

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, Jan. 29.

Winnipeg is not receiving that direct benefit from the rush to the northern gold districts which its importance and position would warrant, but nevertheless some business is being done here in supplying goods for the northern trade. The principal business here for the Klondike is in food-stuffs. Manitoba millers are shipping some flour, though there is not much money in the business on account of the keen competition from millers in the Pacific coast states. Several lines of foodstuffs are being prepared and put up here specially for the Klondike trade, for which there is a good demand. Native Manitoba produce such as dairy goods, is also benefitted by the development of the mining country. While business generally is not particularly active, it is good for the season. Bank clearings at Winnipeg continue comparatively large. No important business failures are reported this week.

## WINNIPEG MARK

Winnipeg, Saturday Afternoon, Jan. 29.

### FISH.

Reports from the Manitoba lakes say that a good average catch is being made in the winter fisheries. Prices are the same as last week. See quotations on another page.

### GROCERIES.

Sugars are easier here, in sympathy with the decline in the east reported by wire two weeks ago. Dried fruits are firm. Advices from California are strong, and Mediterranean dried fruits are tending upward in other markets. The great strength in domestic canned goods is owing to some extent to the Klondike trade, which is taking a considerable quantity of canned vegetables. Tomatoes are very strong.

### GREEN FRUITS.

The market is quiet and steady. Local dealers have taken considerable interest in the effort of Ontario fruit growers to secure the prohibition of the importation of fruits from the United States, on the alleged ground that there is danger of the introduction of diseases peculiar to fruit trees. Knowing as they do that Manitoba is practically dependent upon the United States for our fruit supply, with the exception of apples and some varieties of grapes, the dealers are naturally anxious that no further restrictions should be placed on the importation of fruits. The supply of fruits procurable from British Columbia would not begin to meet the requirements of the market, and Ontario shippers have never yet been able to lay down soft fruits in a saleable condition. One dealer remarked that if the fruit received from the United States arrived in the same condition as that coming from Ontario, he would be quite willing to agree to the prohibition of imports. Prices here are unchanged, as follows: Mexican oranges \$1.00 to \$1.50; naval oranges \$1.50; bananas per bunch \$3 to \$3.50; California lemons \$1.50 to \$5 per box; apples, Ontario stock,

\$4 to \$4.75 per barrel; southern apples, \$4 to \$4.25 per bbl.; Cape Cod cranberries \$7.50 to \$8 per barrel; sweet potatoes \$5.25 per barrel; Malaga grapes, \$7.50 per keg for medium, and \$8 for heavy weights; Ontario black walnuts, 8c lb; coconuts, \$1 per dozen; Sicily filberts, large 11c to 12c per lb; Grenoble walnuts, 13c; figs, fancy grades, \$1.40 to \$1.50 per 10 lb box, 30 lb boxes 16c; 50 lb. boxes, 17c per lb.; dates 7-1-2c per pound; imported celery 50 to 60c per doz.

### RAW FURS.

The result of the London sales, as reported by cable in The Commercial last week, is fairly satisfactory, though the advance was not as great as was expected on some lines. There was a moderate advance on most kinds of furs, black bear, wolf, mink and badger being the strongest lines. Lynx, which is very low, did not improve any. The price which this fur has been selling at should bring it into demand. At any rate, it can scarcely go any lower. A little higher prices are being had here on some lines, as a result of the advances at the London sales.

### GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—After a quiet spell, wheat has again had quite a stirring up, prices having made a considerable spurt upward this week, as will be seen by reference to our reports of each day's market at Chicago, New York and Duluth. The full advance of yesterday was not held, Chicago having been 1-2c higher than at the close. Argentina has been shipping fairly freely, but Russian exports are light. Atlantic port exports last week were 4,000,000 bushels, including flour as wheat.

The local market has moved upward in sympathy with the outside advance. On Monday 30 1-2c was bid for Manitoba No. 1 hard, affloat basis, Fort William, and on Tuesday 30 1-2 to 31c was quoted. On Wednesday 31c was made, and on Thursday there was an advance in the Winnipeg market of 1c with sales at 32c, affloat basis, Fort William. Yesterday a further advance of 1c was recorded, sales having been put through at 33 for No. 1 hard, February shipment, basis affloat Fort William. The quantity of wheat offering was limited, and most of the grain is held in few hands. Some holders were asking 33 1-2c yesterday. There was a sale yesterday of No. 1 hard at \$1.05 North Bay. There is scarcely any No. 2 hard reported, and it is nominal at 2 to 3c under No. 1. In Manitoba country markets 75 to 79c was paid to farmers yesterday, these prices covering the range at most points, as to freights, etc.

FLOUR—The advance in wheat naturally has a strong influence on prices though in the local market prices are very irregular, some brands being quoted 10c higher, while other brands were quoted 5c lower. Ozilvie's quoted patent \$2.50, and Glenora (2nd grade) \$2.30. Lake of the Woods quoted patent \$2.35, and strong bakers' \$2.15. Second bakers' quoted \$1.90 to \$1.95, and XXXX \$1.35 to \$1.40.

MILFEED—Bran is firm and is held as high as shorts, in some cases. Ton lots are held at \$10 per ton for bran and \$12 for shorts, and \$1 per ton less in large lots.

GROUND FEED—Pure grain feed is quoted at \$22 to \$24 for oats and barley, the outside price for rolled oat feed. Inferior mixed mill feed, \$18 to \$20 per ton. Ground corn feed is quoted at \$16 to \$17 per ton. Oil cake \$22 per ton.

OATMEAL—The market is firmer, but limited demand. Round lots of imported are held at \$1.65 here, and smaller lots at \$1.80 to retail dealers. Manitoba meal held at \$1.70 to \$1.75 in round lots for rolled.

OATS—Market dull and easy and very little business doing. City retail dealers are getting about all they want direct from farmers at about 35c per bushel of 31 pounds. For ear lots on track here, 35 to 36c per bush, will cover the range for mixed and No. 2 white.

BARLEY—Nominal. Feed barley quoted at about 35c. For malting barley good prices would be paid for good samples, ranging from 38 to 43c as to quality, and 1 to 2c higher for fancy samples.

CORN—Car lots have been offered here this week at 36c to 37c per bushel of 56 pounds, but it would cost higher to lay it down since the advance south this week.

BUTTER—Creamery, quiet. We quote dealers selling at 21 to 23 1-2c as to quality. A little late October creamery has brought the outside price in a small way, but the demand is limited.

BUTTER—Dairy. The demand for dairy butter keeps up well. We quote selling prices here at 16c to 18c for fresh tub and rolls, the outside price for selected packages in small quantities. Ten per cent commission off these prices to country shippers.

CHEESE—Dealers are selling at 10 1-2 to 11c in small lots.

EGGS—Dealers are paying 16c for receipts of fresh country eggs, and selling at 17c. Pickled eggs are offering lower at 13c to 16c as to quality. The market has been weak, but the colder weather should improve it.

DRESSED POULTRY—The supply of poultry is light for all sorts. Chickens will bring 7 1-2 to 8 1-2c. From 10 to 11c would be paid for Manitoba turkeys. Geese are scarce and wanted and 9 to 10c would be paid for them. Ducks would bring about 8c.

LARD AND CURED MEATS—Lard is firmer. Ham and breakfast bacon are 1-2c lower, but dry salt meats are 1-4 to 1-2c higher. See quotations on another page.

DRESSED MEATS—The firm tone for dressed hogs continues, and prices are 1-1c higher this week, 6 1-4 to 6 1-2c being paid for choice lots of desirable weights, though the outside price is rather an extreme figure and was not generally realized, except in some cases for choice. Heavy hogs 5 1-2 to 6c as to quality. Frozen beef is dull and quoted at 4 to 5c as to quality, and fresh unfrozen at 5 1-2 to 6c as to quality, for sides. Mutton 5 to 7c, as to quality.

HIDES—There are very few offering 6 1-2 is the general price for frozen hides, with 5 lbs. tare. We quote: Butcher hides, 7 to 7 1-4c. Green frozen hides, 6 1-2c; bulls, oxen, stags and brands, 5c to 6c; kip hides, 6 to 7c; calf, 8 to 9c per lb; deacon skins, 15c to 25c each; sheep pelts will average 40 to 60c each; horse hides, 75c to \$1.75 each; colts, 25c each.

WOOL—Nominal at 8 to 10c here for unwashed fleece.

TALLOW—Quoted at 3 1-2c for No. 1, and No. 2 to 2 1-2c for other grades as to quality.