

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Saturday, Nov. 25, 1899.

The weather throughout the west continues unusually mild and there are almost no signs at all of winter yet. While this unseasonable mildness has been very acceptable to those who had outside work to do it is beginning to seriously interfere with trade. Merchants are complaining of the absence of demand for winter goods of all kinds and some of the butchers are having trouble with their stocks of meats which should be in a frozen condition by this time. Bad roads in the country are interfering with farm trade and owing to the dullness collections from country points are very slow. Lines of business which are not so much subject to the weather are still brisk. Final shipments of winter stocks are arriving daily from the east. Bank clearings in the city increased over the same week a year ago by over a million dollars showing that there is no diminution of business in financial circles. There is an exceptionally large amount of money employed in the west.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS

Saturday, Nov. 25, 1899.

(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.)

## CURED MEATS.

There is an easier tendency in the market for cured meats due to the fact that packers are now replenishing their stocks with fresh salt-killed meat. The demand is good. As usual eastern hogs are being extensively bought by local packing concerns and as prices are easier at Toronto it follows that the cured product should be easier here. There has been no noticeable change in quotations which are given on "prices current" page.

## DRUGS.

Camphor has advanced 2c over our table quotation of a week ago and the market is very firm. Business continues good.

## FISH.

The mild weather has so far prevented any business in frozen fish beyond what is done through freezers and refrigerator cars. The market is well supplied with frozen stock. Haddies are being quoted at 7c this week a reduction of 1c. There is some talk in eastern markets of an advance on oysters.

## GREEN FRUITS.

The market for winter apples is still demoralized owing to the continued selling by auction of surplus stock in the hands of local dealers. Large quantities of apples have been thus sold this week at prices ranging from 10c to \$2.50 per barrel. It is perhaps just as well for the trade that these apples are being disposed of now as they are mostly poor keeping quality and would have been a source of weakness and loss right through the winter if held. Meanwhile there is falling off in the demand for apples to buy in the regular way at full prices. New

California oranges are showing good quality. Later shipments for the Christmas trade will arrive about December 15. New Smyrna figs are now in the market. Glove boxes are quoted at \$2.00 per dozen; 10-pound boxes at \$1.75 and 30-pound boxes at 20c per pound. Cape Cod cranberries are selling at present for \$7.50 in barrels and we hear of some quotations of \$7. Jersey long keeping stock to arrive this week is quoted at \$8 per barrel. Prices are as follows: California naval oranges, 25 to \$5.50; do. seedlings, \$1.25 to \$1.75; Mexican oranges, \$5.00; lemons, new Californias, per box, \$5.00 to \$5.50; bananas, per bunch, \$2.25; apples, winter, \$3.50 per bbl.; snow apples fancy, \$1 per barrel; Malaga grapes, in kegs, per keg, \$7.50; cranberries per barrel, \$7.25; coconuts, per dozen, \$0c; Grenadian walnuts, 14c; Tarragona almonds, 15c; peanuts, green, 9 to 10c; roasted, 12c; pecan nuts, 13c per lb.; chestnuts, 15c; hickory nuts, 10c per lb.; maple sugar, per lb., 11c; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels; fruit cider put up in 20 and 30 gallon kegs, per gallon, 40c; figs, in boxes, 7c lb.; new California layer figs in 10 lb. boxes, \$1.60 to \$1.75; new Smyrnas in glove boxes \$2 per doz. in 10-lb. boxes \$1.75 per box, and in 30-lb. boxes 20c lb.; dates 7c per lb.; sweet potatoes, per barrel, 25; honey, in 1 lb. glass jars, per dozen jars, \$2.50; Spanish onions, \$1.25 per crate; American red onions, 2c per lb.

## GROCERIES.

Business has been fair during the week, but collections are unsatisfactory owing to bad country roads. A great many complaints on this score have been received from country customers. As regards prices there are not many changes to note. Canned vegetables such as corn, tomatoes and beans still maintain their strength and if anything they are being held at somewhat higher figures than a week ago. All kinds of fish have advanced in price. Cod fish are up 1-1c; herrings, have stiffened up to a straight quotation of \$1.00 instead of \$3.55 to \$4.00 in half barrels. Labrador herring have advanced 40c per half barrel. Canned fish are also about 10 per cent higher. Raisins are still numer and it looks now as if it were impossible to buy even off-stalk fruit as primary markets are about cleaned out. With California raisins scarce and 1c per pound higher than opening price of the season, it would appear that Vincennes will maintain their present high price at least if they do not go higher. City brokers report stocks of new nuts arrived. New Sultan raisins are also in and will be quoted higher. Dates will be in very soon. The new woodenware list is now out, but Winnipeg jobbers have hardly completed their revisions yet. One item worth noting is a reduction of 50c per dozen on star fibre balls. This is due to the largely increased demand which has enabled makers to make reductions in cost. All kinds of woodenware is scarce. Further advances on paper bags are being made and in the meantime last week's higher prices are withdrawn. The green coffee market is very firm and the chances are that prices will go very much higher.

## HARDWARE.

The principal feature is an advance 1-2c per pound on rope. Even with this advance prices here are far from being on a level with eastern quotations and do not show any profit for the dealer when compared with what

the rope costs here. The reason of this is that certain eastern houses which have a good supply of rope purchased before the rise have been making a catch trade of it, and selling in coil lots at less than the retailers can lay rope down for in carlots. Clothes line wire has been advanced 25c per thousand feet. Shot is up 1-4c per lb. Other prices are unchanged.

## PAINTS, OILS AND GLASS.

As predicted in another part of this issue and in earlier numbers of The Commercial prices of window glass have advanced 25c per 50 feet at Winnipeg. First break is now quoted at \$2.50 in 50 foot boxes, 26 to 40 inch, \$2.75; 40 to 50 inch; in 100 foot boxes, \$6, 51 to 60 inch, \$6.50 and 61 to 70 inch, \$7.00 per box. The corresponding advances in double glass went into effect some time ago, and therefore this kind remains unchanged now. As showing how Winnipeg prices are still away below the level of other markets it may be stated that double thick glass is being quoted at present in New York at \$10.16 per cwt. whereas here it is \$9.75. Other kinds of glass are equally low. Oil and paint prices are unchanged this week, but higher prices are looked for on turpentine.

## RAW FURS.

First shipments of furs arrived this week from British Columbia. Dealers look forward to regular arrivals now. Price lists for season 1899-1900 will be out at once.

## SCRAP.

The market is somewhat easier and prices being quoted to Winnipeg dealers are somewhat irregular. No c. a. g. m. o. e. m. here and we quote as follows: No. 1 cast iron free from wrought and malleable, \$14 per ton; No. 1 stove plate, \$5 per ton; wrought iron scrap, \$8.50 per ton; heavy copper, 10c per pound; copper bottoms, 2c per pound; red brass, 8 to 8 1-2c per pound; yellow brass, heavy, 7 1-2c per pound; light brass, 4 1-2 to 5c per pound; lead pipe or tea lead, 2 1-2c per pound; zinc scrap, 1c per pound; rags, country mixed, 30c; rubber, free from rivets, buckles and articles, 5c per pound.

## STATIONERY AND FANCY GOODS.

Jobbers continue to receive almost daily reports of advances in prices. Repeat orders on toys are costing very much higher, the difference in prices being very marked compared with first orders. This indicates that all toys and fancy lines will be much higher for next year's trade. Some repeat orders now on the way are costing so much higher that jobbers think it will be more profitable to hold them over for another season, by which time the increased cost of goods will be in full effect. In iron and metal toys the great advance is more marked than on other lines. Leather and paper goods are also higher. Leather, it is well known, is ranging at comparatively high prices now, and the tendency is still upward, the market being strong, so that there will likely be further advances in fancy leather goods. Cotton twines are also higher. Trade has been brisk and some Christmas lines are already cleared out. There has been great delay this year in getting delivery of imported goods, owing to increased trade at the purchasing centres and heavy traffic, resulting in slow freights. Some orders placed in Europe for the holiday trade will not be received in time to be of much