

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, June 9.

Weather conditions have not been favorable this week for the crops. The dry weather continues, and Thursday and Friday were hot and windy. Opinions differ as to whether the crops have been permanently reduced in prospect, provided a favorable change takes place at once. To-day is warm and windy indications of rain, and all reports indicate rain. There was frost on Monday, which cut wheat in some districts in the west, but with favorable weather the grain will recover. The dry spell has caused a great deal of damage from forest fires. In several of the wood districts of Manitoba fires have been raging this week. The interruption of traffic with the Pacific coast is beginning to prove an inconvenience in some branches of trade particularly, and supplies of goods are short in some lines in consequence. All the three northern transcontinental lines are blocked, and no traffic has got through this week. The destruction to railway works alone must be tremendous, to say nothing of the loss to settlers. The interior mountain districts as well as the coast region are suffering from floods, on both sides of the boundary. The Commercial is again this week without any British Columbia correspondence. It may be a week or even longer before through railway traffic can go on. A considerable force of men has been sent from Winnipeg to assist in repair work on the railway. The proposal to hold a commercial convention in Winnipeg during the week of the Industrial Exhibition here, is making headway. The idea is to enable retail merchants from provincial and territorial towns to meet and discuss matters of interest to the trade generally. While there is much talk of hard times, the holding of a fair sale of a large stock of dry goods and clothing in Winnipeg has developed a tremendous cash business. The money has been taken in by the thousands daily, and the rush to buy has been so great that at times not only the store itself, but the street was blocked with eager purchasers.

Winnipeg Markets.

[All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are whole sale for such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reduction on large quantities and to cash discounts.]

GROCERIES—Samples received of a few Japan teas are claimed to be of good quality, and better value than usual. A Montreal exchange says: "There has been another large lot of British Columbia salmon disposed of during the week. We hear of one lot of 4,000 cases changing hands at about \$3.50 per case f.o.b. at coast." Raisins are reported scarce and firm in outside markets, but Canadian markets have not generally followed the advance. Molasses is easier. The general situation in sugars has been easier. Canadian refiners still quote 4½¢ for granulated and yellows at 3½ to 3¾¢. New York has declined on sugars, but as the fruit season, when the demand for sugars is large, is at hand, prices may be sustained in spite of an easier outlook. The sugar duty in the United States, which has been the principal bone of contention in considering the new Wilson tariff bill, has been adopted at last by the Senate. The schedule imposes a duty of 40 per cent. ad valorem on all sugars, raw and refined, with a differential of one eighth of a cent per pound on sugars above sixteen Dutch standard, and an additional one tenth of a cent against sugars imported from countries paying an export bounty. In consequence of the fixing of the duty, sugar is much firmer in the States, and New York has advanced. It continues the Hawaiian treaty admitting sugars from the Sandwich Islands free of duty, and places a duty of two cents per gallon on molasses testing above forty degrees by the polariscope. The schedule goes into effect January 1, 1895, and the bounty is continued until that date.

GREEN FRUITS—Strawberries have been scarcer this week and prices have been firm. Dealers expected to get in berries from the coast, as that district usually supplies some very fine berries at this season, but the stoppage of railway traffic with the coast on account of the floods has knocked out any hope of getting berries from that quarter. The crop in the states south does not appear to be very good, judging from the limited offerings, and it is a question if berries will be any cheaper this season. Bananas, of very fine quality, are in better supply at firm prices. California cherries are coming forward irregularly. Oranges are firm, St. Michael thin rind oranges are arriving, and will be a little higher than other sorts. Lemons are stronger. Cheaper qualities are nearly exhausted. Tomatoes are scarce. Prices are: California oranges, \$4 to 4.50; Lemons, new Messinas, \$3.75 to 4.50. Bananas, \$2.75 to \$3.50 per bunch. Pineapples, \$2.50 to \$3.00 per dozen. Strawberries, \$5.00 per case of 24 boxes. California cherries, \$2.25 to \$2.50. Pie plant, 2 to 3¢ per pound, California comb honey, \$3.50 per case of 48 sections. New maple sugar, 12 to 13¢ per pound in 1-lb. cakes. Maple syrup, 75¢ to \$1 per gallon in wood, and \$1 to 1.25 in tin, as to quality.

FISH—The supply of fresh fish has been limited, as no supplies can be brought in from the Pacific coast. Fresh whitefish are quoted at 5 to 6¢ lb, trout at 9¢, pickerel 3 to 4¢, gold-eyes 20¢ per dozen. Smoked whitefish 8¢ lb, do. herrings 5¢ lb; red herrings 20¢ box.

DRY GOODS—The outlook for cottons is said to be weak, owing to the importations of United States cottons into eastern Canada markets. United States manufacturers are said to be selling, regardless of cost, for cash, which admits of importations where they could not otherwise be imported at a profit. A reduction of 5 per cent is said to have been made in some lines of Canadian grey cottons, and while white cottons are not changed, the situation is easier. The Moncton cotton factory has resumed work, but at a reduction of 10 per cent in wages. A Montreal journal declares that large importations of English and some United States colored cottons—pinks, shirtings, etc.,—are being imported on account of the failure of the Canadian manufacturers to produce new patterns this season. The paper asserts that the mills are running on old patterns, which are not being accepted with favor by the trade, who have been obliged to import to get new styles. It is asserted that the woolen mills are working at less than half their capacity, owing to the general depression in this branch, though the uncertainty about the tariff may have had something to do with it. The woolen mills are now delivering fall goods to wholesalers, and some mills are showing samples of goods for next spring in cloths. As the tariff on woolens is now finally settled for the present term of parliament at least, the trade will begin to settle down to the basis upon which business will be done under the new tariff conditions. Travellers for jobbing houses are now showing samples of imported and Canadian fall goods.

WOOL—There is no improvement in wool, but on the contrary the outlook is more gloomy and prices are easier. Bradstreet's last report of the situation in the States says: "The market continues dull, with prices weaker on larger arrivals of new wools. Buyers will only meet present necessities, and offers of lots at considerable concessions for nearby delivery are not taken. Fleece wools are scarce and the price is mostly nominal, with demand very dull. Australian wools are unchanged, with carpet wools dull and featureless." In the Winnipeg market the feeling is weaker and buyers are trying to buy lower. Outside prices will not be paid as freely as a week or two ago. A lot very fair wool, but burry, sold for 7½¢, and slow at that. The range of quotations for unwashed Manitoba fleece is 7 to 9¢ as to quality. A woolen manufacturer in Ontario,

who has an agent in Winnipeg, offered to take 30,000 pounds of Manitoba wool, if the agent could buy it at 6 to 7¢. The manufacturer reports they are buying at 8¢ at the mill in Ontario. Of course the agent could not buy here at the figures quoted.

LUMBER—The principal feature in lumber is the tenders for the supply of the city of Winnipeg for the current year. At the meeting of the city works committee this week the following tenders for the city's lumber supply were opened: Hugh Law, \$15 per 1,000 feet, delivered, the Rathbun Co., \$15 f.o.b. cars, \$15.70 delivered; John Hall & Co., \$16.40 delivered, \$15.25 f.o.b.; Thos. D. Robinson, \$14 delivered; D. E. Sprague, \$13.90 delivered; G. W. Murray, \$14.75 f.o.b., \$15.25 delivered; Dick, Banning & Co., \$14.25 f.o.b., \$15.75 delivered; Arbuthnot, \$15.25 delivered. D. E. Sprague's tender was recommended for acceptance. Last year the lowest tender was \$17.20. This price for last year was considerably under the association list price, and the firm which received the contract, along with another firm, were suspended by the association for cutting under the list price. This year there appears to have been keener competition for the contract. The stoppage of railway traffic with the coast has cut off supplies in shingles and some lines of lumber which are needed. There are buildings under construction where plans had been made for using some British Columbia lumber, and the shortage of supplies is proving very awkward.

BOOTS AND SHOES AND LEATHER—A Montreal report says of the shoe trade: "Very little has so far been done on fall orders, which are coming in very slowly, the only business of any account being in the sorting trade, orders in this line having increased during the week; but on the whole manufacturers report things unsatisfactory." A Toronto report says: "Manufacturers of boots and shoes are now getting out fall samples. In about two weeks they will begin on fall stocks, and it is expected that when they begin a fair demand will set in for the grades of leather usually in demand by Canadian manufacturers. Sales of leather have been mostly of small lots to local manufacturers. There is a limited demand for sole for export, but prices must be low to admit of business. Two cars of sole were shipped to the British market yesterday."

HARDWARE AND METALS.

HARDWARE AND METALS—Rope is firm, Eastern advices report an advance of ¼ to 1¢ in sisal and ½¢ for manilla. This firmness in sisal and manilla cordage will make the market for binder twine also firmer. United States pig iron has been coming into western Ontario freely, and has been extending its field eastward, until it is said agents have been trying to sell in Montreal, but they can hardly compete with Canadian pig as far east as Montreal, with the duty against them. Cut nails are firmer east, and manufacturers of wire nails are said to be behind with their orders, to the annoyance of jobbers. There is not much change in the local situation.

PAINTS AND OILS.

PAINTS, OILS, ETC.—Eastern manufacturers of linseed oil have advanced prices 1¢, but jobbers have not all followed the advance, and there is no change in the local market. Turpentine is unchanged, though quotations are shaded for large orders.

PETROLEUM OILS—Last week we referred to the proposed change of the fire or flash test for refined petroleum in Canada. A deputation of Petroleum refiners has since been at Ottawa to ask the government to reduce the present flash test upon Canadian oil from 90 degrees to 80. Last session the test was reduced from 95 degrees to 90. The refiners now say the test should be further reduced, as the present test calls for the consumption of a large quantity of the refined article. They also, the telegram says, want other favors as compensation for

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