

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, Feb. 8, 1896.

While there has been a slight show of revival in some branches, the dulness which always prevails here in the first few weeks of the new year, still holds sway. A little more grain is moving, but farmers have not begun their spring marketing freely yet. If they should start in to market freely, there would be great difficulty in handling the crop owing to the limited storage room left. The principal feature of this week is the 4th of February settling day, which is the heaviest of the year in dry goods, clothing and boots and shoes. While there always is some diversity of reports as to the nature of payments, the general report this week is not at all unfavorable, and quite a large proportion of the paper falling due is reported to have been met. There have been very few failures in Manitoba, the Garland failure of Portage la Prairie being the only important disturbing factor. The magnitude of this failure has caused it to have an injurious influence, but the freedom of the country generally from mercantile disasters, should overcome the effect of this big failure. At any rate, this failure is traced clearly to outside investments, and not to anything defective in the business situation. Bank clearings at Winnipeg show a large increase over the previous week, but this is owing to the 4th of February settling day. As compared with the corresponding week of last year, bank clearings this week show the large increase of 46 per cent, and an increase of 6.5 per cent compared with the corresponding week two years ago.

The total clearings at all Canadian cities this week show an increase of 22 per cent. over last week. 11 per cent. over the corresponding week in 1895, 17 per cent. as compared with 1894, and 10 per cent. over the like week in 1894. Business failures in Canada continue heavy, with a total of 60 this week, as compared with 69 a week ago, 51 in the week a year ago, and 56 two years ago, 45 three years ago, and 63 four years ago.

The great success of the new government loan in the United States has improved the feeling there greatly. It was feared that the success of the free silver movement in the senate would injure the loan, but evidently the public are convinced that there is no hope that the silverites can carry any measure through the house. Bids for the loan were sufficient to take it up several times over, at good figures. In staple commodities prices are reported as follows: Cotton, coffee, lumber, wool, and coal are firm. Iron and steel markets are encouraged by increased orders for rails, one quarter of last year's output having been ordered at this time for 1896 delivery. Eastern rail mills are reported to have taken large contracts for delivery in California and Chili in competition with foreign mills. Receipts of live stock at western centres are heavy. Prices are lower for sugar, lard and petroleum.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Feb. 8.

[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.]

COAL.—The prevalence of so much mild weather has seriously reduced sales of coal. Early in the season it was thought that there might be an advance in prices during the winter owing to the reduction of stocks, but it is not evident that stocks will be ample for

all requirements, and any advance is now unlikely, in the face of the reduced consumption. Winnipeg prices are as follows: Pennsylvania anthracite, \$3.50 per ton, delivered to consumers; Souris lignite, \$4.25 per ton, delivered to consumers, and \$3.85 at the yard here; Lethbridge bituminous \$3.50 to consumers; western anthracite, \$3.50 per ton to consumers.

CORDWOOD.—Settlers around the country are hauling a great deal of wood in to the city and selling it on the market to consumers, thus taking the trade from dealers to a considerable extent. In this way wood is selling at about \$3.75 to \$4 for tamarac and \$2.75 for poplar. We quote prices as follows for car lots on track here; Tamarac, good, \$4.00; mixed or poorer tamarac, \$3.50 to \$3.75; pine, \$3.25 to \$3.50; spruce, \$2.75 to \$3.00; oak, dead, \$2.75 to \$3.00; oak, good, green cut, \$3.75; poplar, dead, \$2.00; poplar, green cut, dry, \$2.25 per cord.

CEREALS.—National Food preparations in cartons: Dedicated rolled oats, 2 doz., 2 lb pkgs, per case, \$2.90; dediticated rolled wheat, 2 doz. 3 lb. pkgs per case, \$3.25; Dediticated wheat, 1 doz., 2 lb pkts., per case, \$2.75; Snowflake barley 2 doz., 2 lb pkgs., per case, \$2.90; Buckwheat flour, 1 doz., 5 lb pkgs per case \$2.75; Buckwheat flour 2 doz., 2½ lb pkts., per case \$2.90; breakfast hominy, 1 doz., 3 lb pkts., per case, \$3.25; prepared pea flour 1 doz., per case, \$2.50; gluten flour, 1 doz., per case, \$3.50; rolled wheat, in bbls., 180 lbs. \$4.50.

DRUGS.—Following prices are for small parcels, and will be shaded considerably for full package orders: Allum per pound, 3½ to 4½; alcohol, \$4.75; bleaching powder, per pound; 6 to 8c; bluestone, 4½ to 5c; blue vitrol, 5 to 8c; borax, 11 to 13c; bromide potash, 55 to 75c; camphor, 75 to 85c; camphor, ounces 80 to 90c; carbolic acid, 40 to 65c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chloride potash, 28 to 35c; citric acid, 55 to 65c. coppers 3½ to 4c; cocaine, per oz., \$7.50 to \$8.00; cream tartar, per pound, 28 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; epsom salts, 3½ 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, \$4.00 to \$4.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.25 to 2.75 per gallon; oxalica acid, 18 to 16c; potass iodide, \$1.25 to 4.50; paris green, 17 to 18c lb; saltpetre; 10 to 12c; sal rocnello, 30 to 35c; shellac, 45 to 50c; sulphur flowers, 3½ to 5c; sulphur roll, per keg, 3½ to 5c; soda bicarb, per keg of 112 pounds, \$3.75 to \$4.25; sal soda, \$2 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55c.

DRY GOODS.—There is nothing eventful in the trade, beyond the 4th of February settling day, which did not cause any special features here. The Toronto Globe dry goods article says: Advances in the price of hosiery are generally from 5 to 15 per cent. on repeat orders. Goods at present in stock will show good value, and those who are early buyers will gain some advantage. For years a good stocking to retail at 50c was the leader. Now the demand is for three pairs for \$1 and sometimes four or even five. This continued cry for cheapness causes makers to supply inferior goods, which do not and cannot give satisfaction. Some lines of cashmere half-hose have been advanced about 10 per cent. Bicycle hose are up 5 per cent. Cotton half-hose are not as popular, as they become hard in a short time. Men's bicycle and golf hose some with plaid tops are going to be worn very much.

DRIED FRUITS AND NUTS.—Grenoble Walnuts, 16c; Tarragona almonds, 16c;

princess paper shell almonds, 22c; Sicilly filberts, large, 12c; Brazil nuts, 15c; peanuts, roasted, 15c; peanuts greens, 13c; Ontario black walnuts, 8c; butternuts, 9c; hieory nuts, 10c per pound; figs, old, 14 oz. boxes. \$1 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.

FISH.—Fresh fish are quoted here:—Cod 9c a lb; haddock 9c a lb; salmon 14c, halibut 12½c; smelts 9 to 10c; Lake Superior trout 9c; whitefish, 5c; pickerel 4c; pike 2c, perch 2 to 2½c; sturgeon 7c; finnan haddies 7½c, or \$2.25 per box; kippered gold-eyes 30c doz.; oysters \$1.90 to \$2.00 for standards and \$2.15 to \$2.25 selects, per gallon, extra selects \$2.35 to \$2.45; oysters, in cans, selects, 55 and standards 50c per can; shell oysters, \$7.50 to \$8 per barrel. Cured fish are quoted: Boneless codfish, 40 lb boxes 7c, do crates 7½c; boneless fish, 40 lb boxes, 5c; smoked herrings, 19c box; dry cod \$6 per box of 100 lbs.; salt whitefish \$5 per barrel of 100 pounds; salt lake trout \$8 per barrel.

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 4oz., \$4.50; No. 3, 8oz., \$7.83; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.83; No. 5, 2 lb., \$24.30. Staminol—2oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; 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 4 dozen, \$4.25.

GROCERIES.—The weakness in the coffee market, according to the New York Commercial Bulletin, has become more pronounced and has spread until all grades are under serious depression. The advices received from Brazil since the opening of the year report a slightly larger quantity of all growths on hand than had previously been calculated upon, and on the average estimate a new crop of 8,750,000 bags of Rio and Santos together; and under the shadow of the supplies indicated the speculative holders of long contracts liquidated somewhat precipitately both at New York and in Europe, making a sharp break in value. Some operators are inclined to assume that distress holdings are pretty well sold out, especially on the near positions; but a great number entertain an idea that while temporary checks to the decline are likely and indeed desirable they will be temporary only until a much lower level is reached. The selling out of the European bull syndicate is by some looked upon as a by no means remote contingency.

GREEN FRUITS.—None of the frozen oranges which are reported to have been shipped from California have reached this market. It is reported that some of the best districts in California have been badly damaged by frost. The effect of frost on oranges is to destroy the oily covering of the outer rind, which acts as a protection to the fruit, and when this is destroyed the fruit rapidly dries out and becomes entirely worthless. Lemons are easier. Apples are firm and some very fancy fruit is held as high as \$6 per barrel. Malaga gaspas are firm and may be higher. There are none but frozen cranberries in stock here at present, which sell considerably lower than unfrozen fruit. Prices are: Lemons, New Messinas \$5.50 to \$6 per box; California navel oranges, \$1 to \$5 per box, as to size; Bananas \$3 to \$1 per bunch as to size; Apples, eastern Canada choice red varieties, \$5 to \$6 per barrel; Greenings and russets, \$1.50 per barrel; Southern red apples, \$4 per barrel; Malaga grapes \$7 to \$9 per keg as to size; Cranberries \$9.50 per barrel for frozen stock; Apple cider, 35c per gallon, in 30 gallon barrels; French comb honey, 22c per lb.