

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, June 23.

Business in all lines is active and markets hold very steady. Jobbing houses report trade more than ordinarily good since the rains set in and as the season advances confidence becomes stronger. Retail trade in city and country is good. City retail merchants find money a little easier as the working people are mostly all employed and the weekly wages of these puts a great deal of money into circulation. Farmers are marketing a little stuff at country points and this money is helping out the country store trade. The good prices prevailing for hogs has been a boon to many farmers who have had them to sell. Dairy products are also being marketed in large quantities. Bank clearings at Winnipeg for the week at Winnipeg have been over \$100,000 smaller than a year ago.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS

Saturday, June 23.

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

### BUILDING MATERIAL.

The great amount of building and public improvement now in progress in the city and in many of the country towns as well as creating a large demand for stone, brick, lime, etc., and dealers are all very busy. Prices remain unchanged as follows: Rubble stone, \$1 per cord, footings, \$7.50 per cord; broken stone, \$1.25 per cubic yard; white lime, 20c per bushel, gray lime, 15 to 16c per bushel. Veneer brick \$11 per thousand, kiln run, \$9 per thousand.

### BINDER TWINE.

So far as this market is concerned twine is steady and without special feature. As reported in these columns some time ago a large percentage of the orders have already been booked and those which have not are being held for a drop in price. It is the opinion of some retail men that the market may drop about harvest time and they are waiting for that time to get in their supplies. This has happened in other years but it may not be the case again. In any event, these orders would be hard to get now as prices are higher than when orders now on the books were taken, and present buyers would be at a disadvantage to that extent. So far as the outlook is concerned there is not much to justify expectation of lower prices. Stocks of fibre in America and to arrive were never smaller and factories do not manifest any disposition to cut prices just for the sake of doing so. Some small mills in the United States are quoting a little below the prevailing quotations but their stocks are not large. The crop outlook in all the western grain sections of this continent is so good that probably all available twine will be needed. Reports from Minneapolis say that the demand there is heavy and the market firm.

### DRY GOODS.

Business is quite active in this line. Summer sorting orders are numerous and promise to be more so next month. The lines most in demand are ladies light summer dress goods, men's furnishings and fancy lines of wearing apparel. Consumers are not stinting themselves in anything that goes to add to comfort or elegance of their summer wardrobe. Merchant tailors are taking large quantities of light suitings for men.

### FISH.

Fresh caught domestic fish are in very active demand. The popular whitefish is being eaten this summer to a greater extent than ever by the people of the country, probably because they are being supplied in such good condition and at low prices. British Columbia salmon and halibut are in good demand. We quote: Whitefish, fresh caught, 5c per pound; pickerel, fresh caught, 4c per pound; pike, fresh caught, 3c; goldeneye, 2c; trout, 10c; fresh spring salmon, 14c per

pound; fresh spring salmon, 14c per pound; halibut, 12½c; Lake Superior herring, 20c per dozen, salt cod, 4½c; Labrador herring, per barrel, \$4.00; salt mackerel, \$2.00 per kit, boneless fish, 5½c per pound, fresh sea cod, big, 7c per pound, smelts, 8c; mackerel, 12½c; fresh shad, 10c.

### GREEN FRUITS

Demand is active and the market holds very steady. We have no changes in prices to report. Small fruits are coming forward more freely. Some Ontario strawberries have been offering but they arrived in poor condition and could not be sold to advantage. There is great dissatisfaction in the trade here over the banana business and it looks as if shipments would have to be discontinued. The New Orleans banana trust is evidently getting careless of its reputation as the fruit has been arriving in poor condition and an almost every car received during the past two weeks or more local houses have lost through bad fruit from \$200 to \$300. One whole car had to be sent to the nuisance grounds this week and another in very nearly as bad condition was received. It cannot be expected that the trade will continue to meet such losses as these and the only alternative is to quit handling bananas. We quote oranges, 96s, \$3.15, 112s, \$3.50, 126s, \$4.00, 150s, \$4.25; 176s-230s, \$4.75; seedlings, \$3.50 to \$4.25; blood oranges in half boxes, \$2.25. Messina lemons, \$5, bananas, per bunch, \$2.75 to \$3.00. Hood River strawberries, \$3.15 per crate, California peaches, \$2.00 per box, plums, \$2.25, apricots, \$2.00, cherries, \$2.00 per 10-pound box; pineapples, \$2.50 to \$2.75 per dozen; watermelons (to arrive) \$6 per dozen, figs, \$1.40 to \$1.50 per 10-pound box, cartoon dates, per package, of 1-pound, 9c, new dates, 6c, cider in kegs or barrels, 35c per gallon, honey, 1-pound jars, \$2.50 a dozen; maple sugar, 14c; maple syrup, 2-pound tin, per dozen, \$2.25; half gallon tin, per dozen, \$3.50; gallons, \$12.00; native rhubarb, 1½c per pound; Egyptian onions, 4c per pound.

### GROCERIES.

Trade is good and prices show no changes from a week ago. Now pack strawberries will soon be in. Old stocks are practically exhausted. What small quantities are being held by packers are quoted at prohibitory prices. Rolled oats and cornmeal still maintain their strong position and until the new crop is available the indications are that there will not be much change, as demand seems to be fully equal to the supply. There is nothing new to say about dried fruits as the market for these is dead. New prices for apricots are very much higher than last year's opening and very much higher than present quotations for last year's crop. The indications are that the crop is short. On the 26th inst. a decline of 10c per 100 pounds took place in granulated sugar, yellows remaining unchanged. A few hours later the price of granulated was restored to the old figure and an advance of 10c per hundred announced for all yellows. The reason for this flurry was apparently the fluctuations of the New York market. At present the market is firm. Winnipeg jobbing prices for all staple lines of groceries will be found on another page.

### HARDWARE.

There are no changes to note in prices here. Demand is good, especially for heavy goods and barbed wire. Dealers have found it impossible to meet the demand for this, owing to rush at factories. Builders hardware is in good demand. Reports from all manufacturing centres are to the effect that business is brisk and prices firm. British manufacturers experienced a slight slackening of demand in the spring months, but this is now a thing of the past and they find business better than ever. The Pittsburgh iron market has firmed up from its recent weakness owing to heavy buying by the big steel corporation. Furnace men seem to be very confident of the future. Winnipeg jobbing prices will be found on another page.

### IMPLEMENTS.

Wholesale dealers here are busy with summer plow trade and fall orders. The outlook is considered good and business is being pushed. So far there is every indication of a large delivery of mowers, rakes, binders, threshers, engines, etc. The new settlers who have located in the west since last harvest have all to be supplied and the older ones will also take large quantities of new machinery. Travelers are out in all directions for orders.

### LEATHER AND FINDINGS.

Harness leather has advanced 1c per pound in this market and will probably go higher in the near future. This advance is due to an upward movement at tannery points, both in Canada and the States. Purchases made for local account this week show the higher prices. Sole leather remains unchanged. Saddlery hardware and findings are firm at old prices. Business here is good and prospects are all that can be desired. Winnipeg jobbing prices are given on another page.

### SCRAP.

There is a good demand for all kinds of old material. No. 1 cast iron, free from wrought and malleable, \$13.00 to \$17.00 per ton; No. 2, \$4.00 to \$5.00 per ton, wrought iron scrap, \$7 per ton; heavy copper, 10 to 12c per pound; copper bottoms, 10 to 11c per pound; red brass, 10 to 11c per pound; yellow brass, heavy, 8c per pound; light brass, 5 to 6c per pound; lead pipe or sea lead, 2 to 2½c per pound; rags, country mixed, 50c per 100 pounds rubbers, free from rivets, buckles and articles, 6c per pound; zinc scrap, 1c per pound; bones, clean, dry and bleached, \$5 to \$6 ton; bottles, quarts, 25c per dozen; pints, 15c per dozen.

### GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—During the past week the wheat markets have become steadier and the price changes have been within narrow limits, with a fair amount of activity in trading. The difference in values on the week shows a decline of ½c at New York, about ¼ to ½c at Chicago, and an advance of from ¼ to 1c at Minneapolis and Duluth. It is generally considered that after the large decline of the last three weeks the level of prices now attained is low enough at this date, and in the present surroundings of the wheat market. While in the southern portion of the winter wheat states harvest is well advanced, and the crop is of fine quality and large yield, a large part of the winter wheat and all of the spring wheat is still to mature and save, and much may happen detrimental to it before all is harvested. While the American crop will be unusually large if it is all saved in good condition, there is likely to be a free demand for it all, as the quantity required for home use is always on the increase, and the requirements of Europe are expected to be heavier than ever during the past twelve months. Visible stocks are less than last year at this date, and it is believed that stocks in farmers' hands are much less than usual. European crops are only really promising in Southern Russia and Spain. All other countries have crops which promise only moderately fair yields, and some of them, such as Germany and districts surrounding, are poor. The crop in England is making fair progress, but there are frequent reports of its being thin on the ground and the yield is not expected to be large, besides which there is some reduction in the acreage under crop. The demand from Europe continues steady at prices declining to correspond with the decline in American markets. Large quantities of wheat and flour continue to be shipped from North America to Europe, and Russia is weekly shipping largely to European importing countries. Argentina and Australia ship their quota every week, and India is also now shipping a little so that the weekly shipments to Europe are very large, and yet they seem to be readily absorbed and the quantity on ocean passage does not increase, showing evidently that the large quantity being shipped weekly is all required for consumption. The American visible supply decreased 2,227,000 bushels last week compared to a decrease of 162,000 bushels the previous week and an increase of 1,338,000 bushels the same week last year. The world's shipments were 9,481,000 bushels against 8,123,000 bushels the previous week, and 8,220,000 bushels the same week last year. The world's visible supply according to Bradstreet's decreased 4,426,000 bushels, compared to an increase of 133,000 bushels the previous week and an increase of 1,343,000 bushels the same week last year.

The local market drags along with almost no business doing. During the past week buyers have been especially difficult to find, and values have lost about 2c on the week. Yesterday some 1 hard was sold at 70c in store Fort William delivery after 5th July, but the best bid for spot 1 hard appeared to be 68c, and some was offered at 69c without finding buyers. We quote values, 1 hard 69 to 70c, 2 hard 67 to 68c, and 3 hard 66c in store Fort William, spot or en route.

FLOUR—The lower level of wheat prices has dragged down the flour market. We note a drop of 5c per sack this week. Demand is good. Prices are now as follows: Ogilvie's Hungarian, \$2.00; Glenora Patent, \$1.85, Alberta, \$1.65, Manitoba, \$1.50, Imperial XXXX, \$1.10; Lake of the Woods Five Roses, \$2; Red Patent \$1.85; Medora, \$1.40; XXXX, \$1.10 per sack of 48 pounds.

MILLEED—Bran is worth \$11.50 per ton in bulk delivered, and shorts, \$13.50.

GROUND FEED—Pure oat chop is scarce owing to the high price of oats. It is worth \$22 per ton delivered. Mixed barley and oats is worth \$25 per ton, corn \$22 per ton.

COUNTRY WHEAT—Farmers are still delivering at some points and some stored wheat is also being sold by them. We quote the prevailing prices 55 to 58c per bushel for good wheat.

OATMEAL—The market is firm at \$2.05 per 50 pound sack to the retail trade.

OATS—Stocks of oats at Manitoba points are very low and the market is now being supplied from Ontario. The expense of laying these oats down is such that prices are 1 to 2c per bushel higher. Alberta oats are not offering. We quote, carlots on track 47 to 48c per bushel.

BARLEY—There is no barley offering and the market is in a nominal condition.

CORN—Corn is in good demand. No. 3 grade is worth 50 to 5½c per bushel, in carlots on track.

HAY—New hay is beginning to offer more freely and the market is \$1 per ton lower. We quote, fresh baled in carlots on track, \$9 to \$10 per ton, loose hay on the street, \$8 to \$9.

POULTRY—Dressed spring chickens are beginning to offer at 30 to 40c each. Some of these are being killed too young. Dealers will take all they can get at these prices.

DRESSED MEATS—Grass fed beef is becoming more plentiful, but there is still not enough to supply the demand. Prices are easier. We quote, beef, fresh, 7c to 8c per pound; veal, 7 to 8½c per pound; fresh mutton, 10 to 11c per pound; hogs, 8 to 8½c per pound.

BUTTER—Creamery—The make is large and is mostly going to British Columbia and the old country. Dealers here are paying 15 to 16c per lb. for best f. o. b. factories.

BUTTER—Dairy—Receipts are large and the market steady. The wholesale price is 12 to 13c, commission basis, for best grades and 10 to 11c for seconds.

CHEESE—The make at factories is large, but as boxes are very scarce, the movement is not what it should be. Commission houses are offering 8c per pound net for choice quality delivered here. Were boxes plentiful the price would be 7c.

EGGS—Receipts are fairly liberal and dealers are paying 10½c per dozen for fresh case lots delivered here.

VEGETABLES—New imported potatoes are offering at 3½c per pound. We quote: Potatoes, old, 5½c per bushel for farmers' loads; beets, 1½c per lb.; turnips, 25 to 30c per bushel; onions, \$1.50 to \$2 per bushel; cabbage, new, 3½c per lb.; parsley, lettuce, radish and watercress, 15c per dozen bunches; cucumbers, \$1 per dozen; asparagus, 35 to 40c per dozen; rhubarb, 5c per pound.

HIDES—Receipts are very light owing to scarcity of cattle. Prices remain unchanged as follows: We quote: No. 1 hides, 5½c per pound delivered here; No. 2's, 4½c; No. 3's, 3½c; klips, 5½ to 6½c; val calf, 7c to 8c; deskins, 2½c to 4c; stunks, 15 to 20c; horse hides, \$1 to \$1.50.

WOOL—The Manitoba clip has been very small as was to be expected in view of the almost total neglect of the sheep raising industry. One of the best local authorities says that there will not be over 35,000 pounds of Manitoba wool this year. The regular price here to-day for good Manitoba wool is 7½c per pound. As regards the market for Territorial wool it is pretty hard to know what to say. So far we understand that no buying has been done although one or two buyers have been out. The ranchers are holding out for last year's prices which dealers consider too high in view of the depressed state of the wool markets both in America and Europe. Last year as high as 15c per pound was paid for Territorial wool, while to-day buyers