

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, April 16.

The building season is opening up quite actively in Winnipeg. A number of new buildings and building improvements in business premises have been started, and in buildings of this class the season will be the most active for several years. In the country seeding operations have progressed rapidly, with favorable weather, though rain would be welcome in some districts, particularly southwest. Land sales are large. The number of new settlers arriving from the south shows an increase. Business is generally satisfactory for the season.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Winnipeg, Saturday, April 16

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

Deliveries of spring implements are now about over. All the dealers report a good business in seeders and harrows. Plows will be selling for some time yet. Wheeled rigs have sold freely this season. Dealers appear highly satisfied with the season's trade all round. The main difficulty has been in getting in supplies fast enough. There is still trouble about supplies, which are short in some lines. Bicycles have been moving nicely.

DRUGS.

It is said that Norwegian cod liver oil will be scarce and high this season, owing to the partial failure of the fisheries. Quinine bark declined at the recent sales at Amsterdam, in consequence of which the market is easier.

GREEN FRUITS.

It is reported that British Columbia fruit growers will make a push for business in Manitoba and the territories this year. If they can deliver the fruit in good condition they will find buyers ready to deal with them, but they will have to make a great improvement in handling their fruit, compared with last year. Business locally is improving with the advent of warmer weather. Oranges and lemons are 25c per box higher, as cars now arriving have to be iced, which increases the cost to this extent. Choice apples are scarce. A few barrels of well kept Spies have brought \$5.50, and sound apples of other varieties \$4 to \$4.50. Pine apples are arriving. The demand for bananas is good, but the outlook indicates a strong market, owing to the revolutionary troubles in Central America and the Cuban trouble. There may be a scarcity of bananas this season. New maple sugar and syrup is now offering. Prices are: Navel oranges, \$3.75 to \$4; California seedling oranges, \$3 to \$3.25; bananas, per bunch, \$2.25 to \$3.50, as to size; California lemons, \$3.75 to \$4 per box; apples, \$4 to \$4.50 per barrel for good to choice; off quality, \$2 to \$3.50 per bbl. as to condition; pineapples, \$6 dozen; cocoanuts, \$1 per doz.; Sicily filberts, large, 11 to 12c per lb.; Grenoble walnuts, 14c; figs, elemes, 10 lb. box \$1.25 to \$1.40, as to quality; 50 lb. boxes, 17c per lb.; Dates, 6 1-2 to 7c per lb.; Tarragona almonds, 12 1-2 to 13c; peanuts, green, 9c; peanuts, roasted, 12c; pecans, 14 to 15c; strained honey, 7 1-2 to 10c per lb. maple sugar, 11 to 12c; syrup per dozen 1-2 gallon tins, \$7; apple cider,

35c gallon in barrels and half barrels.

GROCERIES.

Business is moving in good volume. Sugar is one point higher here in sympathy with the firmer markets east. Rice is very firm. Japan rice has again advanced and is now quoted at 5 3-4c to 6c. The outlook is for a strong market on rice for some time, as supplies in all markets are light. Canned goods continue very firm. There is a local scarcity of baked beans and prices are higher. Prunes in small sizes are about 1-4c higher, with supplies of these sizes light. The market is practically bare of codfish.

HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.

Business continues good in this branch. Prices are steady in metals and hardware. Turpentine is quoted 2c lower this week. The demand for builders' hardware is increasing.

RAW FURS.

Spring rat are now beginning to come in, and as the fur is now at its best, higher prices will be paid than for fall or winter rat.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—Wheat was strong this week up to yesterday, when prices declined 1-2 to 1c. In the local market No 1 hard, May delivery afloat Fort William sold at \$1 on Monday, at \$1.01 1-2 on Tuesday, at \$1.03 on Wednesday, and \$1.04 on Thursday. Yesterday prices were \$1.03 to \$1.03 1-2. Cash wheat was nominally 1-2 to 1c under May. There was some speculative business doing during the week. Eastern millers are not buying now for all rail shipment, as it is too near the opening of navigation for all rail business, and eastern buyers were not operating in May. The business was of a local speculative nature. Receipts at Fort William last week were 37,000 bushels, shipments 10,000 bushels and in store 787,000 bushels.

FLOUR—A good export business is reported at 2s advance for export sack over last week's prices. The market is firmer. The Ogilvie company quoted 20c per barrel higher at \$2.60 for patent; \$2.40 for Glenora, \$2 for second bakers and \$1.50 for XXXX. Lake of the Woods were quoting old prices as follows. Patent, \$2.50; best bakers \$2.30; second bakers \$1.90; XXX, \$1.40 per sack of 95 lbs, with discount of 5c net cash.

MILLFEED—Prices are firm, the demand is large, and the supply scarce. We quote bran at \$12 and shorts \$14 per ton in bulk. Large lots \$1 per ton less.

GROUND FEED — Pure grain feed is quoted at \$22 to \$24 for rolled oat feed. Inferior mixed mill feed, \$18 to \$20 per ton. Ground corn feed is higher and now quoted at \$17 to \$18 per ton. Oil cake scarce at \$22 per ton.

OATMEAL—The market is firm. Dealers are selling to the trade at \$2 for sacks of rolled.

BARLEY—Some business doing in feed grades at about 40c. Seed barley nominal at 45 to 50c.

OATS—Prices are firm. Feed oats are held stiff at about 40 to 42c per bushel for car lots on track, Winnipeg, equal to 35 to 36c in the country for good samples. Several cars sold early at 40c, but later No. 2 white sold at 42c.

CORN—We quote 40 to 41c per bushel of 56 pounds for cars on track here.

BUTTER, creamery—A little fall creamery is still held, which is selling at 23 to 23 1-2c.

BUTTER—Dairy—Good butter is still scarce. Good butter is selling on a commission basis at 17 to 18c and for really choice fresh butter, 19 to 20c can be had in a small way, but of course there is very little which will come up to the mark.

CHEESE—Dealers are selling at 10 to 10 1-2c. Stocks limited.

EGGS—Supplies have not increased as expected since Easter, and 15c has been obtained this week on a commission basis. Dealers have offered 12c net cash. Any considerable increase in supplies would, however, speedily caused a drop.

DRESSED POULTRY—Poultry is scarce and prices firm. Good chickens will bring 9c dressed, or 60 to 75c per pair live, and turkeys 11c per lb. live weight.

DRESSED MEATS — We quote hogs 6 1-2 to 6 3-4c, and choice at 7c. Beef 6 to 6 1-2 for city dressed. Mutton is firm at 7c to 8c for cold storage stock and 10c for fresh dressed. Veal 7 to 9c, as to quality.

CURED MEATS AND LARD.—See quotations on another page.

HIDES—Hides are weak No. 1 green dropped to 6 1-2c this week, as foreshadowed in our report last week. Some lots of frozen hides were reported to be on the way, but they will likely be spoiled on account of the warm weather. No one should attempt to ship frozen hides now. They should be salted at once. We quote green hides, No. 1 6 1-2c; kip 6 to 6 1-2c; calf, 7 to 9c lb.; deacon skins, 15 to 25c each; sheep pelts nominal at 75c each for fresh skins; horse hides, 75c to \$1.75 each; colts, 25c each.

WOOL—Nominal at 8 to 10c here for unwashed fleece.

TALLOW—Quoted at 8 1-2c for No. 1, and No. 2 to 2 1-2c for other grades as to quality.

SENECA ROOT—Nominal at 16c.

VEGETABLES—Prices are as follows: Potatoes, 35 to 40c per bushel, as to quality and variety; carrots, \$1.00 to \$1.20 per bushel; onions, native, 2 to 2 1-2c per lb, imported, 3c; to 4c, as to quality; cabbage, 40c to \$1 per dozen; beets, 40 to 50c per bushel; turnips, 20c per bushel; parsnips, 11-2 to 2c. Green stuffs in onions, lettuce, radishes, etc., is offering at 25c dozen bunches; rhubarb, 8c pound.

HAY—Baled is held at \$8 to \$8.50 per ton on track at point of shipment, or \$10 to \$12 on cars here.

LIVE STOCK.

CATTLE—The outlook for export cattle has not improved. British markets were lower again this week. Shippers are much discouraged over the outlook, and some of them say they will not attempt to do anything this season. The only shipping business is in stocker cattle which are still in demand to ship south, at \$19 to \$22 for yearlings and \$17 to \$22 for two years old cattle. We quote the local market for butchers' cattle at 3 1-2 to 3 3-4c for fair to good fat stock.

SHEEP—The market is firm at about 4 to 4 1-2c.

HOGS—The market is steady at 5c for best bacon hogs. We quote choice bacon hogs, weighing 150 to 250 lbs. at \$5 per 100 lbs; 250 to 300 lbs \$4.25 to \$4.50; heavy hogs over 300 lbs, \$3.25 to \$4, as to quality, live weight.

HORSES—There is a good demand for horses at firm prices. The usual range is \$225 to \$250 for fair to good farm teams.