

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, Oct. 27.

Sales of grain by farmers have not been quite as heavy this week, farmers being busy plowing, but the movement has been large, and recent weeks have shown the largest wheat movement on record in Manitoba. Not far from 10,000,000 bushels of wheat have already passed out of farmers hands, over 5,000,000 bushels having been carried to lake ports by the Canadian Pacific railway, and nearly 1,000,000 bushels have been taken out by the Northern Pacific. Estimating stock in elevators west of the lakes at 3,000,000, and allowing for what the mills have ground and what has gone into consumption, we will have not far from 10,000,000 bushels of the wheat crop already disposed of so far as the farmer is concerned. Placing Manitoba's surplus of wheat at 16,000,000 bushels over seed and home consumption requirements, we have almost two-thirds of the crop disposed of. It therefore seems that low prices for wheat have not kept the farmers from selling freely this year. Money is of course moving more freely. Implement men report that about 80 per cent of old liabilities due them by farmers will be paid off. This they seem to think is not as much as they should get, but considering the unprecedentedly low price of wheat, it is not doing so badly. If farmers can reduce old liabilities 80 per cent in a year like the present, they could wipe them out entirely in one good crop year at good prices. It must also be remembered that old liabilities to implement firms constitute a very considerable portion of the indebtedness of the farmers, and 80 per cent means a large amount in the aggregate. Bank clearings at Winnipeg continue to show much larger weekly aggregates than a year ago, clearings for this month averaging almost \$1,500,000 weekly, and making Winnipeg take the third place in the bank clearings, being exceeded only by Montreal and Toronto. Railway traffic is of course very heavy, and would be very heavy if there were little moving but wheat. Exports of live stock are the heaviest on record, and add considerably to the railway traffic. The returns for the season will show a big jump over any former year in the number of animals shipped out of the country. Advances this week, unfortunately, are unfavorable for live stock export business, British markets having declined sharply again for both sheep and cattle. Labor is well employed at present, though a slackening up is looked for. The demand for men for the woods this winter is not promising, as owing to large stocks of lumber on hand, the mills will not do much in the woods in getting out logs. This is not favorable for the winter labor situation. The car shops in Winnipeg are very busy, the heavy traffic necessitating a large amount of repair work. A large force is employed and the shops are being enlarged. No business disturbances reported this week of importance.

## Winnipeg Markets.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Oct. 27.

[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.]

**GREEN FRUITS**—The variety of fruits is narrowing down to the staple winter sorts. All the summer fruits are practically out of the market. There may be a few more Pacific coast plums in, but if any more come, it will only be a small lot or so. Peaches are also out of season now, and Ontario grapes are about wound up. A few baskets might be picked up, but it is not likely that any more will be brought in. The earlier varieties of pears are done, but there will be plenty of winter pears obtainable for some time, prices for these being a little higher than the early varieties sold at. Apples have sold freely at firm prices, and stocks have not accumulated very much yet. Snow apples have been in demand, but good have been rather scarce and have sold at about \$1.50 for good fruit, and even higher has been paid for fancy snow apples. The orange season has again opened, a few boxes of Floridas having arrived, and full stocks are expected daily of Florida oranges and lemons. Florida lemons are a new line for this market, they having never been handled here before. They are reported, however, to be of good quality, and should take well if this proves to be the case, as the lemons now in the market are very indifferent stock. New Malaga grapes, the first of the season, have also arrived. Cranberries are firm, but these offerings are Jerseys of fine quality. Following are quotations for sound fruit, fit for re-shipment to country points:—Lemons at \$6.50 to \$7.00 per box; apples, \$3.75 for single barrels, \$3.60 for five barrel lots or more; snow apples, \$1.50. California today grapes, full crates, \$5.50; Oregon pears, \$2.50 to \$3 per crate; bananas, \$3 to \$3.50 per bunch. Malaga grapes, \$3 per keg. Cranberries, \$11 to 11.50 per barrel for fancy Jerseys. Spanish onions, \$1.10 per crate of 50 lbs.

**GROCERIES**—The first direct steamship with new currents has arrived, and the goods were selling at eastern points this week. Valencia raisins hold very firm in all markets. Sultanas were cabled 1s 6d higher. Japan and China teas keep firm, with a continued advancing tendency, but India teas are not particularly strong in tone and have not advanced in keeping with Japan and China teas. In sugars there has been no change. Refiners quote 4 3-16 to 4 1-4 for granulated and 3 1-2 to 3 3-4 for yellows. New figs are due in about a week.

**FISH**—Oysters are selling lower for best brands, the range of prices being narrower. There was a larger number of varieties of fresh fish in the market, but only a limited quantity of several varieties came in. British Columbia salmon, 14c lb; British Columbia halibut, 11c. Lake Superior trout, 9c; whitefish, 8c; pickerel 3 to 4c. Smoked whitefish, 8c lb; smoked goldeyes, 30 to 35c dozen; red herring 20c box; finen haddies, 11c lb. Oysters, \$2 for standards and \$2.25 for selects, per gallon. The frozen fish saved from the refrigerator fire at Selkirk have been placed in other cold storage warehouses.

**CANNED MEATS**—

Corned Beef	2 lb tins, per case of 1 dozen	\$2 65
Roast Beef	2 " " "	2 75
Braten	2 " " "	2 85
Pigs Feet	2 " " "	2 25
Junch Tongue	2 " " "	7 65
Ox Tongue	2 " " "	7 80
Chipped Dried Beef	1 " " "	6 70
Compressed Ham	1 " " "	5 25
	2 " " "	4 60

**NUTS**—Soft shelled almonds are quoted at 16 to 18c, walnuts, 14 to 17c, peanuts, roasted, 14 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:—Johnston's Fluid Beef—No. 1, 2-oz. tins, per dozen, \$2.70; No. 2, 4-oz., \$1.50; No. 3, 8-oz., \$1.84; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.83; No. 5, 2 lb., \$1.30. Staminol—2oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2. 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 1 dozen, \$1.25.

**DRY GOODS**—The clothing houses expect a good trade. It is claimed by some that ready-made clothing is coming more into use to the displacement of the more expensive tailor-made suits. This might be considered a natural accompaniment of a hard-times year. Samples of new imported prints are coming to hand, and travellers will now be able to show these goods for spring trade.

**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 15c; bromide potash, 55 to 75c; camphor, 75 to 85c; camphor, ounces, 80 to 90c; carbolic acid, 40 to 65c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chlorate potash, 28 to 35c; citric acid, 55 to 65c; copperas, 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. boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 30 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 1.50; oxalic acid, 18 to 16c; potash iodide, \$1.25 to 1.50; saltpetre, 10 to 12c; sal rochelle, 80 to 85c; shellac, 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, 45 to 55c.

**RAW FURS**—The following report has been received of C. M. Lamson & Co.'s fur sales in London, which were held last week, showing the comparison of price with the last previous sales of the same kind of skins:

	Northwestern, 10 per cent lower than March.	Southwestern, 20 " "
Muskrat	15 " "	" "
Skunk	12 1/2 " "	" "
Opussum	26 " "	" higher " "
Mink	20 " "	" lower " "
Fox, red	15 " "	" " " "
Fox, grey	15 " "	" " " "
Fox, kitt	15 " "	" " " "
Fox, Japan	12 1/2 " "	" higher " June.
Marten	45 " "	" " " March.
Sable, Russian	10 " "	" " " "
Beaver	10 " "	" lower " Jan.
Otter	7 1/2 " "	" " " March.
Lynx	20 " "	" " " "
Hair Seal	10 " "	" " " "
Wolf	7 1/2 " "	" " " "
Wolverine	10 " "	" higher " "
Bear, black	5 " "	" " " "
Bear, brown	40 " "	" " " "
Bear, Grizzly	40 " "	" " " "
Australia opussum	10 " "	" lower " June
Wombat	15 " "	" " " "
Wallaby	5 " "	" higher " "
Cat, common	25 " "	" " " March.
Cat, house	40 " "	" lower " "
Badger	12 1/2 " "	" " " "
Chinchilla, bastard, same as in June.		
Ermine	15 per cwt. higher than June.	
Tibet Lamb	10 " "	" lower " March.
Grebe	10 " "	" higher " June.
Kolinsky	10 " "	" " " "

**WOOD**—Prices are about the same. Tamarack is held at \$1 to 4.25 per cord on track here in car lots as to quality. Oak about \$3.75, mixed pine, spruce, etc., can be had at \$3.50. Poplar has sold at from \$2.25 to 2.75 on track as to quality. Birch, \$4 to 4.25.

**COAL**—The sharp reduction in price formerly announced, led to active buying. Many consumers had their winter coal bins filled up, fearing that the lower prices might not be continued long. Some dealers encouraged