

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, Sept. 14.

Unfavorable weather has retarded the progress of the harvest considerably in some districts, consequently the grain movement is not as large as it would have been. Most of the milling and shipping firms now have their buyers on the country markets, and at some points wheat was beginning to come in in large quantities. A spell of clear weather would soon bring on a crush of grain, though there seems to be a strong belief that prices will advance later on, and many farmers who can afford to do so will hold. General business is fairly satisfactory, and sales for the fall trade season have been quite large in clothing, boots and shoes, dry goods, etc. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week show an increase of 26 per cent over the corresponding week last year.

There were reported to have been 22 business failures in Canada this week, against 83 last week and 88 in the corresponding week a year ago.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Sept. 14.

[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.—A good many separators are being sold, but the trade so far does not appear to be as large as the heavy crop would warrant. Still some of the Canadian manufacturers are clean sold out, and quite a number of imported separators are coming in. Not many complete rigs are wanted, separators alone being usually taken. No imported engines are selling, the Canadian makers appearing to have the field alone in engines, but not in separators, notwithstanding the heavy duty. The season for binder twine is now over, and the supply has been abundant, though at a few country points there was some delay caused by twine running short. The wholesale trade, however, was able to fill all orders promptly during the season.

COAL.—The season has hardly opened yet and only a trifling business is doing. Dealers are a little uncertain as to how prices will go, but it is expected Pennsylvania coal will open at \$8.50 per ton, delivered to consumers in the city. At this price it can be sold at a small profit, or at about the same profit as was obtained from selling at \$9 per ton last season, though last winter a great deal of coal was sold at about \$8.50 per ton. There is some talk of opening the market at \$8, but at this price dealers say they would have no margin of profit, notwithstanding the low prices which have ruled for coal at the mines this year. Souris coal will sell at the same price as last winter, namely, \$1.25 per ton delivered to consumers, and \$3.85 at the yard here. Lethbridge coal has been fixed at \$5.50 per ton to consumers, delivered, which is a drop of \$1 per ton from last winter's prices.

CORDWOOD.—We quote the following prices for car lots on track here: Tamarac, \$3.75 to \$4 per cord; pine \$3.50 per cord; spruce \$3, and poplar \$2.25 to \$2.50 per cord.

DRY GOODS.—No further changes are reported in prices and values are firm. The recent fall millinery openings in the east is a feature of the trade.

GREEN FRUITS.—Lemons, as noted recently, are very firm, and they are held at top prices. Stocks of Messinas are well re-

duced. Some of the large eastern markets have run very low in stocks of lemons and cannot obtain supplies of new, as it is between seasons. At Montreal prices advanced \$1 to \$3 per box, choicest being held as high as \$7.50 per box. At New York prices are also very high. There is a good supply of Oregon and California peaches, pears and plums, at about the same prices. Oranges are practically out of the market. The first car of Ontario soft fruits arrived this week, consisting of pears, plums, tomatoes, crabs, grapes, etc. The fruit arrived in better condition than most Ontario shipments in previous years, showing greater care in handling, but the manner of packing, in baskets, is the same. Still there is lots of room for improvement. Some of the grapes were overripe and were dropping off the stems, and consequently had to be sold at a low price. Some of the tomatoes were getting soft and leaking from the baskets, and some of the pears particularly were poor variety, being small and scabby, though firm enough. The fruit, however, sold off quickly. Further cars will be coming in next week. Prices are: Messina lemons \$7 per box; bananas, \$2.25 to \$3 per bunch as to size; California peaches \$1.25 to \$1.50 per box; California and Oregon plums \$1.25 to \$1.50 per box; California and Oregon pears, \$2.25 to \$2.50 per box; apples, \$3.75 to \$4.25 per barrel; southern concord grapes, 50 to 55c per basket of 8 lbs; California grapes, tokays \$3.00 to \$3.25 per crate; tomatoes, 90c to \$1.10 per basket. Layer figs, 10 lb boxes, 15c per pound. do., 14 ounce boxes, \$1.50 per dozen. Dates, 7 to 7½c a lb.

GROCERIES.—Sugars are steady. Eastern refiners quote 4c for granulated and 3 to 3½c for yellows, as to grade. Refined advanced a point or two at New York recently. Advices from London speak of remarkably low prices for Indian teas of the lower grades particularly, this being due to some extent to the poorer quality of new teas. A few new Valencia raisins have been imported in eastern markets, but there has been no general supply yet. New California raisins may be in soon.

PAINTS, OILS, ETC.—Canadian refined petroleum has declined ½c in the east. Turpentine is also ½c lower east. Linseed oil is easy. White leads are quite firm. Glass is very firm as late importations are costing much higher.

RAW FURS.—The fur season has not opened yet, though a few skunk have already been offered. Of course, they are not prime. It will be some little time yet before primeskins of any class can be offered, but lots of the usual poor class of early skins will soon be offering.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

Wheat.—Wheat touched a lower point than ever this week, prices at Duluth for instance sinking to a lower price than the very low prices of the corresponding week a year ago. The lowest closing price for September wheat at Duluth this week last year was 55½c as compared with 54½c on Wednesday last. Weak European markets and increasing supplies were the depressing features, though it is not unusual to look for large receipts and increasing supplies at this season of the year.

In Manitoba the movement of new wheat has been delayed by wet weather. About half the wheat moving forward from country elevators was old wheat. Buyers are now mostly located at country points, and a few bright days would bring in lots of wheat. The sample, so far as can be judged from limited receipts, is quite mixed, and the crop will certainly be an uneven one. A good deal of wheat mixed with green berries, showing uneven ripening, has been seen. The recent rains will be bad for wheat having smut, as it will have a tendency to break the balls and

tag the wheat. Prices paid to farmers in Manitoba country markets this week are high in comparison with values at lake ports. Up to 45c was paid for No. 1 hard at quite a number of country points, which is proportionately above values at Duluth. Later the tendency was easier and the top price was dropped to 44c for No. 1 hard in country markets. The value of No. 1 hard afloat at Fort William during the week ranged from about 55½ to 58c, according to fluctuations in United States markets. Receipts for the week ended Sept 7, at Fort William were 51,641 bushels and shipments 93,420 bushels, leaving in store 81,950 bushels. A year ago at Fort William receipts were 121,000 bushels, shipments 227,000 bushels, and stocks, 721,000 bushels. Two years ago stocks were 868,000 bushels. Lake freights, Duluth to Buffalo this week were reported at 8½c per bushel and 5½c to Kingston, with prospect of an early advance.

FLOUR.—The market remains naturally weak, but there has been no further change here, though lower prices have been looked for. Of course, the flour offering is from old wheat, which cost higher than present prices. Sales by millers here are made at \$1.95 for patents and \$1.75 for strong bakers per sack of 98 lbs. delivered to city retail dealers. Second bakers \$1.55 to \$1.65, XXXX about \$1.25 to \$1.30 per sack according to brand. These are net cash prices the nominal quotation being 5c higher.

MILSTUFFS.—Millstuffs are becoming more plentiful. The quotation to the local trade is \$11 for bran and \$13 for shorts per ton, with small quantities held at \$1 per ton more. Prices have again declined 50c in eastern markets making \$1 in two weeks.

OATS.—The market is tending downward. There is not much business doing, and about only enough coming in to supply the city trade. No eastern shipments. Prices are lower and we quote car lots on track here at 20 to 21c per bushel of 48 pound, feed grade. Farmers' loads have sold mostly at 21 to 23c per bushel, and not many coming yet. There should be enough oats marketed by farmers this year to supply the local market, and thus avoid the necessity of bringing in car lots from country points. If farmers around the city hold for higher prices, however, car lots will be brought in to supply the city trade. There has been an idea abroad here that owing to the drought in Ontario there would be an unusual demand in the east for Manitoba oats this year. The last Ontario crop bulletin, however, estimates the Ontario oat crop at 5,000,000 greater than last year, which would indicate that the crop there is not so bad after all, and we cannot therefore look for such a big demand for Manitoba oats in the East as was expected a short time ago. In Manitoba country markets prices are declining, the price being down to 12½c per bushel to farmers at Brandon. In Ontario country markets, 20 to 23c is paid to farmers.

BARLEY.—A few farmers' loads selling here at 25 to 30c per bushel, for feed. Very little wanted, as no shipping business is doing. At Ontario country points barley is bringing 30 to 38c per bushel of 48 pounds, feed grade.

GROUND FEED.—Prices are about \$1 per ton lower, the best rolled feed being quoted at \$19 per ton and chop feed at \$18, oats and barley.

OATMEAL.—Prices are 15c lower. We quote rolled oats at \$1.75 per sack of 80 pounds in broken lots to retail dealers. Standard and granulated oatmeal \$2 per sack of 93 lbs. Rolled wheat, \$1.90 per 80 pound sack; pot barley \$2, and pearl barley \$1 per 98 pound sack.

OIL CAKE.—This commodity is low