

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, Oct. 29.

Intense interest is still being taken in the crop situation, but reports from the country are so contradictory that it is really impossible to give any close estimate of the amount of damage done by the prolonged wet weather. We give in another column a report of the information received this week from the country. These reports are much more favorable, as a rule, than had been expected, and some are almost too good to fully believe. The weather has been more favorable lately, though not as much so as could have been desired. Threshing was resumed on Thursday of last week and has been going on more or less actively since then, notwithstanding some very light flurries of snow on Wednesday night and Thursday in localities. The ground is white here again this morning. We have not had good drying weather, the prevailing condition being cloudy and calm. All the moisture that has fallen during the past two weeks would quickly disappear if we could have a few hours of bright, breezy weather. Grain deliveries have been kept back by the bad condition of the roads. On this account some farmers who have threshed, were not delivering any grain at the elevators. A fair amount of grain, however, came out, deliveries on Wednesday of this week having been the largest for the season to date. There will be a large quantity of good wheat, after allowing liberally for damage, while the balance will be reduced more or less in quality. A very little if any will be a complete loss. A great deal of plowing has been done while the grain was out of condition for threshing and in some sections more land has been prepared for crop next spring than ever before at this time of year. An unusually active demand for farm land was expected this fall. The bad weather has certainly checked land sales somewhat, but there is still a good deal of farm land selling. Of course farmers who have not sold their grain are not in the market to buy land, and a considerable portion of the fall demand for land always comes from resident farmers who desire to enlarge their holdings. There are more new settlers than usual coming in for the fall season, and an unusual number of prospecting parties are arriving here from the States to look up locations for themselves and friends. The immigration outlook in fact is bright, and undoubtedly Manitoba farm lands will continue to show that improvement in demand and price which has characterized the land business for the past year. Labor is well employed. The lumber camps in the woods have taken a number of men, and as a number of the Ontario farm laborers have returned east, there is

a scarcity of men for threshing, etc. Bank clearings at Winnipeg show an increase this week. They were about three quarters of a million less than for the corresponding week of last year, but nearly half a million greater than the like week two years ago.

GREEN FRUITS.

A few oranges are still held, but stocks are low and sizes to suit purchasers cannot always be obtained. The season for California oranges is winding up. California lemons are firm. New stock looking green. Pears are out. A few late peaches have still been offering, but they are practically gone. New Almeida grapes are now in the market. Apples are firm. New money is also offering. Prices are: Oranges, late Valencia \$1.50 to \$1.50 a box as to size, the former price for 300 to 324 size; bananas a bunch \$2 to \$2.50 as to size, California lemons \$1 to \$1.50 per box, Almeida lemons \$1.50 a box; peaches \$1.15 per box. Winter Nellis pears \$2.50 to \$2.75 a box, Ontario apples and \$2.50 to \$2.75 per bbl.; winter stock \$3 to \$3.50 as to variety, shows \$3.50; many varieties \$4 to \$4.25, Washington box apples, \$1.25 per 5 - lb. box, crab apples \$4 per barrel; crabs in boxes, \$1.75 per box, California grapes \$2.50 to \$2.75 for four basket crates; Ontario grapes 10 lb baskets, contracts 23 to 25; meira grapes \$8 per keg; cranberries, Cape Cod, \$5.50 bbl.; sweet potatoes .50 barrel; coconuts, \$1 per dozen. Ontario chestnuts, 15c per pound; Sicily filberts, large, 11 to 12c per pound; Grenoble walnuts, 14c; Carragosa almonds, 12 1-2 to 13c; peanuts, green, 10c; roasted, 12c; pecans, 14 to 15c; strained honey, 7 1-2 to 10c per pound; maple sugar, 11 to 12; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels.

GROCERIES.

New figs are about the only fresh thing in the market this week. They are away up above prices for old fruit. The trade, of course, is prepared for big prices this season on figs, as prices at primary markets have ruled very high for some time, on account of the very small crop. Figs will undoubtedly be scarce and dear for some time. Some new lines of nuts are coming in. Oatmeal is advancing in the States, but dealers hope to be supplied with Manitoba meal soon, so as to avoid having to import.

HARDWARE AND PAINTS.

The advance foreshadowed by The Commercial on glass, went into effect this week, the inside price on first break having been advanced to \$2 per 50 foot box. The market is still very strong on this commodity, and a further advance is considered not improbable, as the Winnipeg market is still much below a parity with Eastern Canada markets, when car lot freight is taken into account. In fact the local market has not begun to keep pace with the advance in eastern and foreign markets. A Montreal dealer who was in the city this week, said he would not be surprised to see glass reach \$2.10 in the east before spring. As stocks were light and the situation very strong, Turpentine has advanced 5c to 60c for barrels and the market is very firm at the advance. Linseed oil is very strong. An advance is expected on this line. The local mill has not been able to get steel to do much crushing yet, owing to the backward condition of grain deliveries. In sym-

pathy with the decline in other markets, rope is 1c lower both for sisal and manila, Sleigh shoe steel is 1-1c lower. Tin has been advanced 1c to 21 to 22c. Iron plates are 1-2c lower, and are now quoted at \$8. to \$8.50. Tin plates, 20 by 28 size, are 1-2c lower and are now quoted at \$8 to \$8.50 for 1c, and \$10 to \$10.50 for 1N, per box. Other sizes unchanged. Galvanized iron has been reduced 1-1c to \$3.50 for 20 gauge and other sizes reduced in proportion. Galvanized fence wire is 10c lower at \$2.40 per 100 lbs. Tinned building paper 5c lower at 60c. Other brands unchanged.

WOOD FUEL.

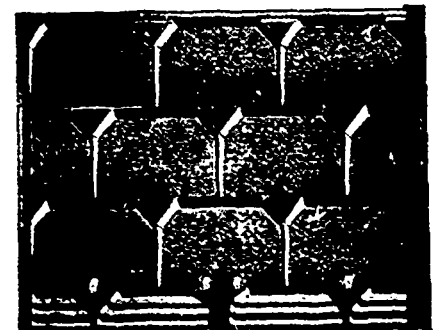
Dealers in wood are not having a very easy time at present in Winnipeg. The wet weather has made teaming bad and some dealers are refusing to deliver except to their regular customers. In consequence some of the residents in the outlying portions of the city have difficulty in obtaining supplies. To all except regular customers some of the woodyards are charging an advance upon the quotations given in The Commercial this week as high as \$6.00 being asked for tamarac and other kinds of wood are proportionately higher. These figures, however, only apply to the transient trade of some yards and our quotations for car lots on track may be accepted as correct.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—The excitement which came into the markets for breadstuffs last week by reason of the Fashola incident, awoke afresh on Monday of this week, and caused great activity in wheat and a further rise of 3 cents per bushel. A very large quantity of wheat was bought for export at the Atlantic seaboard on Monday and Tuesday. On Tuesday the political situation assumed a much calmer aspect, and the wheat markets immediately responded by a sharp decline. Since then the political horizon has

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