some pretty large sales (probably exaggerated) of binders are reported from some country points, but even allowing for some stretching, sales will be considerably larger than last year. Sales of binders in this district are nearly double last year. There has been good sales of elevator machinery, including engines and boilers of late, for new elevators being erected throughout Manitoba.

FRUITS.—Lemons continue firm, and are again 50c higher. The same feature prevails in oranges, namely, scarcity of the small sizes. Receipts are running largely large sizes, and it is impossible to fill orders for small sizes when everybody seems to want all this class. Strawberries are practically done. A few Oregon cherries are coming but they are not very choice, and there will not be many more. California apricots are about done. Peaches are arriving more freely and are 25 to 50c lower. California plums are beginning to come in, not many in yet. Melons are \$1 cheaper. A few California pears have arrived and sold at \$2.50 per half box, but they were not very choice. New southern apples are now arriving in barrels. The quality is not yet extra so far, but later receipts will be better. Tomatoes are down 50c per crate. Quotations here are as follows: California oranges, California Mediterranean sweet \$3.25 to \$4 per box as to size; Messina lemons, \$6.50 to \$7 per box; bananas, \$2.25 to \$3.00 per bunch as to size; Oregon cherries \$2 to \$2.25 per box. California peaches \$1.75 to \$2.00 per box; California plums, \$2.75 to \$3.00 per box; California pears, \$2.50 per half box; southern apples, \$4.50 to \$4.75 per barrel, tomatoes, \$1.75 to \$2.00 per crate of 4 baskets, Watermelons, \$4.25 to \$4.50 per dozen; onions, 4 to 5c per pound. Layer figs, 10 lb boxes, 15c per pound. Dates, 7 to 7½c a lb. Maple sugar, 8 to 10c lb, maplesyrup, 50c to \$1.10 per gallon.

GROCERIES.—There is no change in sugars. Canned goods are still the chief feature of interest. It is said only one packer has any stock left of tomatoes and he is holding at 85 to 90c. Canned strawberries are firm owing to the light pack both in Canada and the United States. Canned salmon is higher, cannery having advanced prices since the burning of the canneries reported last week. Packers are holding 25c per case higher for some brands. A Toronto report says:

Currants are firmer here, and stocks are small. The market in Patras has advanced in the past few days. Prunes are getting scarce here, and quotations are ½c higher. In Austria stocks have been very much reduced and prices are 1c higher.

HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.—The tendency is still in the direction of higher prices. The latest advances are in Canada plates and iron pipe. The latter line is sharply higher. Linseed oil is firm. At Montreal prices have advanced 20 per cent on iron pipe and 2c on linseed oil. In the Winnipeg market linseed oil is 2c higher at 70c for boiled and 67c for raw, in barrels. Leads are very firm.

LUMBER.—The city trade has been fairly active this week. There is a large amount of building work going on about the city, but it is mostly in the line of masonry. A very large number of old buildings have been or are being remodelled, principally in the line of putting in stone basements. Some large business blocks which were built ten or twelve years ago, without proper basements, are now having the basements put in. The cutting in prices of lumber at Brandon continues. There appears to be a mistake about the advance, so freely reported, in British Columbia lumber. An advance is contemplated, but it has not actually gone into effect.

WHEAT.—Wheat declined very heavily on Monday and Tuesday in leading markets, the drop at Chicago for the two days being

There was a recovery of 8c on Wednesday, but prices were weak on Thursday and Friday. The principal cause of weakness is the fine outlook for the spring wheat crop in the northwest, on both sides of the boundary between the United States and Canada. Exports of wheat, flour included as wheat, from both coasts of the United States and Canada amount to 2,317,000 bushels this week, against 2,377,000 bushels in the second week of July, 1891; 4,181,000 bushels in the corresponding week in 1893, and 2,583,000 bushels in the corresponding week of 1892.

WHEAT LOCALLY.—The feeling is very quiet and there is nothing doing here. Attention is turned toward the coming crop. New wheat began to move in the third week of August last year, and with favorable weather we may look for some new wheat in about the same date this year. There are now only about 220,000 bushels of wheat in store at Fort William, and the total at Fort William and all interior points aggregates about 1,300,000 bushels. A year ago stocks at Fort William were about 1,850,000 bushels, and two years ago nearly 2,000,000 bushels. The price of Manitoba wheat is purely nominal, as we do not hear of any business. There are no buyers and very little wheat available to be bought. The price will now gradually work down to an export basis, which would be about 70c per bushel at Fort William on the present basis of values. We quote 75 to 80c as a present nominal range.

FLOUR.—The easiness reported last week developed into a decline on Thursday of 20c per sack. This makes a total decline from the top of 85c per sack, or 70c per barrel. Sales by millers here are made at \$2.05 for patents and \$1.85 for strong bakers per sack of 98 lbs, delivered to city retail dealers. Second bakers, \$1.55 to \$1.65, XXXX about \$1.30 to \$1.40 per sack, according to brand. These are net cash prices, the nominal quotation being 5c higher.

MILLSTUFFS.—The quotation to the local trade is \$11 for bran and \$18 for shorts, per ton with small quantities held at \$1 per ton more. The sharp demand for bran in the east, owing to the drought in Ontario, is expected to keep prices here firm, as millers will ship east freely and keep local stocks down. Manitoba bran and shorts was reported \$2 higher from Montreal this week.

GROUND FEED.—Prices range from \$19 to \$21 per ton, as to quantity and quality, for ground oats and barley feed.