## THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Sept. 7.

Trade has been generally more active this week and this September promises to be the best yet in the history of the jobbing trade here. Some houses are now being pushed to their utmost capacity in order that goods may be delivered promptly. Whereas a year ago cancellations were the order of the day this season there have been none at all but on the contrary repeat orders are numerous and a very active sorting movement in fall lines is anticipated. The abundant crops, favorable markets, increased settlement and general buoyancy are all adding something to this general result. In many lines there are complaints of difficulty in securing the goods from factories, notably hardware, glass, overalls and smocks, etc. Wholesale fruit dealers have also difficulty in keeping up their supplies. The increase in the movement of grain this week has been considerable and in leading circles it is expected that movement will begin to come in very shortly. The settlement of the C. P. R. trackmen's strike should improve matters so far as the train service is concerned. The opinion is becoming more firmly fixed than ever that the Canadian Northern road cannot get its line to Lake Superior open before the close of navigation this year, consequently it will have to ship its share of the crop via Duluth. The C. P. R. has made elaborate preparations for handling grain with dispatch. The export cattle movement has now very nearly reached its height and is putting a lot of money into circulation in the cattle districts. Bank clearings at Winnipeg for the week were $466,830 larger than last year but somewhat smaller than last week.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS

Saturday, Sept. 7.

(All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are wholesale prices such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reductions on large quantities and to cash discounts.

### BOOTS AND SHOES.

Local wholesale houses are busy with all kinds of fall and winter business. Instead of the flood of cancellations which marked this period of the year 1900 there is a continual stream of sorting and repeat orders. The demand is for all kinds of seasonable lines. Reports from factories are to the effect that orders are plentiful and everyone is working to full capacity. Leather is firm and prospects are for steady prices Rubber goods are in much the same position as leather.

### BUILDING MATERIAL.

Demand is good and there are no changes in prices which we quote as follows: Rubble stone, $4.00 per cord; foutings, $5.50 per cord; broken stone, $1.25 per cubic yard; white lime, 20c per bushel; grey lime, 15 to 16c per bushel. Veneer brick $11 per thousand; kiln run, $9 per thousand.

### CURED MEATS.

There is still a very large demand for cured meats, lard, etc., and prices rule firm. The high price of hogs which are now in some cases up to $6.50 per hundred, precludes the possibility of lower prices for meats in the meantime. The only change to note this week is in the way of an advance, lard having jumped from $2.35 per 20lb pail of best steam rendered to $2.45. This is the highest point reached by lard for a long time. A full list of jobbing prices for cured meats, lard, etc., at Winnipeg, is given on another page.

### DRY GOODS.

Dry goods houses have all been particularly busy this week. Fall goods of every kind as well as staple and fancy lines are in big demand and repeat orders are numerous. In many cases it is impossible to repeat as jobbers are out of some lines. Values are steady and there are no special features to note.

### FISH.

Demand is good and market steady at the following prices: Whitefish, fresh, 5c per pound; pickerel, fresh, 4c per pound; pike, fresh, 3c; goldeyes, 2c; trout, 10c; salmon, 14c per pound; halibut, 12½c; Lake Superior herring, 20c per dozen; kippered gold-eyes, 40c per dozen; fresh cod, 7c; per pound; smelts, 8c; mackerel, 12 to 15c; fresh shad, 10c; salt cod, 6½c; Labrador herring, per barrel, $4; salt mackerel, $2 per kit; boneless fish, 5¾c per pound.

### GROCERIES.

Business is very brisk at local houses. Orders are numerous from all parts of the west and there is every prospect of a good fall trade. Money has hardly commenced to move yet, but it is expected that the next few months will see heavy liquidation of liabilities by country merchants. Prices here are for the most part steady. Salmon to arrive is quoted lower, the price named for sockeyes, talls, being $6.60 per case, as compared with $7.00 to $7.50, the present price for old pack. Cohoes to arrive are quoted at $5.00 per case as compared with $6.00 to $6.50 present price for old pack. In addition to these two leading varieties there will be a brand of white salmon known as humpback in the market at $4.50 per case. None of the new pack has arrived in the market yet and the prices we note above will not go into effect until they do. Glucose syrup has advanced in price at factory points and will probably go higher here. Leaf tobacco has also gone up at producing points, the amount of the advance being 2c per lb. Sugar holds steady here and is without special feature. The preserving season is now on and has increased the demand for sugar considerably. Latest advices from the world's markets regarding the raw article indicate an easier tendency owing to heavy production of beet and multiplication of factories everywhere. Third crop Japan teas are now arriving and show better quality than the second crop. Winnipeg prices current for grocery staples will be found on another page.

### GREEN FRUITS.

The preserving season is now on and small fruits are in active demand for that purpose, but prices which the regular requirements of the market are undiminished. Dealers say that preserving fruits are now down to rock bottom prices. Since we last wrote lemons have declined 50c per case. Washington plums are 25c cheaper. The last car of Crawford peaches is now in the market at $1.50 per case, which is the lowest price of the season. Ontario plums have been arriving, but are not in fit condition to ship out of the city. Ontario basket pears and tomatoes have been arriving in good condition. A few grapes have also arrived by express. We quote: California, late Valencia oranges, 120s, $4.75 per case; 150s, $5.25, and 176s and up, $6.00; California lemons, $6.00 per case; plums, California, $1.75 to $2.00 per case; Washington, $1.35; peaches, freestone, $1.50 per case; pears, California, $4.00 per case, Washington, $3.00 per case; Ontario basket pears, $1 per basket; prunes, $1.75 to $2.00 per case; grapes, California tokays, $4.00 per case, Ontario, in 10 lb baskets, 75c per basket; apples, Ontario, in barrels, $6.00 per barrel, Washington, in boxes, $2.75 per box; bananas, fancy, $2.50 to $3.00 per bunch; watermelons, $5.00 per dozen; tomatoes, Ontario, in baskets, 75c per basket; celery, 40c per dozen; cabbage, 1½c per pound.

### HARDWARE.

Wholesale houses are all very busy with orders. Building material, sporting goods, shelf and heavy hardware are all in demand. Prices are steady and we note no changes in prices, excepting an advance of 10c per keg in the price of cut nails. Rope holds the advance noted last week. Other lines are steady. Stocks are hard to get in many lines. Jobbing prices are given on another page.

### PAINTS, OILS AND GLASS.

Business is steady and the market unchanged. Glass is very slow in coming forward owing to pressure of business at factories in Belgium. Orders which were placed four months ago by local houses have not been filled yet. Linseed oil and turpentine present no new features. Jobbing prices here are given on another page.

### SCRAP.

The big steel trades strike in the United States is adversely affecting the market for scrap iron and there is for the present no sale for stocks held here. Demand for other lines is fairly good. We quote: No. 1 cast iron, free from wrought and malleable, $14.00 to $17.00 per ton; No. 2, $5.00 to $6.00 per ton; wrought iron scrap $5 per ton; heavy copper, 10 to $12 per pound; copper bottoms, 10 to 11 per pound; red brass, 10 to 11c pound; yellow brass, heavy, 8c per pound; light brass, 5 to 6c per pound; lead pipe or tea lead, 2 to 2½c per pound; rags, country unlined, 50c per 100 pounds rubbers, free from rivets, buckles and arctics, 5c per pound; zinc scrap, 1c per pound; boxes, clean dry and bleached, $5 to $6 ton; bottles, quarts, 25c per dozen; pints, 15c per dozen.

### GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—It has been an uneventful week in the wheat markets. They have been dull and inactive with only a small volume of trading. At the same time steadiness in price has been a main feature in the situation, and while dullness and inactivity tend to lower prices, the decline on the week is not more than ½c per bushel. The trade seems rather apprehensive of the effect of increasing movement of the Northwest spring wheat, but this is being offset by the falling off in movement of winter wheat in the southwest. During the past week also the weather over the Northwest has been much broken by thunderstorms and heavy local rains, which are delaying harvest and threshing operations, and besides the delay may cause some damage to quality of the grain. Should these be continued to any extent it may result in a sharp upturn in prices. The movement of wheat to primary markets in the States is no larger than it was last year to same date, yet the exports from both coasts from 1st of July to date have been 61,686,000 bushels against 29,261,000 bushels for the corresponding period in 1900, and the effect of this is seen in the visible supply which last year stood at 50,286,000 bushels on the 1st September, whereas this year it is only 27,790,000 bushels. A heavy movement of wheat in the Northwest may have a depressing effect for a week or two, but if such heavy movement does not occur, but for any reason is more gradually spread over the season, prices will not easily decline below present level, and it will take very little of a stimulating nature to advance them as it is well assured that the European demand for wheat during the current crop year will be large, besides which, a moderate reproduction of the land being used for feed in some of the winter wheat States. As regards crop news it may be noted that plowing for fall wheat in the States is progressing more or less favorably according as weather conditions permit, and there are indications that the acreage will be increased. The Argentine crop is suffering for want of rain in some important districts. There have been good rains in Australia and also in India. Harvest is practically over in England and the crop there is of excellent quality and estimated to yield about the same as last year. There is nothing new to report as to other European crops. The American visible supply increased last week 1,783,000 bushels, compared to a decrease of 762,000 bushels for the previous week, and an increase of 320,000 bus. for the same week last year. The world's shipments were 8,225,000 bus. compared to 9,743,000 bushels for the previous week and 6,648,000 bushels for the same week last year. The world's visible supply according to Bradstreet's increased 620,000 bushels against an increase of 1,131,000 bushels for the previous week and an increase of 2,745,000 bushels for the same week last year.

There has been a fairly active trade in Manitoba wheat this week, the ruling price having been 69c for 1 hard, September delivery, in store, Fort William. No. 1 hard on spot, Fort William, has sold for 69½c, immediate delivery. On Thursday afternoon 69½c could have been got for September delivery. Yesterday with lower outside markets 69¾c was paid in the forenoon, but 69c was the best bid in the afternoon. Several sales have been made on basis 1 hard with 1 northern 2c less. October delivery sells at ¼c under September. No. 2 northern sells at 4c under 1 northern.

FLOUR—Demand is steady and the market without change. We quote: Ogilvie' Hungarian Patent, $2 per sack of 98 pounds; Glenora Patent, $1.85; Alberta, $1.65; Manitoba, $1.50; Imperial XXXX, $1.15; Lake of the Woods Five Roses brand, $2 per 98 pound sack; Red Patent, $1.85; Modora, $1.45; XXXX, $1.15.

MILLFEED—Bran is worth $12.50 per ton, delivered here, and shorts $14.50 per ton.

GROUND FEED—Oat chop has declined $4 per ton and is now quoted at $20 here. Corn chop is worth $26 per ton.

COUNTRY WHEAT—The market opened this week at many country points and the ruling quotations have ranged from 50c to 60c to farmers, according to quality and rate of freight.

OATS—Manitoba oats are now offering more freely and are lower at 32 to 35c per bushel in carlots on track Winnipeg. Shippers are buying for early shipment east on a basis of 20 to 22c per bushel for No. 2 white or better on track at country points.

BARLEY—There is no barley offering yet.

FLAX—None offering.

CORN—None offering.

HAY—The market is well supplied with hay and stocks at all points are abundant. Fresh baled is worth $5.50 to $6.50 per ton in cars on track here. Loose hay on the street $5 to $6 per ton.

POULTRY—There is a good demand for chickens. A few turkeys and ducks are also wanted, but no geese are wanted. Prices are: Fowl, 50 to 65c per pair; spring chickens, 30 to 50c pair or 12c per lb. live weight; ducks 50 to 60c per pair or 9c per lb. live weight; turkeys, 9 to 10c per lb. live weight.

GAME—Wild ducks are now plentiful in the market at 15c to 30c per pair, according to size and variety.

BUTTER—Creamery— Factories are turning out butter as fast as they can. The difficulty is to find a market for all that offers. Most of the butter is going to Montreal. Buying by Winnipeg merchants is not very active, and it is a little difficult to define the value but we know of transactions this week at 16½c per pound f.o.b., factory point.

BUTTER —Dairy—The market is well supplied, especially with inferior qualities. There is a certain amount of good butter offering for which as high as 12c per pound commission basis is paid, while the range is from 10c to 12c commission basis, according to quality. Second qualities 1c to 2c less.

CHEESE—There is a fairly good local demand for cheese at prices we named a week ago, namely, 7½c per pound, delivered here.

EGGS—Receipts are only moderate while there is a good demand for all the fresh eggs that can be obtained. Choice candled stock in cases nets 13c per dozen delivered here. Strictly new laid eggs are worth 20c to 25c per dozen.

VEGETABLES—We quote: Potatoes, 30 to 35c per bus.; turnips, 30c per bushel; onions, 2c lb. Green stuff is quoted as follows: Carrots, 15c per dozen bunches; beets, 15c per dozen bunches; cabbage, 40c per dozen; cauliflower, 40 to 60c per dozen; cucumbers, 8 to 10c per dozen; lettuce, radish and watercress, 15c per dozen; beans, 2c; celery, 20 to 25c; rhubarb, ¾c per pound; pumpkin, 1c per pound; squash, 1c per pound; vegetable marrow, 40c per dozen.

DRESSED MEAT—The market for beef is steady at last week's decline. We quote: Beef, 5½ to 6c per pound; veal, 7 to 9c; mutton, 10 to 10½c; lamb, 11½ to 12½; hogs, 9 to 9¾c.

HIDES—The market presents no new features. We quote: No. 1 hides, 6c per pound flat delivered here; No. 2's, 5c; No. 3's, 4c; kips and calf, same price as hides; deakins, 25 to 40c; slunks, 15 to 20c; horse hides, 50 to $1.50.

WOOL—The clip of Manitoba wool is now believed to be practically all in and has proved to be the smallest for many years. The number of sheep in this province is apparently steadily falling off and the wool clip goes down every year proportionately. This year's clip for Manitoba alone would probably not total over 30,000 pounds while Eastern Assiniboia might add