

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Aug. 31.

[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.]

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AND BINDER TWINE.—There has been a brisk demand for binder twine. At a few country points the supply of twine went out so fast, that before dealers were aware of it, the twine was all gone and some delay was caused to harvesting before new supplies could be got in. These delays are not the fault of the wholesale trade, as there has been plenty of twine here, and the neglect has been with the farmers themselves, who delayed securing their twine until the last moment. The Massey-Harris Co., who are the largest handlers of twine direct to the farmers, say they brought in about three times as much twine as their orders called for, and still their supplies ran short at a few points, but they were able to replenish stocks quickly where needed. Merrick, Anderson & Co., also say they have had no difficulty in filling all orders from the trade, and they believe there will be no shortage. The amount of twine required this year is vastly in excess of previous years, and it is fortunate that the supply has not run out. The light crop in Ontario left a large quantity of twine available for the West, which would otherwise have been required in the East. Sales of binders have also been large—much larger than was expected. Owing to the very heavy straw, many farmers had to abandon their old machines and buy new ones, as old machines, which would have worked fairly well in a moderate crop, were not able to cope with the rank growth of this year. Machine men have had a very busy time supplying pieces. Many farmers are just like many business men, they leave everything until the last minute. As a result, when their crop was ready to cut they began to get their binders ready and found that they were in need of various pieces before they could start work, and they all wanted to be served at once. Outside of the enormous sale of twine and the large sale of binders, the seasons trade in other lines of farm implements and machinery has not been heavy. A good many threshers will likely be sold yet.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The Canadian Shoe and Leather Journal says:—"Manufacturers seem well pleased with the way orders have come in for fall goods, whatever may be their ideas as to the profits of the present season's operations. Fall business was never known to be in as advanced a position at this time of the year. There has been little difficulty in securing the advance in prices made from time to time during the season. The shipments from Montreal and Quebec for June and July, were larger than for years." Regarding leather the Journal says that stocks are small and prices firm.

DRY GOODS.—In the local market a very fair business is reported. In the clothing and furnishing branches Winnipeg houses are already sending out fall orders, and orders taken are much in advance of the past two years. There has been a good demand for cheap lines of clothing, overalls, etc., due to the beginning of the threshing season. Cotton fabrics are very firm. Raw cotton is now higher than it has been for some years. In the United States print cloths are very strong and ginghams are 1/2c higher at latest reports. Another 5 per cent. advance, the second this month, has been announced by the Canadian Colored Cotton Mills Co. Seamless cotton bags have also been advanced 50c per bale. The advance in cottons noted covers tickings, denims and colored goods. Woolen manufacturers are taking orders now for next spring's trade, and the new samples

shown, particularly in Canadian tweeds for next spring and summer, are said to be the best ever shown in point of quality.

FISH.—Local jobbing prices for fresh fish are as follows:—British Columbia salmon, 1-10; Lake Superior trout, 9c; whitefish, 6c; pickerel, 3c; sinned haddies, 7c; kippered goldeyes, 80c doz. Very little doing in salt fish.

GREEN FRUITS.—Blueberries are now over-ripe and are slow sale, being too soft to ship. Peaches were temporarily scarce, but supplies will be in again in car lots by Monday or Tuesday. Prices are firmer and are expected soon to rule a little higher. The car of British Columbia plums referred to last week arrived at the expected time. The fruit was in fair condition on arrival, but these plums do not seem to have the keeping quality of Washington and Oregon plums. This may have been due to the manner of packing, and perhaps the fruit was over-ripe when shipped. At any rate, the plums began to get soft in a very short time. They sold at \$1.15 to \$1.25 per basket at the start, but the balance had to be cleared at 50c per basket and upward as to condition. More care in packing is evidently required on the part of the British Columbia shippers. California, Malaga and Tokay grapes are abundant, as are also southern Concord. Lemons are getting scarcer, as stocks of Messina fruit are running low. Verdilla lemons will be the next variety, a very hard fruit which is not a popular sort. Bananas are scarce. Plenty of southern apples are coming in. Apples, it is thought, will be abundant, notwithstanding the reported short crop in Eastern Canada. The crop is large in some parts of the United States and in England and Europe the crop is the largest for many years, so that there will not be as much export demand for Canadian apples as usual. This being the case the price will not likely be high, notwithstanding the light crop. Prices are: California oranges, Mediterranean sweet and late Valencias \$1 to \$1.25 per box as to size; Messina lemons, \$0.50 to \$7 per box; bananas, \$2.25 to \$3 per bunch as to size; California peaches \$1.85 to \$1.50 per box; California and Oregon plums, \$1.40 to \$1.50 per box; California and Oregon pears, \$3.00 to \$3.50 per box; southern apples, \$3.75 to \$4.25 per barrel; southern concord grapes, 65c per 8 lb basket; California grapes, tokays \$3.00 to \$3.25 per crate; do. Malaga, \$3.00; tomatoes, \$2.50 per bushel and \$1.10 per 20 lb. basket; Watermelons, \$3.50 to \$4.00 per dozen; Blueberries, 4 to 5c per lb. as to quality, the lower price for barks and large, rough packages. Layer figs, 10 lb boxes, 15c per pound, do., 14 ounce boxes, \$1.50 per dozen. Dates, 7 to 7 1/2c a lb. Watermelons are now very soft.

HARDWARE.—There is an improved demand in the local trade and dealers expect this will continue during the fall. The general tendency is to advance prices, and it is the opinion in the trade that high water mark has not yet been reached in the matter of prices. It will be a long time in all probability before prices again reach the low level that they were at before the late turn in the markets. Probably many years will elapse before prices touch as low as they were at the bottom of the late depression in iron and steel and other lines. Manufacturers were forced to sell during the depression, and in many cases they sold under cost. We reported last week the advance of 40c in manufacturers' prices of cut nails, which was a big jump all at once. The advance of five per cent. also noted last week in wire nails is the third advance in this line since the first of January. Local dealers report a brisk demand for threshers' supplies, including endless belts, steam fittings, etc. A telegram from Cleveland, Ohio, this week, says:

There is a stir in the pig iron market. Pig iron has advanced \$1 in the last three days and is now quoted at \$15.50 per ton, which is the highest point reached since 1890, when it sold at \$24.50. This advance has long been expected by the manufacturers, owing to the demand for pig iron, which is the basis of all grades of iron and steel. A general rise in prices may also be looked for along the line. Eastern manufacturers have also advanced barbed wire, plain twisted wire and staples, 25c per 100 lbs to \$3.25. This price includes delivery in the eastern provinces, but no fixed prices are made for Manitoba and the west, manufacturers having no agreement as to prices here, and competition is open. The advance east was made in sympathy with higher prices in the United States, the low prices last year having been forced by competition from United States manufacturers who were selling their goods in Canada, and prices had to be cut down to keep them out.

LUMBER.—The local lumber trade has been very slow for the last two or three weeks, probably owing to the fact that all available help is engaged in the harvest, and after the harvest there will be a rush for lumber fall work. The report circulated a short time ago that a western lumber dealer would move to Winnipeg and open business here, has not materialized. A new feature has developed in the lumber trade at the Lake of the Woods. The mills there have been cutting some lumber to ship east by rail to Fort William and thence by water to Chicago and other points. There is not much money in this trade, owing to the long railway haul to Lake Superior, but it helps to keep the mills going, and the railway company has made a rate which enables the shipments to be made at a shaving of profit. The stuff wanted for this trade is low grades, and it has to be cut to order.

PAINTS, OILS, ETC.—White leads are very firm. Glass is also firm, advances being reported abroad. Turpentine is firm. Coal tar is lower east. The local market is quiet and prices steady.

REFINED PETROLEUM.—The season for petroleum is again coming in and rates are increasing. There has been no recent change in prices here, though prices have been easier in the United States owing to the weakness in crude. United States oils were reported 2c lower in the East, but Canadian oils were unchanged there. The order made by the inland revenue department a short time ago, preventing the delivery of oil from tanks, and compelling wholesale dealers to deliver oil only in original packages, has caused considerable inconvenience. The oil can be brought in in tank cars, but it must be barreled here, and it cannot now be delivered to retail dealers from tanks. The trouble is the difficulty in obtaining barrels here, as barrels will have to be brought in by rail at a considerable cost, whereas barrels were not required for the city trade while the tanks were in use for delivery to retailers. Old barrels are therefore in good demand. Prices here are as follows: Silver star, 2 1/2c; crescent, 2 7/8c; oleophene, 29 1/2c in barrels. In car lots 1c per gallon discount is allowed off prices in barrels. United States oils in barrels are quoted at 3 1/4c for eocene and 80c for sunlight.

WHEAT.—Wheat prices have continued to average lower this week in the leading markets, such as New York, Chicago and elsewhere, owing to light export demand, increasing receipts of spring wheat, and lack of speculation. In the local market there is no buying yet, and the condition is much the same as reported last week. No one shows any inclination to touch new wheat. A little new wheat is marketing at some Manitoba points in the Red river valley mostly and is all going into store, there being no purchases.