

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, September 22.

Business continues to improve slowly. The wheat movement is more heavy, but it has not put a great deal of money in general circulation yet, through the cash is going out fast. The grain firms say they never sent so much money to the country by this date in any previous year, as this season. The railways of course have all the traffic they can handle. There has been considerable through traffic in addition to the heavy grain movement, and the export cattle trade is also quite an item for the railways to handle at present.

## Winnipeg Markets.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Sept. 22.

[All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are whole sale for such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reduction on large quantities and to cash discounts.]

**GREEN FRUITS.**—The supply of fruits coming forward was much less this week, and no further auctions have been held. Not much stuff has come in from Ontario this week, though some cars are expected to-day, but it is not likely that any more Ontario plums or peaches will come in. Ontario grapes will come in freely for some time yet and perhaps a few more pears. Apples have been rather scarce. No very good keeping varieties have arrived yet, but receipts will improve in quality as the season advances. Crabs have been scarce this year as usual. Crabs have been scarce almost every season in this market, owing to the fact that it is very hard to get them in in good condition. They are usually spotted and soft by the time they reach here. If crabs could be laid down in good condition, the consumption of this fruit would be much larger than it is in this market. If the Ontario shippers would take more pains in packing crabs, and pack them in small ventilated packages, say boxes of about 20 pounds, instead of the present mode of shipping them in barrels, they should reach here in a fit condition for the market. The supply of California fruit has not been heavy this week, and plums have been very scarce. Peaches are also becoming scarce, while few if any more plums will come in. Oregon plums and pears have been coming in, but plums of all kinds have been scarce this week, and in fact the season is about wound up for plums of any kind, though a car lot of Oregon is expected to-day. Watermelons are out of the market; and ditto blueberries. In fact the market is now narrowing down in the variety of fruit obtainable, and grapes will be the principal soft fruit for the balance of the season. Following are quotations for sound fruit, fit for re-shipment to country points:—Lemons at \$6.50 to 7.00 per box; apples, \$3.00 to \$3.50 per box; California fruits, peaches, \$1.50 to \$1.75 per box; pears, \$2.00 to 2.75 per box; plums, \$1.50 to 1.75; tokay and muscat grapes, per crate, \$3 to \$3.50; Oregon pears \$2 to 2.50 per crate; Oregon plums, per crate, \$1.25 to 1.50; bananas, \$3 to \$3.50 per bunch; tomatoes, 1 1/2 to 2c per lb; eastern grapes, 50 to 50c per 10 lb basket; crabs, when obtainable, \$6.50 to \$7 per barrel.

## CANNED MEATS:—

Corned Beef.....	2 lb tins, per case of 1 dozen	\$3 65
Roast Beef.....	" " " "	2 75
Brawn.....	" " " "	2 65
Pigs Feet.....	" " " "	2 25
Lunch Tongue.....	" " " "	7 65
".....	" " " "	7 80
Ox Tongue.....	" " " "	6 70
Chipped Ham.....	" " " "	5 25
Compressed Ham.....	" " " "	4 50

**NUTS.**—Soft shelled almonds are quoted at 16 to 18c, walnuts, 14 to 17c, peanuts, roasted, 11 to 15c, filberts, 12 to 15c, pecans, 16 to 17c, Brazils, 14 to 15c. Figs, 14 to 18c; dates, 10c. Cocoanuts, \$1 to 1.10 per doz.

**FLUID BEEF, ETC.**—Following are prices of the goods put up by the Johnston Fluid Beef Company of Montreal:—Johnstons Fluid Beef—No. 1, 2-oz. tins, per dozen, \$2.70; No. 2 Joz., \$1.50; No. 3, 8oz., \$7.88; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.88; No. 5, 2 lb., \$24.80. Staminal—2oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do, 4oz., \$5.10; do, 8 oz., \$7.65; do, 16oz., \$12.75. Fluid Beef Cordial—20oz. bottles, \$10. Milk Granules—In cases of 4 dozen, \$5.10. Milk Granules with Cereals—In cases of 4 dozen, \$1.25.

**FISH.**—The advent of cooler weather has led to an increased variety of fish in the market, and from henceforth the market will be more liberally supplied. The finnan haddie season has come around again, though the price is high yet, as the fish has to be received in small lots by express. Oysters are also again in the market to stay till next spring. Fresh cod, haddock, smelts, mackerel, etc., from the Atlantic also arrived this week, being the first shipment for some time. British Columbia salmon, 14c lb; British Columbia halibut, 14c. Lake Superior trout, 9c; whitefish, 8c; pickerel 8 to 4c. Smoked whitefish, 8c lb; smoked goldeyes, 80 to 85c dozen; red herring 23c box; linen haddies, 12 1/2c lb. Oysters, \$2 for standards and \$2.50 for selects, per gallon.

**GROCERIES.**—New raisins have reached eastern Canadian markets, and as the markets there were bare of valencies, they have sold freely at about 6 1/2c, but prices will of course be lower later on, receipts so far being only small advance lots. As full lines of new canned goods are now coming to hand, there is an easier tendency for last year's pack. A strong tendency in canned salmon is noted. Holders on the coast are said to be very firm in their views. While on the subject of canned goods, it may be noted that a Winnipeg jobber states that he has been offered Canadian canned goods by a broker in St. Paul, Minnesota, at 20 per cent less than he could buy the goods in Canada. This is rather a peculiar situation. Of course the Ontario canners have a combine formed, and it would seem from this that they are selling their surplus stock in the United States much lower than they are placing their goods on the home market. This is not a new plan however, of working off surplus stock at low prices abroad in order to keep up the home market. It is done in other lines of trade, in the States and elsewhere. The tea market continues strong, with an upward tendency in prices due to the China-Japan war. No change in sugars.

**COAL.**—We noted last week some excitement in coal, caused by an announcement of a cut in price, one firm actually advertising to sell the best Pennsylvania anthracite at \$7.50 per ton, delivered in the city to consumers. The coal, as stated last week was probably the case, is a small size, rather better than "pea" coal in size, but smaller than regular nut size. It is of course too small for economical stove use. The price of Pennsylvania anthracite, however, has been generally reduced as a result of the competition, and Winnipeggers are having the cheapest coal this season that was ever sold here. Last year the retail delivered price was \$10.50 for Pennsylvania anthracite, with some cutting under this figure during the latter part of the winter. A short time ago the price was dropped to \$9.50, and this week the regular price for the best grade of coal is \$8.75 for regular stove size, delivered retail in the city. Small sizes, such as "pea" coal and small nut, is held at \$7 to 7.50 delivered. This sharp decline in the price of Pennsylvania coal will tell heavily against the three varieties of native coal in the market, as the imported article has been reduced \$1.75 from the regular quotation of last winter, while native anthracite is only 50c lower, and the best Souris 25c lower, Lethbridge coal being the same price as last winter. Unless something transpires, such as a sharp cut in

freight rates, to permit of a reduction of the native coals, the latter varieties will be at a great disadvantage; this season. Quotations in Winnipeg at \$8.75 per ton for Pennsylvania anthracite as to quality, \$8.50 for western anthracite and \$7.50 per ton for Lethbridge bituminous. These are retail prices delivered to consumers in the city, for regular stove sizes. Small sizes, suitable for steam and furnace burning at proportionately low prices. Souris coal sells at \$1.25 retail, and \$3.75 on track here, and at \$1.50 to 1.75 on cars at the mines.

**WOOD.**—Tamarac is held at \$1.50 to \$1.75 per cord on track here in car lots as to quality. Oak about \$3.75 to \$4; mixed pine, spruce, etc., can be had at \$3.50 to 3.75. Poplar has sold at from \$2.50 to \$3 on track as to quality; green cut poplar brings the best price, though green cut poplar has been offered at \$3.75 per cord. Ash has been offered at \$3.75 per cord on track here.

**DRUGS.**—Following prices are for small parcels and will be shaded considerably for full package orders: Alum, per pound, 3 1/2 to 4 1/2c; alcohol, \$1.75; bleaching powder, per pound, 6 to 8c; blue vitrol, 5 to 8c; borax, 11 to 18c; bromide potash, 55 to 75c; camphor, 75 to 85c; camphor, ounces, 80 to 90c; carbolic acid, 40 to 55c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chlorate potash, 28 to 35c; citric acid, 55 to 65c; coppers, 3 1/2 to 4c; cocaine, per oz., \$7.50 to \$8.00; cream tartar, per pound, 28 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; epsom salts, 3 1/2 to 4c; extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 18c; do, doses, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 80 to 40c; glycerine, per pound, 20 to 25c; ginger, Jamaica, 25 to 40c; do, African, 20 to 25c; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 35 to 45c; iodine, \$5.50 to \$6.00; insect powder, 35 to 40c; morphia sul., \$1.90 to 2.25. Opium, \$4.50 to 5.00; oil, olive, \$1.25 to 1.40; oil, U.S. salad, \$1.25; to 1.40; oil, lemon, super, \$2.25 to 2.75; oil, peppermint, \$1.00 to 4.50; oil, salic acid, 18 to 16c; potash iodide, \$1.25 to 4.50; saltpetre, 10 to 12c; sal rochelle, 80 to 35c; siellac, 45 to 50c; sulphur flowers, 3 1/2 to 5c; sulphur roll, per keg, 3 1/2 to 5c; soda bicarb, per keg of 112 pounds, \$3.75 to 4.25, sal soda, \$2.00 to 3.00; tartaric acid, per lb, 4 1/2 to 55c.

**Dry Goods.**—The reported act to form a combine on domestic prints, is a matter of interest to the trade. The proposal came from the manufacturers to form an association on prints on the following basis: That if the wholesale trade could agree the manufacturers would allow a discount of 10 per cent. on low priced, and a discount of 12 1/2 per cent. on the better qualities, said discount to be allowed to the jobbers at the end of the year; any jobber who infringed upon the basis agreed upon during the year to forfeit the discount on all his purchases. Meetings were held at both Montreal and Toronto to consider the matter, but no agreement has been made. It is claimed that domestic prints have been sold at a loss to jobbers during the past season, hence the move to form an association. There were a number of questions discussed which prevented coming to an agreement. Some of the large retail firms have been able to buy prints from the manufacturers as cheap as the jobbers, and the latter wished these excluded from the proposed agreement. There was also the question of credit terms, upon which the jobbers could not decide. It is said the sales of Canadian prints last year were 400,000 pieces, as compared with 80,000 pieces four years ago. Woollens are firm, but cottons easy, though it is said that recent reductions at the mills on the latter goods will apply only to spring orders, and not to fall goods. Colored cottons, denims, shirtings, and cottonades have felt the recent decline sharply, denims being reduced from 15 to 18 per cent., shirtings 5 to 10 per cent., and cottonades 5 to 10 per cent. These reductions apply to spring orders from the mills, though it is said goods going out after October will