

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, June 18, 1896.

The increasing excitement as the date of the culmination of the present federal election contest draws near, attracts attention considerably from business matters. Jobbing trade has been rather slow this week. Warmer weather is wanted to start an active demand for light summer fabrics. Building lines are not active. The weather has been favorable for the crops. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week show an increase of 11.7 per cent over the corresponding week of last year and about 82 per cent over the like week of 1891.

There were 38 business failures reported in Canada this week, compared with 29 last week; 21 in the week a year ago, and 30 in the week two years ago.

Bradstreet's report of the situation in the United States this week says: "Mercantile collections continue slow and unsatisfactory, and there is no gain in the cotton, woolen goods, iron or steel industries. Western speculators are buying wool above a parity with prices offered from east. There is no likelihood of higher prices for wool, while so much machinery is idle. Nearly all branches of dry goods are somewhat depressed. Cotton goods are below a parity with raw material. The contest continues between pools in iron and steel and consumers. Pool prices for billets are maintained, but brokers are offering steel \$1.50 under pool prices. Pig iron production declined about 31,000 tons during May; stocks increasing less than 17,000 tons.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG SATURDAY AFTERNOON, June 13.

[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.]

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—There is not much business doing just now, outside of vehicles. Some of the dealers report a good trade in buggies and carriages this season, notwithstanding the long spell of bad roads. Prices for wheeled rigs are much the same as last year, though manufacturers claim they should be able to obtain an advance of about \$2 per rig. Prices have been firmer in the States this season. A United States trade paper made an estimate showing that owing to increased cost of raw material, an ordinary buggy will cost \$3.10 more than a year ago, owing to higher prices for iron and leather.

DRUGS.—Cream tartar has advanced again abroad. Glycerine is likewise higher. Local prices are steady at prices quoted last week.

DRY GOODS.—Sorting trade has been rather slow. The early spring trade was good, but the sorting trade has not been active. Warmer weather is looked for to increase the demand for light summer goods.

DRIED FRUITS AND NUTS.—Grenoble Walnuts, 14c; Tarragona almonds, 15c; princess paper shell almonds, 20c; Sicily filberts, large, 12c; Brazil nuts, 14c; peanuts, roasted, 13c; peanuts greens, 11c; Ontario black walnuts, 8c; butternuts, 9c; hickory nuts, 10c per pound; cocoanuts, \$1.00 per dozen; figs, new, 9 lb. boxes, 14c; figs, superior, 35 lb. boxes, 19c; figs, fancy imperial, 55 lb. boxes, 22c per lb.; dates, new, 6 and 7c per lb., apricots, 18½ to 14c; dried apples, 5½ to 6c; evaporated apples 7½ to 8c per lb.

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 4-oz., \$1.50; No. 3, 3-oz., \$1.68; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.63; No. 5, 2 lb., \$24.80, Staminal—2-oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do, 4-oz., \$5.10; do, 8

oz., \$7.65; do, 16-oz., \$12.75 Fluid Beef Cordial—20-oz bottles, \$10 Milk Granules—In cases of 4 dozen, \$5.10. Milk Granules with Cereals—In cases of 4 dozen, \$1.25

GROCERIES.—Agents of factories are now offering some lines of new canned goods. Strawberries are the principal line and are being offered at the lowest prices ever heard of here, quotations in round lots being as low as \$1.80. A year ago strawberries were being brought in from Baltimore, on account of the high price and scarcity of the Canadian pack, but the imported goods will not be in it this year. New strawberries will be received here soon. Some other lines are offering to ship later. Peas are offering rather low. New pack salmon is offering to ship at about \$1.50 per case at the coast for finest brands, with the usual difference in brands. Sugar was weak last week, but later advices report an upward turn again. Sugars had a sharp break at New York last week, but authorities claim the position of sugar is very strong notwithstanding the decline and they claim that the statistical position is such as to warrant a strong market.

GREEN FRUITS.—As indicated last week, in our report, oranges are already becoming scarce here and prices are held higher and very firm. Seedling oranges are out of the market, and other varieties are in limited supply. Some California late varieties, such as late Valencias will come forward yet, but prices will be very high, dealers figuring now that they will not be able to sell these late varieties under \$6 per box. In fact the orange crop is well cleaned up and oranges will be worth money from this time forward. Bananas are in good supply, though it was difficult to obtain ripened stock all the time this week. Lemons are firm. Tomatoes are lower. The strawberry season has been unsatisfactory so far this year, the fruit arriving irregularly and often in very poor condition. Prices here ranged this week at \$2.75 to \$3.75 per box, as to quality, for strawberries. Prices are: Lemons, Messina \$1 to \$5 per box; California oranges, Mediterranean sweets, 1 ½ size, \$1 per box; 150 size, \$1.75 per box; St. Michael's \$5 to \$5.50 per box; Messina blood oranges, ½ boxes, \$2.75 for 80, and \$3 for \$120 size; Bananas, fancy, Port Limon, \$2 to \$3 per bunch as to size; strawberries, 16 quart cases, \$2.75 to \$3.75 per case; pineapples, \$3.50 to \$4 per dozen as to size; California cherries, \$2.25 to \$2.75 per box. Tomatoes, \$2.75 per crate of four baskets, cucumbers, \$1 doz. Apple cider, 35c per gallon, in 30 gallon barrels; maple sugar, 12c per lb; maple syrup, \$1.10 per wine gallon, in gallon tins; pie plant, \$1.75 per 100 pounds; Egyptian onions, \$3.50 per 100 pounds.

HARDWARE.—The barbed wire trade remains unsatisfactory, owing to the low prices offered, very close figures being quoted for large orders for spot delivery. There has also been sharp cutting on linseed oil, prices having been quoted very close to cost. Prices are the same as quoted last week.

TIN, lamb and 56 and 28 lb. ingots, per lb, 19 to 20c.

TIN PLATES.—Charcoal plates, I. C., 10 by 14, 12 by 12 and 14 by 20, per box, \$1.50 to \$1.75; I. X., same sizes, per box, \$5.75 to \$6; I. C., charcoal, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$9.50 to 9.00; I. X., per box, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$10.50 to 11.00.

TERNE PLATES.—I. C., 20 by 28, \$3.00 to 3.50.

IRON AND STEEL.—Bar iron, per 100 lbs. base price, \$2.35 to \$2.50; band iron, per 100 lbs., \$2.85 to 3.00; Swedish iron, per 100 lbs., \$5.25 to 6; sleigh shoe steel, \$3.00 to 3.25; best cast tool steel, per lb, 11 to 12c; Russian sheet, per lb, 12 to 13c.

SHEET IRON.—10 to 20 gauge, \$3.00, 22 to 24 and 26 gauge, \$3.25; 28 gauge, \$3.50, CANADA PLATES.—Garth and Blaina, \$3.00 to 3.10.

GALVANIZED IRON.—Queen's Head, 22 to 24 gauge, per lb., 4½c, 26 gauge, per lb., 5c, 28 gauge, per lb., 5½c.

IRON PIPE.—50 to per 60 cent. off list.

LEAD.—Pig, per lb., 4½c.

SHEET ZINC.—In casks, 5.75 lb., broken lots, 7.25.

SOLDER.—Half and half (guar) per lb, 14 to 16c.

AMMUNITION.—Cartridges—Rim fire pistol, American, discount, 40 per cent.; rim fire cartridges, Dominion, 50 and 5; rim fire military, American, not list; central fire pistol and rifle, American, 12 per cent.; central fire cartridge, Dominion, 80 per cent., shot shells, 12 gauge, \$6 to 7.50; shot, Canadian, soft, 5½c, shot, Canadian, chilled, 6c.

WIRE.—Galvanized barbed wire, plain twisted wire and staples, \$3.10 to \$3.25 per 100 lbs.

ROPE.—Sisal, per lb., 7½ to 8c base; manilla, per lb., 9½ to 10½c base, cotton, ½ to ¾ inch at 1 larger, 15c lb.

AXES.—Per box, \$6.50 to 15.50.

NAILS.—Cut, per keg, base price, \$3.21 for 60 d. with usual extras, common steel wire nails, 5 to 6 inch, \$3.90 per keg; 3 to 4 inch, \$1.22 keg; 2 inch, \$1.50 keg.

HORSE NAILS.—Pointed and finished, oval heads. List prices as follows: No. 5, \$7.50 box; No. 6, \$6.75 box; No. 7, \$6 box; No. 8, \$5.75 box; No. 9, 10 and 11, \$5.50 box. Discount off above list prices, 45 per cent. Revised prices are as follows.

RAW FURS.—Following is the report of the London fur sales held this week so far as received:

Bear, same as March.	
Beaver, 15 per cent lower than March.	
Fox, red, 7 " higher	
Lynx, same as March.	
Martin, 10 per cent lower than March.	
Mink, 10 " " "	
Otter, 15 " " "	
Raccoon, same as March.	
Fox, grey, " " "	
Wolverine, 10 per cent lower than March.	
Fox, Kitt, 10 " " "	
Hair Seal, 20 " " "	
Muskrat, 10 " " "	January.
Wolf, 15 " higher	March.

WHEAT.—GENERAL SITUATION.—This has been the most exciting week in wheat for a long time—perhaps since the big excitement of about a year ago—in Chicago and other leading markets. The spurt in wheat last week, leading to an advance between Monday and Saturday of 5½c at Chicago, raised general interest in the wheat situation, and prepared operators to look for something to happen this week; and something did happen. There was great excitement in the markets on Monday, prices fluctuating wildly, ranging over 2½c at Chicago, with heavy trading, prices losing about 1c compared with Saturday's close. On Tuesday there was a heavy break again, influenced by large receipts of spring wheat, weak cables, favorable crop reports, etc. The further decline on Wednesday was influenced principally by rumors regarding the official United States crop report, which appeared on Thursday, showing a rather favorable report. (See in another column). There were wide fluctuations again on Thursday, particularly at New York, owing to rumors about damage to the French crop, but closing prices Wednesday, Thursday and Friday did not show much change. Exports of wheat, flour included as wheat from both coasts of the United States this week amount to 2,920,000 bus.—last