

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Saturday, October 13.

Business has been very quiet in most lines this week, although the bright, dry weather has created a much better feeling and caused the trading people to look forward to an early revival in business. Advice from the country state that threshing is general and new wheat is in the market in larger quantity. Country roads are drying up again and becoming more passable, which facilitates business. It is expected that next week will see a general improvement in the situation. A more confident feeling is prevalent. Wholesale houses in most lines still find business light and money scarce. Receipts of country produce are smaller. Values on most lines of merchandise hold steady. Labor is fairly well employed. Railway traffic is light for the season. Bank clearings at Winnipeg reflect the delay in the grain movement by showing a decided falling off as compared with a year ago. They are even smaller by nearly \$100,000 than two years ago. As compared with last week they are slightly larger.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS

Saturday, October 13.

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

### BOOTS AND SHOES.

A little better sorting trade has been doing this week, but the orders are individually small. Travellers are out with spring samples, but so far it is not known what degree of success they are meeting with.

### BUILDING MATERIAL.

The finer weather this week has quickened the demand for stone, brick and lime again. Quite a lot of work remains to be finished up yet in both city and country, and some new work in the way of putting in foundations has been undertaken lately. Prices remain unchanged as follows: Stonewall rubble, \$3.50 per cord. Stonewall footing, \$4.00 per cord. Stony Mountain rubble, \$1.00 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.

Cured meat trade continues active and prices are firm. Lard has become very scarce and is higher. Pure leaf is 15c per pan higher at \$2.15, and tiers 1 to 1½ higher at 10 to 15¢. Long clear bacon is also very scarce and prices are likely to advance at once. Other kinds of meat are more plentiful. Winnipeg prices current will be found on another page.

### DRY GOODS.

Business is quiet here and the situation without any new features. Travellers are securing a small amount of business and there are very few mail orders. There is a little trade doing in the city to supply the requirements for fall apparel. Advances noted in our telegrams recently in Canadian cotton goods are effective here. The general tendency of prices for all lines of cotton staples is towards higher levels. Collections from the country are slow, October payments having been very poorly met.

### DRUGS.

Trade is active and prices for the most part steady. The only changes locally are in cocaine and opium. Advances from primary markets this week indicate quite a sharp advance in the former and dealers here have put up their price 25c, making the range now \$7.75 to \$8.00. As regards opium, Montreal quotations this week indicate higher prices there and as western houses have been obliged to replenish their stocks at the new level they are also making new prices. The lowest quotation obtainable here now is \$5.00 per ounce and the range is \$5.00 to \$5.25. At New York the most important changes in drug prices, according to the Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter, are: An advance of 25c on cocaine,

an advance of 3c on calomel; an advance of ¼c on Cascara Sagrada and a decline of ¼c on castor seed. In England the chemical trade has been marked by sharp advances in alkali, caustic and bleaching powder.

### FISH.

Fresh caught whitefish are now done out there are plenty of cold storage fish. Shipments of new finnan haddie are now in and selling at 11c per pound. Oysters are plentiful and lower at \$2.25 for best selects. We quote: Whitefish, fresh caught, 5¢/6¢ per lb. pickerel, 10¢ pike, 3¢ trout, 10¢ salmon, 12¢ haddock, 15¢ salt cod, 7¢ Labrador herring, ½-barrel, \$3.00; oysters, selects, \$2.25 per gallon, standards, \$2.00.

### FUEL.

Although the anthracite coal strike is still undecided there have been no changes in the quotations for this coal here and the situation is practically unchanged. Local dealers say that they have enough coal bought at one figure to last for some time. The feeling is, though, that this coal will be very firm even if the strike should be settled at once as there is not much coal left now for lake shipments to western ports. United States soft coals are quoted firm here. Canadian anthracite coal is selling in moderate quantities at steady prices and there is also some demand for Leithbridge bituminous. Souris lignite is firmly held at the new scale adopted this year and we hear that there is to be no cutting in the price of this coal this season. Wood is plentiful in the city at unchanged prices.

### GREEN FRUITS.

Trade is good in this line, all the local houses being kept busy with their city and country orders. Apples are firmer this week owing to the better demand from Liverpool having absorbed a large part of the immediately available supply. On two of three days this week supplies were exhausted here. In Ontario prices are 25 to 50¢ per barrel higher than they have been for winter apples. Jamaica oranges are due here next week. Onions are scarce. We quote: Apples fancy snows, per barrel, \$2.25; Northern Spies, \$3.25; winter varieties, \$3.00; fall apples, \$2.50 to \$2.75; Washington box apples, per box, \$1.25; on 5 barrel lots of apples 10¢ per barrel is allowed off; pears, California, per case, \$2.50; Washington, \$2.25; peaches, California, freestone, per case, \$1.20; blue plums, Washington, \$1.25; grapes, fancy California, tokays, per case, \$2.50; Concord and Niagara, per basket, 27¢; Rogers, per basket, 35¢; Malaga, keg grapes, \$8; lemons, California, per case, \$6.00; sweet potatoes, per barrel, \$5.00; cranberries, per barrel, \$3.50; onions, per lb. 3c; Spanish onions, per case, \$1.50; California fruit cider, per gallon, 30¢; apple juice, per gallon, 35¢.

### GROCERIES.

Trade is steady. Sugars remain unchanged since a week ago. Canned goods are unchanged, with the exception of canned lunch tongue, which has advanced to \$6.50/\$6.75 for one pound tins and \$6.25/\$6.50 for two. This is 25¢/50¢ more than we quoted a week ago. The advance is on Canadian goods and practically puts these on a level with United States brands. Green Rio coffee is stiffening up and although prices are unchanged here, there is a firmer feeling and higher figures would have to be asked for any new stock bought now. White beans are 1¼¢/20¢ lower, owing to falling off in export demand, but it is expected that there will be some reaction from present low price of \$1.50/\$1.60 per bushel. Avoided oats have advanced and are now quoted at \$1.75/\$1.80, instead of \$1.70/\$1.75. Dried currants have taken a phenomenal jump this week, amounting to 2¢ per lb. Sultana raisins have also advanced 2¢ per lb, making the price here 12½¢/13¢. Muscatel raisins have advanced about 1¢. New prunes will show a slight decline on small sizes, while for large sizes prices will be away up. As regards the recent reduction in makers' prices of woodenware it may be said that these have not yet been followed by local jobbers for the reason that stocks on hand at present have mostly been bought at old prices, and will not permit of any reductions. However, the decline may take effect any day. New almonds are now being quoted and are 16½¢ higher for Tarragonas. Shelled almonds are also higher at 35¢/40¢, as compared with 33¢/35¢. Winnipeg prices current for all staple lines of

groceries will be found on another page.

### HARDWARE.

Business is quiet. Heavy hardware has been tending downward of late and the feeling among those on the inside is that it has reached the limit. Prices in many lines are now almost as low as they were before the inflation commenced in January, 1899. In some ways the present conditions are such that the labor troubles in several of the United States and in Europe and the abnormally high prices of coal would indicate that the cost of production has reached a point that it is almost impossible to go lower. In fact the reaction has already set in in American steel industries and the result is that higher prices are being asked to-day by makers of some lines than for some months past. The presidential contest has no doubt also helped to depress prices during the past season and when this has terminated as it will next month there will be a general revival of business in the United States which will cause an increased demand for steel and iron and their products. In fact it would not be surprising to see higher prices ruling again early in 1901 than are in force at the present time.

### IMPLEMENTS.

Local dealers have travellers out now after winter and spring goods orders. The indications are that trade will be lighter than usual. Fall lines are hardly moving at all. Collections are decidedly poor.

### LEATHER.

Business is quiet. Harness leather is weaker and prices dropped 1c per pound on Friday. Other leathers are unchanged. There is some demand for saddlery hardware and findings. Winnipeg prices current will be found elsewhere in this issue.

### PAINTS, OILS AND GLASS.

Demand has improved this week, and a fairly active trade is now doing. There is no change in prices, which may be found on another page. Turpentine is quiet and steady at Savannah, with stocks in sight considerably larger than last year. Linseed oil is lower at New York, but we hear of no changes in Canada.

### SCRAP.

The scrap market here is quiet. Dealers think that there is very little more old material to be picked up within 100 miles of the city as the country has been pretty thoroughly scoured during the past summer. The good prices ruling have tempted many to give attention to scrap who have not done so in other years. Demand for most lines is quiet at present. United States buyers are not operating very keenly owing to the proximity of the presidential elections. The old iron market is being affected on the other side of the line by some very heavy sales of old ordinance by the United States government. All the old cannon at Fort Warren amounting to many thousands of tons has been thrown upon the market. These were taken by a New York firm. Business in old metals on the other side is about holding its own, but there are some fears that recent advances in ocean freight will cut off the export demand which has been holding up the market. The rag market is quiet and steady both here and elsewhere. Old rubber is selling in Boston at 8½ to 9c per pound and the market is quiet. A noticeable feature here is the falling off in demand for old bottles, due to the prohibition legislation which is to go into effect next year. A few months ago these would readily bring 40¢ a dozen for quarts and 20¢ for pints at Winnipeg, now they are only worth 15¢ and 12¢. We quote Winnipeg buyers prices as follows: No. 1 cast iron, free from wrought and malleable, \$13 to \$14 per ton; No. 2, \$5 ton; wrought iron scrap, \$5 ton, heavy copper, 10c per pound, red brass, 8c per pound; yellow brass, heavy, 7c per pound; light brass, 4½ to 5c per pound; lead pipe or tea lead, 2c to 2½¢; rags, country mixed, 50c per 100 pounds; rubbers, free from rivets, buckles and arcaics, 5½¢ per pound; zinc scrap 1c per lb, bones, clean, dry and bleached, 5¢ per ton.

### GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—There has been a small, but gradual, decline in prices in the wheat market the last seven days and trade has been slow for the most part. The loss on the week is about 1½¢ per bushel. The weather over the North-west has been fine and threshing is

going ahead lively now, giving a promise of increasing deliveries of spring wheat. The receipts at primary points in the States are running somewhat under receipts for same days a year ago, thus showing the want of the ordinary receipts in the North-west usual at this season of the year. Export trade is fairly good and export shipments from both coasts liberal, but the large world's shipments of the last three weeks show that other countries besides America have wheat to ship to Europe when price is fair. The shipments from Russia and the Danubian provinces were very large last week. The seeding of the new crop of winter wheat in the States is proceeding under favorable conditions, and it is estimated that the acreage will be about the same as last year. It will not be so large in Ohio and Indiana and other States where the Hessian fly was so bad, but in Missouri, Nebraska and probably Kansas, the acreage will be increased. In Europe winter wheat is being seeded under normal conditions, and both in Europe and the States the first sowings are above ground and coming on well. Reports regarding the Argentine crop are conflicting. There have been rumors of damage by frost in that country the last few days, and these have been subsequently contradicted. There has been a great deal of rain in Argentina during the season and there is danger of the growth being too rank and soft, but the outcome depends on the weather yet to come. If nothing serious happens Argentina will have as large a crop as last year. Australia has continued prospects of an excellent crop, and many vessels have been chartered to load new wheat in January. The American visible supply decreased 8,000 bushels last week compared with an increase of 416,000 bushels the previous week, and an increase of 2,192,000 bushels same week last year. The world's shipments last week were 8,619,000 bushels compared to 8,350,500 bushels the previous week. The world's visible supply according to Bradstreet's, decreased 736,000 bushels compared to an increase the previous week of 4,318,000 and an increase of 5,022,000 bushels same week a year ago. The world's visible supply on Oct. 1 as compiled by the Chicago Daily Trade Bulletin was 188,200,000 bushels, compared to 162,877,000 bushels on Oct. 1, 1899, an increase of 25,323,000 bushels.

The local market is doing nothing, waiting for the crop to move. A little 1 hard has been selling around 88 to 90¢ spot Fort William, but at the end of the week buyers are scarce, and yesterday afternoon only one buyer would pay over 87c, and he only wanted a 5,000 bus. lot. Duluth 1 hard on the same basis as Fort William, as to freight, etc., closed at 81½¢ cash yesterday, and it is beginning to be felt that when large quantities of our new low grade wheat finds its way in Ontario millers that they will not continue to pay the fancy price going for 1 hard. A few cars of tough and dried wheat have been worked this week at gradually declining prices. The lower grades of wheat will have to come to export value before they can be worked freely. Yesterday's values for tough wheat were 2 hard 75c, 3 hard 65c, 3 northern, 60c, and for dried wheat, 2 hard, 80c; 3 hard, 73c; 3 northern 71½c, all in store Fort William or Port Arthur, and the export value of these grades is probably something like 5c per bushel under above quotations.

FLOUR.—Flour prices are steady at both the big mills. Demand is good, orders being booked ahead. We quote: Ogilvie's Hungarian, \$2.30 per sack of 95lb. Glenora Patent, \$2.15. Lake of the Woods, Five Roses, \$2.30. Patent, \$2.15. Medora, \$1.70, and XXXX \$1.35 per sack.

MILFEED.—Business is steady and one mill quotes \$1 per ton over our figures of a week ago. Bran is quoted at \$12.50/\$13.50 per ton, and shorts at \$14.50/\$15.50, delivered to the trade.

GROUND FEED.—Prices maintain their previous level and the small supply of coarse grains is keeping the volume of sales down to a very low point. As soon as new grain is available prices will be lower. We quote: Oat chop, \$23 per ton; barley chop, \$21.50; mixed barley and oats, \$25; corn chop, \$22; oil cake, \$20 per ton.

WHEAT.—Farmers deliveries have increased this week, and quite a few cars of wheat have passed through Winnipeg. If the weather keeps fine next week should bring a fairly active