

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, September 26, 1896.

The grain movement was shut off again by unfavorable weather, just as it began to assume considerable proportions. For a few days early in the week quite heavy deliveries of wheat were reported at country elevators, but the farmers were storing it, and were not selling freely, notwithstanding the fact that prices offered were considerably above an export basis. Oats have also advanced here to above an export basis, on account of the light crops. Butter is also 1 to 2c above a shipping basis. Mercantile business is steady: Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week were less than 1 per cent. greater than for the corresponding week of last year.

There were thirty-four business failures reported in Canada this week, compared with forty-one last week, thirty-five in the week a year ago, thirty-one two years ago, and as contrasted with thirty-six three years ago.

Bradstreet's reports further improvement in the general situation in the United States this week, though any very material change is not expected until after the elections. A few mills are starting up on short time. The general firmer tendency of prices of staples continues, most of the advances of a week ago, notably those for cereals, wool, cotton, leather, iron, steel, lumber, and hides being retained.

Money at New York yesterday was quoted at 3 to 5 per cent. for call loans and 7 to 8 per cent. for prime mercantile paper. Bar silver 65½c, silver certificates 65½c; Mexican dollars, 50½c.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Sept. 26

[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.]

**COAL.**—Lethbridge coal will be sold here at the same price as last winter, notwithstanding the advance in the other coals, though it was at first reported that this coal would be advanced 5 cents per ton. The price will continue at \$4.50. Consumers buying very slowly on account of the advance in prices, hoping that something may turn up to reduce prices. Prices here are: Pennsylvania anthracite is quoted at \$10, and western anthracite at \$9.50 per ton of 2,000 pounds. Souris coal coal \$1.50 ton, Lethbridge \$5.50. These prices are delivered to consumers in Winnipeg.

**CORDWOOD.**—Prices are firm. Car lots of tamarac on track here are quoted at \$1.25 to \$1.50 as to quality. Good tamarac is held firm at the outside price. Pine, \$3.50 to \$3.75 as to quality. Cars of poplar have sold at \$2.75, but \$3 is usually asked for good green cut dry.

**DRY GOODS.**—Some business is still doing in fall and winter goods. The recent advance in raw cotton has had a strong tendency on cotton goods. Some mill prices are said to have been advanced and further advances are expected, though it is doubtful if any actual advances of importance have been made. Travellers in clothing are already out with spring samples. As the tendency in the United States is to advance prices on cotton goods, on account of the high price of the raw material, it may be expected that the home mills will follow any important advances made there.

**DRUGS.**—Cream of tartar is strong again, prices having advanced 3s 6d abroad per ton. Sulphur is higher also outside. Prices here for parcel lots are as follows, with liberal reductions for large orders: Alum per pound, 3½ to 4½c; alcohol, \$5.25 gallon; bleaching powder

per pound; 6 to 8c; bluestone, 5 to 7c; borax 11 to 13 cents; bromide potash, 65 to 75c; camphor, 85 to 95c; camphor, ounces 90 to 1.00; carbolic acid, 40 to 65c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chlorate potash, 28 to 35c; citric acid, 55 to 65c; copperas 3½ to 4c; cocaine, per oz., \$5.50 to \$7.00; cream tartar, per pound, 28 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; opson salts, 3½ to 4c; extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 18c; do., boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 40 to 50c; glycerine, per pound, 30 to 35c; ginger, Jamaica, 30 to 35c; do., African, 20 to 25c; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 45 to 55c; iodine, \$5.50 to 6.00; insect powder, 35 to 40c; morphia sul., \$1.90 to \$2.25. Opium, \$1.50 to \$5.00; oil, olive, \$1.25 to \$1.40; oil, U. S. salad, \$1.25 to \$1.40; oil, lemon, super \$2.75 to 3.25; oil, peppermint, \$1.90 to \$1.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.50 to \$1 per gallon as to brand; oxalate acid, 13 to 16c; potash iodide, \$1.25 to 1.50; paris green, 18 to 20c lb, saltpetre, 10 to 12c; sal rochelle, 30 to 35c; shellac, 45 to 50c; sulphur flowers, 3½ to 5c; sulphur, roll, per keg, 3½ to 5c; soda bicarb, per lb. of 112 pounds, \$3.75 to \$4.25; sal soda, \$2 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55c; strychnine, pure crystals 80c to \$1.00 per oz.

**FISH.**—Cannan Haddies are still jobbing at 12 to 12½c per lb. by the box. Prices of fresh fish are: Whitefish, 6c; Lake Superior trout, 9c; Pickerel, 4c; Sturgeon, 8c; salmon, 1½c; halibut, 12½c; Cod, 10c; Haddock, 10c per lb; smelt, 10c; Oysters, \$2 per gallon for standards and \$2.50 for selects; smoked goldeyes, 30c dozen; smoked salmon, 15c lb. There is very little now cured fish in the market yet. A few bladders have come in.

**GREEN FRUITS.**—One car load of peaches was disposed of at trade auction sale this week at good prices. Peaches are now practically out of the market; a few small lots are coming, but it is doubtful if any more car lots will come in. Ontario grapes are coming forward freely still and prices are about the same. Crabs are also abundant, but receipts are too poor to bear re-shipment, and are selling at \$1 to \$1.50 per barrel, on account of poor quality. Plums are scarce, though until lately there has been an over supply much of the time. A few bananas are coming, but the changeable weather is bad for them. Pears have been scarce. Prices are: Lemons California \$5.50 to \$6.00 per box, as to quality; bananas, \$1.50 to \$2.50 per bunch as to size and quality; good shipping stock, \$2.00 to \$3.00 per bunch; Washington peaches, \$1.35 to \$1.50 per box; Washington plums \$1.25 to \$1.50 per box as to quality and variety; Oregon pears 2.00 per box; Ontario apples \$2.50 to \$3.00 per barrel as to quality; tomatoes, 50c per basket of 20 lbs; crabs, \$1.00 to \$3.00 per barrel as to quality; Ontario pears, \$1 per half bush. basket; concord grapes, 30c to 35c for 10 lb. baskets, white Niagara 45c per 10 lb basket. California grapes \$2.50 to \$3 per crate; apple cider, old, 35c per gallon, in 90 gallon barrels; maple sugar 12s per lb; maplesyrup, \$1.10 per winegallon, in gallon tins; celery, 30c per dozen bunches; cabbage, 40c per dozen; Cauliflower 75c per dozen.

**HARDWARE.**—Advices from Great Britain are very firm on all metals; tin plates, Canada plates, and black sheets are all very firm. Manufacturers are very full of orders. In fact, it is said British manufacturers have not had such a busy time for many a day, and in some cases they are unable to book orders for delivery six months hence, on account of the large orders on hand. Locally prices are steady. Canada plates are firm here at the advance on the inside price reported last week.

**LUMBER.**—Business is rather slow in this branch and work at the mills is already being curtailed to some extent. Two of the planing mills at the Lake of the Woods mills have

been closed down, and one of the saw mills has also been closed for the season.

**PAINTS, OILS, ETC.**—It is understood an arrangement has been arrived at which will establish a uniform price for linseed oil. There has been heavy cutting and very irregular prices in this line for some time. The basis of prices arrived at makes the margin a close one, so that old margins are not restored, but the price will be uniform, at 49 and 52c for raw and boiled oils respectively. Turpentine is easier, and is now offered at 53c for barrels and 58c for less than barrels. Glass is firm, but some are still selling at \$1.75 for first break per box of 50 feet, notwithstanding the advance abroad.

## GRAIN AND PRODUCE MARKETS.

**WHEAT. — GENERAL SITUATION.**—The marked improvement which set in last week in wheat, has continued in even a greater degree this week, and prices have shown a gain every day this week up to to-day when there was a drop of over one cent. The advance has been caused by stronger cables, and foreign and speculative buying in United States markets, notwithstanding the large increase in the visible supply on Monday of over 2,000,000 bushels. Foreign buying has been one of the strongest features. Russian crop reports have also been unfavorable. Wheat stocks in the United States and Canada east of the Rocky mountains, are 10,000,000 bushels larger than a year ago, but 20,000,000 bushels less than two years ago, and nearly 10,000,000 bushels less than three years ago. World's shipments last week were 5,000,000 bushels. Exports of wheat, flour included, from both coasts of the United States and from Montreal, this week, amount to 3,818,646 bushels, as compared with 3,536,000 bushels last week; 3,151,000 bushels in the week one year ago; 2,562,000 bushels two years ago; and as contrasted with 3,490,000 bushels in the corresponding week of 1893.

**WHEAT.—LOCAL SITUATION.**—New wheat began to move quite freely during the early part of the week, but the general rains on Thursday checked the movement again. Previous to Thursday farmers were delivering quite a lot of wheat at the elevators at some country points, but they were not selling freely. Most of it was being stored on account of producers, indicating that the farmers will hold for a while for higher prices. This is the usual disposition while prices are advancing as they have been this week. Prices paid to farmers in Manitoba country markets have advanced about 4c this week, and to-day the usual price is 54c per bushel at 18c freight rate points to Fort William and 53c at points carrying a 19 cent freight rate, for choice samples of hard wheat, equal to about No. 1 hard. No. 2 hard 3 cents less. These prices, it will be seen by our market reports, are above a parity with the Duluth market, allowing for cost of handling. The big millers have been setting the pace in advancing the prices. The quality of the new crop, so far as it has been inspected here, shows up good, about two-thirds grading No. 1 hard. No cars of frosted have been inspected here yet, and only about one per cent. of rejected. If the crop keeps on at anything like this rate, it will be an extra fine one in point of quality, but the early movement usually averages better than late receipts. The receipts of wheat at Fort William last week were 170,941 bushels, shipments were 283,233 and there is in store 1,542,992 bushels. Stocks at interior points increased about 200,000 bushels last week, making them over half a million bushels at the beginning of this week. For the corresponding week last year Fort William receipts were 442,000 bushels, shipments 175,000 bushels, in store 463,000 bushels. Lake freight rates have been firmer