

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

Winnipeg, Saturday, Nov. 20.

The change in the weather conditions this week has been the principal influence upon business. The snow storm, which set in here on Saturday afternoon last, was general all over the country, and sleighing has since then taken the place of wheeling, with moderately wintry weather prevailing. The effect has been noticeable on business in some lines, particularly in winter wearing apparel. The city retail trade has been brisk. Farmers were well t rough with their fall work and were ready for sleighing. In fact many were desirous of exchanging wheels for runners. In seasonable lines of wholesale trade business is good. In fact, very little grumbling is heard these days from any quarter. A noticeable feature in the grain trade is the slackening up of deliveries by farmers at country points. In fact, the grain is pretty well out of producers' hands, and country deliveries have dropped off rapidly. With the decrease in supplies and the continued export movement, stocks east of the lakes are now decreasing. With favorable weather, navigation will remain open for some little time and allow of a considerable reduction of stocks yet before the close of the lake shipping season. Bank clearings at Winnipeg continue to show the same large increase over the corresponding period of previous years.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

Winnipeg, Saturday Afternoon, Nov. 20

BOOTS AND SHOES.

There has been a brisk sorting demand this week for parcel lots from country points, the demand being mainly for felt goods, moccasins, and other lines of warm winter footwear. Stocks in some lines, particularly felt goods, are very low and there is a difficulty in filling orders for sizes. Spring samples are being shown, but business in spring goods has been limited so far in spring orders.

DRY GOODS.

In some branches of the trade business has been brisk. One of the most active lines has been mitts and gloves, for which there have been a large number of parcel orders. There has also been a brisk sorting trade in men's underwear, and the clothing branch has been active in sorting business in all winter lines. Manufactured furs in men's coats and caps are having a large sale this season. Advices from other markets indicate a strong tendency on values of woollens.

DRUGS.

There are no changes in the local situation. Advices from other markets report a steady advance in bromide. Sponges are higher owing to the check to securing Mediterranean supplies during the recent unpleasantness in the east. Golden seal root is dear. See prices on another page.

FUEL.

There was a local report of an advance of 50c per ton in the price of coal in the United States, but the trade papers to hand this week, do not mention any advance, and if there has been any advance it is likely confined to retail prices at some particular point, and does not affect the general wholesale trade. At any rate local dealers have their stocks contracted for ahead, and an advance in wholesale prices now at the supply points would not necessarily affect prices here at the present time though towards spring, as quantities contracted for begin to run out, an advance might affect this market. This, however, will depend much upon the severity of the weather and the consequent local consumption. There is said to be plenty of hard coal at Duluth to meet probable requirements of the northwest trade, but soft coals are in very light supply and wholesale dealers there are refusing orders, as it will be all they can do to fill their contracts. The local demand for coal is good, and it looks as though more coal and less wood will be used for this winter owing to the higher price of wood. Thoroughly dry wood fuel is scarce, the offerings being mostly last winter's cut, which is not thoroughly dry. Souris coal is in increased demand this winter at country points west and southwest, owing partly to lower freights this year to points within 200 miles of the mines.

FISH.

Finan haddies are now coming in by freight and the price is considerably lower than the cost of express lots. The price has now dropped to 8c lb. Oysters are in good demand and are lower, prices having declined 10c for standards and 20 to 25c for select. There is, however, a considerable variation in the quality of the different brands. Fresh salmon is now coming from Seattle, Wash.

GROCERIES.

Buying for the holiday trade seems to be pretty well over, except in some lines which have been late coming to hand. There is a good demand for nuts, figs, etc. No dates are in yet, except a small lot received via New York. Strictly new Grenoble walnuts are not in stock, but are expected about the end of the month, which is the usual time for receiving new dates and walnuts. No new almonds are reported yet. See quotations on another page. Also grocery trade notes in another column.

GREEN FRUITS.

The apple trade has been rather disappointing this season, owing to the fact that prices opened very high and the fruit has not been up to the standard of past years in quality. Prices are steady. The quarantine south is now off and bananas are offering freely, but the cold dip interfered with shipments, and it will be difficult to bring them in hereafter in good condition. It is now unsafe to ship fruits of any kind by ordinary freight, and to avoid the high express charges, heated cars will be sent out along the different railway lines, at intervals, in charge of an attendant. Oregon pears are firm and higher prices are expected. Some very fine winter pears are offering. California tokay grapes are out, and a variety called Emperors are offering in their place. Flame figs are 10c per box lower. No dates to hand yet, and they are not expected until about the first of De-

cember. Stocks of chestnuts are exhausted. New Grenoble walnuts are in transit. Prices are as follows: Jamaica oranges, \$13 per barrel, equal to about 2 1-2 boxes; Mexican oranges, \$6.50 box; bananas per bunch, \$2.50 to \$3; California lemons, \$5 to \$5.50 a box; Washington and Oregon pears, \$2 to \$2.25 per box; apples, Ontario stock, \$1 to \$1.75 per barrel; southern apples, \$1 to \$1.25 per barrel; California grapes, Emperors, \$3.50; Cape Cod cranberries, \$9 to \$9.50 per barrel; sweet potatoes, \$5.25 to \$5.50 per barrel; Malaga grapes, \$3 per keg for medium, and \$8.50 for heavy weights; Ontario butternuts 9c lb; Ontario black walnuts, 8c lb; coconuts, \$1 per dozen; Sicily filberts, large 11c to 12c per lb; figs, fancy flames, \$1.40 to \$1.50 per 10 lb box.

LEATHER, HARNESS, ETC.

This branch is very active, particularly in harness goods and saddlers' supplies, and a large trade is doing. Harness leather is very firm and reports from Ontario say prices are 1-2c higher in the United States leather is very firm, one advance reported being a very sharp advance on leather belting.

PAINTS, OILS, ETC.

There are no further changes in the local market. Lined oil holds at the decline noted in this line, as owing to the sharp advance in glass abroad, as previously noted from time to time, the material could not now be laid down here to sell at present prices. This line is still quite active. Paints are quiet. See prices on another page.

RAW FURS.

A few lots are beginning to come in. Rat, skunk, red fox, lynx and a few small use the principle lines. Prices are irregular yet. In fact until after the London winter sales, dealers will hardly know where they are at. The London fur sales, recently reported in The Commercial, are not taken as much of a guide for the markets here.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—The markets have been somewhat irregular this week, within a moderate range of prices, but not varying materially from the average of last week. The damage to the Argentine crop by the recent frost in that country, is still a matter of doubt, some reports placing the damage as high as 10 to 15 per cent of the crop. The visible supply statement on Monday showed an increase of well up to 3,000,000 bushels, and receipts at Minneapolis and Duluth are heavy, but exports have also been large.

Locally prices have been fairly steady, ranging on Monday at 92 to 92 1-2c and 92c was made on Tuesday. On Wednesday 92 1-2c was again reached and on Thursday 92 1-2c was made in the morning, but 92c was the outside at the close. Yesterday (Friday) the market ranged between 92 and 92 1-2c, and was quoted at 92 1-4c at the close. Quotations for No. 1 hard, float Fort William. At Manitoba country points prices paid to farmers for No. 1 hard wheat ranged about 75 to 76c at most points, but as high as 78c was paid at some points and as low as 71 to 72c at distant points. The deliveries of wheat in the country have fallen off heavily and this week ranged under 56,000 bushels in the aggregate per day. The wheat is now well out of farmers' hands and the balance of